

WE NEED YOU AT THE BLOCKADE

Our presence on the road this last month is all that has stopped the road building and logging planned by Western Forest Products in our Chapman watershed so far. We are currently pursuing legal options as well, but until these come to fruition we need to maintain our presence on the road. Western will be going back to court on Tues, July 20th, once again to try and get an injunction that would criminalize and prohibit us from further blockading. Although they very well may be granted this injunction forcing us to abandon the blockade, there may be positive results that come from this legal battle. There is the possibility that the SCRD or the Sechelt Indian Band may chose to engage themselves as an affected party (a defendant), in this court action thereby opening up many possible positive outcomes. Our lawyer is currently consulting with the SCRD's lawyer about the options and may be making a presentation to the SCRD board at their next meeting this Thursday, and there has been ongoing contact with the SIB as well. **In the interim, we are still needed on that road to allow the time needed to prepare our case.**

The risks are small, and nobody will be arrested, since if Western is granted the injunction on July 20th, we intend to step aside and let them pass. Western has named 5 individuals along with "persons unknown" in the injunction application, as parties that they could retain the right to sue for damages if the injunction is granted. It is a common scare tactic used in these sorts of suits (SLAPP suits), and is a means for powerful corporate entities to squash any opposition from the public or local government. We have been advised that there is negligible risk of legal action against any persons other than those already named. So "persons unknown", then or in the future, have little to be concerned about. However ominous it may appear, damages incurred from logging protests has only been awarded once before, in the 1994 ruling of Greenpeace Canada vs. MacMillan Bloedel. Given how commonplace logging protests are in this country those odds are pretty good. The typical scenario is that after an injunction is awarded and the protesters stand aside, the company resumes usual business and any pursuit of damages is dropped against all parties. The companies don't want the bad publicity they would receive if they were to go ahead with such a lawsuit and their true losses from our activities would be small - they only want to destroy any resistance and the threat of a lawsuit works. This last week we have had on the blockade line, a mother of a lawyer, a daughter of a lawyer, and the wife and children of a lawyer (different lawyers) and all of those blockaders have felt comfortable enough in their actions to come back a second time despite Westerns threats.

Please help us, maintain our community presence at the blockade this next week, while courtroom strategies are being developed. We are looking to have a few individuals at that site at all times between 7:30 am – 11:00 am, and 10:30am – 3:00pm. It's great if you want to just go on up on your own and say hello, stay for a while, visit and get updated – it's all good, but **what is most needed is to have at least 3 folks who can commit to each shift** so that we are sure there are people always there during the main working hours to keep watch, hold the line, and get word down to others if needed. Commit for just one shift, on one day, or more days if you can. You would need to contact our volunteer (info at the bottom) to schedule your shift and they would phone you back to remind you and confirm a day or 2 in advance. Shift volunteers would meet in the IGA shopping center in Wilson Creek (the corner of the parking lot closest to the Shell station). daily at 7 am, or 2:30 pm, and carpool or follow each other up to the blockade site approximately 8.5 km from the top of Field. Most vehicles can make the journey along the dirt

logging road without difficulty if you drive slow. Be aware that it is an active logging road, so keep to the right, watch out for those blind curves and if you encounter a logging truck coming either way, pull off on the shoulder and stop to let him by before proceeding. Bring a folding chair, fluids, food, sunscreen or raingear, TP, and something to keep you occupied and entertained. There is a large tarp hung up to escape the worst of the rain or sun. Westerns management hasn't bothered visiting us the last few days as it appears they may be content to wait for the court hearing on the 20th but some of the employees have been working in the area may stop to chat. They are for the most part passive and respectful, but as a precautionary measure, we never give them or anyone connected to them (the subcontractor building the roads, etc.) our names or the names of others. There is a communal video camera with quick instructions at the blockade to record interactions with Western and others and we encourage blockaders to use it. When you phone the volunteer scheduler make sure and ask about where it is and under what circumstances you might want to use it.

Directions to the blockade: Starting from the top of Field Rd. in Wilson Creek (just beyond the SCRD offices) is the dirt logging road that leads to Dakota Ridge. Take a right off Field on to this dirt road. There will be small signs along the way announcing each kilometer you have traveled on the road. Drive just under 4km to a fork in the road. There is a large sign on a tree in the middle of the fork pointing the way to Dakota Ridge, take the left fork towards Dakota. Just beyond the 7km sign there is a road to the left. There is a large red banner hung over the road by the Sechelt nation to remind Western that this is unceded land though it may be gone by the time you travel this way. Take this left and travel another 1.4 km (the roughest portion of the trip) to the blockade. The blockade is on a spur road within a stones throw of the main road, you will see it. It also goes by the name of Camp 1. Park off to the side so as not to impede other forestry operations in the area. **Bring a friend, tell a neighbour, spread the word, and please share this email.**

To volunteer for the blockade or in other ways please call 604.886.5999 or email dlptlm@hotmail.com ASAP. We need still need people for tomorrow and the rest of the week.

A Volunteer for the Concerned Citizens of the Sunshine Coast