



2020 Update for BCTS Operations in Snowden Forest

BCTS listens to feedback, adjusts plans for Snowden Demonstration Forest

Campbell River – After extensive consultation, BC Timber Sales (BCTS) is changing road-building and harvest operational plans for Snowden Demonstration Forest, north of John Hart Lake, to address public concerns, primarily about recreation and water quality.

In September 2018, BCTS formed the Snowden Demonstration Forest Advisory Group, comprised of key stakeholders to provide feedback regarding forestry activities and stakeholder interests. Advisory group participants include Recreation Sites and Trails BC, River City Cycle Club, Campbell River River Runners, Campbell River Enthusiastic Women (CREW) hiking group, Campbell River Environmental Committee, Friends of Snowden, City of Campbell River, and Strathcona Regional District.

As a result of advisory group input, BCTS is revising the current operational plan to realign the road access from Snowden Main, reducing the length of road within the watershed and removing one block within the watershed to alleviate community watershed concerns.

To facilitate BCTS' long-term access plan and help maintain the recreational experience over the long term, BCTS will also construct 1.6 kilometres of new trail to replace a portion of Riley Lake Trail being impacted.

Additionally, BCTS will use scattered, individual tree retention in one block, relocate two harvest areas to alternate locations and will place timing restrictions on road construction and timber harvest to account for recreation activities on weekends and evenings, including avoiding known events such as Island Cup XC events.

With consideration to advisory group feedback, BCTS is proceeding with operational planning of current harvest operations and finalizing plans for road construction and timing restrictions of industrial operations. Operational planning is anticipated to be complete this spring and the auction of the timber sale license to follow completion of road construction, likely this summer, with harvest operations in the fall.

Public notices of trail closures will be made prior to the start of industrial operations, including through on-site postings.

With good working relationships, the advisory group has met 17 times, including two field trips. Through these meetings, BCTS Snowden Guiding Principles have been updated, input provided into current road operational planning, a recreation sensitivity map has been established to inform future planning, and input has been received into a long-term harvest operation plan for Snowden.

Members of the public or stakeholder groups that have further questions or wish to arrange a meeting to discuss the operational plans can contact Jeff Hamilton, BC Timber Sales planning officer, at Jeffery.Hamilton@gov.bc.ca or 250 850-1771. Those wanting to further discuss recreation management should contact Graham Cameron, Recreation Sites and Trails BC recreation officer, at Graham.Cameron@gov.bc.ca or 250 812-8824.

A map of the Snowden Demonstration Forest 2020 operating plan and a copy of the Snowden Guiding Principles are available, under Strait of Georgia, at:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/bc-timber-sales/updates>