



July 17, 2017

Enrique Sanchez, R.P.F.
Planning Forester
Chinook Business Area
British Columbia Timber Sales
46360 Airport Road
Chilliwack BC V2P 1A5

Dear Mr. Sanchez:

Re: Proposed Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) number 643

We are in receipt of your letter of July 12 and are concerned that you are disregarding the Municipal Council request for a reasonable consultation process and in so doing are acting against the interests of the people of Bowen Island.

I would therefore like to set out our correspondence to date, review the actions taken and propose what we would consider a reasonable consultation process.

CONSULTATION TO DATE

On May 30, 2017

You met with one of our staff and Councillor Sue Ellen Fast. After that meeting, it should have been clearly understood that the Bowen Island community would not support any industrial logging of Crown lands.

On June 14

In spite of that understanding, you sent an email to our Corporate Officer requesting a meeting with Municipal Council. In that email you said, "I am seeking your advice in how to proceed in a manner that is beneficial to the residents of Bowen Island and the rest of British Columbians." You explained that "an FSP (Forest Stewardship Plan) is similar to an OCP because both documents provide guidance." You then identified three options that the community might choose as ways to manage our local forest.

On June 23

Our Corporate Officer responded and confirmed that your email would be on an upcoming council agenda.

Later on June 23

You emailed our Corporate Officer that you were planning an Open House on Bowen for July 30.

On July 7

A legal notice (see attached) was published in our local newspaper concerning Forest Stewardship Plan 643. It asked for public comment and listed a number of open houses in communities from Hope to Bowen Island. Nothing in the notice indicated that FSP 643 proposed to include lands on Bowen Island. The internet link provided in the legal notice did not directly connect to the plan but instead to an FTP directory that is today inaccessible.

The notice did explain that the FSP would be the main strategic-level planning document showing the location of forest development units and providing the results, strategies and measures that the plan holders would follow.

The open house planned for Bowen Island was to be in a small church annex in a residential neighbourhood on Sunday afternoon July 30 with parking available for approximately 20 cars.

On July 11

At our council meeting there was a large, overflow audience. It was obvious that the venue for the July 30 open house would be inadequate to accommodate the many people planning to attend.

Also on July 11

An email from you to resident Mr. John Stiver was republished on Facebook. In your email, you explain that the reason for the July 30 date was in part to satisfy legislative requirements to provide a review and comment period. You also explain that the FSP is a complex technical document.

On July 12

Bowen Island Municipality wrote to you expressing Council's agreement to meet with you as requested. I told you that the July 30 open house would be problematic because of the location, size of venue and lack of parking. I also proposed that the consultation period be extended to allow sufficient time for Council to digest your proposals and time for a second public meeting to gain informed comment from the public.

Later on July 12, you responded with a proposal to extend the public engagement period to September 22 so you could submit your proposed FSP by early October.

PROBLEMS WITH BC TIMBER SALES PROCESS

This is the first time in recent memory that Bowen Island has been actively proposed for extensive industrial-scale logging of Crown lands. Further, forestry plays no part in our island economy. As such, I cannot overstate how much surprise and alarm this proposed logging is creating in our community.

On May 30, you were gathering information from our staff. Two weeks later you emailed Council to request a meeting. On July 7, you published notice of an open house on Bowen. Reference to technical documentation was provided. However, nothing in any of the documentation even mentions the words "Bowen Island," let alone adding us to your active forest inventory.

In spite of this, we have done our best to respond. Your email of mid June asked for a meeting to seek advice on how to proceed and gave us options as how we might manage the lands. We have replied in a timely manner and agreed to that meeting.

We are now at mid July. You have included us as stakeholders in the proposed update to FSP 643, yet there is no mention of Bowen Island in the document provided for review. You note that a Stewardship Plan is a complex document and you acknowledge that you are required to submit it for public review and comment before forwarding it to the Decision Maker.

You have arranged for a public open house that we have indicated to you is very problematic for our community. The meeting you requested with Bowen Island Municipality Council is set for September 11.

You are also telling us you have to start writing your proposal by September 22 and complete it by early October. This abbreviated timeframe on an issue so vital to our community does not constitute meaningful consultation and is completely unacceptable.

OUR PROPOSAL

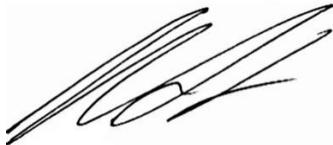
Given the above, we ask that BCTS exclude Bowen Island from the current review and comment process and exclude Bowen Island from the draft update of FSP 643.

On September 11, Bowen Island Municipal Council as a Committee of the Whole will meet with BCTS to hear an introduction to the various ways in which we might be part of a process to create a Forest Stewardship Plan for Bowen Island. After that meeting, Bowen Island Municipality will explore all options outlined by BCTS in a timely manner and will work with BCTS to establish a timeline for an orderly process to deal with this matter.

IN CONCLUSION

The prospect of having 28% of Bowen Island logged over 20 years is a shock to the residents and businesses of Bowen Island. They see no good coming of it. Over the last six weeks the process employed by BCTS has enflamed the situation and enraged the population. It is time to step back and then re-engage in a respectful process.

Yours truly,



Murray Skeels, Mayor

CC:

Minister of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations

Neal Carley, General Manager, Parks, Planning and Environment, Metro Vancouver

Jennifer Eliason, Manager, Islands Trust Fund

Mike Falkiner, Executive Director, BC Timber Sales

Jason Fisher, Associate Deputy Minister – Forest Sector, FLNRO

Pamela Goldsmith-Jones, MP, West Vancouver—Sunshine Coast—Sea to Sky Country

Peter Luckham, Trust Council Chair, Islands Trust

Jordan Sturdy, MLA, West Vancouver – Sea to Sky

Bowen Island Undercurrent

BC Timber Sales Chinook Proposed Forest Stewardship Plan

BC Timber Sales Chinook Business Area (BCTS); Cascade Lower Canyon Community Forest General Partner Corp.; Chawathil First Nation; Katzie/Kwantlen First Nation; Leq'amel Forestry Limited Partnership; Matsqui First Nation Development Corporation; Shxw'owhamel Ventures Ltd.; Sts'ailes (Sasquatch Forest Products) and Yale First Nation, having timber harvesting rights in the Fraser timber supply area (TSA), within the Chilliwack Natural Resource District, are seeking approval of Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) number 643.

Members of the public and stakeholders are invited to view and provide written comments on the FSP until Wednesday, September 6, 2017. The FSP is the main strategic-level planning document under the *Forest and Range Practices Act*. It shows the location of forest development units and provides the results, strategies and measures that the plan holders will follow for government's objectives for various forest and resource values.

BC Timber Sales Chinook has initiated a public review and comment period (Tuesday, July 4, 2017 to Wednesday, September 6, 2017) for the FSP. The FSP and related maps can be viewed at the following address, Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m.–12 p.m. and 1 p.m.–4:30 p.m. Please call planning forester Enrique Sánchez, RPF at 604 702-5748 to arrange a viewing time.

BC Timber Sales, Chinook Business Area

46360 Airport Road, Chilliwack, B.C., V2P 1A5

The proposed FSP can also be viewed online at:

www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/TCH/external/publish/FSP/Chilliwack/FSP_643/

In addition, a series of Open Houses are scheduled to give members of the public and stakeholders an opportunity to review the FSP documents and related maps. Comments must be received on or before 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, September 6, 2017, in order to be considered prior to the final submission of the FSP.

Date	Location	Address	Times
July 26, 2017	BCTS Chilliwack Office	46360 Airport Rd. Chilliwack	4 p.m.–8 p.m.
July 30, 2017	Collins Hall	1122 Miller Road, Bowen Island	2 p.m.–5:30 p.m.
August 15, 2017	McConnell Creek Hall (Farmers Institute) (Hatzic)	35483 Hartley Rd. Mission	4 p.m.–8 p.m.
August 22, 2017	Columbia Valley Community Centre	1202 Kosikar Road Columbia Valley	4 p.m.–8 p.m.
August 30, 2017	Hope & District Recreation Centre	1005 6th Ave. Hope	4 p.m.–8 p.m.

**Written comments can be submitted via email, fax or mail to the BCTS Chilliwack address listed above and should be addressed to the attention Enrique Sánchez, RPF, Planning Forester at:
email: Enrique.Sanchez@gov.bc.ca fax: 604 702-5711.**

