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October 23, 2007

Barb Bell, President
Sunshine Valley Ratepayers Association
Post Office Box 2104
Hope, British Columbia
V0X 1L0

Dear Barb Bell:

Thank-you for your letter of September 19, 2007 regarding removal of the temporary railcar bridge over the Sumallo River at the start of the Sumallo West Forest Service Road (identified in your letter as the West Fork Road).

The Chilliwack Forest District (CFD) became the owner of this temporary railcar bridge when the previous owner, International Forest Products Ltd. (Interfor) departed the area. An inspection by a professional engineer indicated the bridge did not meet minimum load rating, safety and environmental standards. As a result it was decided to remove the temporary structure and leave emergency fire protection access in the form of a wet crossing.



Regarding your concern about the safety and environmental qualities of the wet crossing, my staff inform me it was constructed as fire protection access, not for daily use. However, if there are concerns I will ask my staff to monitor the situation this fall and winter and should the need arise I will consider blockading access to the wet crossing. For future access, it is anticipated the next licensee working in the Potter Creek area will re-establish safe and environmentally sound access as required for all phases of forestry operations.

While it is not possible to maintain access to every drainage in the CFD given the hundreds of bridges and thousands of kilometres of road we are responsible for. It is our first goal to maintain access along primary access roads such as the main Sumallo Forest Service Road (FSR) and then as the situation permits along secondary and branch roads such as the Sumallo West FSR. As you are no doubt aware there has been considerable effort expended over the years keeping the main Sumallo FSR in useable repair.

Once again, thank-you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Yours truly,

Kerry Grozier
District Manager
Chilliwack Forest District