



Managers Report September - October 2022

WOODLANDS

The Lost Ledge road upgrades are complete and Timber Ridge is currently harvesting CP 46 which is expected to take another 3 weeks. Due to the recent rains the road surface has become saturated and will be closely monitored so ensure safe hauling conditions. Some more culverts will be installed on the way out with the remainder of the culverts and the bridge being installed in 2023. The bridge for Lost Ledge creek is arriving at Colin Jacobs yard this week and he has agreed to store it for us until he installs it.



Iron Peaks continues to harvest CP 48-1 on Cooper Face and is close to being finished.

Sunshine Logging started road construction on the 3km Branch 7 extension last week and made it 200m before mechanical issues delayed progress. This road will extend access up Mt Buchanan and future harvesting and WRR work will provide a landscape level fuel break. Due to inoperable ground preventing the road from continuing higher, discussions with the local recreation groups has started to plan a multi-use trail that would provide access for fire fighters and recreation users up to the ridge.



Managers Report September - October 2022

Briggs Creek Wildfire

Timber development in both Keen Creek and the Nashton Face behind the dump have shown the ground fire was quite intense with no duff remaining and heavy damage to most tree roots. In some areas the crowns have gone red to indicate the trees are dead but in a lot of areas the crowns are still green but due to the intensity of the ground fire and the damage to the roots most of the trees will perish over the next year or two. There are some pockets on the Nashton Face that are heavier to FdLw which hopefully will survive to provide retention areas in an otherwise burnt landscape. Efforts will be made to layout as much timber as possible with estimates of around 50k m3 being accessible with the remainder having very limited to no access options expect for heli harvesting, or too rocky of ground to be able to harvest or replant. To put in context 50k m3 at even \$100m3 is \$5 million worth of timber. See maps in Manager Report folder for two of the blocks being developed.



On the silviculture side we haven't surveyed the whole burnt area but estimate 60ha of non-free growing stand is burnt with a further 50ha of free growing stands burnt. The non-free growing stands are still under KDCFS silviculture obligation and are eligible for FPPR Section 108 funds to reforest. The free growing stands will be covered by government funds through the Forests for Tomorrow (FFT) program.





Managers Report September - October 2022

SAFETY

A truck hauling down the Lost Ledge road earlier this week had a rear trailer tire go off the road but was able to get the trailer back on the road with no incident. The road is slightly outsloped for a 100m section that will be squared up before hauling continues. Discussions were had with the logging and trucking contractor regarding shutting harvesting down for the season but it was decided it was safe to keep harvesting and hauling for the time being. Hoping the rain stops and we get some cold weather to freeze up the road.

INTERNAL

BCCFA AGM

The BC Community Forest Association AGM was held October 19-21 in Nakusp. The first day was focused on field tours, with stops at a recently completed fuel reduction project, Box Lake Lumber, a cutblock along Arrow Lake and a tour of the Caribou maternity pen. The maternity pen is 6.2ha utilizing landscape fabric for a fence to prevent predators from looking in. It has been a huge undertaking for the community with countless volunteer hours and close to \$450k being contributed from multiple sources, including private and government donors from Canada and the USA. The winter of 2022 was a successful breeding year with 6 calves being born. The caribou and calves are released in April to spend the year in the wild, with GPS collars tracking them from Nakusp over to the Trout Lake/Meadow Creek area. The females are captured again in the winter for calving within the pen.

There was a lot of discussion around Community Forest Area expansion which we were told by BC gov representatives will not happen anytime soon due to the highly restricted fiber supply and the huge cost of purchasing timber rights back from the large licensees to redistribute to smaller tenure holders. The other big topics included the Old Growth Deferral Areas (OGDAs) and Forest Landscape Level Plans (FLPs). The forests of BC are forever changing, whether it be growing into old growth, being torched by wildfires, or eaten by insects. It is a dynamic system where spatially identified areas such as Old Growth Management Areas (OGMAs), Ungulate Winter Range (UWR) areas, etc are found not to be working when thinking about managing forests on a landscape level. Quite often these areas have low old growth attributes or have been damaged by fire or other forest health agents while areas identified by land managers, First Nations and the public may not be identified on a map but do provide attributes to be managed for in perpetuity on the landbase. BC forestry is moving towards the implementation of FLPs which allows the whole landbase to be managed dynamically, with areas set aside to protect local community and FRPA values based on what the landscape offers and local knowledge. There are four Timber Supply Areas (TSAs) in the province that have been working towards these FLPs for four years and are just starting to get going. In order for the FLPs to be successful there needs to be buy in from all stakeholders so lengthy, targeted community engagement is critical to get it right. The OGDA polygons were put in place to allow time for a transition to FLPs, two years was the target but it's looking more like a decade or longer before these plans will be put in place.

Wildfire Risk Reduction Work

Jeff R and Steve A have joined the Kaslo Firesmart Committee and are working with the VOK, RDCK and KMBC to plan wildfire risk reduction activities around our community. An open house is planned for November 21 to discuss past and planned future wildfire risk reduction work, with booths and representatives from KDCFS, BCWS, RDCK, the Village and Kaslo Fire Department, KMBC, Bayview and Pine Ridge Firesmart ambassadors on hand to discuss and answer questions.

On the KDCFS front landscape level planning for access, harvesting and wildfire work continues. The highest priority is the Buchanan face above Kaslo as there is very limited access, which as we saw with the Nashton



Managers Report September - October 2022

Face, makes the fire very difficult to action. Discussions with the recreation groups and other local stakeholders to install a fuel break around the Buchanan Fires Access Trail has started, with the goal of having a plan ready for implementation in 2023 which could involve widening the trail to enable better access, identifying heli pads and water sources, and conducting fuel reduction work by hand crews.

Firewood

The firewood program this year has been successful with around 60 cords being delivered. There is around a logging truck left and recommend we look at the option of donating a cord to local non-profits.