
QUESTION AND ANSWERS

July 7, 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. 	August/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. 	September/October 2021

BC Timber Sales has set aside July 26th and July 27th for meetings with public and stakeholders to ask questions about the proposed Rose Swanson FSP amendment. Other dates may be available, please contact BC Timber Sales to check availability, contact information below.

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 [Map – Appendix H1 Rose Swanson Sensitive Area FSP Amendment Zones 1 and 2](#).

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 the 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 Sensitive Area 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 July 30, 2021. To submit written comments or obtain further information, contact Grace Chomitz, Planning Forester, via the contact information noted below.

Q8. What is the planned timing of 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 October 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 August 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 monthly and clearly identify how the wider public and stakeholders can provide written or verbal feedback.

Contact:

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