



Reference: 236415

March 26, 2018

His Worship Mayor Colin Haime  
District of Lantzville  
PO Box 100  
Lantzville, British Columbia  
V0R 2H0

Dear Mayor Haime:

Thank you for your letter of February 7, 2018, requesting a meeting to discuss the Save Lantzville Forest (SLF) group's proposal for the creation of the "Knarston Creek Forest Corridor" in Woodlot 1475 (WL1475).

On December 11, 2017, Rhonda Morris, District Manager of the South Island Natural Resource District, informed you of my decision regarding the SLF proposal for the creation of the "Knarston Creek Forest Corridor." Although we are unable to support the entire proposal, we are supportive of further recreational trail development in the Knarston Creek area.

While I am always willing to meeting with communities, I do not believe a meeting with all parties is necessary at this time. The ministry reviewed the proposal carefully and considered the need to balance local economic, environmental and social needs. Much of the Crown land in the Lantzville area is already under a form of protection, including a 223-hectare Wildlife Habitat Area to protect Marbled Murrelet, two draft Old Growth Management Areas totalling 31 hectares to protect old-growth biodiversity, and the 22-hectare Arbutus Grove Provincial Park that protects a stand of arbutus trees and provides recreational opportunities. Since 1998, the province has leased 32 hectares of Crown land to the Regional District of Nanaimo to establish and maintain the Benson Creek Falls Regional Park.

Furthermore, the province is proposing to increase the Coastal Douglas fir protection on Southern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands, including a proposed 64-hectare parcel of Crown land near Lantzville known as District Lot 33.

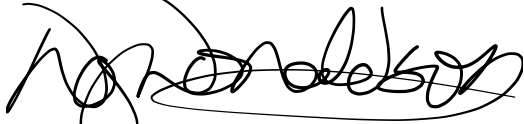
Lastly, I am unable to support your proposed moratorium on logging activities in WL1475. I have no legal authority to impose a restriction on a licensee operating in accordance with objectives set by government unless they will cause a catastrophic impact on public health or safety, have an adverse impact on the environment, or are unlikely to establish a free-growing stand as a result of their actions. I have no reason to believe that any of those conditions apply to WL1475.

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His Worship Mayor Colin Haime

Thank you again for your interest in forest conservation and recreation within your district's jurisdiction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Doug Donaldson', written in a cursive style.

Doug Donaldson  
Minister

pc: Michelle Stillwell, MLA, Parksville-Qualicum  
Rhonda Morris, District Manager, South Island Natural Resource District  
John Gregson, General Manager, Copcan Civil Ltd.  
Mark Stephens, Snaw-naw-as First Nation