



Media Release

TimberWest assists Pacific Salmon Foundation to improve Port Alberni streams

For immediate release

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VANCOUVER (February 15, 2006) – TimberWest Forest Corp. today signed an agreement with the Pacific Salmon Foundation (PSF). TimberWest is Western Canada's largest private forest land owner, and PSF is an independent organization dedicated to rebuilding healthy, sustainable and naturally diverse Pacific Salmon stocks.

This agreement is in addition to the long-term partnership that TimberWest and PSF signed 5 years ago to provide \$60,000 annual funding to improve fish habitat on Vancouver Island streams. This supplemental contribution provides the PSF with an additional \$15,000 immediately to assist in making improvements to fish habitat in Port Alberni's Beaver Creek area.

The area has been subjected to extensive periods of heavy precipitation from several storms over the past few weeks. The combination of heavy rain and melting snow resulted in runoff that has affected land, and streams in the Alberni Valley area.

"This weather pattern has not been recorded in over 25 years," stated John Phillips, Manager of Forestry Programs. The company has a comprehensive program of environmental protection measures to manage both normal, and above normal conditions. In this case, the company redirected some of its contract logging crews to stop harvesting activities and focus their work on keeping culverts and ditches functioning during the onslaught of the rain and related runoff.

"In the process of reviewing the weather related concerns with Fisheries and Oceans Canada and other agencies we became aware of some of the issues in the area, and we wanted to offer our help in some way", said Phillips. Experts have identified the need for new culverts on old railway grades, existing roads and other lands in the area in order to protect water quality and downstream fish habitat in small creeks. In addition to this direct financial contribution, TimberWest will make 1,000 seedlings available from its spring 2006 operational planting program that is already underway in the area. These trees can be used by the PSF's Community Salmon Program to assist in stream enhancement work by local volunteer groups.

"We were impressed with TimberWest's unsolicited offer", stated PSF Executive Director Paul Kariya. "Their long-term commitment has already directly contributed \$17,000 to our salmon recovery projects in the Alberni Valley. We will get to work right away, with experts from Fisheries and Oceans Canada, our technical advisory group and local members of the Alberni Valley Enhancement Association to ensure this generous additional contribution is utilized in a timely manner to protect the work we have done so far, and to further increase salmon stocks where opportunities exist."

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