



Manager Report December 2023 - January 2024

WOODLANDS

Briggs Creek

All the wood has been shipped from 2023 logging operations. Approximately 68ha was harvested with 24,760m³ of fire salvage timber, which was 95% dead, shipped until the end of December with a few more loads in the New Year. 3021m³ (12%) of fiber was pulp, and 702m³ of decadent cedar made it to Box Lake Lumber.

Breakdown of species harvested below. As usual hemlock leads the way by a large margin. It was a difficult year for market loggers with an abundance of dead hemlock. A big thank you to Kalesnikoff Lumber for working with us on log size and conversion rates, and taking all of our hemlock (and other wood except cedar) as it was a curse for mills this year as there was no demand for their hemlock products.

Cedar	4744	19%
Douglas fir	3284	13%
Hemlock	12998	53%
Spruce	1390	6%
Larch	451	2%
Balsam	1187	5%
Lodgepole pine	560	2%
White pine	146	<1%

The bottom line of the financials is better than expected mostly due to the more than projected amount of cedar harvested this year, as well as a reduction in the amount of cable harvesting done compared to the budget. We were also able to secure a \$20/m³ FESBC top up on all pulp delivered, pushing the price from \$50/m³ to \$70/m³.

Looking towards 2024, lumber markets aren't improving but hopefully with lower interest rates and the need for housing in both Canada and the USA things will start picking up soon.

Lots of money was invested in roads this year, with 8km on the Lost Ledge road seeing further upgrades, including 60 culverts being installed. In Keen Creek a bridge was repaired, several sections of road were fixed with work including surfacing, repairing a large slump, and keyed in rock installed to prevent the road from falling into the creek. Deer Creek (the first spur up Keen) had 5km of road upgraded along with 2km of new road constructed. 1.5km of new road was constructed up Kemp Creek behind the dump along with 750m of trails.



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Pic taken from the brake check of the slash burning up Branch 3. Quite the inferno!



SAFETY

It was a safe year overall with the only incident being the feller buncher rollover which luckily didn't involve any injuries.
No safety incidents in December.

SILVICULTURE

Craig Barschel, who does our manual WRR work, brushing and the 2023 planting was hired late in the fall to assist in running the silviculture program going forward.

62,000 trees were planted and 5ha brushed in 2023.

107,000 seedlings for planting in 2025 have been ordered.



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INTERNAL

A picture of ice flowing out of the Kaslo river after a few nights of -20.

WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION

Multiple FESBC funded projects were worked on over 2023 with most extending into 2024. These projects included the Fuel Management Prescription (FMP) and implementation, which included danger tree falling and reducing the ground and ladder fuels, on Mt Buchanan Fire Access Trail, FMP and implementation on the Jimi Crack Corn area below Hwy 31 by the Brake Check, and the FMP for an area near Lardeau. Funding for the thinning and post-harvest clean-up of CP 47-1, a 20ha block and landscape level fuel break up Branch 7 where we built road into in 2022, is delayed to 2024 due to our contractors being busy salvaging timber in Keen Creek. The total amount of funding was \$372,000.

Work on the Jimi Crack Corn project was stalled due to the recent snow fall and low temps but will continue this week.

The Fuel Management Prescription for an area near Lardeau is being completed this winter, covering around 25ha.

Planning will be undertaken for further treatments and access.



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