



Snowden Demonstration Forest Advisory Group (SAG) –BCTS Long-term plan (20 years)

BCTS organized the Snowden Advisory Group in response to concerns raised by the City of Campbell River and the Regional District. These groups were concerned that harvesting activities in the Snowden Forest would detract from its recreational value and its attraction to tourists. BCTS, in conjunction with the Snowden Advisory Group, developed the long-term plan map as the second part of the terms of reference. The first part focused on the current round of operational planning. The long-term plan focused on BCTS' strategic need for transportation corridors in the first three periods. Once transportation networks are in place, the development of timber sales can be more spread out to appropriately manage impacts to recreational resources. SAG members were given input into the long-term plan. Consideration was also given to development in the community watershed over the long-term plan.

The long-term plan map presents BCTS planned harvesting areas. This provides some certainty to the Snowden managing partnership of River City Cycle Club that their investments in and maintenance of trail infrastructure will have a more certain basis over the long term. Meetings with RSTBC and RCCC occur annually and BCTS usually attends. Any changes in plans can be communicated at that venue or at the anticipated periodic meetings for the SAG. This communication mechanism will allow for either party to change their plans, and it will help to avoid potential conflicts and take advantage of potential synergies.

While the long-term plan map shows where BCTS will develop timber, the polygons do not reflect final shapes of the timber harvest. The Snowden Forest Guiding Principles define the management strategies and commitments BCTS makes to maintaining the recreational value and user experience within the timber harvest areas. A component of the Snowden Forest Guiding principles is the recreation sensitivity map compiled from a survey of user groups that were a part of the SAG. The map defines high use areas as mentioned by the Snowden Guiding Principles.

The long-term plan map is a reflection of the areas BCTS intends to develop based on known information today. The table identifies periods 1 through 4 and their associated date ranges. The map shows color-coded areas that correspond with these periods. Some polygons show an intent to develop over multiple periods as denoted by a slash between numbers. As the first period clearly illustrates, the initial area of interest is much broader than the actual final development (as shown on the map); the difference being the final development has undergone all appropriate assessments and field work as required. Field work completion represents a significant undertaking for BCTS and must be completed in a specified timeframe to ensure the information is still accurate when heading into operational development/timber harvesting. It is not possible or appropriate for BCTS to fully develop 20 years' worth of harvest at one time. BCTS must manage for assessments that consider actual conditions including forest condition and health, previous harvest history, growth of timber and young stands, assessment of previous strategies used to manage resource values (i.e. windthrow assessment and trail buffers), current recreational trail locations, and current levels of use. In some cases, BCTS may have to adjust its plans if it finds that recreational impacts in selected areas cannot be managed appropriately. The long-term plan will change over time.