



Sunshine Valley Ratepayers Association

Post Office Box 2104 • Hope, BC V0X 1L0

19 September 2007

Kerry Grozier
District Manager
Chilliwack Forest District
46360 Airport Road
Chilliwack, BC V2P 1A5

Dear Mr. Grozier:

Removal of bridge from West Fork Road near Sunshine Valley

After contacting Len Blackstock of Cattermole Timber regarding the removal of the subject bridge, I was referred to your office. If the Ministry of Forests is not the responsible party, any information you can share to help point me in the right direction would be most appreciated.

Several residents in Sunshine Valley have expressed concerns to me regarding the removal of the bridge spanning the Sumallo River, on West Fork Road, near Sunshine Valley. This bridge was the second bridge along the Sumallo River Forest Service Road, where Potter Creek meets the Sumallo River. The concerns that have been brought to my attention are as follows.

- **SAFETY** – The redeveloped embankment where the bridge was located is sloped/graded in a manner where it encourages recreationists on all-terrain vehicles (ATV) to cross the river by vehicle. This poses a safety risk to ATV users attempting to cross the river during times of high run-off.
- **ENVIRONMENT** – Crossing by vehicle at this location as it is currently designed would cause considerable muddying of the Sumallo River. In 2006, the Sumallo River was identified in a report of endangered and threatened rivers by the Outdoor Recreation Council. The Sumallo is a fish inhabited river and is an important tributary to the Skagit River. Muddying waters may further endanger fish in this river and the Skagit.
- **QUALITY OF LIFE** – This bridge was frequently used by residents and recreationists for viewing the waterfall along Potter Creek. The waterfall is a key attraction to residents and visitors to Sunshine Valley. With the removal of this bridge, there is no longer any access to the waterfall.

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- PUBLIC ACCESS – This bridge provided the only access to community forest lands behind Mt. Potter. In addition, it was learned that Cattermole Timber was planning to use this bridge in order to conduct engineering work under their forest licence.

If you would be kind enough to inform me of the reasoning behind the decision by the Ministry of Forests to remove the bridge and also address the abovementioned concerns, I would be more than happy to share this information with the community. For your reference, I have enclosed photographs of where the bridge once was, along with photographs of the waterfall.

It seems that the best solution would be to restore this bridge; however, my goal is to find a solution that is agreeable to all parties.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or require additional information. I may be reached at (604) 869-5936 or via e-mail at president@sunshinevalleyratepayers.org. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Barb Bell, President
Sunshine Valley Ratepayers Association

/beb

Enclosure (1)

cc w/Attachment: Sunshine Valley Forest Advisory Steering Committee
Mr. Len Blackstock, Cattermole Timber
Mr. Arne Zabell, Fraser Valley Regional District

