

FW: Important: Media Request: CBC Watershed values; downstream flooding, changing climate

From: Nordin, Lisa J FLNR:EX <Lisa.J.Nordin@gov.bc.ca>
To: Begon, Stacey FLNR:EX <Stacey.Begon@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 12, 2022 4:00:45 PM PDT

From: Horn, Hannah FLNR:EX <Hannah.Horn@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: December 16, 2019 9:51 AM

To: Nordin, Lisa J FLNR:EX <Lisa.J.Nordin@gov.bc.ca>; Lewis, Doug W FLNR:EX <Doug.W.Lewis@gov.bc.ca>; Reese-Hansen, Lars FLNR:EX <Lars.ReeseHansen@gov.bc.ca>; Griffiths, Felice FLNR:EX <Felice.Griffiths@gov.bc.ca>; Van Rensen, Cassidy FLNR:EX <Cassidy.VanRensen@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Important: Media Request: CBC Watershed values; downstream flooding, changing climate

Importance: High

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Thanks
Hannah

From: Makarowski, Dawn GCPE:EX <Dawn.Makarowski@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: December 13, 2019 1:48 PM

To: White, Norah FLNR:EX <Norah.White@gov.bc.ca>; Bedford, Lorne FLNR:EX <Lorne.Bedford@gov.bc.ca>; Horn, Hannah FLNR:EX <Hannah.Horn@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: MacDougall, Julie FLNR:EX <Julie.MacDougall@gov.bc.ca>; LeRoy, Matthew FLNR:EX <Matthew.LeRoy@gov.bc.ca>; GCPE FLNR Media Requests GCPE:EX <FLNRO.MediaRequests@gov.bc.ca>

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Hi all, not sure if I've reached the right people, but if so, I'm looking for comment on this request.

What can we say?

Thanks,
Dawn Makarowski
Public Affairs Officer
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
Office: 250 356-7506

Reporter

Jon Hernandez, Reporter
CBC - Vancouver
jon.hernandez@cbc.ca
604-662-6849 c: 778-938-0620

Deadline Friday, December 6, 2019 3:00 PM

Request

Jon Hernandez from CBC News here. I'm looking into doing a little follow up to an article written in the BCFP Magazine titled Managing Risks to Watershed Values. An investigator notes that forest professionals need to be doing a better job assessing downstream risks when harvesting watershed areas. Article appears on page 9:

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I'm curious what the Ministry's perspective on this issue is. Are current practices and regulations enough to manage risks of downstream flooding, particularly as the landscape grapples with changing climate? And to what extent are recent provincial flooding events associated with forestry?

Background**Recommendation**

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Perfect! Thanks so much, Doug. Good suggestion on Rita and bringing in research.

I have a couple of questions:

- Didn't the Chief Forester also direct licensees to consider cumulative hydrological effects at a watershed level in Kamloops and Quesnel based on the THOK assessments?
- I don't understand your point 1a. "I think its important to not" what?
- The point of the ECA limits is to reduce streamflow hazard, correct?

From: Lewis, Doug W FLNR:EX <Doug.W.Lewis@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: December 16, 2019 10:20 AM
To: Horn, Hannah FLNR:EX <Hannah.Horn@gov.bc.ca>; Nordin, Lisa J FLNR:EX <Lisa.J.Nordin@gov.bc.ca>; Reese-Hansen, Lars FLNR:EX <Lars.ReeseHansen@gov.bc.ca>; Griffiths, Felice FLNR:EX <Felice.Griffiths@gov.bc.ca>; Van Rensen, Cassidy FLNR:EX <Cassidy.VanRensen@gov.bc.ca>
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I can speak to some of my past work on the Thompson Okanagan assessment procedure.

1. THOK uses a GIS-based watershed procedure to assess condition through CE. So far, outputs from the assessment have been used to inform Chief Forester AAC determination(2016) for the Kamloops TSA, has been used to do post-fire analysis in the Elephant Hill wildfire area, supported analysis of some major projects (windfarm applications) and used to help establish FSW GAR orders for several watersheds in Merritt and Kamloops TSAs (2018). In these FSWs we established ECA limits of 25% to restrict harvesting in some sensitive watersheds (an interesting note is that almost all of these watersheds are over 25%).
 - a. I think its important to not, that unless this information is specifically brought into a decision process, it doesn't get used!
 - b. I also think it is important to note that traditionally and under the new Joint practices board guidelines for watershed assessment and management, that forest licensees largely are responsible for assessment and decisions regarding how much to harvest in most watersheds – which is associated with the licensees tolerance for risk. Most watersheds do not have legal limits on harvest.
2. The watershed procedure does have a specific component that assesses potential flooding hazard associated with spring freshet (streamflow hazard)
3. The streamflow hazard does consider forest harvesting as well as other forest disturbances (MPB and wildfire)
4. Climate-related effects have not yet been incorporated into the procedure. However, we do know that climate can have either offsetting effects with forest harvesting (less snow due to climate but more water due to harvest/forest loss), or additive effects(more snow, quicker melt due to both). The latter of these could contribute to increased flood potential (I'm not sure if anyone has looked at this to see if 2017 floods were a product of this), which speaks to the importance of managing forests for mitigating floods under uncertain climate. Research by Adam Wei (UBCO)

Someone like Rita Winkler would be good to bring in on this

Doug Lewis, MRM, RPF

BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
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Kamloops, BC
(250) 371-6245
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Thanks, Cassidy

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