



Citizens for Public Justice

ALBERTA AFFILIATE, Room 200, 223 - 12 Ave. S.W.,
Calgary, Alberta T2R 0G9
265-6979

NEWS RELEASE

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Subject Matter: Logging in the Upper Oldman River Basin

Citizens for Public Justice is calling for a moratorium on logging operations and related road building in the Upper Oldman River basin. The moratorium should be in effect until the government's own Integrated Management Planning process is undertaken for the region and brought to completion.

"The full range of costs and benefits of the clearcut project by Revelstoke Companies Limited" argued CPJ environment researcher, Jenny Krabbe, "Should be weighed and evaluated against other uses for the basin such as recreation, and tourism". Public hearings are necessary to ensure that the merits of each option may be thoroughly considered.

Citizens for Public Justice is a national political organization seeking to address issues from a Christian perspective. Our relatively young Alberta wing speaks to provincial and local issues through the involvement of about 770 Alberta supporters.

For more information contact:

Jenny Krabbe
CPJ Alberta Board Member
Environment Research
265-6979

Background:

CPJ recognizes that the Eastern Slopes Policy's multiple use zone designated for the area allows a logging operation. However, it is unclear whether the project will uphold significant policy statements governing the Eastern Slopes. The government must ensure that the applicant, Revelstoke Companies Limited, has proven that its planned operation will not violate policies addressing recreational potential; damage to vegetation, land surface and watercourses; and watershed management (see below for policy statements). Upholding these policies is essential in view of Hidden Creek basin's characteristic as the last unspoiled basin in southwestern Alberta outside of Waterton National Park. The watershed management policy must not be violated by changes in timing and quality of downstream flows because of the importance of water to all users in the Oldman River basin.

We encourage the government to consider all aspects of this issue, the full range of benefits and costs associated with the project as well as alternative uses for the basin, such as recreation and tourism. Appropriate consideration can be given utilizing the government's own Integrated Management Planning process and related public hearings.

The resulting IMP plan should serve the good of the present and future generations after considering the full array of costs as well as benefits that accrue in both the short and long terms.

Policy statements from Resource Management for the Eastern Slopes, 1977.

"the recreational potential and aesthetic quality of the mountains and foothills will be maintained, while increasing the opportunities of Albertans for enjoyment of this unique region",

"use and development of the region's natural resources for the prevention of unacceptable damage to vegetation, land surface and water courses".

"the highest priority is placed on watershed management to ensure a reliable supply of clean water for aquatic habitat and downstream users".