



Manager Report April - May 2023

WOODLANDS

Briggs Creek

Lumber markets unfortunately haven't improved but the Kootenays seems to be in a better position than the rest of the province as our local mills are still operating while many across the province have closed down temporarily. Even though Interfor is running they won't be buying any wood this year but Kalesnikoff will take our timber. Wood prices are still at level where we can proceed with operations, with Hw at \$90/m³ and Fd/Lw/Sw at \$130/m³. We are expected to be approximately \$200k in the red from road building and harvesting activities but it will keep contractors busy and practice good forest stewardship by harvesting the dead and dying timber before it disappears, reserving our green timber for future years and speeding up the natural recovery process by planting the blocks expediently.

The road permit to access the Nashton block and Keen Creek blocks has been applied for, along with the cutting permit for several blocks up Keen Creek. The District has approved us harvesting an Old Growth Deferral polygon in block 1 up Keen Creek due to it suffering 100% mortality from the fire.

The Nashton block has a large Douglas fir component in the western and central area of the block that has thus far survived so we will plan on not harvesting these areas unless they succumb to the fire damage or get infested with Douglas fir bark beetle. During the geo tech review some areas were identified as too rocky for winch assist harvesting, so we will try to amend the block into smaller harvested units to avoid needing the Forest Stewardship Plan Visual Quality Objective exemption. Road building is expected to start near the end of June with harvesting in July, both by Sunshine Logging.

Work in Keen Creek is expected to start mid-June, with Shane harvesting block 1 and likely Iron Peaks in block 8 in July. Due to the large size of these blocks (75ha and 50ha respectively) any areas that are relatively unburnt, areas with mostly old growth, and riparian areas are being placed in reserves, creating a mosaic of reserve patches to provide long term biodiversity. See updated map in the MR folder which now includes block 8, another large block that is above block 1 in Keen Creek.

Wealth Minerals has agreed to sign a Road Use Agreement with us and to provide a stipend to use the road for mineral exploration. See RUA in MR folder for details. They have not obtained their permit yet but plan to start operations once received. Shane will be conducting any road work they need completed. Representatives from the company will be in Kaslo next week and I will meet up with them.

SAFETY

Tree planting operations had no safety incidents. See pre work in the MR folder.



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SILVICULTURE

Tree planting (60k trees) was completed in early May on several blocks from CP 42 in the Schroeder – Milford area as well as CP 43 up Branch 7. Seedlings are doing good despite the unusually hot weather the last few weeks.

INTERNAL

We will be working with Cathro Consulting to complete the field work and Fuel Management Prescriptions (FMPs) for the Jimi Crack Corn and the Buchanan Fire Access Trail projects. Preliminary work, including wildfire threat assessment plots, treatment unit layout, and FMPs will commence in the coming weeks with a target of starting the manual thinning work in September.

The recently announced FESBC grant has funding for uneconomical fiber utilization, however unfortunately this is only for fiber shipped to Mercer and not for sawlog. We were hoping to utilize the funding to help offset the cost of cable harvesting hemlock but this is not eligible due to the Softwood Lumber Agreement. Mercer has applied for this funding and we will work under their grant for the Briggs Creek fire fiber sent there.