

QUESTION AND ANSWERS

September 14, 2021

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource
Operations and Rural Development

Rose Swanson Mountain - Proposed BC Timber Sales FSP Amendment

BC Timber Sales Rose Swanson Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) Amendment process:

Action	Tentative Date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reach out to stakeholder groups for comment on the amended Rose Swanson FSP's Sensitive Area Results and Strategies. Continue consultations with First Nations. Communicate with known stakeholders by email and phone to set up meetings. Increase public awareness of content available via BC Timber Sales - Updates & Information Releases, Okanagan-Columbia (TOC). Notify the public and stakeholders by early June of the opportunity to review and comment on the FSP's new Results and Strategies. 	June 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gather feedback from stakeholders and public. Schedule open house meetings with relevant stakeholders (virtually and by appointment). Participate in township committee meetings for Rose Swanson. 	June/July 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consolidate input received from stakeholders, users, First Nations. Design and edit the Results and Strategies with consideration given to the feedback received. 	August/September 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advertise the revised FSP amendment for the 60-day public review and comment period and capture any additional comments. 	September 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit final revised FSP amendment to the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development district manager for consideration and decision. 	November/December 2021

BC Timber Sales set aside July 26 and July 27, 2021, for meetings with the public and stakeholders to answer questions about the proposed Rose Swanson FSP amendment. Other dates may be available. Contact BC Timber Sales at the information below to inquire.

Q1. Who is British Columbia Timber Sales (BCTS)?

- BC Timber Sales (BCTS) is a self-financing program within the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD). BCTS sustainably manages the harvesting and reforestation of approximately 20 per cent of

the timber available for harvest from British Columbia's timber harvesting land base. "Timber harvesting land base" is public land where environmentally sound timber harvesting is allowed and economically feasible.

- By providing a reliable supply of sustainably harvested timber through open and competitive auctions to loggers, wood processors and other forestry businesses, BCTS supports workers and rural communities throughout British Columbia.
- BCTS, on behalf of the Province, is managing the Rose Swanson harvest plan development.
- For more information on BCTS' program, watch the BC Timber Sales business and operations video: youtu.be/sJDLHYyGVg8 or visit www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/bc-timber-sales.

Q2. Where is BCTS Rose Swanson operating area located?

- BCTS Rose Swanson operating area is a 10-minute drive west of Armstrong. See the [Appendix H1 Rose Swanson Sensitive Area FSP Amendment Zones 1 and 2 map](#).

Q3. Why is harvesting being proposed for the Rose Swanson Mountain area?

- The Rose Swanson operating area is part of the Okanagan timber supply area. A timber supply area (TSA) is public land designated by the Province, in accordance with the *Forest Act*, to be managed for a range of objectives including timber production.
- The chief forester, an independent statutory decision maker, determines the Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) for public land in British Columbia. Under the *Forest Act*, the AAC is the rate of timber harvest determined for an area and is specified as a volume of wood (cubic meters) per year.
- Timber harvesting must be spread out between all operating areas in the Okanagan TSA to ensure all areas of designated public land contribute to the AAC.
- Rose Swanson has not had any harvest for many years, although it is a component of the timber harvesting land base.
- Douglas-fir bark beetle has been identified in the proposed development. Harvesting these trees will slow the spread of bark beetle in this area.

Q4. Has this area been considered as a Provincial park?

- Mount Rose Swanson was proposed as a scenic lookout in the early 1950's, but the proposal was not approved. In the late 1980's/early 1990's, in response to requests from the Township of Spallumcheen and the Board of Trade, Mount Rose Swanson was examined for its feasibility as a Provincial park, and BC Parks determined that although the site had local and regional recreation value, it did not meet the criteria for a Provincial park.
- Mount Rose Swanson was not identified for potential park designation during the Okanagan-Shuswap Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) process undertaken between 1995 and 2000. The LRMP was developed by over 30 public and government participants representing a wide range of values such as water, timber, wildlife, fisheries, mining, recreation, tourism, conservation and agriculture; it was approved by government in 2001.
- There are no Provincial plans to designate Rose Swanson a Provincial park.

Q5. What is the Rose Swanson Sensitive Area Order, and what are its objectives?

- The Rose Swanson Sensitive Area Order was established by the Ministry in 1997 to

- support and balance the area's recreation and timber harvesting values.
- The Order specifies that harvesting must be done at low impact, respecting and protecting the recreation values.
- The Order's objectives are to:
 - Maintain and enhance trail network for use by recreationalists.
 - Protect the visual quality of the area.
 - Maintain recreation values by limiting timber harvesting to low-impact silvicultural systems.
 - Protect area against vandalism and timber theft.
- To date, planning for the Mount Rose Swanson area has honoured the spirit and intent of the Order.

Q6. How big is the Rose Swanson Sensitive Area?

- The Rose Swanson Sensitive area is 712 hectares in size.

Q7. What are results and strategies? When will the proposed Rose Swanson Sensitive Area Results and Strategies be available for review and comment?

- **Results and Strategies** are a description of measurable and verifiable outcomes and steps or practices for a specific situation or area.
- The BCTS Forest Stewardship Plan has now been amended to update specific Rose Swanson Sensitive Area **Results and Strategies** and is available for public review and comment.
- The proposed Rose Swanson Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) Amendment Results and Strategies can be viewed:
 - Online at <http://ow.ly/7b6M30rKiLN>
 - By appointment, Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. -12 p.m. and 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the BC Timber Sales Okanagan-Columbia Office, 2501 - 14th Avenue, Vernon, B.C., V1T 8Z1.
- Written comments can be submitted by email or mail until 4:30 p.m. on November 19, 2021. To submit written comments or obtain further information, contact Grace Chomitz, planning forester, via the contact information noted below.

Q8. What is the timeline for the FSP amendment, and what are the First Nations consultation and stakeholders referral requirements?

- BCTS plans to submit the FSP amendment for approval to the District of Okanagan-Shuswap tentatively by November 2021.
- FSP amendments are subject to consultation with First Nations and to review and comment from stakeholders and the public prior to being approved by government.
- The amended FSP will be available for the 60-day public review and comment period in September 2021.

Q9. Has consultation with local First Nations been completed?

- BCTS has and continues to consult with First Nations on all harvest proposals.

Q10. What else is BCTS doing regarding public consultation?

- BCTS will update the Q and A document as required and clearly identify how the wider public and stakeholders can provide written or verbal feedback.

Q11. What does the 5% within BCTS' Proposed FSP Amendment for Rose Swanson refer to in the following clause: *"The objective for timber harvesting will be to harvest under 5% of the Sensitive Area timber harvesting land base in any ten-year period"*.

- The 5% refers to the maximum amount of area that could be harvested within any ten-year period.
- The Sensitive Area is 712 hectares, therefore, 5% of the total area is 35.6 hectares.

Q12. How does the 10-year period within BCTS' Proposed FSP Amendment for Rose Swanson work?

- Within any 10-year period, five per cent of the Rose Swanson Sensitive Area can be harvested. This means, from 2021-2031, five per cent can be harvested within the Sensitive area, from 2031-2041, another 5% can be harvested and so on.
- Note: The 5% maximum area for harvest in any 10-year period may be exceeded for the Sensitive Area for significant forest health concerns, windthrow, fire salvage or due to fuel mitigation projects proposed to meet community goals.

Q13. Due to climate change, how will new seedlings survive after being planted on Rose Swanson?

- BCTS relies on the work done by the Province and staff expertise within our teams to determine how to help forests adapt to climate change. BCTS participates in this by using the seed transfer system as guidance and from our extensive expertise in silviculture work. We apply this knowledge to all our reforestation activities.
- More information on seed transfer and climate change research can be found here: www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/managing-our-forest-resources/tree-seed/forest-genetics/seed-transfer-climate-change?keyword=climate&keyword=change&keyword=seedlings

Q14. Why are items like visuals, stream protection and reforestation requirements not described specifically in the Rose Swanson FSP amendment?

- BCTS Okanagan-Columbia has an extensive FSP that covers all legal requirements necessary to manage B.C. forests within our forest development units and or operating areas.
- Within the FSP are results and strategies for visuals, stream protection and reforestation. These are included for all forest development units; therefore visuals, stream protection and reforestation requirements are not part of the FSP amendment for the Rose Swanson sensitive area, as this would be a redundancy.
- The BCTS Okanagan-Columbia Businesses Area's Forest Stewardship Plan FSP can be viewed here: www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/bc-timber-sales/fsp/okanagan-columbia-fsp
- The protection of the visual quality of the area is a requirement of the Rose Swanson Order to Establish a Sensitive Area. BCTS FSPs results and strategy for visuals require we meet visual quality objectives for scenic areas from viewpoints and from significant features such as lakes, long stretches of highway and settlements etc. The Rose Swanson Results and Strategies further protect the visuals and recreation experience by having a 100-metre buffer surrounding the Zone 1 trails and having a 15-metre buffer on either side of Zone 2 trails with a minimum of 50% basal area retained, which equates to approximately 50% of the merchantable trees within the management area. Non-merchantable trees will also be retained to further enhance this zone with good form and vigour to the extent practicable.

Q15. Does the FSP amendment comply with legal protection consistent with the Rose Swanson Sensitive Area Order?

- FSP amendments are developed to follow legal requirements.
- Once BCTS has completed the process of amending the FSP results and strategies for Rose Swanson, and completes referrals with stakeholders and First Nations, BCTS will submit the amendment to the district manager of the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resources and Rural Development for approval.
- The district manager will review the amendment and comments received and determine whether it meets the legal requirements prior to approving.

Q16. Are fuel mitigation treatments a possibility within the Rose Swanson Sensitive Area and the operating area as a whole?

- Fuel mitigation treatments are possible in the Rose Swanson operating area if projects are consistent with the Rose Swanson Sensitive Area Order and approved as part of the amendment. BCTS would be willing to implement harvest plans that meet fuel management objectives if the harvest plans are in alignment with community objectives and the Rose Swanson Sensitive Area Order. BCTS would not be able to implement fuel mitigation hand treatments, as this work is funded by BC Wildfire Service Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction funding. BCTS has participated in many projects to work in conjunction with BC Wildfire Service and the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development to meet fuel mitigation objectives for treatment areas.

Q17. As protecting recreational values are a high priority for the Rose Swanson Sensitive Area how is harvesting compatible with maintaining recreational experience within the area?

- BCTS is committing to low impact silviculture systems including retention, group selection and single-tree selection systems. The Rose Swanson Results and Strategies address enhancement of trails with interpretive signs, minimizing new access within the sensitive area, committing to extensive stakeholder engagement for any harvest plans, expanding Zone 1 and Zone 2 management zones to include trails outside of the sensitive area and establishing buffer requirements on trails. BCTS Okanagan-Columbia has worked in many high-value recreational areas recently with positive results including White Lake, Ellison and MacPherson.

Contact information:

Grace Chomitz, Planning Forester
Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
BC Timber Sales Okanagan Columbia Business Area
2501 - 14th Avenue Vernon, B.C., V1T 8Z1
Phone: (250) 558-1700
Email: Forests.OkanaganColumbiaTimberSalesOffice@gov.bc.ca



BCTS
BC Timber Sales



Ministry of
Forests, Lands, Natural
Resource Operations
and Rural Development