BRITISH COLUMBIA

INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Ministry of Forests and Range

LOG SALVOR FINED $4,000 FOR TIMBER THEFT

VICTORIA – A marine log salvor has been fined $4,000 for the illegal harvest of 228 trees from Crown land along the Central Coast. An investigation by Ministry of Forests and Range compliance and enforcement officers led to the timber theft determination.

The North Island-Central Coast forest district manager issued the penalty July 5 after he found that Coquitlam's Ryan Bowes had violated the Forest Practices Code. District managers are authorized to determine contraventions and to issue penalties under forest legislation.

The investigation began in 2003 when forest officials twice encountered Bowes on his tugboat with logs that did not appear to be marine salvage logs, and for which Bowes had no harvesting authority.

Officials were able to match some of the logs to stumps at a timber theft site in Griffin Passage, north of Bella Bella. The remaining logs are believed to have been illegally harvested from other nearby Crown land sites. The investigation resulted in ministry officials seizing 404 cubic metres of cedar and other logs, valued at $39,000.

Compliance and enforcement staff are responsible for enforcing forest management laws and combating forest crimes such as theft, arson and mischief. They routinely patrol coastal areas to detect and deter timber theft, which can affect provincial revenues.

Officials conduct more than 16,000 inspections each year to assess compliance with forest laws. Where there is evidence of a contravention, an investigation is conducted, which may lead to a violation ticket, penalty or other enforcement action. The most serious forest crimes are prosecuted through the court system.

If you have information about a forest contravention or crime, call your local Ministry of Forests and Range office, or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (all callers may remain anonymous).

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