

## **Complaints about Activities or Pollution in your Watershed or Aquifer**

A proactive approach to maintaining good water quality is to review the source water protection document found on this website and follow its instructions. Source protection is a foundational piece of good environmental stewardship; it can also help to maintain the sustainability of your water supply for future generations.

Occasionally, there are activities in the watershed that are detrimental to the environment and/or to your water quality. Address these issues by carefully documenting the issue and filing a complaint with the appropriate agency, listed below, that can hopefully address the problem. **Do not intervene if you see an illegal activity. Just observe and report.**

Below are some helpful links to the agencies that govern the practices in our watersheds or provide assistance and complaint follow up:

### **Forest Harvesting and Cattle Management on Crown Lands:**

- Forest Practices Branch: The Forest Practices Board serves the public interest as the independent watchdog for sound forest and range practices in BC. For water suppliers who are concerned about road building, cut plans, post cut recovery or cattle management, we suggest talking to the logging company or rancher first. If you are not satisfied with the response, the BC Forest Practice could be helpful in informing you on best practices for those activities. The BC Forest Practices Branch also has the ability to audit the practices of those industries.

Link: <https://www.bcfpb.ca/board/what-we-do/>

### **Illegal Dumping / Chemical Spills / Sewage Discharges/Mud Bogging:**

- Conservation Officers, who are the public safety providers for natural resource law enforcement, respond to complaints regarding the above activities. The RAPP (Report all Poachers and Polluters) hotline or RAPP form are handy resources for public use.

Link: <https://forms.gov.bc.ca/environment/rapp/>

**Reporting a Spill:** Call 1-800-663-3456

More info: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/spills-environmental-emergencies/report-a-spill>

### **BC Wildlife Federation:**

- The BC Wildlife Federation (BCWF) has an App for your phone that allows you to take a picture and add notes/observations. The photo is georeferenced and uploaded to the BCWF, which then forwards the information to the Conservation Officers for follow up.

Download the App here:

<http://bcwf.net/index.php/component/content/article/80-general/689-bcwf-conservation-app>

**Drinking Water Officers:**

- BC Health Authorities have Environmental Health Officers (EHO's) who administer the Drinking Water Protection Act. If you have a complaint about an activity that is affecting your water quality contact your local EHO.

Link to Health Authority Contacts: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/water/water-quality/drinking-water-quality/health-authority-contacts>