



**Engagement Plan for Proposed BC Timber Sales Licenses  
in the South Elphinstone area  
Updated March 31, 2023**

In the spring of 2019, BCTS agreed to withdraw the existing timber harvest proposal within DL1313 and committed to further dialogue with the community and First Nations before developing any new timber harvesting plans in this area.

This communication process was initiated in December 2019; however the COVID-19 situation had a dramatic impact to both BCTS operations and the ability for stakeholders to participate in meetings and to respond to information. As a result, BCTS has revised our original development timeline. This revised timeline for engagement and harvest planning will be updated regularly to reflect new information as it becomes available. Note also that this engagement plan was initially only for the DL1313 area, but this has been extended to include other BCTS harvest planning in the South Elphinstone area near and above DL1313 as described below.

The area referred to as South Elphinstone is on provincial Crown land near Gibsons between Robinson Creek and Chaster Creek. In addition to the DL1313 area, there are two proposed Timber Sale Licenses (TSL).

- TA0521 (two blocks: G043B4P2 and G043B4P8)
- TA0519 (one block: G043B4NV)

DL1313 is Provincial Crown land and is within a Forest Development Unit of the approved BCTS Forest Stewardship Plan. This land use designation supports management for a variety of values including forest harvesting. The 2022-2026 BCTS Operating Plan displays an “Area of Enhanced Public Engagement” over DL1313, meaning there is no specific TSL proposed at this time. BCTS will be conducting engagement specific to this area with First Nations and community members prior to proposing a TSL.

Date	Activity	Status / Comments
December 2019	Meet with SCRD staff to discuss engagement process for the DL1313 area.	Completed initial meeting.
January to March 2020	Initial referral of BCTS 2020 Sunshine Coast Operating Plan to communities, First Nations and stakeholders. An Area of Interest (AOI) for timber sale development was indicated for DL1313 and some of the surrounding Crown forest, but no specific harvest blocks were delineated.	Completed
January to March 2020	BCTS referrals to the Squamish Nation regarding the 2020 Operating Plan for the lower Sunshine Coast. South Elphinstone blocks included in this discussion.	Completed, including a meeting to review the operating plan in March 2020.

March 2020	BCTS to engage with SCTS on trails in the South Elphinstone area. BCTS to survey trail network.	Initial meeting with SCTS held in March 2020. BCTS survey of existing trail network completed April 2020.
March 2020	Preliminary meetings with residents of Reed Road living adjacent to DL1313. Discussed key values of the DL1313 area: environmental and community concerns, recreation use, concerns for protection of streams and water supplies.	Completed
2020 - 2022	BCTS consultation with SCRDR. Additional meeting to be scheduled for Feb – May 2022.	Preliminary consultation in Spring 2020. Operating Plan review completed Spring 2021.
August 2020 to May 2021	Draft, Phase One Hydrology Assessment field work and report for South Elphinstone planning area.	Draft report received May 2021.
May 25, 2021	Presentation via Zoom to Sunshine Coast Federation of Community Associations (SCFCA) regarding BCTS Operating Plan with a focus on status of Elphinstone harvest planning.	Completed
September 2021	Phase two Hydrology Assessment which included stream assessments and interviews with water licensees for South Elphinstone planning area.	Completed
November 3, 2021	Participation in Town of Gibsons Zoom meeting: Elphinstone-Gibsons Watershed and Aquifer Dialogue	Completed
January - March 18, 2022	BCTS releases annual (2022-2026) Operating Plan for First Nations and stakeholder review and comment. Responses to comments received will be made February to May 2022.	Completed
May 2021 to April 2023	Develop harvest plans for TSL TA0521 which incorporate recommendations from hydrologic report, as well as First Nation, stakeholder and community feedback received. BCTS to complete additional professional engineering and environmental assessments as required.	On-going
March 9, 2023	Mt Elphinstone South Watershed Assessment: Phase 1 and 2 final draft released. The report can be found linked here: <a href="http://ow.ly/rAbI50NjrCo">http://ow.ly/rAbI50NjrCo</a>	On-going
April 6, 2023	Mt Elphinstone South Watershed Assessment: Phase 1 and 2 public engagement Zoom meeting, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Meeting invite letter can be found linked here: <a href="http://ow.ly/rAbI50NjrCo">http://ow.ly/rAbI50NjrCo</a>	Planned
April 28, 2023	Comment period closes on Mt. Elphinstone Watershed Assessment: Phase 1 and 2	Planned
June 2023	2023-2027 Operating Plan released for First Nations and stakeholder review: 60-day review and comment period. Phase 3 of Mt Elphinstone South Watershed assessment for TA0521 will be presented as part of the Operating Plan.	Planned
January to March 2024	2024-2028 Operating Plan released for First Nations and stakeholder review: 60-day review and comment period.	Planned
June 2024	Proposed sale of TSL TA0521.	Planned
August 2024	Hydrologic assessment of proposed TSL TA0519. TA0048 deferred to 2028.	Planned