



Friends of Carmanah/Walbran

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PROFESSIONAL RELIANCE REVIEW SUBMISSION

The Friends of Carmanah/Walbran have been engaged in the protection of the Walbran Valley since 1991, a period of 25 years, and a recognized stakeholder in meetings with FLNR and the company with logging rights in the Walbran. Over that time, following the BC Environment Park Design Guidelines, we have created trails, including boardwalks, interpretive signs, temporary shelters and campsites in the Central Walbran, also known as the Special Management Zone (SMZ), Low Intensity Area (LIA) and Walbran Periphery SMZ 21, under the Higher Level Plan (2000). We have also offered guided trail walks over the years. There has been little or no infrastructure development by BC Parks since the creation of the Walbran portion of the provincial park in 1995; we have done so in its absence, devoting thousands of volunteer hours to this work.

We have been impacted in a dramatic and negative way by Professional Reliance in the Walbran Valley and the cooperation between the company, Teal-Jones, and FLNR, to the detriment of all other values, other than logging. As recognized stakeholders in

meetings with them, the idea of the public interest in general and those of other specific and diverse stakeholders, appears to have been substantially lost, betraying the public trust. Management of the public forests of British Columbia has been effectively privatized.

Examples of the Negative Impacts of PR in the Walbran Valley

1. Conflating Ministry Objectives with Company Results

2. The Forest Practices Board Review, August 2015

3. Management of the Special Management Zone 21-Walbran Periphery and the Vancouver Island Summary Land Use Plan, Feb. 2000

4. Cooperation Between the Ministry and Forest Companies to the Detriment of All Other Interests in the Forests

Given our critique of PR in four separate areas as it pertains to the Walbran as a case study, we conclude:

The current system of PR has been a disaster to the values that VILUP and, in particular, SMZ 21, were to uphold. The Friends urge the government to return to and strengthen a system of government oversight with much more staffing for onsite inspections and control, together with levying much higher fines for non-compliance in the public forests owned by the people of British Columbia.

Submitted by Dr. Saul Arbess

On behalf of the Friends of Carmanah/Walbran