



## PERRY RIDGE WATER USERS' ASSOCIATION

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### *Season's Greetings*

Dear Members and Supporters:

The Perry Ridge Water Users Association continues to work for protection of the ridge. It has been a difficult year as BC Timber Sales cut 4 cutblocks at the north end. To date they have not licensed future blocks but they have mapped out the road extension and "Areas of Interest". They are attempting to keep development on the west side but as you can see from Hwy 6 they are on the top and over the east side. Regardless of which side they impact, there are residents on the West Side and the drainage on the west side flows to the Slocan River at the south end where there are residents along the Little Slocan at the base of the ridge. The Little Slocan back road was completely taken out from a debris flow from Koch Creek.

The Association hired the late Dr. Tony Salway to assess the work by Sunshine Logging and the BCTS reports. The reports are inadequate to protect the valley bottom. Unfortunately we had difficulty getting up to do the field work as we needed to hire a lawyer to arrange for BCTS to open the gate. By the time we were able to enter most of the cutting and road building was completed. However we intend to make sure that the work we have done gets before the courts as they move over more densely settled areas.

**The enclosed letters are samples of the extensive work we continue to bring to the government's attention.** We have had no response to date and the undated letter attached was sent by e-mail on September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012. These letters had a scanned signed signature page, which does not copy well. We resent the letter on December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012. You can access the attachments on our website at [www.perryridge.org](http://www.perryridge.org)

The Association does not have charitable status and so fund raising is particularly difficult. The Association continues to articulate the safety risks and losing economics to the government. The work is all done by volunteers and our office internet is also donated. However there are costs for photography, printing, hall rentals for fund raising events, gas costs to and from Nelson for printing pickups and attendance to water related events. In addition we need to fund further scientific studies. Due to Dr. Salway's death we need to have his work reviewed by Kim Green of Apex in order to use it in the courts. We will also need to have new assessments done of new government studies on the newly proposed areas of interest.

We have received funding from West Coast Environmental law for a legal opinion; this requires new assessments on the proposed roads and areas of interest and identifying individual homesteads at risk. We would like to hire Kim Green to replace Dr. Salway if we can afford to do so. Without independent BC certified expert terrain and hydrology witnesses, lay persons are portrayed as exaggerating the risks. It is very costly making governments accountable. Unfortunately small rural communities are at a huge disadvantage. The government continues to lower the value of where we live and the value of our water supplies. **Please if you can contribute to our work we would greatly appreciate it. The damage is irreparable as Dr. Salway has stated this in his reports.**

The Association is also producing a documentary with the Sinixt Nation "The River Report" which we intend to put on the website when completed. It will also be sent to the government and possibly use it along with Dr. Salway's reports before the courts. Dr. Salway, Hydrologist and Dr. Goodale, Archaeologist of Lemon Creek are featured in the film and address the impact of the sedimentation to the river values.

We would appreciate it if any of you have photos of water damage/ changes that you could send to us so we can profile existing damage in and around where we live.

We wish we could be celebrating the protection of the ridge but there are still many trees working to protect our homes, water and helping protect the river as deforestation in the snowy areas of the province are identified as creating flooding hazards. Kim Green of Apex did the original Phase I Terrain Stability report on Perry Ridge (see at [www.perryridge.org](http://www.perryridge.org)) recently had a press release titled “ [Deforestation in snowy regions causes more floods](#)” in the prestigious American Geophysical Union WRR (Water Resource Research) at [http://www.agu.org/news/press/pr\\_archives/2012/2012-43.shtml](http://www.agu.org/news/press/pr_archives/2012/2012-43.shtml)

The gift of water is irreplaceable and the damage irreparable so if you can help fund our work we have hope that we can continue to educate the government about their irresponsible planning and the risks to the residents and the river values that road building and logging pose.

We hope you have a safe and peaceful holiday. **The Slocan Valley is still one of the most beautiful places on earth and we need to do whatever we can to protect it.**

Thank you for your years of support.

Yours truly,

PERRY RIDGE WATER USERS ASSOCIATION

Marilyn Burgoon  
President

Enclosures