

# Idaho Peak Road repaired; Little Slovan River Road impassable

by Jan McMurray

Resource road maintenance has been a major challenge this year due to the late spring snow melt combined with extreme rain events. This unusual season has resulted in 22 landslide/erosion events within the Kootenay Lake Timber Supply Area and 46 reported events within the Arrow Boundary Timber Supply Area.

**Idaho Peak Road** has now been repaired after a slump occurred mid-June at kilometer 3.2.

A Ministry of Forest, Lands and Natural Resource Operations spokesperson reported that KC Drilling & Blasting and Silverton Transport were contracted to complete the repair, which involved widening the road by excavating into the cutbank.

Last year, a smaller slump occurred at the same location. This year, about 200 cubic metres of road fill slumped downslope about 20 metres onto this spot in the road.

The slump was likely caused by saturation of the fill slope from surface and subsurface flows from the spring freshet.

**Little Slovan River Road** washed

out sometime prior to July 7 and has been totally impassable ever since.

Due to high waters and changing stream paths, the roadbed was washed out for at least 75 metres.

An FLNRO spokesperson reported that repairs are not underway. "With this spring's extreme weather resulting in a greater number of roads requiring maintenance, our first priority is to address those areas where there is no alternate access," he said.

The washout has not affected access to any homes, but the Varney Pole Company property is inaccessible.

The road goes up to the Little Slovan Lakes and is a popular access road for recreational activities such as horseback riding, skiing and snowmobiling.

The FLNRO spokesperson said this is "a non-status road likely running through portions of private property" and "no one is responsible for maintaining the road."