

November 27, 2013

Dear Chilako Residents,

On October 28<sup>th</sup> 2013, the Chilako Watershed Information session was held at the Beverly Fire Department. The goal of the session was to identify future opportunities for collaboration between the public, landowners, industry and government in the Chilako watershed. This letter is intended to provide you with an overview of the meeting and resulting activities.

**October 28<sup>th</sup> Session Overview:**

- The Nechako Environment and Water Stewardship Society (NEWSS) presented an overview of their programs. The NEWSS vision is to improve the health of the watershed, particularly in the agricultural belt.
- The current level of equivalent clear-cut area (from all sources) was estimated to be approximately 60% in the Chilako watershed. In other words, approximately 60% of the watershed is currently in a hydrological condition equivalent to a clear-cut.
- Forest harvesting activities were projected to decrease substantially in the next 3 years. This reduction, in combination with forest (natural and anthropogenic) regeneration activities, was reported to result in a positive future impact on the equivalent clear-cut area.
- There was expressed community concern for hydrological impacts across private and public land as a result of current watershed conditions (natural and anthropogenic).
- Prevention and mitigation of the hydrological effects of the current watershed conditions were key focus areas of community concern.
- A targeted sample hydrological assessment indicated that an additional landscape level assessment might be warranted in order to strategize potential management activities.
- Landscape level planning was identified as a required consideration for future activities.

The Fraser Basin Council is planning a series of meetings with regulators, watershed agencies, and licensees to explore the short-term next steps in Chilako watershed management. The goal of these meetings will be to identify agency synergies, address shared data and information gaps, and identify potential landscape level management actions.

We will report the findings of the agency discussions and draft an action plan in February 2014 for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Terry Robert  
Senior Regional Manager