BCTS
BC Timber Sales

Chinook Business Area News

SEPTEMBER 2024

The BC Timber Sales Chinook business area newsletter highlights for industry, contractors, Indigenous communities and stakeholders 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.

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The BC Public Service acknowledges the territories of First Nations around BC 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.

2021 Atmospheric River Event
Forest Service Road Damages

The Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA) is a federal program that assists provinces and territories with costs for damages caused by a natural disaster.

The November 2021 atmospheric river event's record rainfall caused high stream flows, landslides and flooding that resulted in catastrophic damage to highways, forest service roads (FSRs) and other major infrastructure in the Province.

Approximately 100 FSRs, a total of 450 kms in the Chilliwack Natural Resource District sustained some sort of damage; 300 km to district FSRs and 150 km to BCTS FSRs. Several FSR bridges were also damaged; 33 on district FSRs and 12 on BCTS FSRs. The total damage is estimated at over $50 million to repair.

The Ministry of Forests' Coast Engineering Group leads the DFAA projects, with support from our own BCTS Chinook engineering team, who coordinate and monitor the BCTS FSR recovery works together with Chinook's Indigenous relations team lead.

The bulk of the damage in BCTS' Chinook business area occurred in the Chilliwack Forest District with areas in the Fraser Canyon (Kookipi watersheds), the Coquihalla (Peers and Dewdney watersheds) and the Chilliwack Valley (Nesakwatch Creek and Nesakwatch Lake) being hit the worst.

The Coast Engineering Group, the Chilliwack Natural Resource District engineering staff, BCTS Chinook engineering staff, four engineering staff from other districts and BCTS business areas, and engineering consultants assessed the FSR network for damage immediately following the November 2021 storm events. The teams then began evaluating the damage, prioritizing works, preparing contracts and started overseeing response work in early December 2021.

The Coastal Engineering Group, the Chilliwack Natural Resource District and BCTS First Nation relations advisors engaged with First Nations early to identify unique or common values, and then used this information to drive the development of required work plans.

Two large road repair contracts (one for the district and one for BCTS) were developed and tendered on BC Bid. Additionally, several professional services contracts for biologists, geotechnical specialists, engineers and archeologists have also been issued to assist with completing the repair work. Direct award contracts with First Nations, primarily for archeological assessments and project overview services, have also been an integral part of the DFAA projects from the outset.

The BCTS FSR recovery work, led by Trevor Shannon, RFT, BCTS Engineering Officer, is focused on repairing the damage to pre-storm conditions, with current legislative requirements also top of mind. The BCTS FSR work was prioritized in the following order*:

1. An active timber sale license (TSL) with damages above typical routine maintenance.
2. A TSL with road damages above typical routine maintenance, where volume had been sold, harvesting had started or would be active in 2022, and there was sufficient time on the license to finish the sale.
3. A TSL where volume had been sold, or was to be sold in 2022, and harvesting would go beyond 2022.
4. Timber Sales Manager (TSM) responsibility FSRs not repaired by licensees and that required attention to prevent additional environmental damages, or where field work was planned for layout.

* In the prioritization process, the TSM had no roads damaged that accessed a community or rural residents.

All DFAA funded work must be completed within five years (March 2025) of the qualifying natural disaster. To date, approximately 250 kms of road has been fully reinstated and about 150 kms of FSRs partially reinstated or bridges have been removed for future work. In addition, fifteen bridges have already been replaced, two modified fords and one large diameter culvert have been installed, as well as two retaining walls and numerous smaller culverts.

DFAA Funded Flood Sites - Before & after repairs were completed:

Before – Peers FSR, south of the Coquihalla

After – Peers FSR

Before – Nesakwatch FSR, in the Chilliwack Valley

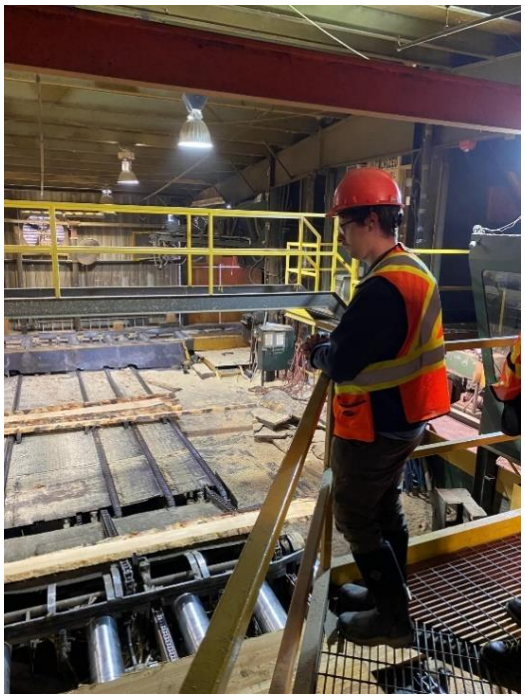
After – Nesakwatch FSR

Photos credits: Tyson Miller, P. Eng, RPF, Coast Engineering Group.

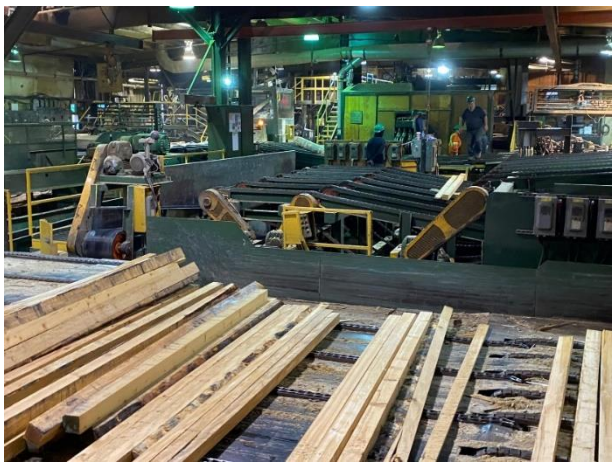
BCTS Value-added Manufacturing Program Transition from Cat 2 to Cat 4

BC Timber Sales (BCTS) is supporting the forest sector with a program dedicated to value-added manufacturers that produce high-value products, made-in-B.C. and created from less.

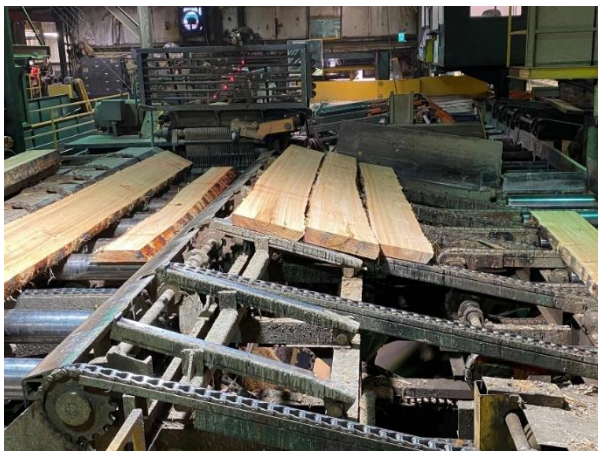
The end of the beetle-kill harvest, unprecedented wildfires and changing forest management practices and values have impacted the provincial timber supply. To address these challenges, the Province committed to increase and diversify forest sector participation through strengthening the value-added forest manufacturing sector. To meet this commitment, BCTS developed Category 4 - Value-added (also known as the Value-added Manufacturing) Program that replaces Category 2 .



Category 2, a previous program within BCTS, provided opportunities for independent manufacturers, lumber producers and residual fibre users to obtain a supply of timber through competitive auction. Category 4 is more inclusive to local small and medium sized forestry manufacturers who focus on high-value wood products. Its objective is to offer timber harvest opportunities through competitive auction to minimally tenured or untenured processing facilities in British Columbia, promoting the manufacturing of value-added products. BCTS is dedicating 10 percent of its available apportionment to the program for value-added registrants to bid on.



An eligible value-added product is defined in the BCTS Regulation. Examples include mass timber, engineered wood products, plywood, veneer, posts, poles, mouldings, pallets, lumber and flooring etc. The focus will be on primary and secondary manufacturers that produce value-added products.



Eligible value-added products do not include pulp, paper, newsprint, wood chips, wood pellets, ground wood, bioenergy, biochemicals, hog fuel, wood shavings, sawdust, bedding, firewood, mulch and products made from component substances of wood (e.g., bio foam).

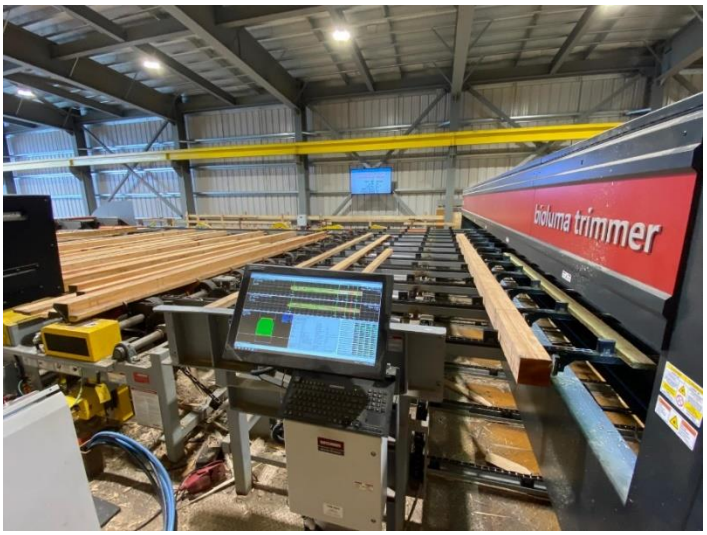
Engaging with Cat 2/Cat 4 Registrants

Chinook business area staff continue to engage with local Category 2/Category 4 registrants to help improve and support the growth of the program. S&R Sawmills is a value-added facility, located on the banks of the Fraser River in Surrey, B.C., and a new registrant of the Cat 4 program.

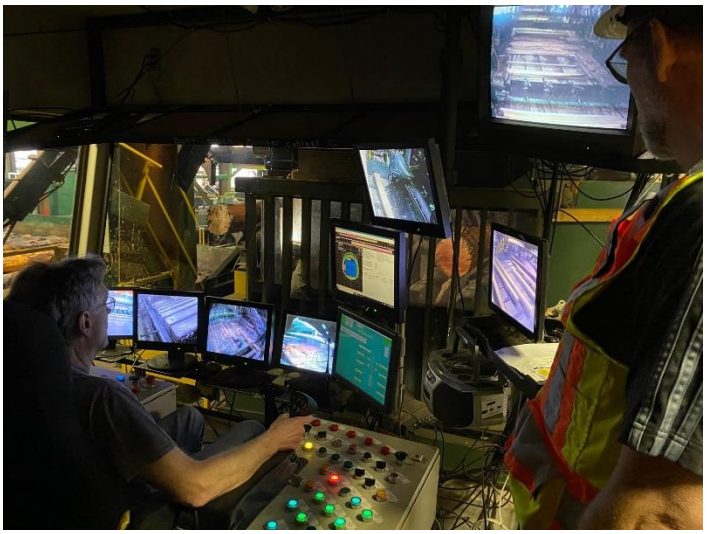
S&R Sawmills, a family owned and operated facility, has been in business for over 60 years and employs approximately 400 dedicated staff. They source their timber supply from the open market with a mix of Coastal and Interior wood, and their custom manufactured products are shipped around the world. S&R does not hold forest tenure and has not held any Timber Sale Licenses.

In July, BCTS Chinook business area staff were given a tour of S&R Sawmill Ltd.'s three custom cutting sawmills, three truck tippers, the scow loading facility's container yard and the log chipping mill by S&R Sawmill's by Vice Presidents Chad Day and Tom Sellin. Approximately 500,000 board feet of manufactured products are produced by the mill daily, and maintenance for the facility is completed by staff employed on site.

S&R recently completed an upgrade to their facility, adding a new trimmer sorter and stacker with contributions from the BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund, which assists wood-product manufacturers in B.C.'s value-added wood sector. The newly installed trimmer/sorter/stacker line helps S&R remain competitive by producing higher-quality wood products, including production of custom-cut lumber using second growth timber.



On our tour of S&R Sawmills LTD., Vice Presidents Day and Sellin shared that the recent upgrades have already improved efficiency, reduced waste and created 25 jobs at the mill.



New BCTS Fire Hazard Assessment Guide & Form

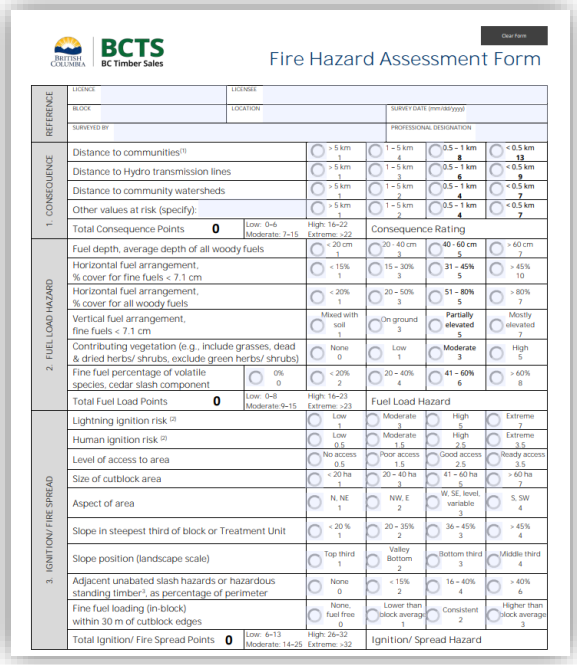
Fire hazard assessments and hazard abatement are key activities in reducing the potential threat of wildfires arising from fuels left on the land base following industrial activities. Under the *Wildfire Act*, a person carrying out an industrial activity or prescribed activity is required to assess and abate fire hazards as necessary.
The *new* **BCTS Fuel Hazard Assessment and Abatement Guide** includes step-by-step instructions to support Timber Sale Licence (TSL) holders in determining if fuel hazard abatement is necessary, and if so, the threshold necessary to comply with the legislated obligations.
Additionally, the *new* **BCTS Fire Hazard Assessment Field Form** reflects the factors that should be considered when assessing fire hazards.

All BCTS TSL holders are responsible for knowing the requirements and completing fire hazard assessments at prescribed intervals and, if necessary, conducting abatement activities. Both the guide and the form are tools that guide TSL holders through the process of conducting fire assessment and abatement procedures for high-risk activities on the land base.

The BC Timber Sales (BCTS) May 24, 2024, advisory bulletin on fire hazard assessment and abatement contains updated links to a new Fuel Hazard Assessment and Abatement Guide and form to assist TSL holders. This advisory bulletin is now included in all new TSL packages advertised on BC Bid.

The new guide and form can also be found on Chinook's Environmental Management System certification webpage BC Timber Sales - Business Area Environmental Management System (EMS) and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) - Province of British Columbia (gov.bc.ca) under the Wildfire Management section.

Please contact your Chinook BCTS conformance representative if you have questions about determining the fire hazard created by an industrial or prescribed activity on forest land and whether abatement is required.



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Fire Hazard Assessment Form

REFERENCE	LICENCE		LICENSEE		
	BLOCK		LOCATION		SURVEY DATE (mm/dd/yyyy)
	SURVEYED BY				PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATION
1. CONSEQUENCE	Distance to communities[1]	> 5 km 1	1 – 5 km 3	0.5 – 1 km 8	< 0.5 km 13
	Distance to Hydro transmission lines	> 5 km 1	1 – 5 km 3	0.5 – 1 km 6	< 0.5 km 9
	Distance to community watersheds	> 5 km 1	1 – 5 km 2	0.5 – 1 km 4	< 0.5 km 7
	Other values at risk (specify):	> 5 km 1	1 – 5 km 2	0.5 – 1 km 4	< 0.5 km 7
	Total Consequence Points 0	Low: 0–6 Moderate: 7–15	High: 16–22 Extreme: >22	Consequence Rating	
2. FUEL LOAD HAZARD	Fuel depth, average depth of all woody fuels	< 20 cm 1	20 - 40 cm 3	40 - 60 cm 5	> 60 cm 7
	Horizontal fuel arrangement, % cover for fine fuels < 7.1 cm	< 15% 1	15 – 30% 3	31 – 45% 5	> 45% 10
	Horizontal fuel arrangement, % cover for all woody fuels	< 20% 1	20 – 50% 3	51 – 80% 5	> 80% 7
	Vertical fuel arrangement, fine fuels < 7.1 cm	Mixed with soil 1	On ground 3	Partially elevated 5	Mostly elevated 7
	Contributing vegetation (e.g., include grasses, dead & dried herbs/ shrubs, exclude green herbs/ shrubs)	None 0	Low 1	Moderate 3	High 5
	Fine fuel percentage of volatile species, cedar slash component	0% 0	< 20% 2	20 – 40% 4	41 – 60% 6	> 60% 8
	Total Fuel Load Points 0	Low: 0–8 Moderate: 9–15	High: 16–23 Extreme: >23	Fuel Load Hazard	
3. IGNITION/ FIRE SPREAD	Lightning ignition risk [2]	Low 1	Moderate 3	High 5	Extreme 7
	Human ignition risk [2]	Low 0.5	Moderate 1.5	High 2.5	Extreme 3.5
	Level of access to area	No access 0.5	Poor access 1.5	Good access 2.5	Ready access 3.5
	Size of cutblock area	< 20 ha 1	20 – 40 ha 3	41 – 60 ha 5	> 60 ha 7
	Aspect of area	N, NE 1	NW, E 2	W, SE, level, variable 3	S, SW 4
	Slope in steepest third of block or Treatment Unit	< 20 % 1	20 – 35% 2	36 – 45% 3	> 45% 4
	Slope position (landscape scale)	Top third 1	Valley Bottom 2	Bottom third 3	Middle third 4
	Adjacent unabated slash hazards or hazardous standing timber[3], as percentage of perimeter	None 0	< 15% 2	16 – 40% 4	> 40% 6
	Fine fuel loading (in-block) within 30 m of cutblock edges	None, fuel free 0	Lower than block average 1	Consistent 2	Higher than block average 3
	Total Ignition/ Fire Spread Points 0	Low: 6–13 Moderate: 14–25	High: 26–32 Extreme: >32	Ignition/ Spread Hazard	

New Workplace First Aid Regulations

Amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation (OHSR) relating to occupational first aid will take effect November 1, 2024. The updates will result in the first aid requirements for many workplaces changing, with the greatest impact on higher-risk and remote industries.

Key changes:

- Updated first aid assessment and procedures required for all workplaces; this includes field work and appropriate emergency transport for injured workers in remote areas.
- Changes to the levels of First Aid training and re-naming.
- Enhanced first aid kit/supply requirements.

The requirement to provide first aid services appropriate to the workplace is a basic responsibility of all employers under the OHSR WorkSafeBC is asking all B.C. employers to take the necessary steps to meet the new requirements by November 1, 2024. More information about occupational first aid requirements and the changes is available to employers on the WorkSafeBC First aid requirements and the Changes to occupational first aid requirements: Frequently asked questions webpages.

Climate Change Action Update

Sound forest stewardship includes considering the potential risks and opportunities resulting from climate change in our planning, development, and reforestation activities. BCTS continues to take action to manage risk and seek opportunities in a changing climate to support the sustainability of our operations and the ecosystems in which we operate.

Three areas of focus and recent action include:

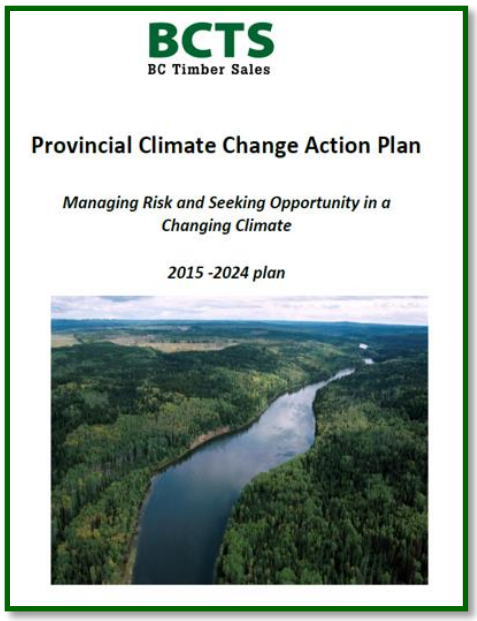
1. A **Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP)** that details our commitment and approach to acting on Climate Change and plans for monitoring & reporting. A key priority of the CCAP is identifying potential risks to BCTS achieving its legal obligations. The CCAP is a five-year plan, with annual reviews conducted to assess its implementation, and incorporate new climate change information as needed. Note: The CCAP is not yet posted on our website, but you can request a copy from Kerri Brownie, Stewardship Officer at. Kerri.Brownie@gov.bc.ca.

2. **Climate Change Vulnerability Assessments (CCVA)** reports for each of the 12 BCTS business areas. The CCVA reports capture the local level climate change risks and vulnerabilities in each business area and set out the priorities for action. The results of the assessments will be incorporated into the CCAP this fall.

3. A **Carbon Program** that identifies greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and impacts to the carbon balance associated with BCTS' business activities; identifies priority actions to address GHG emissions within BCTS' control; and describes the process to monitor/evaluate and report on the implementation of our actions.

BCTS manages its program across a very diverse and dynamic landscape. Changes in climate have a high potential of impacting our operations and the achievement of our obligations. As a forest manager in B.C., we are committed to continuing to take proactive action on climate change and carbon management across all our operating areas, from our forest management planning, harvesting practices, forest service road work, reforestation activities and seedling services program, to our agreements with BCTS timber sale licensees, permit holders and contractors.

Chinook business area and our seedling services staff play a key role in providing input into both the CCAP and Carbon Program as well as implementing the actions and providing local level reporting.



To learn more about BCTS' Climate Change actions and initiatives, visit BC Timber Sales - Climate Change Action - Province of British Columbia (gov.bc.ca).