
INFORMATION BULLETIN

For Immediate Release
2007FOR0099-000885
July 4, 2007

Ministry of Forests and Range

OKANAGAN TIMBER FIRM PENALIZED FOR CONTRAVENTIONS

VICTORIA – An investigation by the Ministry of Forests and Range’s Compliance and Enforcement program has led to \$6,440 in penalties for an Okanagan company run by two Winfield, B.C. residents.

The Okanagan-Shuswap forest district manager has determined that International Timber Management Inc. (ITM), operated by David Michael Haworth and Douglas Ray Figlar, exported about 300 cubic metres of timber without authorization, failed to both mark and scale the timber and misrepresented themselves and their company’s activities, in March 2004. District managers are authorized to determine contraventions and to issue penalties under the Forest and Range Practices Act.

In late 2003 and early 2004, ITM entered into harvesting agreements with landowners whose properties had been affected by the Okanagan Mountain Park fire, and hired logging contractors to salvage burned or partially burned trees from the properties and deliver them to local sawmills or for export. ITM had received export permits for 159 cubic metres of yellow pine, but exported almost triple that amount, and forged the signature of a licensed scaler on documents, to give the appearance of having met all requirements.

Scalers calculate the volume and quality of the timber harvested and ensure accuracy in forestry harvest, payment and monitoring records. Each log harvested in B.C. is marked to document its source and destination.

ITM was penalized for contravening four sections of the Forest Act. The assessed penalties consider both estimated earnings as well as deterrents.

Compliance and Enforcement staff enforce forest management laws and combat forest crimes, such as theft, arson and mischief. Officials conduct about 16,000 inspections a year to assess compliance with forest and range laws relating to environmental management and revenue protection.

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