STAFF REPORT

RE: Forestry Referral – BC Timber Sales: Arrow Timber Supply Area

Date: January 31, 2019 File #: B-54-B

To: Chair Russell and members of the Board of Directors

From: Ken Gobeil, Senior Planner

ISSUE INTRODUCTION

British Columbia Timber Sales (BCTS) has invited the Regional District to provide comments regarding logging plans for the Arrow Timber Supply Area in the Electoral Area ‘B’/Lower Columbia – Old Glory (see Applicants’ Submission).

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<th>Property Information</th>
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<tr>
<td>Owner(s):</td>
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<td>Applicant:</td>
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<td>Location:</td>
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<td>Legal Description(s):</td>
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<td>Area:</td>
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<td>Roads:</td>
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<td>Current Use(s):</td>
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<tr>
<th>Land Use Bylaws</th>
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<tr>
<td>Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 1470</td>
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<td>Zoning Bylaw No. 1540</td>
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| Waterfront / Floodplain | Various creeks |
HISTORY / BACKGROUND INFORMATION

An Operating Plan is a planning document for the proposed harvesting of timber in a supply area. This includes the size and number of harvest areas, and the amount of new roads needed to access those areas. The practices for harvesting and road building are established in a Forest Stewardship Plan, a requirement of the Forest and Range Practices Act. Operating plans will include proposed development for 5 years.

The BC Timber Sales - Kootenay Business Area Forest Stewardship Plan #601, which has been in effect since May 2017 and is scheduled for replacement in May 2022.

BCTS has divided their Kootenay Business Area into 4 Development Units. 2 of these are within the RDKB.

1. The Arrow Development Unit is within Electoral Areas ‘A’ and ‘B’/Lower Columbia-Old Glory.
2. The Boundary Development Unit which includes Electoral Areas ‘C’/Christina Lake, ‘D’/Rural Grand Forks, and ‘E’/West Boundary.

PROPOSAL

BCTS has prepared logging plans for the Arrow Forest Development Unit (Operating Plan 17).

The harvest areas are all in Electoral Area ‘B’/Lower Columbia-Old Glory. Most of the proposed development is to take place in the Regional District of Central Kootenay.

The focus for this application is timber volume, with a minor focus on forest health. Estimates for volumes and varieties of trees have not been calculated at this time. The proposed harvest areas are all on Crown Land.

Access to the cut blocks will be through existing forest service roads. No new roads are proposed for this Operating Plan.

BCTS plans to begin selling blocks from this operating plan during the 2019 fiscal year.

IMPLICATIONS

Resource use is permitted in the Rural Resource 3 Zone. Resource use is defined as:

- the use of land providing for the conservation and management of natural resources, extraction of primary forest materials, or the extraction and grading of mineral resources, and including agriculture and grazing.

There are several creeks and tributaries in this area, as well as existing cut blocks, and access roads. All forest operations on Crown land in BC are governed by the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) and its regulations. Objectives with regard to carrying out primary forest activities in watersheds are outlined in the Forest Planning and Practices Regulation Section 59-62. It specifies that the licence holder must protect water quality and not create any source of sediments which could enter the watercourses.
To ensure development activities aren’t adversely affecting watercourses BCTS has the following practices:

- Consult with hydrologists and engineers,
- Assessments of the blocks are done during snow free times of the year,
- Create riparian reserve zones and machine free zones,
- Minimize road lengths,
- Create water bars and deactivate in block roads post-harvest,
- Minimize skidding trails and stream crossings,
- Closely monitor the harvesting activities occurring near watercourses
- Conduct post-harvest assessments to verify that everything went as planned
  - Conduct follow up work as needed.

**ADVOSRY PLANNING COMMISSION (APC)**

During their January 2019 APC supported Operating Plan 17. The APC also provided the following comments:

> Although the Companies logging in the area seems to comply with regulations, they clear out all the trees then only harvest the larger more desirable logs. The rest are left to rot or be harvested by small businesses harvesting firewood. Large companies say the fallen trees will rot, but they are suspended in the air and are a hazard to wildlife trying to move through area escaping predators or just transiting area.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary Board of Directors direct staff to forward this staff report Forestry Referral: BC Timber Sales (BCTS) Operating Plan 17, which includes the recommendations of the Electoral Area ‘B’/Lower Columbia-Old Glory to BC Timber Sales for consideration.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Forest Development Unit Map  
Site Location Map  
Applicants’ Submission