Chinook Business Area News

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BRITISH COLUMBIA
BCTS
BC Timber Sales

The BCTS Chinook Business Area acknowledges the territories of First Nations around B.C. and is grateful to carry out our work on these lands. We acknowledge the rights, interests, priorities and concerns of all Indigenous Peoples – First Nations, Métis and Inuit - respecting and acknowledging their distinct cultures, histories, rights, laws and governments.

Expanded BCTS Mandate

The Province of British Columbia is taking decisive steps to strengthen the forestry sector by expanding BCTS' mandate. This move follows the recommendations of the BCTS Task Force, which engaged with over 50 groups and received more than 300 submissions between January and July 2025.

A New Direction for BCTS

Historically focused on auctioning publicly owned timber and setting price benchmarks, BCTS will now take on a broader role to better serve the unique needs of communities, First Nations and wood product manufacturers. The expanded mandate is built on four key pillars:

- Thriving communities with good jobs
- Manufacturing diversity across the sector
- Strong partnerships with First Nations and local communities
- Resilient forest ecosystems for future generations

What's Next: Strategic Implementation

The Province has reviewed the BCTS Task Force Recommendation Report and is moving forward with a phased implementation strategy. This approach builds on BCTS' ongoing commitment to public interest and sustainable forest management. Key actions already underway include:

- Stewardship projects, wildfire risk reduction and forest health initiatives
- Commercial thinning timber sales to improve forest health
- Doubling fibre supply for value-added manufacturers to 20% of BCTS licences
- Group bidding options for smaller companies
- Long-term forest planning with climate-adapted and native species
- Increased use of prescribed fire for reforestation and risk reduction
- Strengthened First Nations partnerships for fair-market timber returns
- Improved use of logging residuals (e.g., branches, tree tops) to support sectors like pulp

Long-Term Prosperity

This expanded mandate positions BCTS to lead in sustainable forest management, support economic diversification and foster inclusive partnerships with First Nations and communities. Through transparent and responsive land management, BCTS aims to strengthen public trust and ensure long-term prosperity for B.C.'s forest sector.

The BCTS Chinook business area newsletter highlights for industry, contractors, Indigenous communities and interest holders the work we are doing in the forest sector.

It's an opportunity to draw attention to important topics and keep you informed of any updates or changes over the last several months.

Should you have any questions, our team is always available. Please contact us at:

P: 604-702-5700

Field-Based Learning and Team Recognition

In June, BCTS Woodlands Supervisor Todd Singer organized a field learning day with the Chilliwack field team: Ralph, Colton, Jim, Baavana, Yoon, Ali, Kathy and Viviana, Certification Standards Officer for the Chinook Business Area. The group spent time reviewing road deactivation, water management and soil compaction practices, informed by findings from BCTS' internal Environmental Management System (EMS) audit.

The outing offered a practical opportunity to revisit field procedures, exchange insights, and reinforce shared understanding of environmental and safety considerations. The team engaged in productive discussions around operational practices, contributing to a clearer appreciation of each other's roles and perspectives.

The visit also served as a reminder of the importance of safety at active work sites and illustrated how collaborative learning in the field can support continuous improvement. As part of the annual team recognition tradition, Todd hosted a BBQ lunch in the field at the summit of Mount Woodside to show appreciation for his team. The day is a great example of how integrating learning with team interaction can support professional development and strengthen collaboration, key elements in advancing sustainable forest management.

2025 Species of Management Concern (SOMC) Program

The updated 2025 Species of Management Concern (SOMC) documents are accessible on the BCTS Environmental Management System (EMS) website. These resources are essential for ensuring responsible forestry practices and protecting species at risk across our operating areas.

All contractors should have received updated copies of the documents relevant to their specific contract. To ensure compliance and support of our shared stewardship goals, please also review:

1. **The 2025 Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and the appropriate Focus List**
   The SOP has been updated—please familiarize yourself with the changes.
   - 2025 Standard Operating Procedure
   - 2025 Haida Gwaii Focus List
   - 2025 Chilliwack, Squamish, Sunshine Coast Focus List
2. **The Operator Awareness Sheet**
   The Operator Awareness Sheet is for timber sale licence holders and road work contractors to ensure field-level awareness and compliance.
   - 2025 Operator Awareness Sheet

SOMC Reporting

Reporting is an important part of a successful SOMC program and is foundational to sustainable forest management and our shared stewardship goals. It is everyone's responsibility to be on the lookout for SOMC and report any observations. Unsure if you've seen an SOMC? Take the cautionary approach and report!

Thank you to all our contractors and staff for their reports so far in 2025. We've received 55 SOMC reports across the Chinook Business Area this year!

A special shout-out to Megan, currently leading the way and who may soon be crowned our own BCTS 2025 SOMC Reporting Champion!

DID YOU KNOW....

Scotch Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), native to the Mediterranean areas of Europe, was introduced to Vancouver Island in the mid-19th century as an ornamental plant. Its spread continued following widespread planting as a bank stabilizer during road development, and as discarded crate packing materials for gold camps along the west coast.

To learn more about identification and inventory of this invasive plant, assessment of the risks that it poses and control options, check out the Invasive Species Council of BC's factsheet.

Leadership Recognition: Coast Area Emergency Response Procedures

Congratulations to Todd Monge, BCTS' Chinook business area Forestry Operations Manager, and Susie Dain-Owens, Resource Manager for the Coast, for their exceptional leadership on establishing the TEAAM (Technical Evacuation Advanced Aero Medical) procedures and the development of the accompanying Emergency Response materials. Their work significantly enhanced safety and emergency preparedness across the Coast Area and was officially celebrated with certificates of recognition from our minister.

Pictured: Todd, Susie and presenter Dave Southam

Communications & Engagement: Building Trust, Driving Impact

Since joining our team last summer, our Senior Communications and Engagement Specialist, Christi Howes, has been advising and supporting increased outreach approaches to help ensure communities and interest holders understand our operations and to expand our community engagement activities, increasing opportunities for meaningful and productive dialogue.

With over five years leading external communications for BCTS' Provincial Operations and a year in Saint Lucia advising the Saint Lucian government on a Global Affairs Canada gender equality project, Christi brings to the Communications & Engagement Program a commitment to inclusive, respectful engagement that builds trust and delivers positive outcomes.

Delivering Results

A snapshot of engagement activities the Sunshine Coast field team, Christi and Forestry Operations Manager Todd Monge have led to strengthen community relationships and increase understanding of the business area's operational priorities and practices among forest sector interest groups:

- Field days and site visits with community members
- Village/municipal council presentations and meetings with landowners (in-person and virtual)
- Public meetings with NGOs, associations and interest groups
- Forest industry partner meetings and tours

In addition to advising and supporting BCTS planners and decision-makers with clear, consistent messaging, Christi has led the development of tools and communication materials to strengthen and maintain our public relations:

- Communications and engagement plans
- Presentation decks and brochures
- Web content and community engagement webpage redesign
- Infographics, field safety cards, information bulletins and newsletters
- Video on partial harvesting methods

Looking Ahead

Strong communications is a proven strategic function that drives better decisions and authentic relationships. The addition of a Communications & Engagement role to the business area has created more opportunities for meaningful engagement and provided staff with tools and structures to share accurate operational information with local communities and forest sector interest holders more efficiently. At its core, communications help people make sense of what an organization does, why it matters, and how it connects to their world.

As we look ahead, the Communications & Engagement program continues to grow and evolve to meet the needs of our teams and the communities in which we work. We aim to build lasting relationships and support sustainable forest stewardship across the province.

Introducing the Haida Gwaii Field Team

Kathryn Shaw, Practices Forester. After graduating from the Maritime College of Forest Technology in 2013, Kathryn moved to the west coast to work as a Forest Technician. She spent several years with forestry consultants across B.C.'s coast and interior, completing her Bachelor's in Forest Management at UNBC in 2018. Kathryn continued camp life as a timber cruiser and layout engineer for six years. In 2024, she joined BCTS Chinook business area as a Practices Forester on the Haida Gwaii field team. Unlike many east coast transplants, Kathryn came to B.C. intending to stay—but loves visiting Nova Scotia to ski and eat lobster with family.

Dan Marcotte, RFT, joined the Haida Gwaii field team in March 2025 as an Operations Technologist. Before BCTS, Dan worked with a consulting firm as a field supervisor and project manager on various silviculture programs, including post-wildfire reforestation, watershed restoration, seed collection, First Nation collaborations, multi-year planting and survey projects. Originally from Smithers, Dan worked across much of B.C. and relocated to Haida Gwaii from Rossland. He brings a field-first approach, a focus on practical outcomes and a collaborative style shaped by his work with diverse partners. Outside of work, Dan's making the most of island life—fishing, foraging and exploring as much of Haida Gwaii as possible.

Darrell Ball, Forest Technologist. In 1995, Darrell began working for the Ministry of Forests in Haida Gwaii as part of the Compliance & Enforcement team. In 2009, he joined the BCTS Haida Gwaii field team as an Environmental Management System Conformance Technician. Owing to the smallness of the Haida Gwaii field team, his duties as Conformance Technician included opportunities in other areas of business such as silviculture contracts, road inspections and road maintenance. Darrell is grateful for the many invaluable forestry experiences BCTS provides and for the opportunity to work with a solid group of motivated colleagues and dedicated professionals.

Milan Mi, RFT, joined BCTS in 2017 as a Forest Technologist and steadily grew through roles as an Operations Technologist and Forest Technologist Entry Level Program Team Lead. Along the way, she had the privilege of working with incredible teams across BCTS. In 2022, she took the role of Woodlands Supervisor for the Haida Gwaii field team. Haida Gwaii offers a truly unique landscape, its breathtaking beauty matched only by the distinct challenges and opportunities it presents. She feels fortunate to work alongside talented colleagues whose expertise help navigate whatever comes along. Outside of work, Milan is a passionate foodie who loves camping, time with friends and family, and capturing lots of selfies.