



Manager Report January - February 2025

WOODLANDS

Settles moved into Keen Creek last week and plowed the Keen Creek road up to 3.5km, then to the block up the Deer Creek road to around 6km. Falling started this week. The trail accessing the area being logged is steep and wet so we're hoping it stays cold so operations can continue. There is another cable area below this that can be harvested if the trail deteriorates too much. The operation is being run and paid for by Porcupine with money heading our way for silviculture, development (layout and road building) and some profit. This situation allows us to salvage the remaining dead timber while limiting our risk with the costs for mob and demob, opening up the road, plowing, timber quality as the cedar is starting to check, and road restriction issues. The plan is to be in Keen Creek until road restrictions come on, logging up to 3000m³ depending on how long operations continue.

Timber development is mostly complete in the True Blue area with a few areas left to look at. The blocks have a favourable species mix of FdCwHw and will be ground based.

SAFETY

No safety incidents from WRR work, harvesting or timber development.
See logging pre-work in the MR folder.

SILVICULTURE

We managed to complete some more silviculture surveys at lower elevations due to the limited amount of snow. We are still working on a silviculture update but the FSP has gotten in the way.

INTERNAL

The draft Forest Stewardship Plan is complete and will be submitted to the Ministry of Forests for review and comment this week.

Winter in the Forest took place on Family Day February 17th, and like in previous years it was a huge success! Many families and folks came out for the festivities which included live music, free soup and hot drinks, bonfire, human dogsled race, woodsman competition which featured two events (water boiling and cross cut saw bucking), quad rides, tobogganing hill and cross country skiing. A big thanks to Jessie for organizing it this year, she did an amazing job! And to the Board members who helped out, Matt Brown, Steve Fawcett and Doug Drain.

In 2023 we applied to Recs Sites and Trails of BC for permission to build two trails in Keen Creek. One is to the cedar special tree, and one through a group of large (1.5m – 2.5m) diameter cedar along Keen Creek. The application got lost in cyberspace but in January we received notice the trails would likely be approved to be built this year. Once approval is obtained, a trail crew will be formed, or hired, to build these trails.

KDCFS helped sponsor the U13 hockey tournament being held in Kaslo this year by supplying a gift basket to be raffled off. The cost for this was \$250.



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The Kaslo Mountain Bike Club is planning a trail that starts at the Friendly Giant trail just below the Mt Buchanan lookout and will traverse across Mt Buchanan to our new road at the top of Branch 7. Through discussions with KMBC and the MOF recreation officer about a dual purpose ATV/bike trail that could be utilized by crews in the event of a wildfire it was decided that this trail would be non-motorized due to cost and difficulty of construction.

There is very limited harvesting opportunities in this area due to a large Old Growth Management Area, topography and rock bluffs but KDCFS will explore trail options from both the Branch 7 and 7-Mile sides that could be used as fire access trails. KDCFS and KMBC will discuss planned trail options after more reconnaissance in the spring.

WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION

Funding for three projects was applied for last week through FESBC and we will find out this spring if we were successful.

The first project is an additional 4 ha of manual implementation treatment in the Mt Buchanan Access Trail / Wardner Trail area.

The second project is a recce, layout and fuel management prescription development on Crown owned unallocated private land close to Kaslo. This area was applied to for to be included in our CFA a few years ago but was rejected. We will look into it again as the benefit of having this area in our license would be increased area in the CFA, easier permitting process and cheaper stumpage.

The third project is manual and mechanical implementation above the highway from Lardeau and the Davis Creek campground. There is a FMP for this area so we have applied for 6 ha of mechanical treatment and 15 ha of manual treatment. This unit ties into a previously completed RDCK treatment to the north.