



October 27, 2023

To whom it may concern:

The following document is to accompany the final draft of the Roberts Creek and Stephens Creek Watershed Assessment: Phase 1 & 2 report prepared by Polar Geoscience Ltd. for BC Timber Sales Chinook (BCTS).

The Roberts Creek and Stephens Creek Watershed Assessment follows the same methodology as the Mt Elphinstone South Watershed Assessment: Phase 1 & 2 report in that the current condition of the watersheds were reviewed, potential elements at risk were identified, and recommendations are provided to reduce, mitigate, or avoid impacts to these elements from future developments.

The assessment area covers the catchment of two streams, Roberts Creek and Stephens Creek. Within Roberts Creek there are two main tributary basins, Clack Creek, and the Gough Creek sub-basin nested within, and East Roberts Creek. The BCTS Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP #672) does not require a watershed assessment for this area, but BCTS recognizes that there is a need for such an assessment given the multiple downstream values that are present.

It is important to recognize that the scope of the assessment is intended to provide BCTS with watershed-level guidance on how to proceed with forest development planning to minimize hydrogeomorphic risks. The report includes recommendations on opening size thresholds and the extent of harvesting (i.e., equivalent clearcut area) that are in line with the conservatism seen in the Mt Elphinstone South Watershed Assessment in consideration of the potential effects on downstream values and the context of climate change. This report does not provide site level recommendations for specific developments, such assessments will be performed during Phase 3 of this assessment.

As the background science and methodology of the Roberts and Stephens Creek assessment are consistent with that of the Mt Elphinstone South Watershed Assessment, BCTS will not be holding information sessions to accompany the release of this report. Those looking for additional information on how this assessment was conducted are directed to the recording of the Mt Elphinstone South Phase 1 and 2 information session and associated presentation that can be found here:

https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/TCH/external/!publish/InformationSharing/Mt_Elphinstone_South_Watershed_Assessment/Mt_Elphinstone_South_Watershed_Assessment_Presentation_and_Zoom_recording/

BCTS is welcoming comments on the report until November 27th, 2023. Please send comments to BCTS.SunshineCoast@gov.bc.ca, all comments received will be reviewed and considered for inclusion in the final report.

Thank you for your time,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Aubin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Pierre Aubin
Practices Forester
BC Timber Sales
Chinook Business Area