

# Mt. Elphinstone (TA0521)

March 11, 2025

Originally published Dec. 2023



## About BC Timber Sales

### Quick Facts

- 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.
- BCTS directly supports over 8,000 jobs across B.C. and indirectly contributes to over 10,000 B.C. jobs.
- BCTS activities directly contribute over \$150 million to rural economies each year.
- Each year, BCTS contracts about \$170 million in goods and services.
- In 2022, BCTS generated approximately \$420 million in gross revenue for British Columbia.
- Between 2021-2022, BCTS supported the planting of 63.4 million trees in B.C. reforestation projects.
- 100% of BCTS managed forests are certified under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

## Reconciliation & Partnerships with First Nations

Reconciliation with First Nations is integral to BCTS' long-term success. BCTS supports the Province's commitment to true, lasting reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples in British Columbia, including the implementation of the 2022-2027 Declaration on the *Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* Action Plan and the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. In supporting Provincial reconciliation efforts, BCTS is also committed to the Ministry of Forests' objective to strengthen partnerships and increase engagement with First Nations in the management of B.C.'s natural resources.

## Mt. Elphinstone (TA0521)

### Timber Sale Licence Overview

- TA0521 was awarded in June 2024.
- The harvest method is Partial Cutting, which means a clear-cut opening will not be created. Partial cutting allows the removal of some of the timber, with a high number of single trees remaining in the block (in addition to specific retention patches). Single leave trees have been identified and are primarily Douglas fir. The number of leave trees in each block are described below.

- The harvest area of these blocks (13 hectares) is 0.23% of the Mt. Elphinstone operating area (approx. 5,620 hectares).
- This area was originally harvested in the early 1900s.
- All assessments were completed by qualified professionals, who provided recommendations for block design, including:
  - Terrain Stability Field Assessment
  - Biology assessment on streams adjacent to Mt. Elphinstone (TA0521) block # G043B4P2
  - Visual Quality Objective Assessment – note that visuals will be managed from significant public viewpoints
  - Detailed Hydrologic Assessments were completed in the Mt. Elphinstone South Watershed Assessment (Phases 1 & 2 report available). The results of the field hydrologic assessment changed the initial design of TA0521.
- Planning to plant over 12,000 trees after harvest (prescription will vary depending on final harvest area).
- Due to the unique Partial Cutting harvest system, TA0521 will be added to the Roberts Creek High Retention Research Project led by the Research Branch of the Ministry of Forests and supported by BCTS. Long term sample plots will be established within the harvest area to monitor:
  - Forest health,
  - Regeneration of both planted and naturally seeded trees,
  - Impact of retention trees on regenerating trees, and
  - Vegetation composition and growth.

## Assessment of Quarry Amphibian Breeding Habitat

- BCTS manages for amphibians through the standard protection of riparian areas, and through the identification and protection of confirmed amphibian breeding areas.
- In July 2024, a pre-existing rock quarry adjacent to TA0521 Block G043B4P8 containing standing water was identified by BCTS staff as a potential breeding habitat for amphibians.
- After an office review of all existing applicable data, BCTS staff surveyed the quarry in July 2024 and confirmed the presence of breeding amphibians.
- On August 1, 2024, three quarries in the vicinity of TA0521, including the originally identified quarry, were surveyed by a contracted qualified Registered Professional Biologist. Several species of amphibians were found in each of the three quarries, though none of the quarries were found to represent highly suitable breeding habitat.
- A final professional report was received by BCTS in December 2024. A copy of the report was also received by the TSL holder, who remains responsible for the implementation of any required protections at this time.

## Details of TA0521 Cutblocks

### Block # G043B4P2

- Final proposed harvest area: 3.8 hectares (initial planned harvest area was 12.5 hectares)

- The stand is approximately 95-110 years old and 20-60 metres tall, comprised of Douglas fir, Western hemlock and Western red cedar\*
- Average tree diameter: 36.3 cm
- Number of leave trees throughout block (partial cutting harvest system): 121 (approx. 32 trees per hectare)
- Retention patches (riparian reserves, wildlife tree areas, etc.): 72% of gross cut block area
- Planned new road construction: 104 metres
- Recreation trails (ex: Seven Trail) condition will be preserved
- Watershed overlaps: Joe Smith Creek, Molyneux Creek

### Block # G043B4P8

- Final proposed harvest area: 9.2 hectares (initial planned harvest area was 10.0 hectares)
- The stand is approximately 90-100 years old and 20-60 metres tall, comprised of Douglas fir and Western hemlock\*
- Average tree diameter: 49.5 cm
- Number of leave trees throughout block (partial cutting harvest system): 393 (approx. 43 trees per hectare)
- Retention patches (wind-firming treatments, wildlife tree areas, etc.): 38% of gross cutblock area
- Planned new road construction: 676 metres
- Wind-firming along the bottom of the block (recommendation from the Terrain Stability Field Assessment)
- Watershed overlaps: Slater Creek, Leek Creek, Higgs Brook

\* Ages and heights were field verified in 2022 during timber cruising.

#### 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](mailto:BCTS.SunshineCoast@gov.bc.ca)

