



Managers Report August - September 2022

WOODLANDS

Timber Ridge started the road work in Lost Ledge two weeks ago. The work consists of clearing the trees and shrubs from the road right-of-way and piling them for future burning, processing the merchantable logs for transport to the mill, re-establishing the ditchline, and upgrading the road surface as it was slumping away and quite out sloped in a few spots. Some culverts will be installed this year with the remaining being installed in 2023. The road work is expected to extend into next week after which the harvesting of CP 46-1 will start. The block is comprised of 80% hemlock, 20% cedar with a few small patches of Douglas fir, larch and spruce. Hemlock prices are staying fairly strong at \$100/m³ while cedar is at \$200/m³. The road will be named the Lost Ledge Road.

Iron Peaks continues to harvest CP 48-1 on Cooper Face and due to the higher than expected timber volume they will be up there well into October. This will yield significantly more volume from this block but due to timing and other commitments on the Stella Jones license the Keen cable harvesting will have to wait until 2023.

The hemlock looper killed trees up Keen Creek have been sitting for 2 years but still have wet cambium which indicates they are still suitable for sawlogs. A cable contractor will hopefully be lined up for the spring to harvest the looper and fire damaged timber. The Keen Creek road needs a bit of work, there are some narrow sections with quite the drop off to the creek as well as large rocks in the road surface and a bridge that needs to be redecked. We will need to complete these upgrades before hauling again so will try to get the work done this fall before winter sets in to be ready for spring harvesting.

A preliminary field reconnaissance (PFR), which is a field walk through done by an archeologist and First Nation members, was completed on the proposed WRR hand treatment area below the brake check by the Jimi Crack Corn trail as well as the Branch 7 road extension and associated block (CP 47-1). There were no concerns identified. The Branch 7 road extension crosses through existing wildlife tree retention area as well as an Old Growth Management Area. Replacement areas have been identified and rationales written in order to obtain the permits. Depending on timing and contractor availability Sunshine Logging will construct the 3km road extension this fall or in the spring.

Briggs Creek Wildfire

Timber development to salvage burnt timber will commence this week. It is expected to be a mix of conventional and cable ground up the Keen Road as well as up Nashton.

SAFETY

There were no safety incidents or close calls reported from the harvesting or road work.



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INTERNAL

BCCFA AGM

The BC Community Forest Association AGM is being held October 19-21 in Nakusp. I will be attending and there is money in the budget if any directors want to attend as well. See link below for more information.

<https://bccfa.ca/event/bccfa-2022-conference-and-agm/>

Wildfire Risk Reduction Work

Watching the Briggs Creek wildfire creep down the Nashton face towards South Fork and the dump wondering what would happen if the fire had happened on Mt Buchanan with the fire creeping down to Kaslo with very limited access in place. Some say it is only a matter of time before this happens so we need to be prepared. Preliminary talks are in place to develop a plan to reduce the wildfire hazard on this face and we will be applying for grant funding to develop this plan and to conduct wildfire risk reduction work. This will be a fairly high profile operation so it will take collaboration from multiple stakeholders with extensive community engagement before conducting any actual fuel mitigation work.

On October 18th we will be hosting Jen Gunter from the BCCFA and multiple high profile members of the BCWS and funding agencies for a tour of the wildfire risk reduction treatments on our license.

FESBC did a story on the wildfire risk reduction work that they have funded on our license. See the media summary report in the MR report and click on the link to read the story.

Community Field Day

Due to a heavy workload, planning and other commitments the KDCFS community field tour day didn't happen in September for National Forest Week but is being planned for either Saturday October 8th or 22nd. Two options are being explored, one up Keen Creek to look at the hemlock looper block harvested last fall and to see a small area of the Briggs Creek fire. The other option is up Branch 3 to see the harvesting from this spring as well as to look at the large yew trees. If anyone has any comments or preferences we can discuss at the meeting.

Old Growth Deferral Areas

As of August 18th 2022, priority old forest deferral areas have been implemented throughout the Selkirk Resource District. These deferrals are applicable to planned, pending, approved and active cutting permits. If there is block/deferral polygon conflict, the area must be deferred from harvesting or the licensee needs to go through the process of field verification to confirm if the stand meets the old forest criteria and/or the damaged stand (which includes 70% mortality from insects or fire damaged stands). If proceeding with harvest a rationale must be written to be approved by the MOF and replacement area identified. Three of our existing cutting permits have overlaps with deferral areas and a conversation was had with the MOF representative regarding these overlaps. The first overlap, 1.75ha in CP 48-1 the large cable block on Cooper Face, was harvested in the fall of 2021 and was a mix of younger hemlock with scattered old growth hemlock. In CP 51-2, part of the hemlock looper block overlaps 3.1ha. Approximately half of this area was harvested in 2021 due to the trees being dead with the remainder of the overlap area being burnt by the Briggs Creek wildfire so we will look at harvesting it. CP 46-1 up Lost Ledge had a tiny overlap that was removed from the block due to geo tech concerns.



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Firewood

An ad for selling the firewood by the cord was placed this week on our Facebook page and website, the Kaslo Community Web and in the Pennywise. Due to the short supply we are limiting it to 3 cords per person. The first day the ad was placed we received 23 requests so there is definitely a short supply of firewood this year. There will not be enough firewood to go around so I'm trying to source a few more loads. We received multiple requests from local non-profits for logging truck load donations. I explained the situation about the limited amount of firewood this year and they were all understanding.