

Mt. Elphinstone (TA0519)

May 26, 2026



BCTS
BC Timber Sales

Overview

- Timber Sale Licence (TSL) TA0519 located in Mt. Elphinstone consists of one block: G043B4NV.
- TA0519 is designed as a partial harvest/intermediate cut development; harvesting will be distributed across species to maintain overall stand structure and ecological function.
- The total harvest area is 38.1 hectares, with approximately 33% of the stand removed and 66% retained.
- This approach:
 - Protects hydrological values by maintaining canopy closure.
 - Reduces wildfire risk by decreasing available forest fuels.
 - Maintains visual quality objectives.
- The licensee is conducting a phased harvesting approach, beginning with heli-logging followed by ground-based harvesting.
- Heli-logging began in November 2025. Ground-based harvesting is expected to begin this spring following the winter shutdown.
- There are no fish bearing streams within the block. A five-metre machine free zone has been prescribed on all drainages within the block.
- First Nations consultation and engagement has been completed.

Assessments

- A three-phase watershed assessment was completed by an independent hydrologist.
 - Harvest levels and layout were designed to ensure the effect on watershed conditions remain low.
 - Operational measures include management of drainage features, protection of stream channels and minimizing soil disturbance near sensitive areas.
- Terrain stability and soil erosion assessment were completed.
 - The assessment determined the block is located on stable terrain with low landslide risk.
 - The harvest design focuses on removing individual trees or small groups of trees to reduce disturbance to soil and slopes.
 - Harvest corridors and access routes are planned to avoid sensitive terrain.
- 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 areas.

Water Quality

- A three-phase watershed assessment was completed by an independent hydrologist; drainage patterns, soil conditions and water movement across the site were assessed.
- An intermediate cut system, no canopy openings created, was designed to retain canopy cover and maintain hydrologic stability.
- Additional measures to protect water quality and limit soil disturbance include:
 - Machine-Free Zones of a minimum of five metres established along all classified streams and wet areas
 - Avoid work during very wet conditions.
 - Install and maintain road drainage to direct water away from roads in a controlled manner.
 - Stabilize exposed soil on roads and disturbed areas to reduce erosion.
 - Maintain natural drainage patterns.

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

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.

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

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