

Previous industrial development (old mines / previous forestry) have very significantly impacted communities downstream from these developments here on Vancouver Island. Lack of water in summer, floods in winter and fall, increased forest fire risk / smoke all due to human interventions in this and other watersheds.

This new Private Managed Forest Act must allow consideration of the impacts downstream and upstream from the immediate private forested land. Now thousands of people live in these regions and quality and quantity of the water available to these populations, may have to supersede the rights of the land owner. This I realize is a significant change in the way private land is valued / held!

Forests (private or public) in community watersheds need to be utilized in a way that does not diminish the value to other users of this watershed. Longer forestry cycles and selective logging may be the only way that these forests can be utilized while also allowing these areas to also function as successful parts of the watershed. The landowners will need to be compensated for these additional values being put on these private forested lands.

The revised Act for Private Managed Forests needs to ensure that an ecosystem assessment of the entire watershed in which this forest is located must be included. The intrinsic values of wildlife and the social / cultural / economic values for the indigenous peoples of the region must be included and must be part of the decision-making process. The recreational values of this forest and ecosystem should be also included in the assessments of these forests.

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