



BCTS
BC Timber Sales



BC Timber Sales Harvesting and Road Construction in the Hornet Creek Area

BC Timber Sales (BCTS) was established in 2003 to provide benchmark costs and prices from the harvest of public 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 2017-18, BCTS generated \$355 million in gross revenue for the Province, including \$35 million from the Kootenay Business Area alone.

BC Timber Sales manages an apportionment in the Boundary TSA of 287,764 m³, in order to fulfill its mandate. BCTS' operations are guided by its Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP), and its Sustainable Forest Management Plan. The BCTS FSP and Operating Plan identifies where forest development such as harvesting and road work may occur, and provides First Nations, stakeholders, the public and resource agencies an opportunity to provide input into these operations.

BC Timber Sales initially proposed harvesting in the Hornet Creek area under Operating Plan 13 in November 2017. This plan was sent to First Nations, stakeholders and adjacent land owners for referral and consultation, and was also made available to the public at that time for review and comments. Input was received related to harvesting on unstable terrain, stream side management, presence of bats, and water quality and quantity. Further to this input, BCTS undertook a field visit to the site with interested stakeholders. Based on input reviewed and the field trip, BCTS committed to undertaking an assessment of Townsend's big-eared bat habitat by a qualified professional and committed to prescribed measures. BCTS also committed to walking the site with the adjacent private land owner and interested stakeholders to discuss stream and other retention area. BCTS employed several professionals to manage the resources in the proposed harvest area. Professional services contracted included hydrologists for hydrological assessment, geotechnical engineers for assessing terrain stability and a professional biologist for prescribing measures for management of bats. Based on that expert advice, and stakeholder input received, professional foresters then prepared the Site Plan for the Hornet blocks. The Site Plan included such site specific measures as timing restrictions and buffer for an onsite bat colony, machine free and buffer zones along Hornet Creek, protection of water intakes, and timing of operations to respect private land holders.

BC Timber Sales has continued to address any concerns raised by the adjacent landowner and the public, in the further development of the Hornet Creek blocks. Further to resolution of issues, BCTS proceeded with advertising the development under Timber Sale Licence in May 2019. TSL A89245 was opened on June 5, 2019, and subsequently awarded to Vaagen Fibre Canada. Further to the award of this TSL, BCTS has received more public input, and has committed to meeting with stakeholders to address any additional concerns. Further information on BC Timber Sales operations in the Boundary TSA can be directed to:

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