
FACTSHEET

June 15, 2017

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural
Resource Operations
BC Timber Sales

BC Timber Sales and planned harvesting in the Quartz community watershed

NELSON - BC Timber Sales (BCTS) was established in 2003 to provide benchmark costs and prices from the harvest of Crown timber in British Columbia. Auctioning timber to the highest bidder allows BCTS to set long-term rates for tenure holders that ensure British Columbians receive a fair return for harvested timber. BCTS manages about 20% of the province's allowable annual cut through 12 business areas. In 2016-17, BCTS generated \$336 million in gross revenue for the Province, including \$43 million from the Kootenay business area alone.

- As part of its 2020-2021 sales plan, the Kootenay business area is currently planning a timber sale in Quartz Creek with road construction planned for 2018-19. BCTS is planning to construct 5.6 kilometres of road to develop a timber sale of approximately 30,000 cubic metres (approximately 65 hectares of which about 36 hectares is within the Quartz Watershed). The harvesting method has yet to be determined.
- Community watersheds require special management to conserve the quantity, quality and timing of water flow, and to prevent cumulative hydrological effects on water. There are currently 466 designated community watersheds in B.C.
- Quartz Creek, a community watershed, is roughly six square kilometres, supplies freshwater needs to the residents of Ymir for drinking and firefighting.
- The Quartz Creek Watershed has had a preliminary review by a professional hydrologist. Further hydrological assessments are planned over this area. Final recommendations will be incorporated into road and harvesting plans.
- BCTS will work with the Ymir Community Watershed Action Team during planning stages of development.
- Other important values in the watershed include: water, mountain bike trails, fish, recreation, wildlife, hunting, minerals, timber and cultural heritage.
- As part of its planning process, BCTS is engaging stakeholders and documenting their concerns.
- Forestry activities will be managed according to legal objectives for natural resource values, such as water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and by the Kootenay Boundary Higher Level Plan Order. Results and strategies to meet these objectives are described in BCTS' approved forest stewardship plan.
- BCTS will carefully consider all harvesting activities and seek the advice of qualified registered professionals before proceeding with activities which cause concern, including undertaking a more detailed hydrological assessment.
- A qualified professional will be monitoring all road and timber harvesting.
- BCTS will use modern road building practices with attention to drainage control and environmentally sound timber harvesting practices.

- BCTS will carry out reforestation of all harvesting areas promptly after harvesting. BCTS reforests at densities ranging from 1,200-1,400 stems per hectare and typically have at least four species planted for diversity.
- BCTS will use the most up-to-date technology available when making plans. For example BCTS has acquired light imaging detection and ranging, or LiDAR, for the entire watershed. This mapping has allowed BCTS to map drainage features with high accuracy that will assist with road and block layout planning.
- All BCTS operations are certified to the ISO 14001 and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative standards, which require operations to follow an environmental management system and sustainable forest management system. Both certifications require third-party auditing of BCTS operations.

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