



Submission

To

Julia Berardiunicci

Director, Water Resources Stewardship

Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

Regarding

Peachland and Trepanier Watersheds

1. Peachland Watershed Protection Alliance (PWPA)

- a. PWPA is a grassroots community volunteer group dedicated to securing our water source for the community of Peachland in the Okanagan and all those who come after including children, grandchildren et al.
- b. PWPA publishes a regular newsletter. It can be accessed at peachlandwpa.org. In addition, PWPA can be found on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.
- c. Over the years, our community has faced brown water, water restrictions, droughts, wildfires, and flooding.

2. Water Treatment Plant

- a. Given the incidence of turbidity issues facing our community, the District of Peachland (DOP) caused the installation of a water treatment plant.
- b. The cost of the treatment plant was over 25 million dollars.
- c. Not long after the treatment plant was up and running, a 2.5 million dollar upgrade was required.
- d. PWPA maintains that such expenditure was required to permit excessive turbidity increased by clear-cut logging, road building, and other industrial practices that are the principal sources of turbidity in our watershed.

3. Forest Practices Board (FPB)

- a. The PWPA filed a complaint with the FPB on October 16, 2017 (Complaint Investigation #17046) regarding the impact of forestry activities in its Community Watersheds (Peachland the Trepanier).
- b. The Forest Practices Board (FPB), after an inquiry driven by the PWPA, was unable to make a definitive finding regarding certain harmful clear cut logging practices in our watersheds.
- c. Instead, the FPB offered that more data was required before such finding could be made.
- d. Further, the FPB affirmed that it did not have the capacity nor mandate to seek the necessary data to make a complete and reliable finding.
- e. The PWPA met with the FPB on December 19, 2019 to discuss their findings and, in particular, the data required to make a fulsome finding.

4. Pause Letter

- a. Peachland Mayor Cindy Fortin wrote to Doug Donaldson, B.C.'s Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development stating her elected officials and her Healthy Watersheds Committee did not support any additional approvals for logging cutblocks in Peachland's watersheds and requested a time out on further cutblock permitting.
- b. The result of the FPB's stance was the issuance of a letter from the District of Peachland to the Minister responsible calling for pause in clear cut logging pending a scientific review of the sustainability of commercial and industrial practices in our watersheds.
- c. That letter was written in 2016.
- d. To date, there has been no response whatsoever forthcoming from the Minister responsible.
- e. The PWPA urges the WLRS to consider the District of Peachland pause request coupled with a scientific review of clear-cut logging practices in our watersheds.

5. Veteran forester Ray Travers, RFP (Ret)

- a. Mr. Travers was active in B.C.'s forest sector for 53 years.
- b. As an independent consultant, he recommended that the provincial government "adopt legislated land use zoning on crown land to protect water and non-timber resources, similar to zoning already used in urban areas such as ALR for farmland."
 - i. The timber first model of forestry approvals has resulted in undue prejudice to watersheds.

6. Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (MWLRS)

- a. The PWPA welcomes the new and timely role of the WLRS in leading B.C.'s work on water, watersheds, and coast, including work to:
 - i. Co-develop, complete, and launch the Watershed Security Strategy and Fund etc.
 - ii. Develop and deliver a long-term vision for the Clean Coast, Clean Waters program.
 - iii. The PWPA stands ready to assist in whatever way it can to effect WLRS mandate in this regard.

7. Unduly Clause

- a. With the removal of the “unduly” provision in the Premier’s recent forest policy announcement, PWPA is optimistic that a balance of interests in forest practices is now doable.
- b. Of course, PWPA welcomes such announcement as a material step forward.

8. PWPA recommendations

- a. The Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS) to respond to the call of the DOP to pause clear-cut logging in the Peachland and Trepanier Watersheds.
- b. The WLRS Ministry to effect an independent scientific review of the clear cut logging practices impacting all watersheds.
- c. The WLRS Ministry to establish a process whereby local watershed communities affected by clear-cut logging practices are actively consulted before any licenses are issued.
- d. Prospective licensees to be required to bare the burden of proof that their logging practices are consistent with all legislation regarding the harvesting of timber.

All of which is respectfully submitted.



Dated this 8th day of June 2023