

Friends of Cathedral Grove (FROG)

Press Release

3 October 2008

CRIME—AGAINST—NATURE

ISLAND TIMBERLANDS CUTS DOWN TREES IN CATHEDRAL GROVE

Richard Boyce reports: During a fact-finding trip to the Cameron Valley I discovered that Island Timberlands has recently graded a flat acre of land likely to be used as a log dump for helicopter logging operations. High up the slope are the only old trees left for many kilometers. The site is located past the knoll outcropping in Cameron Valley which is reached via a left turn on the way to Port Alberni, prior to climbing up the "Hump." When driving down the Hump towards Parksville, another sub-alpine clearcut can be seen. Over the years logging has reached the high slopes: now all that remains is sub-alpine forest. Island Timberlands is systematically cutting down all old growth forests above the industrial tree plantations on Mt. Arrowsmith.

Island Timberlands falsely claims that there is a buffer of 300 meters between the tree falling area and the internationally renowned park, Cathedral Grove. In reality the buffer is the Cameron River which meanders along the bottom of the valley just before flowing into Cameron Lake. This water then flows into the Little Qualicum River which is the source of drinking water for thousands of residents of Whiskey Creek and the Town of Qualicum Beach. The Island Timberlands logging operation is planned for an old growth remnant forest near the boundary of MacMillan Park. Deforestation is changing the hydrology and putting at risk the biodiversity of the Cathedral Grove Watershed. Several organizations, including the Nature Trust of BC, have expressed interest in acquiring more of the Cameron River valley and preserving its rare, vanishing and endangered big trees from being destroyed by the wood products industry is of critical concern.

The Friends of Cathedral Grove (FROG) will coordinate gatherings of those citizens who wish to express their objections to the logging operation in Cathedral Grove by Island Timberlands. We seek your support: please bring friends and help show the media that people still care about Cathedral Grove.

Visitor Parking Area
Cathedral Grove (MacMillan Provincial Park)
11 am, Sunday, 5 October 2008

Main Gate, Island Timberlands' Nanoose Yard
Northwest Bay Road & Inland Highway
11 am, Monday, 6 October 2008

Please bring signs with these suggested exhortations:
Save Old Growth
Tree Cutting = Blowdown
Protect Cathedral Grove
Protect Drinking Water
Don't Cut Ancient Trees

If you are unable to attend, register your disgust with the forest destroyers: Island Timberlands
Leigh Tang - Brookfield Timber Division - ph: 604 661-9143 - email: ltang@brookfield.com
Mackenzie Leine - Island Timberlands - ph: 250 755-3500 - email: mleine@islandtimberlands.com
Darshan Sihota - Island Timberlands - ph: 250 755-3531 - email: dsihota@islandtimberlands.com
Island Timberlands Woodlands - 65 Front Street Nanaimo, BC Canada V9R 5H9 - fax: 250 755-3540

Let the media and all levels of government know:
You want logging in Cathedral Grove stopped now!
Remember: this is an international wood products corporation
Destroying a local gem and irreplaceable nature monument

Richard Boyce, Friends of Cathedral Grove <http://www.cathedralgrove.se>