



Management Team Report – June/July 2019

WOODLANDS

Timber Development

CP41 Cooper Face (L2019):

We met with Clint Carlson (Sunshine Logging Ltd) last week to commence road building activities in CP41. Construction will be limited to short Spurs, no new mainline is necessary to access our blocks. We have made some modifications to the cutblock configuration which added one CP37 block and dropped Blk 4 of CP41. A harvesting prework will take place in the July 15 week. We have improved communication with our licensed trappers during the past 6 months, who have cleared their equipment from our construction zones. Harvesting will commence in the highest elevation blocks and thus furthest from our osprey nest. This is also where we will manufacture the Spruce tonewood. We have received small supply requests from local mills, which will be filled. Purchase agreements have been signed by Downie timber (Revelstoke), Kalesnikoff Lumber, ATCO and Mercer. Income estimates have improved due purchase negotiations and the changes made on the ground. Logging is expected to be completed by the end of August 2019.

CP44 Nashton (L2020/21):

The total length of new mainline construction for this CP is approximately 3km and contains difficult and engineered sections. We are planning to construct the road over two seasons to buffer the high cost with harvests along the way, during which time we also balance our 2020 wildfire mitigation clean-up project in CP43. Three cable/conventional mixed blocks have been developed totaling 36 hectares, which provide market positive harvest opportunities for several years. A review with the engineers is scheduled for the week of July 15. The development will necessitate consultation with the community due to high visibility from town. This will inform the chosen silviculture system, favoring partial cuts with group reserves and single tree retention. We believe we finally found the Goshawk's nest from earlier bird sightings –in the adjacent CP43 area. But this may expand the operational window in this CP from spring to fall. Engineer reports allowing, we will construct the first leg of this mainline this fall.

CP43 Branch 7 Fire Interface Harvesting (L2020):

This geographic area is identified as High Risk in the Kaslo CWPP (Community Wildfire Protection Plan) due to a hot aspect, fuel types and proximity to residences. We chose it as our priority treatment area in the current KDCFS organized LLWP (Landscape Level Wildfire Plan). We will apply for CRIP (Community Resilience Investment Program) support this fall which we need to finance with the fuel treatment aspect of the permit. Following neighborhood consultation and a June 7 public field tour the layout has commenced. Development consists of several target areas of different treatment prescriptions and goals, spread across the Wardner face (Blocks 3 and 4) to the South end of Shutty Bench (Blocks 1 and 2). All treatments will be mechanized and involve crown separation and basal area reduction followed by slash remediation. Treatment of Block 1 closest to Shutty Bench and Hwy 31 consists of younger, non-merchantable species with minimal timber value and will require considerable investment. Block 2 consists of mature market negative species, a dead component and a minor component of market positive species and is expected to bring some return but not enough to break even. Block 3 is a small block of mature market positive species along our boundary with RDCK lands, which contains recent Douglas-fir beetle attack. It will be harvested this fall to address forest health and resulting fuel loading and will help to finance road building into CP44. Block 4 is a forest health/fuel treatment polygon chasing Douglas-fir bark beetle and Armillaria root rot mortality on the Wardner face. This area has high recreation values and features and is highly visible from town. Timber types are almost pure Douglas-fir which, if lost to beetle and spreading root rot, pose a wildfire threat in the immediate Village interface. Centers of root rot killed Douglas-fir extend into VOK lands. Treatment of this area is complex due to its multijurisdictional, multiuse and multi-agent combinations within a setting that has high access constraints and high biodiversity values. Plans are to establish access to the upper ledge of this area this fall to chase beetle infested trees with a cable system. We are looking at a long-skid option to Branch 7 which will ease road costs and recreational/visual impact. Work in this area will continue through spring/summer 2020, with possible restrictions imposed by the location of a Goshawk nest.

Consultations with a wildlife specialist are scheduled. Consultations with recreation groups and the Village of Kaslo are commencing.

OPEN HOUSE: scheduled for July 25, 2019 at the Seniors Hall 3:30pm to 6:30pm to discuss our Draft Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) and 2019 and 2020 harvesting plans. An update of our LLWP (Landscape Level Wildfire Plan) progress and 2020 fuel treatment development is also on the Agenda.

SILVICULTURE

Surveys are ongoing. Seedlings are taking full advantage of this year's rainfall and are putting on excellent increment with bushy needles. The race is on with competing vegetation but an early summer rece of susceptible blocks showed that seedlings so far have a little edge. We will conduct a fall reconnaissance to consider brushing for snow press.

SOCIETY / INTERNAL

Business Plan: we have just received the CBT grant of \$5,000 to hire NACFOR expertise to help with certain aspects of the Plan. The grant requires a KDCFS contribution of \$4,350. KDCFS managers visited VOK Council of the Whole as a delegation to explore the lease of a parcel of village land to be used by KDCFS as a special forest products manufacturing site. We expect to hear back in August.

Wildfire Preparations

BCWS/License Workshop: organized in mid June by BCWS to announce a return to licensee assisted fire fighting. The agency has relied heavily on air support but is stating that ground support is indeed more capable of controlling a blaze at a lower cost. Licensees were encouraged to assist with local knowledge, planning expertise and collaboration with heavy equipment operators working in their tenures. On the forefront is the establishment and maintenance of good communication channels. Licensees by legislation are responsible to fight fires within 1km of their active work sites.

Fire equipment: We are in the process of obtaining quotes for a smart fire equipment starter kit we can build on in the future and have visited the Argenta community gear shed to strengthen ties and learn from their experience.

LLWP: field data collection phase. We have commissioned climatologist Mel Reasoner and local firm "Climate Resilience Consulting" (CRC <http://crcteam.ca/>) to expand on our future local climate prognosis in a chapter of the final report. We are working towards a community update at the Open House.

Community Consultations: We had a pleasant meeting with the Mirror Lake Water Board at our Bjerkness Creek remediation site to review the work we did in February and exchange information.

Midterm performance audit: Management has completed an interim performance audit to see if we are on track with our 2019 Workplan.

Management Team Recommendations

1. that the Board approve the amendments to the 2019 Annual Budget as presented.
2. that the Board sign the CBT Grant Letter of Consent.