



Sunshine Valley Ratepayers Association

Post Office Box 2104 • Hope, BC V0X 1L0

29 March 2007

Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission
c/o Ministry of Environment
1610 Mount Seymour Road
North Vancouver, BC V7G 2R9

Commission members:

In 2006, the Sunshine Valley Ratepayers Association (SVRA) listened to a presentation given by Rudy Kehler on what the Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission (SEEC) does to help protect lands and habitat in the Upper Skagit Watershed. In his presentation, Mr. Kehler stated that SEEC funding might be available to conduct a habitat study of lands near our community. The SVRA believes that such a study would be of great interest to residents here and would be a step towards establishing greater protection of the Sumallo River, an important tributary to the Skagit.

Situated near the Sumallo River, Sunshine Valley is a small community of approximately 350 permanent and part-time residents. Our community is 18 kilometres southeast of Hope and just 5 kilometres away from the west entrance to Manning Park. One of the main attractions for people moving to Sunshine Valley is having the opportunity to live within close proximity to some of the most wild and scenic wilderness areas in all of British Columbia. As we move forward, the greatest challenge our community faces is protecting these areas and the quality of life that residents now enjoy.

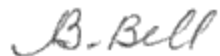
Last year logging activity resumed along the headwaters of the Sumallo River near our community. After several meetings with the Ministry of Forests, the Fraser Valley Regional District and the logging company, residents were successful in reducing the size of the approved cut blocks and change the harvesting technique of one cut block in particular from clear cut to selective logging. While having limited success, many residents were disappointed that more could not be done in protecting this very scenic area.

We feel that the first step in protecting this area is identifying the habitat that currently exists. Our board would like to take this opportunity to invite SEEC to participate in a tour of our area and discuss the feasibility of conducting a habitat study of Sunshine Valley and the Sumallo River Valley.

Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission
29 March 2007
Page 2

The SVRA and SEEC share many common goals, and we would enjoy the opportunity to partner with you in helping protect these important natural resources within the Upper Skagit Watershed. To schedule a tour or to discuss any questions you may have regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me at (604) 869-5936 or via e-mail at president@sunshinevalleyratepayers.org. I look forward to hearing from you!

Yours truly,



Barbara Bell
President, Sunshine Valley Ratepayers Association

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