



Managers Report January – February 2023

WOODLANDS

Briggs Creek

Lumber markets are still fairly weak, with lumber trading well under \$500 per thousand board feet. The break-even cost for producers is estimated to be between \$500-550 which has led to the larger 2x4 producing mills in the province to extend their curtailments and shutdowns. Markets are expected to start an upward trend mid 2023.

An announcement by the premier indicates there is funding coming down the pipe to aid in harvesting fire damaged timber that would otherwise be uneconomical to harvest. I spoke with FESBC, who will be administering the funding, and the intake is scheduled for April with more details on eligibility to follow. This could be a key piece to practice good forest stewardship by allowing us to harvest as much timber as possible that was damaged in the Briggs Creek fire without going broke doing so.

The Nashton block and road that access the Nashton Face and the large block up Keen Creek have been sent to Sitkum for a geotechnical review. There are few concerns regarding the Keen Creek block(s), however the Nashton block is above South Fork so there is potential to impact private property. A field review will be scheduled as soon as the block is snow free. The Nashton block is in a Visually Sensitive Area and we are working on the Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) that will be completed soon. It is expected to exceed the established Visual Quality Objective (VQO) so a variance will need to be applied for from the Ministry of Forests (MOF). Two blocks up Keen Creek overlap Old Growth Management Areas and Old Growth Deferral polygons. Rationales as to why we want to harvest these areas will have to be written and approved by the MOF prior to CP approval.

Wealth Minerals, a penny stock mining company, has been conducting aerial and ground surveys in the area north of Kaslo up to Poplar Creek over the last few years. They contacted us this month indicating they have plans to start exploratory drilling in multiple sites this year, with a lot concentrated on the Lost Ledge plateau. See email, map and kmz files in the Managers Report folder. They also have a website <https://wealthminerals.com/>. This is a little concerning as I have seen these types of drilling operations in the forest before and they can be messy. Also, after this year we will have spent in excess of \$300k fixing up the Lost Ledge road and installing a bridge that we don't want destroyed by mining activity. We need to come up with a plan in how we approach this, from monitoring the drilling to if we would be supportive of a full-fledged mining operation.

SAFETY

No active operations.



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SILVICULTURE

The planting contract for 68k trees was sent to two bidders, Wildhorse Forestry who has historically done most of our planting, and Craig Barschel who leads our local crew who conducted our WRR, brushing and cord firewood last year. Craig was the low bidder and has been awarded the contract. This work will help maintain seasonally full time employment for our local crew.

INTERNAL

Winter in the Forest

Winter in the Forest was held on Family Day after a 3 year hiatus with a great turn out once again!. The weather cooperated in the morning but by the afternoon was a mix of rain and snow which didn't deter many people. Thanks to the Housing Society and the volunteers who made it a success!

Value Added Manufacturing

The BC government announced \$90M in funding for the forest sector geared towards for-profit operations to increase value added manufacturing. Increasing employment and adding more value to our timber has been one of our goals so exploring partnership options with a for-profit business could be explored.

<https://www.woodbusiness.ca/b-c-announces-90m-funding-to-help-transition-struggling-forestry-communities/>