



# Manager Report July - September 2023

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## WOODLANDS

### Briggs Creek

Timber Ridge has been harvesting CP 51-1 up Keen Creek since the end of July. Due to the fire danger rating we had to shut down operations for roughly two weeks through the summer. 3000m<sup>3</sup> was shipped in August, mostly hemlock but also a few loads of cedar. This block has some steep ground that Shane may not be able to harvest safely with conventional equipment. Iron Peaks may be able to harvest these area once they complete CP 53-8. Some of the Douglas fir leave trees have been infested with bark beetles in July or August which is rare as the beetles normally have two flights in May and June. See video in the MR folder of the feller buncher in action.

Sunshine Logging started trail construction and harvesting in CP 52, the block past the Kaslo dump, the week of August 21. The block is steep so will require the winch assist setup to complete most of the harvesting, which is expected to be on site sometime in September. This block is a mix of Douglas fir, hemlock, cedar and spruce. Douglas fir bark beetle has been noted in the upper areas of the block and will be harvested. Due to terrain stability and visual issues the block has been reduced from 30ha to 19ha. 6500m<sup>3</sup> is expected from this block.

Iron Peaks, the cable operator from New Denver, will start harvesting CP 53-8 next week. A prework is scheduled for Friday. This block is 53ha but approximately 19ha will be harvested this year with the remainder of the block being pulp. Species composition is hemlock, Douglas fir, spruce, cedar and balsam. 7000m<sup>3</sup> is expected from this block.

Lumber markets are still not favourable but the mills are taking our sawlog. We have had to increase the top size of the hemlock to 6" and with the pulp mill not taking fiber this has resulted in large waste piles and decks of pulp. We are exploring the option of selling the hemlock pulp as firewood but only some is suitable for this purpose. Most of the hemlock and cedar have been drying out since last fall which has resulted in lighter loads than expected. The conversion factors, which convert tonnes to m<sup>3</sup>, are set based on loads from all operators coming in to the mill and are hard to change but we have managed to secure higher conversion factors for the hemlock and cedar.

There is some old decadent cedar that is burnt, rotten and ugly looking but Box Lake lumber will take it to make post and rails. We have forwarded some loads of firewood to the airport to be processed and are looking at selling truckloads of it going forward.

### Lost Ledge

Marsh Hawes has started work on the Lost Ledge, installing the remaining culverts and fixing up the road surface in areas which suffered rutting during freshet. CP 46-1, which was harvested last fall, will be site prepped, piling debris to enable easier planting and seedling survival. There are numerous trails to deactivate as well.



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## SAFETY

See preworks for the CP 51-1 and CP 52 harvesting as well as the Lost Ledge road work and CP 46-1 site prep in the MR folder.

There was a safety incident on Friday September 8 in CP 52. A feller buncher rolled over at the end of the day and caught on fire, burning to the ground. The operator got out safely and is not injured. A fire guard was constructed around the buncher to ensure the fire did not spread and was out by Saturday. WorkSafe BC has been on site for an inspection and an insurance underwriter needs to see the buncher before we can remove it from the site. Sunshine Logging and KDCFS will follow up with an incident investigation.

## SILVICULTURE

The 2023 planting contract for approximately 200k trees is almost ready. It will be tendered to two local contractors.

## INTERNAL

## WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION

Cathro Consulting is nearing completion on the Jimi and Mt Buchanan Fuel Management Prescriptions. Merchantable fiber will be removed from the Jimi project so a CP needs to be obtained. And a portion of the project is on unallocated Crown land which will require a Forest License To Cut. There are 10ha of operation treatments in each project which are expected to start sometime in October or November.