

Appendix A:
Letters of Support

First Nations

Kwakiutl First Nation

T'Sou-ke First Nation

Community and Urban Planning Organizations

Greater Victoria Greenbelt Society

Otter Point & Shirley Residents & Ratepayers Association

Smart Growth British Columbia

Forestry Worker Unions

Communications, Energy & Paperworkers Union of Canada, Western Region

Pulp, Paper, and Woodworkers of Canada

United Steelworkers (added October 23, 2007)

Recreational User Organizations

Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society

Surfrider Foundation, Victoria Chapter

Environmental Groups

Dogwood Initiative

Sierra Club of Canada – British Columbia Chapter

Western Canada Wilderness Committee



KWAKIUTL BAND COUNCIL

99 TSAKIS WAY, FORT RUPERT RESERVE
P.O. BOX 1440, PORT HARDY, B.C. V0N 2P0
TEL: (250) 949-6012 FAX: (250) 949-6066

October 18, 2007

Environmental Law Clinic
University of Victoria
Murray and Anne Fraser Building
PO Box 2400, STN CSC
Victoria, B.C.
V8W 3H7

VIA FACSIMILE: (604)472-4528

Dear Mr. Sandborn

The Kwakiutl First Nation supports the Sea to Sea Greenbelt Society's request for an investigation into the Minister of Forests decision to approve the removal of Western Forest Products private lands from TFL's 6, 19 and 25. The Kwakiutl have serious concerns about that decision, and its impact to our Douglas Treaty rights, that we will separately pursue with the Province. The Kwakiutl support this request for a transparent, public review of the decision by the Auditor General.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Verna Chartrand".

Verna Chartrand
Chief Councillor
KWAKIUTL FIRST NATION



PO Box 307, Sooke B.C., V0S 1N0
Ph.: 642-3957 Fax: 642-7808

October 11, 2007

Errol Price, Acting Auditor General
John Doyle, Auditor General
8 Bastion Square
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Auditor General:

The T'Sou-ke First Nation supports the Sea to Sea Greenbelt Society's request for an investigation into the Minister of Forests decision to approve the removal of Western Forest Products private lands from TFL's 6, 19 and 25. T'Sou-ke has serious concerns about that decision. It involves the privatization of more land in its Traditional Territory, which is becoming increasingly developed and unavailable to T'Sou-ke. The Government of British Columbia refuses to consult with T'Sou-ke about its Aboriginal title claim, on the basis that T'Sou-ke surrendered its Territory through its Douglas Treaty (a position that T'Sou-ke strongly disputes for a number of reasons). Thus, as with all forestry decisions, T'Sou-ke was never consulted about the impact of this privatization on its Aboriginal title interests.

The T'Sou-ke Nation support this request for a transparent, public review of the decision by the Auditor General.

Sincerely,

Kerrie MacLean
T'Sou-ke Nation
Band Administrator

GREATER VICTORIA GREENBELT SOCIETY

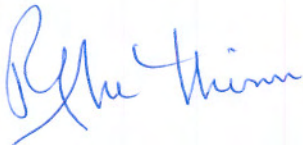
Errol Price, Acting Auditor General
John Doyle, Auditor General
8 Bastion Square
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4

18 October 2007

Dear Auditor General:

Please be advised that the Greater Victoria Greenbelt Society supports the request that the Auditor General conduct a formal and complete examination of:

- i. the Minister of Forests and Range's decision of January 25 and 31, 2007 to delete all the private lands held by Western Forest Products Ltd. (WFP) from Tree Farm Licenses 6, 19 and 25 and
- ii. related government management of finances and resources.



R.G. McMinn
Chair,
Greater Victoria Greenbelt Society

499 Millstream Lake Road, Victoria, B.C. V9B 6H5

OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION
(www.opsrra)

2950 Michelson Rd.
Otter Point, B.C.
V0S 1N0
16 October, 2007

Errol Price, Acting Auditor General
John Doyle, Auditor General
8 Bastion Square
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4

Dear Sirs:

I am writing on behalf of the Otter Point & Shirley Residents & Ratepayers Association (OPSRRA) to state our support for the request that the Auditor General conduct a formal and complete examination of the Province's decision of January 25th and 31st, 2007 to remove the private forest lands of Western Forest products from TFL 25.

One purpose of our association is to ensure that development in the communities of Shirley and Otter Point happens in an orderly manner and in the best interests of its residents. In our opinion the province's decision was made without consideration of its impact on our two communities, without any consideration of the public interest and in a manner that prevented any public comment or discussion. Here is the basis of our concern and the reasons why we support the Auditor General's examination of the province's decision.

1. The area west of Sooke through to Port Renfrew is facing tremendous development pressure as large parcels of land—mostly previously used for forestry—are now for sale for residential development. This has the potential of radically changing land use patterns, taxation and community services in our area. As small, unincorporated, rural communities we are not ready for it:

- Our present zoning bylaw is out-of-date and the drafting of a new one has been delayed for over a year;
- CRD mapping of the area to identify sensitive eco-systems such as wetlands, streams and watersheds is incomplete;
- Stronger local bylaws are needed to protect watersheds, potable water sources and other environmental features.

- The Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Parks Plan for the area is still in an early draft stage;
- The CRD Master Parks Plan will not be officially updated to include planning for the area until 2010;
- The CRD's Regional Growth Strategy is coming-up for review in 2008, at which time the framework for future development in this area will be reviewed;
- Fire protection is non-existent in some areas;
- Community amenities such as parks and trails and community services such as fire protection, police, roads, water, septic, building inspection and bylaw enforcement will have to be developed and maintained at taxpayers' expense;
- Our present tax base is mostly residential and very limited given the size of our population. Removing the private forest lands to help ease the debt of the forest company could result in that debt being transferred, in part, to the local taxpayer, who will be required to support the infrastructure that this amount of development will demand;
- Residents in Shirley and Otter Point are exploring governance options as many are not satisfied with the present system.

2. About 4,000 of the 4,500 acres being offered for sale in the Shirley/Jordan River area are within the newly approved Shirley/Jordan River Official Community Plan (OCP) boundary. The total land area covered by this OCP is 9,428 acres, of which 8,917 acres has been identified as Settlement Area (the remaining 511 acres is used for roads, parks or is in the Agricultural Land Reserve). Therefore, about 45% of the identified Settlement Area land within the Shirley/Jordan River OCP area is now on the real estate market.

3. The present Juan de Fuca Electoral Area zoning bylaw permits residential development on 10 acre subdivisions: with either one dwelling on each 10 acre parcel or 4 dwellings if the property is strata-titled (4-on-10). This bylaw is out-of-date and is presently being re-written. That process needs to be completed before large parcels of Rural A land come forward for development.

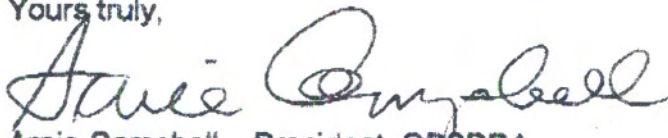
4. There was no community consultation on this decision. OPSRRA wrote the Minister of Forests in February of 2007 when Western Forest Products first announced that it had asked the province for permission to remove their private forest lands from Tree Farm Licence (TFL) 25. Our letter asked that the province delay making that decision until numerous things had happened:

- The OCPs for Otter Point and Shirley/Jordan River were completed.
- The Resource Lands OCP was completed.
- New zoning bylaws for the area were completed.
- The Otter Point & Shirley Developing a Strategic Vision project (which is currently underway and due for completion by September 2008) had completed its report.

The Minister replied in May, 2007 informing us that: the decision had already been made; he had no ability to restrict the sale of private lands which were now outside of the TFL; and that we should be speaking to WFP regarding our concerns.

The above are identified areas that need to be addressed. Unless the community takes the time to properly plan for growth, the only certainty is that there will continue to be uncertainty about how our community will look a decade from now.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Arnie Campbell". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Arnie Campbell – President, OPSRRA



October 11, 2007

Errol Price, Acting Auditor General
John Doyle, Auditor General
8 Bastion Square
Victoria, BC
V8V 1X4

Dear Auditor General:

Please be advised that Smart Growth BC supports the request that the Auditor General conduct a formal and complete examination of:

- the Minister of Forests and Range's decision of January 25 and 31, 2007 to delete all the private lands held by Western Forest Products (WFP) from Tree Farm Licenses 6, 19, and 25, and
- related government management of finances and resources.

We believe that this decision to delete these lands from the TFL without adequate public consultation is a significant threat to sustainable land use planning and growth management.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cheeying Ho".

Cheeying Ho
Executive Director



COMMUNICATIONS, ENERGY & PAPERWORKERS UNION OF CANADA

Don MacNeil

Vice President, Western Region

October 11, 2007

Via E-Mail

Errol Price, Acting Auditor General
John Doyle, Auditor General
8 Bastion Square
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Auditor General:

Please be advised that CEP Western Region supports the request that the Auditor General conduct a formal and complete examination of:

- the Minister of Forests and Range's decision of January 25 and 31, 2007 to delete all the private lands held by Western Forest Products (WFP) from Tree Farm Licenses 6, 19, and 25, and
- related government management of finances and resources.

Yours truly,

Don MacNeil
Vice President
CEP Western Region

DM:ss/cope 343



PULP, PAPER AND WOODWORKERS OF CANADA

National Office



Affiliated to the Confederation of Canadian Unions

October 12, 2007

Errol Price, Acting Auditor General
John Doyle, Auditor General
8 Bastion Square
Victoria, BC
V8V 1X4

Dear Auditor General,

Please be advised that the Pulp, Paper and Woodworkers of Canada support the request from Sea to Sea Greenbelt Society's call for the Auditor General to conduct a formal and complete examination of:

- the Minister of Forests and Range's decision of January 25 and 31, 2007 to delete all the private lands held by Western Forest Products (WFP) from Tree Farm Licenses 6, 19, and 25, and
- related government management of finances and resources.

Yours truly,

Jim King
National President

JK:aj

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October 18, 2007

Auditor General of British Columbia
8 Bastion Square
Victoria, BC
V8V 1X4

Dear Auditor General:

Please be advised that the United Steelworkers Wood Council supports the request that the Auditor General conduct a formal and complete examination of:

- the Minister of Forests and Range's decision of January 25 and 31, 2007 to delete all the private lands held by Western Forest Products (WFP) from Tree Farm Licenses 6, 19, and 25, and
- related government management of finances and resources.

Yours truly,



Bob Matters, Chair
USW Wood Council

BM/sml
cope 343

Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society
c/o 2459 Kemp Lake Road
Sooke, B.C. V0S 1N0

11 October 2007

Errol Price, Acting Auditor General
John Doyle, Auditor General
8 Bastion Square
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Sir:

I am writing on behalf of the Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society which was incorporated in 2005 to support the development of trail systems for community health, alternate transportation, recreation and as a resource for the growing eco-tourism industry. We support the request that the Auditor General conduct a formal and complete examination of:

- the Minister of Forests and Range's decision of January 25 and 31, 2007 to delete Tree Farm Licenses 6, 19, and 25 on private lands held by Western Forest Products (WFP) from, and
- related government management of finances and resources.

We draw to your attention that the Capital Regional District Parks Master Plan developed in 2000 does not address in detail planning for parks, trails and greenspace west of the Sooke River. This phase of planning was to begin in 2010. The Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Parks and Recreation Commission is currently preparing a new long range parks plan for the Electoral Area. It attempts to identify the areas that the public currently use for recreation so that they will be considered for park acquisition in all such future plans.

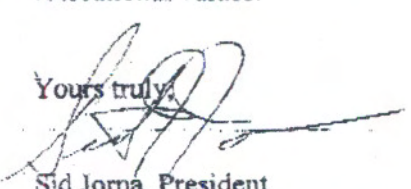
We draw to your attention that until 2007, local planning has assumed that the Forest Lands in the area are part of the inventory of conservation green space and recreational green space. Residents of the Electoral Area have therefore always used this space for recreation and with loss of access there is no alternative. Also, the Sensitive Ecosystem Survey does not extend west of the Sooke River. Changing land use suddenly places all of those values at risk.

The sudden release of land from the timber licenses directly to the real estate market endangers planning for the orderly development of our area. By changing land use and resource management without public consultation, the Ministry of Forests and Range does not serve the interest of the residents of area. The Ministry also compromises the interest of future residents, who would also benefit from public access to recreational green space and opportunities to establish eco-tourism businesses which will depend on the conservation of wildlife habitat and access to identified resources such as view points and areas of exceptional natural beauty and interest.

The action of releasing the requirements of the tree farm licenses without compensation for loss of accepted community values and without consultation is perceived as a breach of public trust. This needs to be addressed.

We feel that the public interest would be served if the tree farm licenses were to be re-imposed; or, if that were not practicable, if the government were to provide an alternative public benefit in the form of such significant tracts of land and foreshore as identified to support ecological and recreational values.

Yours truly,



Sid Jorna, President
Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society.
(250) 642 2767
Sid2767@shaw.ca



**Surfrider
Foundation.**

October 16, 2007

Errol Price, Acting Auditor General
John Doyle, Auditor General
8 Bastion Square
Victoria, BC
V8V 1X4

Dear Auditor General:

Please be advised that the Surfrider Victoria Chapter supports the request that the Auditor General conduct a formal and complete examination of:

- The Minister of Forests and Ranges decision of January 25 and 31, 2007 to delete all the private lands held by Western Forest Products (WFP) from Tree Farm Licenses 6, 19, and 25, and
- Related government management of finances and resources.

We feel that this decision lacked proper public consultation and process. It appears that this deal will benefit the private company and its stakeholders, with little or no benefit to the taxpayers of this province.

Now that the land is out of the TFL and will be sold to the highest bidder, the majority of the rules and regulations in place to ensure sustainable forest practices are gone. Furthermore, who will manage the impact to the environment and watershed? Once again, the responsibility to ensure that zoning and bylaws are in place; that development is watch dogged, and that our pristine coastline is not damaged, will fall on the shoulders of concerned citizens who use this space and cherish this part of our Island heritage. Yet another case of the government helping out big business, and ignoring the needs of its citizens who elect them.

We feel that is a gross mismanagement of our natural resources and we implore you to look into this matter on our behalf.

Brooke Finlayson

Chair-Surfrider Victoria Chapter

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LISA AMBUS
Community Forest Facilitator; Researcher;
Policy Analyst; & Artist

TAYLOR BACHRACH
Communication Specialist

ANDREW GEORGE
Hereditary Chief, Gitdumdem; Wet'suwet'en
Nation

BRAD GRUNDY
Accountant

GEOFF MANN
Geography Professor

JENNIE MILLIGAN
Articling Student, McKimm & Wishart

MIKE RETASKET
Chief, Bonaparte Indian Band

CLIFF STAINSBY
Researcher, B.C. Government &
Service Employees' Union

STEPHEN WHIPP
CFP, Berkshire Investment Group

October 11, 2007

Errol Price, Acting Auditor General
John Doyle, Auditor General
8 Bastion Square
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Auditor General:

Please be advised that Dogwood Initiative supports the request that the Auditor General conduct a formal and complete examination of:

- the Minister of Forests and Range's decision of January 25 and 31, 2007 to delete all the private lands held by Western Forest Products (WFP) from Tree Farm Licenses 6, 19, and 25, and
- related government management of finances and resources.

ADVISORY ROUNDTABLE

DAVID BOYD
Environmental Lawyer;
Professor; & Writer

ANITA BURKE
Corporate Research Consultant

JESSICA CLOGG
Staff Lawyer, West Coast
Environmental Law

MURRAY DOBBIN
Journalist, Author, Policy Analyst
Council of Canadians

HELGA KNOTE
Labour & Environmental Activist

ANNE LEVESQUE
Former Executive Director,
East Kootenay Environmental Society

JAMES MACKINNON
Writer, Former Senior Editor, Adbusters

MICHAEL M'GONIGLE
Eco-Research Chair, UVic
Environmental Law & Policy,

Thank you,



Will Horter, Executive Director
Dogwood Initiative

STAFF

WILL HORTER
Executive Director

J SCOTT
Development Director

MATT TAKACH
Office Manager

CHARLES CAMPBELL
Communications Coordinator

PAUL ROKEBY-THOMAS
Book Keeper





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October 11, 2007

Errol Price, Acting Auditor General
John Doyle, Auditor General
8 Bastion Square
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Auditor General:

Please be advised that the Sierra Club of Canada, BC Chapter supports the request that the Auditor General conduct a formal and complete examination of:

- the Minister of Forests and Range's decision of January 25 and 31, 2007 to delete all the private lands held by Western Forest Products (WFP) from Tree Farm Licenses 6, 19, and 25, and
- related government management of finances and resources.

Kathryn Molloy
Executive Director
Sierra Club of Canada, BC Chapter

LETTER OF SUPPORT

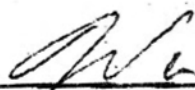
October 11, 2007

Errol Price, Acting Auditor General
John Doyle, Auditor General
8 Bastion Square
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Auditor General:

Please be advised that Western Canada Wilderness Committee ^(WCWC) supports the request that the Auditor General conduct a formal and complete examination of:

- the Minister of Forests and Range's decision of January 25 and 31, 2007 to delete all the private lands held by Western Forest Products (WFP) from Tree Farm Licenses 6, 19, and 25, and
- related government management of finances and resources.


(On behalf of WCWC)

Ken Wu
Campaign
Director