

Wynndel Irrigation District Newsletter Info Sheet

WIDs mandate is to provide a safe and adequate water supply to its customers.

Under WID Board direction, the WID Watershed Sustainability Planning Committee has undertaken a number of initiatives to understand the effects of watershed logging, as well as to investigate options for acquiring 2 remaining untenured Crown blocks that are not presently slated for logging.

The WID Board is not taking a stand either for or against logging. Rather, the Board is concerned about providing a safe, cost-effective water supply, both now and into the future, including minimizing boil water advisories.

It is important that elected officials hear from you. There has been significant correspondence and advocating at the WID level and we encourage you individually to write to your government officials. Community engagement lets our MLA and various officials know how concerned we are with the future of our water. It is our understanding that individuals writing their own emails and letters have more impact than multiple instances of a form letter. Below are a series of statements and facts for your consideration.

- Water treatment/storage is costly, as has been demonstrated with the relatively recent Duck Creek reservoir construction and upgrades. There is no compensation to WID or WID ratepayers should the water quality and/or quantity be adversely impacted.
- Current legislation favours timber removal, even in watersheds, despite no requirements for determining the biodiverse cumulative impacts of logging within the watershed.
- An undisturbed watershed is a cost effective method of helping to fulfilling WID's mandate.
- Standing, intact healthy forests provide a moderating effect on water quality, quantity and flow timing. (This moderating effect can be likened to running water through a sponge. The sponge continues to filter and supply water even after no water is added.)
- Removing forest cover reduces and often eliminates this moderating effect. The direct cause and effects have been witnessed in BC watersheds.
- High angle timber harvesting, included in Canfor's logging plans, exacerbates erosion and sedimentation, impacting water quality.
- Numerous peer-reviewed studies, government reports, oversight boards including the Forestry Practices Board, as well as the BC Auditor General, indicate that accountability measures for safeguarding drinking water are lacking. Existing forestry practices are not sustainable and are negatively impacting community water sources.
- Compared to surrounding local communities, Wynndel is currently extremely fortunate to have an adequate water supply. As our community's population increases and more and varied water users are added to the WID supply grid, there will be a requirement for an increasing supply of high quality water. WID, and by extension WID ratepayers, cannot be assured of adequate water quality and quantity, if their watershed is disturbed.

- Wynndel residents must be assured their water will be protected and requests the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy initiate a Watershed Sustainability Plan for Duck Creek Community Watershed. A Crown and private logging moratorium in the Duck Creek watershed should be applied until the assessment and subsequent watershed management proposals are understood.

Contact information for sending your emails or letters, with copies to appropriate Ministries, our MLA and government opposition are noted below.

Thank you in advance for making your voice heard.

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2. Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

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3. Ministry of Forests

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4. MLA Brittany Anderson

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