

**Update on Logging Activities for the
Members of the Lac Des Roches Watershed Society**

August 16, 2023

Planning Logging Activities, specifically CP 635, FLA20002

The Lac des Roches Watershed Society is opposed to the clearcut logging activities in the Lac des Roches area, specifically CP 635, FLA20002. Excessive runoff from clearcut logging activities has severe repercussions on the delicate balance of the local ecosystem. This accelerated nutrient loading in the bodies of water leads to significant alterations in the pH levels of the lakes, causing proliferation of red algae and subsequent winterkill of fish populations.

Past Damage and Avoiding Future Damage

The damage has already occurred at Ripple Lake, Roche Lake, Pioneer Lake, Johnny Lake and Tortoise Lake. Excessive logging around Preacher Lake destroyed natural spawning channels. Damage to the creeks feeding Pioneer Lake and Johnny Lake along with large amounts of silt seriously altered the shoals and in the case of Johnny, rendered the lake too shallow to sustain fish any longer. While Roche Lake is not in our watershed, runoff from logging caused extreme eutrophication of Roche Lake resulting in an explosion of red algae and winterkill of its fish population. The adverse effects on these pristine lakes and their surrounding habitats are evident and alarming. We urge the Ministry to take immediate action to assess the extent of the damage and implement appropriate measures for restoration and conservation.

Immediate and decisive action to address these issues must be taken to avoid irreversible damage to the Lac des Roches area.

The Watershed Society is requesting the following from the Ministry of Forests and West Fraser Timber:

- 1. Remedial Action:** To mitigate the damage at Ripple Lake, Roche Lake, and Tortoise Lake.
- 2. Forest Stewardship Plan:** A copy of the study conducted to assess the extent of damage to water, fish, wildlife and biodiversity disruption related to the proposed clearcut logging activities in the Lac des Roches area (CP 635, FLA20002).
- 3. Re-evaluation of Logging Regulations:** Review and strengthen the logging regulations in the region to ensure sustainable and responsible practices.
- 4. Accountability:** Prior to any logging in an area, baseline studies must be undertaken so we have proof of habitat protection and can hold the companies responsible for returning the ecosystem to its previous condition.

The Lac des Roches Watershed Society is committed to finding viable solutions. We are meeting with the relevant authorities to discuss concerns and work collaboratively towards sustainable management practices. Please show your support. Thank you.