RE: Forestry Referral: BC Timber Sales (BCTS) Operating Plan 14

Date: January 31, 2019

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 RDKB to provide comment on logging plans for the Boundary Timber Supply Area (see Attachments).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Owner(s)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Applicant(s):</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Location(s):</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Legal Description(s):</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Electoral Area(s):** | Electoral Area ‘C’/ Christina Lake  
|                     | Electoral Area ‘D’/ Rural Grand Forks  
|                     | Electoral Area ‘E’/ West Boundary |
| **Number of Harvest Areas** | RDKB: 65  
|                     | Electoral Area C: 4  
|                     | Electoral Area D: 32  
|                     | Electoral Area E: 28 |
| **Total Area:**    | RDKB: 3690ha.  
|                     | Electoral Area C: 125ha.  
|                     | Electoral Area D: 2,120 ha.  
|                     | Electoral Area E: 1,445.0ha. |
| **New Roads:**     | RDKB: 40  
|                     | Electoral Area C: 7  
|                     | Electoral Area D: 23  
|                     | Electoral Area E: 10 |
| **Road (total length):** | RDKB: 68.94km  
Electoral Area C: 7.39km  
Electoral Area D: 40.6km  
Electoral Area E: 20.95km |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Land-Use(s):</strong></td>
<td>Forest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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, 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 have proposed to harvest 3690 ha of forest from 65 harvest areas in the Boundary Forest Development Unit (FDU).

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 cut blocks are all proposed on Crown Land.

Electoral Area ‘C’/Christina Lake

BCTS proposes to harvest 125 hectares of forest from 4 harvest areas in Electoral Area ‘C’/Christina Lake. Access to these areas will be through existing and proposed roads. To access the harvest areas 7 new roads are proposed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Harvest Area Name</th>
<th>Number of Blocks</th>
<th>Harvest Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Treadmill</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>124.5ha</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*One of these blocks is in the Red Ochre watershed and the three in the Treadmill Watershed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Harvest Area Name</th>
<th>Number of Road Segments</th>
<th>Length</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Treadmill</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7.394km</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Electoral Area ‘D’/Rural Grand Forks

BCTS proposes to harvest 2,120 hectares of forest from 32 harvest areas in Electoral Area ‘D’/Rural Grand Forks. Access to these areas will be through existing and proposed roads. To access the harvest areas, 23 new roads are proposed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Harvest Area Name</th>
<th>Number of Blocks</th>
<th>Harvest Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gloucester</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>273.0ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Granby</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>1.7615ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traverse</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>85.6ha</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The Gloucester and Lower Granby areas have multiple block groupings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Road Name</th>
<th>Number of Segments</th>
<th>Length</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cannon South</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4.373km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gloucester</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6.172km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jones Road</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11.266km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass Road</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7.332km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock Candy Road</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6.25km</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Traverse Road 3 4.714km
Upgrade Roads 1 501m

*Each Harvest Area has multiple roads with distinct names.

**Electoral Area ‘E’/ West Boundary**

BCTS proposes to harvest 1,445 hectares of forest from 28 harvest areas in Electoral Area ‘E’/West Boundary. Access to these areas will be through existing and proposed roads. To access the harvest areas, 10 new roads are proposed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Harvest Area Name</th>
<th>Number of Blocks</th>
<th>Harvest Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cochrane</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>801.3ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kettle</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>331.4ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Granby</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9.0ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oulette</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>142.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Kettle</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>160.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Harvest Area Name</th>
<th>Number of Road Segments</th>
<th>Length</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cochrane</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7.612km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oulette</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6.0265km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Kettle</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7.073km</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IMPLICATIONS**

**RDKB Land Use Bylaws:**

Electoral Area ‘C’/Christina Lake

The harvest areas are within the Natural Resource 1 Zone. ‘Forestry, logging and silviculture’ are permitted uses in these zones per Electoral Area ‘C’/Christina Lake Zoning Bylaw No. 1300.

**Electoral Area ‘D’/Rural Grand Forks**

The harvest areas are within the Rural Resource 1 Zone. This includes public and private lands. ‘Forestry, logging and silviculture’ are permitted uses within this zone per Electoral Area ‘D’/Rural Grand Forks Zoning Bylaw No. 1299.
Electoral Area ‘E’/West Boundary

All but one of the proposed cut blocks are in a portion of Electoral Area ‘E’/ West Boundary which does not have an Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw.

One harvest area is within the Plan Area for the Jewel Lake Land Use Bylaw No. 855. In the Rural Resource 1 Zone, ‘resource uses’ are permitted. Resource use means “a use providing for the conservation, and management of natural resources and extraction of primary forest materials, and the extraction, grading and crushing of mineral resource.”

BCTS has noted that the harvest area proposed near Jewel Lake is in the Pass Creek watershed, and indicated that they expect there would be no impact to the lake or park.

Forest Practices

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 are not adversely affecting watercourses the following practices help ensure the integrity of riparian areas:

- Stem retention near streams
- Using designated crossings
- Designating reserve areas near special sites
- Consultation with hydrologists and engineers
- Create riparian reserve zones and machine free zones
- Minimize road lengths
- Minimize skidding trails and stream crossings
- Closely monitor the harvesting activities occurring near watercourses
  - Conduct post-harvest assessments, and follow up work as needed.

Jurisdiction

The RDKB has no authority on logging activity, the materials provided are for reference and comment only. Comments made regarding this document will be sent to BCTS directly. The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Development, and Rural Development (FLNRORD), is also responsible for enacting and enforcement of logging regulations (Forest Planning and Practices Regulation and the Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act) that are referenced in this Forest Stewardship Plan.
ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSION

Electoral Area ‘C’/ Christina Lake

During their January 8, 2019 meeting, the Electoral Area ‘C’/Christina Lake APC deferred a recommendation until a representative of BCTS could attend an APC meeting to answer questions on current practices regarding:

a) Protection of water sources, water quality and no sediment
b) Monitoring harvesting activity near watercourses
c) Conditions along creeks after harvest
d) Modification of plans to adapt to conditions associated with climate-change
e) Current inventory numbers in the operating area and 2nd growth timber

Electoral Area ‘D’/ Rural Grand Forks

During their January 8, 2019 meeting the Electoral Area ‘D’/Rural Grand Forks APC accepted receipt of the Operating Plan. However, the APC noted the following concerns:

a) Potential water run off
b) Wildlife habitat
c) Notification to property owners with dwellings near the harvest areas
d) Location and purpose for a proposed road that runs south from Rock Candy BD_04.

Electoral Area ‘E’/ West Boundary

During their January 7, 2019 meeting the Electoral Area ‘E’/West Boundary APC did not support Operating Plan 14 for the following reasons:

- Members cannot comment on the Jewel Lake cut block as no mapping was provided
- They expressed concern that no mapping was provided when this cut block is the only one that is close to human habitation
- Serious concerns about the extraordinary size of the cut blocks, when the Kootenay Boundary Higher Level Plan recommends a maximum of 40 ha
- One cut block was 275 ha
- The average of all the cut blocks was well over 40 ha
- Concern about contribution to flooding and landslide events with such large disturbances
- Adjacency problems; mapping shows adjacent areas that were only recently harvested; this further expands the disturbance on the landscape
- There is no buffer next to the park
- No plan was provided for future road status relative to deactivation or rehabilitation
• No indication on maps of WTRA (Wildlife Tree Retention Areas) in cut blocks
• We encourage selective harvesting
• On some blocks, access is unclear (West Kettle 01 & 02)
• On some blocks access seems excessive (West Kettle 12 & 19), where there seems to be a duplication of roads

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMENTS

An informational meeting with BCTS may be beneficial to all APCs. A representative could address concerns and answer questions.

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 14, which includes the recommendations of the Advisory Planning Commissions for Electoral Area ‘C’/Christina Lake, Electoral Area ‘D’/Rural Grand Forks, and Electoral Area ‘E’/West Boundary to BC Timber Sales for consideration.

ATTACHMENTS

Forest Development Units
Summary Tables
BCTS Maps
  • Treadmill
  • Gloucester
  • Lower Granby
  • Traverse
  • Cochrane
  • Kettle
  • Lower Granby
  • Oulette
  • West Kettle
RDKB Maps:
  • Operation Plan 14
  • Electoral Area ‘C’/Christina Lake
  • Electoral Area ‘D’/Rural Grand Forks
  • Electoral Area ‘E’/West Boundary
  • Treadmill
  • Gloucester
  • Lower Granby
  • Traverse
  • Cochrane
  • Kettle
• Jewel Lake (Lower Granby)
• Lower Granby
• Oulette
• West Kettle
Important: Proposed blocks and roads are preliminary planning shapes only; final block boundaries and road locations, shape, size and reserve timber will be determined following field work and assessments.

Legend
- Gloucester
- Beaverdell
- Forest Health
- Operating Plan #14

Beaverdell
- Proposed Road
- Proposed Blocks

Wildlife Tree Retention Area
- Free to Grow Block
- Regenerating Block
- Approved Block

Legend
- Gloucester
- Beaverdell
- Forest Health
- Operating Plan #14

Beaverdell
- Proposed Road
- Proposed Blocks

Wildlife Tree Retention Area
- Free to Grow Block
- Regenerating Block
- Approved Block
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Legend
- Proposed Road
- Proposed Blocks
- Forest Health
- Block Boundaries
- Free to Grow Block
- Wildlife Tree Retention Area
- Approved Block
- Regenerating Block
- Old Growth Management Area
- Recreation Areas
- Existing Road
- Private land
- Woodlots
- Community Forests

Operating Plan #14
- Forest Health
- Rock Creek
- Christina Lake
- Oulette

Print File
Digital Mapping Base: TRIM - 1:20,000
Projection: UTM Zone 11, NAD83
Date of Digital Mapping: October 31, 2018
following field work and
Important: Proposed blocks and
blocks are preliminary planning
shapes only; final block boundaries
and road locations, shape, size and
reserve timber will be determined
following field work and
assessments.

Legend
- Proposed Road
- Proposed Blocks
- Forest Health
- Blowdown
- Fire

- Approved Block
- Regenerating Block
- Free to Grow Block
- Wildlife Tree Retention Area

- Old Growth Management Area
- Private land
- Visual Quality Objective
- Woodyard
- Wildlife Habitat Area
- Community Forests
- Range Fence

BEACON LAKE
CRYSTAL LAKE
KAYLAKE
W_Kettle_01 W_Kettle_02 W_Kettle_12 W_Kettle_26 W_Kettle_27
BCTS Referral: Operating Plan 14
Proposed Blocks and Roads
Electoral Area 'D' / Rural Grand Forks

Kilometers
1:250,000
BCTS Referral: Operating Plan 14
Proposed Blocks and Roads
Electoral Area 'E' / West Boundary

Date: 12/6/2018

Kilometers
1:250,000
BCTS Referral Map: Operating Plan 14
Proposed Blocks and Roads
Lower Granby Complex

Legend
- OpPlan14_ProposedRoads
- OPPlan14_ProposedBlocks
- Agricultural Land Reserve
- Recreation Area
- Wetlands
BCTS Referral Map: Operating Plan 14
Proposed Blocks and Roads
Cochrane Complex

Legend
- OpPlan14_ProposedRoads
- OPPlan14_ProposedBlocks
- Agricultural Land Reserve
- Recreation Area
- Wetlands

Date: 12/24/2018
Document Path: P:\PD\General Files\B-54-E Timber Sales Area 'E'\2019-01-Operating Plan 14 Area 'E'\Maps\2018-12-24_BCTSOpPlan14_ProposedBlksRds_CochraneComplex.mxd
BCTS Referral Map: Operating Plan 14
Proposed Blocks and Roads
West Kettle Complex

Legend
- OpPlan14_ProposedRoads
- OPPlan14_ProposedBlocks
- Agricultural Land Reserve
- Recreation Area
- Wetlands

Date: 12/6/2018