



# Management Team Report – Nov / Dec 2019

## WOODLANDS

### Timber Development

#### **CP 41 Cooper Face**

Even with the marginal markets in 2019 we were able to harvest our first permit up Cooper Face. The gross and net revenue are both expected to be slightly higher than projected with net revenue around \$190,000. This is due to the increase in harvested volume which is partly due to excellent utilization by Sunshine, sending a lot of the previously non-merch trees and tops to the pulp mill. In the past this underutilized resource would have ended up in large slash piles to be burnt. The pulp market was fairly strong this year and we did slightly better than break even after harvesting/trucking/stumpage costs. The \$8/m<sup>3</sup> silviculture accrual was still added for this volume which will help in reducing the silviculture deficit.

The total volume reported to the end of November is about 15,000m<sup>3</sup> with a few loads of poles and fir shipped in December. With the December and 50 loads on the hill the total harvest is expected to be close to 18,000m<sup>3</sup>. The timber profile harvested was: Spruce 4151m<sup>3</sup> (27%); Hemlock 3483m<sup>3</sup> (23%); Larch 2631m<sup>3</sup> (18%); Douglas fir 1693m<sup>3</sup> (11%); Balsam 1544m<sup>3</sup> (10%); Cedar 1272m<sup>3</sup> (9%); White pine 243m<sup>3</sup> (2%). The remaining loads are estimated to be mostly hemlock, larch, Douglas fir, and cedar.

#### **CP43 / Branch 7 Fuel Management Harvesting (L2019/2020):**

Construction of the 1km access and fire break towards McDonald Creek and 600m skid trail continue and is expected to be complete by Christmas. Douglas fir trees will be left as trap decks along the road and trail to soak up the Douglas fir bark beetle flights in the spring of 2020. The whole of the Branch 7 road network is and will be managed as a functional wildfire fuel break and safe access feature for wildfire attack crews. Clearing and piling of encroaching roadside brush has commenced and treatment of forest fuel out from the road prism as necessary will be a target for the next few years. We held a field review of our Branch 7 Wildfire Corridor project on November 27 with Wildfire Officer Art Westerhaug and Elora VanJarret from the BC Wildfire Service / Wildfire Risk Reduction (WRR) group. They commended Kaslo and the KDCFS Board for their community wildfire awareness and their support for the planned operations, providing defensible anchors and safe zones for their crews.

Sitkum Consulting completed a Terrain Stability Assessment of the permit and has recommended dropping the northern half of block 8 (which is the old CP 11-2) and most of block 6 until the adjacent blocks have more established trees. The recommendations will be incorporated into the blocks and these sections will be dropped from harvest plans.

*New Fire Corridor above Kaslo*



*Branch 7 mainline after brushing and grading*





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## **Landscape Level Wildfire Planning**

Current project deadline is extended to January 31, 2020. We will present the final draft of our mapping product at the December 12 Community Review of 2019 Fire Corridor developments. Our fire data mapping has received positive critique as a valuable fire-fighting resource by BCWS during their Nov. 27 visit. Mapping services are provided by Up-West Geomatics from Kaslo (Dave Collier).

## **SOCIETY / INTERNAL**

### **Wildfire Risk Reduction (WRR) Meeting**

Managers attended the WRR meeting held in Nelson on December 5<sup>th</sup> where information was provided on how the new wave of grant money for wildfire risk reduction will be administered. FESBC has been the large grant provider in recent years but will now be more focused on carbon initiatives. The Forest District, through BCWS will now be allocating \$15,000,000 per year for the next three years on projects starting April 1<sup>st</sup> 2020. KDCFS will be applying for close to \$1,000,000 over the three years to conduct fuel mitigation work in the Community Forest WUI areas around Kaslo, Shuttly Bench and Schroeder Creek. Grant awards will focus on Risk Class 1 and 2 projects meeting:

1. Reduction of Head Fire Intensity (Severity) 60%;
2. Wildfire Density/Occurrence 30% and
3. Spotting/Propagation 10%.

Proposed KDCFS projects meet all of these requirements. Attendees included local licensees and fire departments, community forests, BC Parks, BCWS, CBT, FLNRORD staff and the RDCK.

### **Revisiting 2020 Draft Annual Budget**

We have presented two budget options to the Board of Directors. The preferred option is heavily influenced by these Board Policies:

- Operating Reserve Policy
- Firesmart Forest Management Policy
- Managing for a Diversity of Interests/Values
- Silviculture Policy
- Innovative Practices Policy

The option recommended by Management strives to balance “Managing for a Diversity of Interests/Values” to our best interpretation while “Firesmart Forest Management” and Community Safety have been topping the list of community values in recent years. Both options also attempt solutions to currently depressed forest products markets, while striving for maximum diversification in an uncertain and rapidly shifting future.

The template is similar for both in the first half of 2020, focusing on basic silviculture obligations (Planting), Societal obligations (AGM) and social traditions (WITF). We will receive information during this time that will inform our path for the second half of the year (grant applications will influence harvest decisions). The 2020 KDCFS Landscape Fire Corridor project received a very good response from officials during proposal reviews at the recent District Meeting, which is promising.

### **Governance and Organizational News**

We recently attended a Board Retreat held at the Ainsworth Hotsprings Meeting Room. The retreat was inspired by the rapidly changing social, political and environmental fabric in the province and challenged the limits of current KDCFS Governance and Management paradigms.

Management has hired Natascha Behrens-Ristow, B.B.A., bookkeeping replacement for apprentice Heather Hamilton, who left us in November. Natascha is well experienced with woodlands bookkeeping and fibre-flow statements. She came highly recommended and met our main interview objectives for experience, both in industry and her work with



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not-for-profit Societies. Natascha went to work immediately to sort out year-end. She operates her business from Castlegar but is well connected in the virtual office environment. Natascha is assisted by local Sylvie Barkley.

### Management Team Recommendations

1. that the Board adopt Management recommended 2020 Draft Budget Option 'CP43Blks 3,4,5,7'
2. that the Board resolve that Natascha Behrens-Ristow, B.B.A, replaces Heather Hamilton in the list of signing authorities for KDCFS bank accounts.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS, EVERYONE !**