

Glade B.C. Watershed Concerns



My name is Leah Anderson and am a resident of a community in the Kootenays called Glade BC.

It is only accessible by an on-demand ferry system, that services about 110 + homes and 300 or so people.

It's a beautiful and diverse area which was once known as the bread belt or harvest basket of the Doukabour community, that originally homesteaded the area, and is still just as diverse today.

With a breathtaking waterfall at the south end, organic farms and food makers, - honey bee farms, craft makers and other small businesses together with all the recreational activities the area has to offer it's like living in a paradise for nature lovers. The community has a small hall with children's playground and all the security of the ferry makes it practically a "gated" community.

All that security, safety and beauty are now at risk.

Over the last year we have heard rumblings of two logging companies, Atco and Kalesnikoff lumber, who own timber rights to a huge area located in the communities watershed.

This watershed is what feeds the whole community of its clean water. Even some wells are fed by aquifers from the same mountain. And it's all we have.

The companies (mentioned above) are poised to clear cut 25% sections at a time of virgin forest in one plot before moving through to the next section to do the same. This process is to be repeated (as explained by the logging companies) and is scheduled to be an indefinite invasion of our communities surroundings and in their own words to continue through "Forever"!!

ATCO's top section of the landscape will be accessed through an upper road that will be punched through to the area they need to access which will act as a gateway to others. Kalesnikoff's mill is located directly across the inland ferry which is the communities only access.

Kalesnikoff's will, most likely, punch roads through from the community waterfall location up the mountain to wherever their plot plans begin.

Which we still do not have access to these plans.

They appear to be withholding any plans until spring run off is over so they can start right away. Which is what the community is afraid of. It seems once their foot is in the door, we may not be able to stop the progression.

This also means the logging companies will be bringing the fully laden logging truck loads down through the community roads and onto our ferry crossing which appears only to be able to accommodate one loaded truck per sailing, even *with* the new ferry that we are getting in 2017. Which seems suspicious now because the community was not told we were getting a new ferry until it was coming just in time for when the logging is to begin.

Both companies have asked for Glade residents to put together a working group who can work with them in these endeavors. The community (attending the meetings) feel we should instead start an alliance to work towards protecting our area.

On top of the main concern of the watershed we, as a group, have numerous other worries that are all very valid.

Just to name a few in point form

- 1. Unacceptably reduced access to and from our community via the ferry**
- 2. Safety on our narrow community seal coated roads for traffic and pedestrians (including children and the elderly) and animals alike**
- 3. Stability of the mountain above the community which has several residential properties below the proposed clear cut areas.**
- 4. Decreased Property values due to logging**

Atco and Kalesnikoff have provided the residence of Glade with a Hydro-Geomorphic assessment of about 1/3 of our watershed completed by a Dr. Kim Green (hired by the logging companies). I have attached a link to this report for your information.

gladewater.weebly.com/recent-news

At a community meeting on February 17th Dr. Kim Green gave her findings of this report and after doing so, was questioned on a few fronts.

Her report was basically an assessment of the past hundred or so years of historic logging from the 1920s, past wildfires and other natural slides, that have happened to create what we have today.

Dr. Green also appeared quite concerned and adamant that we find out what is causing our turbidity in the water.

Dr. Green also admitted, she is not an expert in road building practices or logging practices and does not know how they could or would affect this watershed.

This *was not* very comforting to this community. The obvious devastation from clear cut logging in other areas and the concerns which are currently ongoing in other communities, should be heard by our political leaders who the voters elect to listen and respond with solutions. We are not a community of environmental lawyers nor do we know the ins and outs of all practices regarding logging but we do know, We Need HELP to Keep Them Out!

Thank you in advance, The Glade Community

I can be reached at dragonleah@gmail.com or 250-304-8362

Any advice or direction will be greatly appreciated

