

# B. C. TAP WATER ALLIANCE

Caring for, Monitoring, and Protecting  
British Columbia's Community Water  
Supply Sources

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May 21, 2007.

Attn: Chair and Members of the Private Managed Forest Lands Council

**Re: Violation of *Private Managed Forest Land Act* Regulation by TimberWest  
in mid-Beech Creek watershed, Comox Lake Drinking Watershed, Vancouver Island**

Dear Chair and Council Members,

On a recent trip into the Comox Lake Watershed, the source of drinking water for over 100,000 people, I witnessed (among a host of other disturbing scenes) a violation by TimberWest of the BC provincial regulations under the *Private Managed Forest Land Act*. The location of the violation is situated alongside Beech Creek, a major tributary drainage on the north side of Comox Lake, at GPS coordinates of 340250 East, 5497240 North, at about 420m elevation. Attached, are two photos of this violation, showing no buffer left for over one hundred meters on steep eastern slope of Beech Creek, the site of recent helicopter logging, where the width of the Creek is about 5 or more meters. I believe this violation is described in Section 18 (1), and possibly 17 (1) as well, where the retention of 20 trees are required to be left along the banks of fish streams or community watershed streams more than 3m wide on private land, and subsections 18 (2) through (5) that describe the selection process for these retention trees.

The photos were first shown to the public at our presentation in Courtney on May 14, 2007 (see our website for those, and more, photos of Comox Lake watershed logging by TimberWest, posted under Home Page, and under “Community Watershed Issues – Vancouver Island”, titled May 14, 2007 Courtney Presentation).

We request that you immediately investigate this matter, and present a written response to our complaint.

Sincerely, Will Koop, Coordinator.

Cc. Comox-Strathcona Regional District Board of Directors

Comox Valley Water Watch Coalition

Save Our Valley Alliance (Port Alberni)

Bob Simpson and Shane Simpson, NDP opposition Forests & Range and Environment critics

Dr. Perry Kendall, Provincial Medical Health Officer

Christopher Ian Bennett, BC Interim Green Party leader

John Wareing (David Suzuki Foundation)

Jill Thompson, Sierra Club (Victoria)

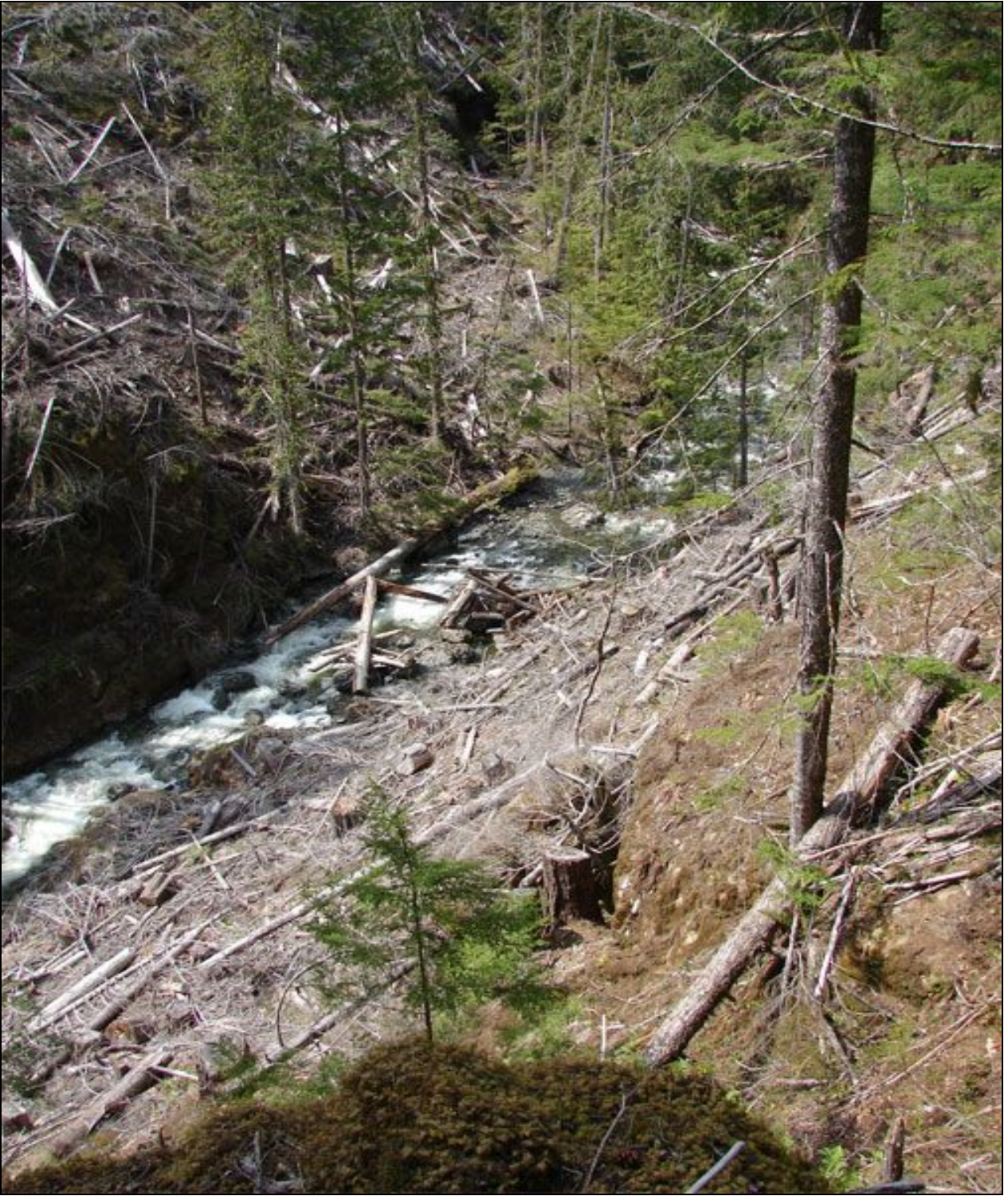


Photo 1. Looking down steep slope, from helicopter faller's rough trail, towards the upstream portion of violation on Beech Creek.





Photo 2. Looking from up-creek section of violation, southwards, down-creek, along the extent of the violation. Note the extremely narrow buffer of one to two tree trunk diameter widths (two meters) on the opposite side of the Creek, directly below steep mountain side clearcut logging.