
NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Forests and Range

ILLEGAL TIMBER HARVEST RESULTS IN \$42,500 PENALTY

VICTORIA – A marine log salvor has been penalized \$42,500 for two cases of unauthorized harvest and removal of Crown timber on the Central Coast, following an investigation by Ministry of Forests and Range compliance and enforcement officers.

“Ministry compliance and enforcement staff conduct about 16,000 inspections a year to safeguard our forests,” said Forests and Range Minister Rich Coleman. “We will take a tough stance against anyone who breaks the law.”

In an Aug. 22, 2005 decision, the Forest Appeals Commission upheld the penalties assessed by the Ministry of Forests and Range against James Darwin. The commission found that Darwin had twice contravened the Forest Practices Code, and that penalties of \$30,000 and \$12,500 were reasonable.

Both cases date from 2001, when ministry forest officers conducted investigations into apparent illegal removal of Crown timber from sites on Smith, Moses and Hardy inlets south of Bella Coola. In each case, officers found illegal harvesting and were able to match stumps on those sites to some of the logs in Darwin’s possession. Officials seized about 200 logs, worth about \$165,000.

Compliance and enforcement staff are responsible for enforcing forest management laws and combating forest crimes such as theft, arson and mischief. Officials conduct about 16,000 inspections a year to assess compliance with forestry laws, including routine patrols of coastal areas.

If you have information about a forest 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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