



Management Team Report – July / August 2018

Forest License Events

Harvest progress

CP39 (Wagon Rd): Harvesting of this cutting permit is complete. Iron Peak has moved equipment (including the feller-buncher) up to CP40 Blk 1. Following a CP39 harvest inspection with the Stella Jones representative we agreed that some cleanup and piling of brush remains to be done to reduce fire hazard. This work will be completed in conjunction with the promised day-lighting of the Wagon Road after harvest equipment will be moved back from CP40 at the end of August. The feller-buncher will work the Wagon Road access from the South Fork/Hwy 31A parking lot to the block. This work will produce a few more truckloads of wood, which will be skidded to and decked in the opening by the warming hut. We are juggling timing and logistics since slash created by this operation cannot be piled on the Wagon road for early winter burning when conditions are suitable but needs to be transported to and piled at the clearing. However, the Wagon Road stretch from the block to the 7 Mile FSR junction is too narrow to employ the machines. We will source other means and funding to day-light this stretch, which will occur later in the year to allow for slash piling and burning on the road, unless we can bring in a chipper. The block will require mechanical site preparation for planting this fall to thin large islands of stagnant understory left during harvest.

CP40 (7 Mile): Iron Peaks started harvest in CP 40-1 on July 24. They are working in areas adjacent to the mainline which they block for public safety during working hours. 7 Mile is a popular huckleberry picking destination and our presence is felt by a large segment of the community. Access is open on weekends. Sunshine Logging has started operations in the other two CP40 blocks on August 1 and logging/hauling traffic will increase until completion of the blocks at the end of September. Everyone is on early shift due to increasing fire danger ratings.

Timber Development

Cooper Face: A field review with avalanche specialist Marc Deschene was completed on July 31st on CP 37-1, which is the large cable block above Cooper Creek. This block has steep (55-85%) slopes and will require some reserves and/or strip logging to mitigate avalanche concerns. If an avalanche of significant size initiated in this cutblock it could take out mature timber down to Cooper Creek. This would leave debris in the creek which could cause adverse affects.

CP 41 has three blocks totalling approximately 60ha developed, with most of the field work being complete. Mapping is being completed and cruising will take place in September.

Milford FSR, Branch 3 (behind former Babi Farr residence). CP 42 has 6 blocks totalling approximately 60ha developed with most of the field work being complete. We engaged in community consultation with interested parties at the farm on July 27th and will incorporate their concerns into our development, site plan and harvest plan. Once the changes are complete, a field tour will be organized to view the proposed blocks.

Fd Beetle: Douglas fir bark beetle (IBD) incidence is spreading up from the Nelson area. We have noticed minor amounts in our tenure overall, and two days of bark beetle recce were completed in the Branch 7 area.

Professional Development

We hosted a Wildlife Habitat Features Training Session in our license area with FLNRORD's Lisa Tedesco, Ecosystem Biologist in July.



Silviculture

Herbaceous Brushing 2018: West Arm Silviculture has made good progress with additional manpower now available from regions shut down by higher fire danger classes. We found that about 30% of Larch planted in CP35-1 this spring has died. This was the block planted with the speed-thawed stock after our thaw request had been lost by the nursery.

Littering:

We have made contact with the Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society to seek collaboration with signage and future awareness campaigns and are waiting for further directions. We have received a \$500 grant from RDCK director Aimee Watson to help with the \$1,273 cleanup costs at Branch 7 and will raise awareness about littering in a joint media campaign.

Firewood Raffle

To date we received 3 inquiries about our firewood raffle and 3 inquiries about our fundraising opportunities.

FES: Landscape Level Wildfire Protection Plan (LLWPP)

Stakeholder Consultation:

In preparation for a series of expanding Stakeholder meetings we consulted with RDCK Wildfire Mitigation Supervisor Nora Hannon and John Cathro, RPF. Stakeholders need to inform our data gathering. The goal is that our information output and means of delivery is relevant to as many stakeholders as possible and should remain relevant into the future. We envision a shared geo-referenced map showing important infrastructure adjacent to our tenure, interface and tenure access routes, important water sources within our tenure, especially in close proximity to the interface.

Innovation

Marie-Ange and management met with Charles Cuell, Ph.D. of Climate Resilience Consulting Ltd and Mel, former UBC GIS program developer who have recently produced climate predictive computer models for the City of Edmonton and fire danger modelling for the City of Cranbrook. We are investigating how Charles, a new local resource, may benefit our operation. Priorities are with the processing of raw LiDAR data into customized, operational theme maps. The team may also develop fire prediction and/or climate modelling on our tenure and provide periodic data upgrades, which would dovetail well into our LLWPP. We will investigate if other Community Forests or the BCCFA are already developing similar models on their own, or if they may be interested in joining into ours in a group CF effort. Some preliminary ideas are climate (temperature, rainfall, future weather patterns), using FlamMap as SiFCO has done to predict forest fire behavior, and forest fire fuel polygon mapping.

Management Team Recommendations

1. Revision of our Investment / Legacy Fund Policy for discussion at the September Board meeting.