

Jun.25, 2019

To Whom it may concern,

The following are my comments and concerns regarding current private managed forest.

Firstly, I reside in the Elk Valley of SE BC, which has been decimated by private land logging. The logging has occurred with virtually no public or stakeholder consultation, and with zero regard for wildlife or habitat. They had greatly increased road densities on their properties, reduced bio-diversity, and obviously care about nothing other than direct profit.

Obviously private land owners do not have to consider the overarching values on the landbase in which they occupy. Land owners should be penalized for operating in such a fashion. They should be made to remove roads post harvest, re-plant, consider wildlife, and maintain bio-diversity.

Going forward, there needs to be different legislation for private lands whether owned for business, or personal, as well there needs to be consideration given to the size of the parcel involved. Very large tracts of land should have the same rules as forestry on crown, because of the impact they have. If the activities on the land effect public resources then there needs to be rules in play to ensure those effects are not too great.

In cases where private logging companies purchase private land, government needs to consider purchasing the land back for the province, so that it can't be further developed.

I could on in length how a private land legacy caused by federal government granting lands to CPR(now Canwell owned) has caused the devastation to nearly one third of the Elk Valley, and how such activities should not occur in developed nations, but I'll leave it at that.

Elk Valley Bighorn Outfitters,

President,

Sam Medcalf