Peachland Watershed Timeline

A simple summary of the presentation | 1998-September 2026

The presentation brings together watershed assessments, community concerns and Council updates. It shows the need for a current record of recommendations, monitoring and the work being done to protect drinking water.

Key events

1998-1999	Early watershed and hydrological assessments establish a record of forestry, roads and water-flow conditions.
2010	Source-water assessments identify drinking-water risks and risk-management actions for Peachland Creek and Trepanier Creek.
2014-2015	A habitat and sediment assessment examines erosion, sediment sources and road concerns.
2017	High flows and a landslide near Munro increase community concern. A complaint to the Forest Practices Board raises forestry and water-quality issues.
November 5, 2018	The revised Peachland Creek Community Watershed Assessment sets out recommendations. It suggests considering an update every five years or with significant new forestry proposals not covered by the assessment.
September 2019	The Forest Practices Board finds the forestry practices it reviewed were compliant. It also identifies limited watershed monitoring and gaps in responsibility for the combined effects of activities.
November 27, 2020	The Alliance asks logging licensees about implementation of the 2018 recommendations.
2023	Five-year reassessment point. A comprehensive update to the 2018 watershed assessment has not been confirmed.
April 2024	Urban Systems prepares the Peachland Creek Water Supply Under Future Climate Assessment for the District.
October 22, 2025	A District strategic-plan update reports continued work toward a local watershed technical advisory group.
March-April 2026	Water restrictions increase during drought. On April 14, Council hears that lake levels and refill patterns differ from historic conditions.
May 12, 2026	BC Timber Sales and Gorman Bros. present forestry proposals near Glen Lake. Council indicates further provincial discussions.
June 9, 2026	Council endorses the Peachland Climate Action Plan in principle as a guiding plan.
September 2026	A watershed assessment review examines outstanding recommendations and whether the 2018 assessment was updated. On September 22, a water supply presentation reviews supply and possible resiliency options.

Low lake levels and drought observations do not, by themselves, establish that forestry caused those conditions.

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Who is responsible for the watershed?

Responsibility is shared. Different organizations oversee different parts of water supply, land use, health and resource activity.

District of Peachland	Safe drinking water, reservoirs and infrastructure; conservation and supply planning; protection advocacy and partner coordination.
RDCO	Rural land-use planning outside municipalities, regional park stewardship and regional wastewater treatment.
Interior Health	Drinking-water permits and inspections, review of water testing, enforcement and investigation of drinking-water threats.
Ministry of Forests / BC Timber Sales	Forestry authorizations and practices, forest-road and range responsibilities. BC Timber Sales plans and sells provincial timber.
Water, Land and Resource Stewardship	Water-use authorizations, Crown land, water policy, watershed science and source-water protection research.
Other provincial regulators	Mining oversight and pollution or discharge regulation, depending on the activity.
Syilx/Okanagan Nation	Indigenous rights and title, Syilx water laws and knowledge, stewardship and water governance.
Okanagan Basin Water Board	Basin-wide coordination, research, conservation education and grants for water quality and conservation.
Land users and resource operators	Follow laws and permits, assess impacts, apply required mitigation, and meet road and restoration obligations.
Community and the Alliance	Conserve water, care for the land, report concerns, support monitoring, educate and advocate for protection.

What needs follow-up?

Government should confirm whether the 2018 forestry-related watershed assessment was updated around 2023. The 2024 Urban Systems study addresses water supply and climate; it is not an identified replacement. Government intervention and coordinated risk management are needed to protect drinking water.

ALL OF US! We are in this together.

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Key reports

April 2024 water supply and future climate assessment
June 2026 Climate Action Plan
September 22, 2026 water supply update
September 2026 watershed assessment review

KEY Highlights

November 5, 2018 - Watershed assessment

Prepared by: Rob Scherer, Ph.D., P.Eng., Forest Hydrology Consulting, Kelowna. Prepared for Tolko Industries Ltd., BC Timber Sales (Okanagan-Columbia Business Area) and Ntityix Resources LP. [1]

Main recommendations: Develop a plan for existing erosion and sediment problems; assess and maintain roads, drainage and stream crossings; deactivate higher-risk roads; protect streamside vegetation; and use a watershed technical working group to identify water-quality concerns, responsibilities, funding and timelines. [1]

When should follow-up happen? Consider reassessment every five years - placing the next five-year point in 2023 - or when significant new proposed forestry development was not covered by the assessment. This was a recommendation to consider reassessment. [1]

September 2019 - Forest Practices Board

The Board found the forestry practices it investigated complied with legal requirements. It also found that missing watershed-specific monitoring made combined impacts difficult to determine, and that no one was responsible for managing the cumulative impacts of all activities. It said a technical advisory group could improve monitoring and help ensure assessment recommendations were implemented. [2]

2023 - Was follow-up completed, and who tracked it?

A comprehensive update has not been confirmed in the documents reviewed. Written answers should be requested from the three commissioning organizations and the responsible provincial forestry authorities. The recommended technical group was intended to help coordinate mitigation and implementation; the 2018 recommendation did not identify a single owner for the five-year reassessment. [1-3]

Ask for: the updated report, its author and date, the forestry proposals assessed, and a record of recommendations, responsible parties, completed work and monitoring.

September 2026 - What did the review identify?

The September review did not identify a publicly available comprehensive watershed assessment that clearly replaced the 2018 report. It called for confirmation of an update and an accounting of earlier recommendations. This does not prove that no update exists. The April 2024 Urban Systems report is a separate water-supply and climate study, not an identified replacement. [3]

Action needed: Government intervention, clear responsibility and coordinated risk management to protect the watershed and drinking-water supply.

Sources

[1] Scherer, 2018, revised watershed assessment, Section 6.4, pages 51-53. Read the assessment.
[2] Forest Practices Board, 2019, FPB/IRC/224, Board Commentary, page i. Read the investigation.
[3] Peachland Creek Watershed Outstanding Assessment and Follow-Up Review, September 2026, executive summary and follow-up matrix; April 2024 Urban Systems water-supply report, Introduction.