



Media Advisory

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RCMP News Release

Duncan area Logger Fined \$15,000 for Unauthorized Timber Harvest

Robinder Singh Mayo, a logger from the Duncan area, originally charged with the Criminal Code offence of Theft over \$5000 has pled guilty to the lesser offence of unauthorized timber harvest under section 96(1) of the Forest Practices Code. Mayo was investigated by the RCMP Forest Crime Investigation Unit with the assistance of Compliance and Enforcement officials at the Ministry of Forests and Range for alleged unauthorized timber harvest in 2003 from land owned by the Crown, Weyerhaeuser, and the Cowichan Valley Regional District. Investigators allege Mayo illegally harvested 227 cubic metres of fir, 169 cubic metres of cedar, and 43 cubic metres of hemlock. The total value of the harvested wood was estimated at \$41,000.

Although Mayo will not be handed a Criminal Code conviction, the Provincial Courts imposed a \$15,000 fine for his actions. The fine is considered by enforcement officials as substantial and is hoped will convey a message to others who may be contemplating this type of illegal activity.

Compliance and Enforcement (C&E) staff at the B.C. Ministry of Forests and Range 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.

The Forest Crime Investigation Unit is a three person provincial RMCP unit that works in conjunction and partnership with the B.C. Ministry of Forests and Range, Yukon Ministry of Energy, Mines and Resources, community and regional RCMP detachments, First Nations, B.C. Conservation Officer Service, other provincial and federal units, the forest industry and the general public. The Unit combats forest crimes and conducts investigations into such matters as timber theft, stumpage fraud and serial wildland arson investigations on a Criminal Code and provincial statute level.

If there are any questions or concerns regarding the above noted information, please contact Constable Kevin Hamilton from the RCMP Forest Crime Investigation Unit at (604) 598-4648 or Jennifer McLarty from the B.C. Ministry of Forests and Range at 250 387-4592.