February 6, 2019

BC Timber Sales
Forest Lands Natural Resource Operations

Attention Staff:

Please review the following report regarding a situation along the Roberts – Flume FSR Branch 6, Elphinstone Forest, Sunshine Coast Forest District. We request feedback from your agencies on the points made within.

On January 30th it was noted that a new gate had been installed at the entrance of Branch 6, however was unlocked so we proceed to the top of this road system. The following photographs with captions illustrate a serious culvert maintenance issue that caused failures and damages.

Note under the Forest and Range Practices Act: Division 1 – Soils 39: “Natural surface drainage patterns. (1) If an authorized person constructs a road, a temporary access structure or a permanent access structure on an area, the person must maintain natural surface drainage patterns on the area during and after construction,”

Revegetation 40: “An authorized person who constructs or deactivates a road must ensure that soil exposed by the construction or deactivation is revegetated within two years after the construction or deactivation is completed if it is reasonably foreseeable that (a) the erosion of the soil would cause (i) sediment to enter a stream, wetland or lake, or (ii) a material adverse effect in relation to one or more of the subjects listed in section 149 (1) of the Act, and 9b) revegetation would materially reduce the likelihood of erosion.” The evidence presented suggests that the licensee did not follow appropriate measures as outlined in the legislation.

Along Branch 6 a culvert was removed due to being plugged resulting in the stream flowing across the road leading to a torrent downstream. Pooled up ditch water overflowed down and across the road.
One of 3 debris dams below the 1st culvert formed by the force of the water torrent.

Downstream stream from the 1st plugged culvert a debris dam was formed. The dam redirected water across the forest floor as seen in this picture.
The debris dam redirected the torrent of water across this section of forest floor eroding it of vegetation and soils causing an ‘adverse effect’.

The 2nd culvert that crosses Branch 6. Up to 75% of it is plugged from upstream mud/sand and debris accumulated. This culvert will have to be replaced or cleared out.
A 3rd debris dam located above the 3rd culvert that crosses Branch 6, redirected significant amount of water across the road causing erosion.

A brand new heavy duty gate has been installed at the entrance of Branch 6 Roberts-Flume FSR. This is a public road. No signage provided as to the reason why access is being denied.