



Manager Report September - October 2023

WOODLANDS

Briggs Creek

Approximately 10,000m³ has been shipped until the end of September from CP 51 and 52. It has been hard to get enough trucks to keep up with the timber flow which has resulted in around 40 loads on deck up Keen Creek, with half being pulp. The pulp mill is taking fiber into the Erie sort yard on a weekly quota for licensees, with some not being able to ship at all. We were able to secure a quota of 5 loads a week which is helping to keep the landings clear. Another 10,000m³ is expected for October and more into November. Kalesnikoff continues to buy our wood but is shipping the balsam to Interfor and possibly some hemlock moving forward.

Timber development on additional roads and potential blocks has started in Keen Creek, on the mid to upper slopes from Ben Hur Creek up to Kwalala Creek. It is estimated another 12,000m³ is accessible. The timber is dead but will still be sawlog next year with a decent mix of HwFdCw(Sx). The ground is steep so the road building and harvesting will be expensive. The roads and blocks will be developed and permitted. Due to the low lumber markets we will where log prices are in the spring before starting any road construction.

Timber Ridge continues to harvest CP 51-1 and is close to falling all of the timber that is accessible by ground based equipment. It is anticipated to take another month or so to process and ship all of the timber. There is another 5ha (2000m³) block along Deer Creek that will be harvested before Shane leaves Keen Creek for the year.

Sunshine will complete the harvesting of CP 52 (behind the Kaslo dump) this week.

Iron Peaks started harvesting CP 53-8, a cable block into Nashton Creek, in mid-September. It is anticipated they won't finish the block this year but will be back next year to finish and potentially harvest the new blocks being developed.

The roads up through the blocks are quite slick and muddy when wet, especially the switch backs which has made for challenging hauling conditions.

Lost Ledge

The road work on Lost Ledge will be complete this week. It took longer than expected due to the amount of culverts installed (almost 60) and establishing a new ditchline in the rocky ground. The road looks great though and will be ready for hauling. The piles from the initial brush clearing on the road are being burnt concurrently so we can use the excavator to re-pile. A 5km spur that heads south from CP 46-3 is being looked at to brush out for access, both in case of a wildfire and for timber development.



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The bridge over Lost Ledge Creek won't be installed this year but is planned for first thing in the spring.

SAFETY

No safety incidents from the three active logging operations or from the Lost Ledge road work.

SILVICULTURE

The planting contract was tendered to four companies with a closing date of November 1st. Craig Barschel will help us out with silviculture activities going forward, including planning in conjunction with the manager, brushing and planting implementation, and silviculture surveys.

INTERNAL

There were 11 of us for the community field tour on September 30th, with a few new faces that haven't been on a community forest field day before. The roads were muddy but we managed to make it up to CP 51-1 where Shane is working to see the damaged stands from the wildfire and our efforts to recover the timber. It was good for the public and Board members to see the scope of the devastation and the adverse fall conditions the loggers and truckers have to deal with.

BC is moving to a Forest Operations Map (FOM) for referrals. This is an online system where licensees upload planned blocks and roads where they can be viewed by the public, First Nations and other stakeholders. The system will be implemented April 1 2024, after which blocks and roads will need to be on the FOM for at least 30 days prior to cutting permit (CP) or road permit (RP) issuance. It is hoped that this, along with the Forest Landscape Planning, will eliminate the need for Forest Stewardship Plans (FSPs) in the future.

WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION

Cathro Consulting has completed the Jimi and Mt Buchanan Fuel Management Prescriptions. A field tour is tentatively scheduled for October 30th with the recreation clubs to review the plans before implementation commences. The Mt Buchanan will be started first and will proceed until we are snowed out and then will move to the Jimi project.

The Kaslo FireSmart Committee met via Zoom on Sept 28. BCWS is looking at a funding model where municipalities receive two years of funding at a time with an annual allocation of \$200k. These funds can be utilized as they see fit, except for fuel reduction implementation. This will reduce admin burden as currently each



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project needs to be applied for and funded separately. Cathro and Blackwell are working on two Community Wildfire Resiliency Plans, one for Kaslo and one for Area D. These plans will help identify priority treatment areas, water sources and other important factors in making our communities more resilient to wildfire and guide wildfire risk reduction work and planning.