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Ref: 193525

December 17, 2012

David Raven, Chairman
Columbia Shuswap Regional District
P.O. Box 978
Salmon Arm, British Columbia
V1E 4P1

Dear Chairman Raven and Members of the Board:

Thank you for the letter of November 21, 2012, from Charles Hamilton, Chief Administrative Officer requesting the Stella-Jones logging plans in the Lower Begbie Creek area be delayed until the revised Begbie Falls Integrated Resources Plan is in place and your request to reinstate Local Resource Use Planning processes throughout the province.

The Begbie Falls Integrated Resource Plan was initiated in 1991 and approved by the district manager in 1993. In the early 1990s, Local Resource Use Plans (LRUPs) were used as a planning tool to cover resource values such as ungulate winter range, visuals, cut block size, silviculture systems, access and recreation values. In 1995, the *Forest Practices Code Act* (the Code) was enacted and forest practices came under legislation. At the same time, comprehensive land-use planning commenced around the province resulting in Higher Level Plans covering most of the province by 2002, including the Revelstoke Higher Level Plan. Since then, LRUPs are no longer used as a planning tool.

In 2004, the Code was replaced by the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA) and currently governs the activities of forest licensees and sets out requirements for planning, road building, logging and reforestation. Many forest objectives are specified under the Forest Practices Planning and Practices Regulation or the Government Action Regulation (GAR). Each licensee must have an approved Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP), which describes their results and strategies and must follow a full public review and comment process. Stella-Jones has had an approved FSP in place since 2007 and their existing cutting permit applications have met all legal requirements for their proposed harvesting plans.

In summary, integrated land-use plans have been supplanted by a broader array of other processes that are supported by government, including; Higher Level Plans, GAR orders, FRPA, and the contents of a licensee's FSP. I request that the Regional District and

constituents keep in contact with Stella-Jones and continue to provide input on proposed harvesting activities.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Thomson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Steve Thomson
Minister

pc: Charles Hamilton, Chief Administrative Officer