

Mt. Elphinstone (A94817)

May 26, 2026



Overview

- Timber Sale Licence (TSL) A94817 located in the Roberts Creek watershed includes two high-retention blocks: G043B4SG and G043C3ZP.
- Following First Nations consultation and public engagement, and to better balance multiple values, the original block designs were reduced by 27%, from 47 hectares to 36 hectares.
- The harvest system consists of a partial harvest/small-opening approach designed to retain canopy cover and maintain hydrologic stability.
- In addition to designated wildlife tree retention areas, a total of 300 individual trees have been strategically retained across these high retention blocks.
- To reduce soil disturbance and lower the risk of erosion, permanent roads, bridges and culverts have been kept to a minimum.

Assessments

- A three-phase watershed assessment was completed by an independent hydrologist.
 - Hydrological hazards, peak flows and low flows were evaluated with a low risk to increased peak water flow confirmed.
- A terrain stability and soil erosion assessment identified a small potentially unstable area, which was removed from the harvest design.
- An archaeological and cultural review was completed in collaboration with First Nations.
- Wildlife and riparian mapping confirmed all fish bearing streams are located outside of the harvest area.
- A monitoring plan was designed by a professional hydrologist to measure water quality upstream and downstream of A94817 before, during and after harvest.

Water Quality

All recommendations contained in the hydrological watershed assessments were adopted:

- Block boundaries are set to exclude nearly all streams; fish-bearing streams remain outside harvest areas.
- Machine-free zones have been established along all classified streams to prevent soil disturbance.
- Setbacks from Roberts Creek range from 45–200 metres; no harvesting is prescribed within the Robert's Creek riparian reserve zone.

Together, these measures are designed to maintain natural watershed function and protect downstream water quality, including areas that contribute to aquifer recharge.

Flooding & Safety

- Under the guidance of a professional hydrologist, to address concerns of increased runoff or localized flooding, blocks will have smaller canopy openings, which increases interception of precipitation and slows run off.
- Pruning will be conducted to reduce blowdown risk.
- Road drainage has been designed to follow natural contours or diversion toward gullies.

Salmon Habitat

To avoid silt or bank disturbance to fish habitat:

- A 15-metre wind-firming zone is in place along the edges of the proposed harvest area closest to Roberts Creek.
- Fish-bearing streams were excluded from the harvest design and remain outside harvest areas. No heavy machinery is permitted within classified riparian areas.
- Erosion and sediment-control measures will be applied to roads and drainages.

About BC Timber Sales

- BC Timber Sales (BCTS) was established in 2003 to provide benchmark costs and prices from the harvest of Crown/public timber in British Columbia.
- Data from BCTS operations is used to help determine the market value of timber harvested from public land and ensures British Columbians receive fair value from their timber resources.
- BCTS manages about 20% of the provincial allowable annual cut through 12 business areas operating in 33 communities.
- On average, over the next three years, BCTS activities will directly support over 4,600 well-paying jobs and another 4,200 indirect jobs in B.C.
- BCTS activities directly contribute to rural economies each year.
- BCTS managed forests are 100% certified under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.
- Since 2003, BCTS has planted over 1.1 billion seedlings to reforest areas harvested.

Public comments related to BCTS operations on the Sunshine Coast can be addressed to:

Ministry of Forests
BC Timber Sales - Chinook Business Area, Sunshine Coast
7077 Duncan Street
Powell River, B.C. V8A 1W1
BCTS.SunshineCoast@gov.bc.ca

