BCTS Sells Forest Within Proposed Elphinstone Park Expansion

Despite strong community opposition, including Elphinstone Logging Focus, The Wilderness Committee, Sierra Club of BC, and Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD), BCTS has confirmed sale of Block A87125 to Peninsula Logging Ltd. whose directors include George Fallis of Gibsons, and Aaron Service of Roberts Creek.

“Through the BCTS’ web site, ELF was alarmed to find out that the contentious Blk A87125 was bid on by a logging contractor residing in Gibsons and Roberts Creek. Perhaps this local contractor is not aware that an expanded Mr. Elphinstone Provincial Park is an actual Bylaw under the SCRD Official Community Plan.” states Ross Muirhead of ELF. “We request that Mr. Fallis and Mr. Service step away from A87125, and request that BCTS allocate them an area outside of this high biodiversity zone. BCTS has clearly failed to meet the necessary social license to log this area. The SCRD Directors voted against this block going to sale, and went so far as to pass a motion informing The Minister of Forests, Steve Thompson to call them to voice their opposition directly to him.”

Wayne McCrory, a well recognized and respected biologist, completed a scientific study in June 2015, titled ‘A Conservation Review of the Elphinstone Provincial Park Expansion Proposal’. His main conclusion was that “further clearcut logging and associated roading is the greatest threat to the rich biodiversity of the Elphinstone study area, and should not be allowed to continue.” In a letter to the editor regarding this study McCrory stated that “there is really so little of these older forests at lower to mid elevations left on the Sunshine Coast that they literally go off the scale of ecological significance.”

ELF is maintaining a 24/7 ‘Mt. Elphinstone Protection Camp’ up the B & K Rd. We invite Coast residents to visit it and support this cause.

The area under question lies on Skwxu7mesh (Squamish) lands.