



SUNSHINE COAST COMMUNITY FOREST

BUILDING VALUE FOR OUR COMMUNITY

March 26, 2011

PRESS RELEASE

SCCF committed to public consultation

Directors and staff of the Sunshine Coast Community Forest (SCCF) recently met with the two principals of Elphinstone Logging Focus (ELF) to discuss their concerns about our 2011 logging plans for Wilson Creek and Mount Elphinstone.

“The SCCF has an obligation – which our staff and the board of directors take very seriously - to consider the views of the entire community in managing our chart area”, said John R. Henderson, Chair & President of SCCF. “As part of this, we publish our Community Forest Operating Plan so that everyone can see where we are planning to harvest over the next five years.”

During discussions with Ross Muirhead and Hans Penner of ELF, we confirmed our willingness to review the protection of wetlands within the block. The individuals expressed the view that there should be no logging activities, whatsoever, on Wilson Creek or Mt. Elphinstone.

The SCCF cannot accept this position – such is contrary to our obligations under our license from the provincial government and is not supported by facts and science of hydrology, environmental assessment and forest management. It is also a view that is not supported by the majority of our community.

The SCCF appreciates the opportunity to learn about the views of these individuals and welcomes further input from them, and all members of the community, in the future. As well, we are always prepared to consider adjustments to our logging plans, to accommodate specific areas or users. For example, in the past, we have modified our harvesting plans to accommodate trails, recreational users and sensitive eco-areas, based on community input. “If we can make similar such adjustments to our harvesting plans in Wilson Creek, we’ll be pleased to do so!”, said Henderson.

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As part of the SCCF's ongoing commitment to being open and transparent, our logging plans are published several years in advance. "Since 2008, the Community Forest Operating Plan (which is available on our website) has clearly shown our harvesting plans for our chart area.", said Henderson. "This plan was recently updated, following extensive consultation with the community in 2010."

Environmental social and economic values are the three legs of sustainability. The SCCF is confident that our activities are providing an even healthier and vibrant forest for future generations.

Please visit our website at www.sccf.ca for more information

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