



British Columbia Forests Society
Letter to the Editor, Vancouver Sun

Thank you for posting the November 5 letter of concern from Mr. Britneff about our forests. It has been very discouraging to watch the BC Government dismantle our resource ministries piece-by-piece over the past decade. These ministries seem to have been rendered toothless and ineffective in the job we expect them to do, to take care of our public forests.

Just ask the resource officers left 'in the trenches' how well they are able to protect public forest lands including fish, wildlife, water, parks, trees and recreation values. Instead it appears that Government has emphasized the job priorities to be away from stewardship and management, towards issuing development permits as quickly as possible. And what about inspections?

If we need an example about the problems that could occur under our present arrangements, look at the craziness around the Fish Lake mine issue in the Cariboo where BC said 'go' but Ottawa emphatically said 'no go'. It's past time for a comprehensive and impartial public review of our forests, to ask people what they want and who they want to look after things.

Harry Drage, President
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