



NEWS RELEASE

August 30, 2007 –For Immediate Release

Subject: Port of Chelan County Implementing Security and Safety Measures at Peshastin Mill Site

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Port of Chelan County Commissioners JC Baldwin, Mike Mackey, and Craig Larsen have taken action to improve security and safety at the old Peshastin Mill site after receiving a report at their August 23rd meeting regarding current and potential damage to the property.

Port Property Manager Dayle Rushing stated that she has received a number of reports of trespassers at the old Peshastin mill. "We are very concerned about safety for individuals and for the property. The potential for a fire being ignited is a big issue and damage to the property is also a concern. We have already seen erosion of roads at the site due to unauthorized vehicle traffic, and we want to do whatever we can to keep the site in the best possible condition." The site is posted *No Trespassing*, but apparently the signs are not enough.

Commissioners authorized Rushing and RH2 engineer Karen Kornher to implement two measures to help protect the site. First, ecology block will be installed to further limit access to the property. Second, ladder fuels reduction efforts will be implemented to reduce the risk of wildfires. Ladder fuels are shrubs, saplings or lower branches that can carry a fire from the ground into the tops of trees. Managing the spacing between trees, pruning up limbs, and eliminating brush will help keep fires on the ground where they are easier to control and least damaging to trees.

The Port of Chelan County purchased the former WI Forest Products mill site in May of 2003. The 60-acre parcel fronts the Wenatchee River, just west of Peshastin. Forty acres of the property are developable; the balance is wetland preserve.

Individuals are encouraged to report trespassers to the Port at 509-663-5159.