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Feb 09/2007

SITE PLAN BACKGROUNDER & SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Block WS043

SITE PLAN PURPOSE
<p>The Site Plan identifies the approximate location of roads and/or block boundaries for cutblocks. It is consistent with the Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) for Sechelt Community Projects Inc. (approved December 28, 2006) and identifies how the intended <i>Results and/or Strategies</i> outlined in the FSP apply to the site. As well, this document serves to provide rationales for identified values and serves to support the Site Plan for the noted block.</p>
SUPPORTING INFORMATION
<p>1. TERRAIN/SOILS (FPPR Sections 34(1), 35 & 36)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terrain Field Assessment is required if in-block slopes are greater than 60% or if unstable terrain is observed in the block. <p>No Terrain Stability Field Assessment is required as in-block slopes are less than 60% or no area of unstable ground were observed.</p>
<p>2. WILDLIFE (FPPR Section 7(2))</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildlife Assessments are required when impact from proposed operations is anticipated with identified FSP wildlife value. A search of the Conservation Database Centre is required. As well, note any other wildlife concerns and prescribe management actions.
<p>TAILED FROG (<i>Ascaphus truei</i>)</p> <p>Not applicable. An area of Tailed Frog habitat has been identified within the Chapman Landscape Unit which fulfills the requirements of the notice for Tailed Frog. This area is outside of the CFA FDU. This block is not in vicinity to any of these areas or has creeks that exhibit favourable stream conditions for habitation (S5 stream class and permanent flow characteristics). A survey on all streams was conducted by FSCI Biological Consultants to confirm non presence.</p>
<p>QUEEN CHARLOTTE (NORTHERN) GOSHAWK (<i>Accipiter gentilis laingi</i>)</p> <p>Not applicable. Sufficient suitable Queen Charlotte (Northern) Goshawk habitat has been identified within the SCFD to fulfill the requirements of the notice for Queen Charlotte (Northern) Goshawk. This area is outside of the CFA FDU. This block is not in vicinity to any known Goshawk habitat or nest sites.</p>
<p>MARbled MURRELET (<i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>)</p> <p>Not applicable. (1) To meet the requirements of Section 1 of the notice, SCPI will identify and conserve an amount of MAMU habitat of class 1, 2 or 3 equal to the amount of class 1,2, or 3 habitat in the NC landbase. (2) SCPI will not carry out or authorize timber harvesting or road construction in a manner that is inconsistent with retaining the amount of habitat specified in the MAMU notice. (3) Sufficient suitable Marbled Murrelet (MAMU) nesting habitat has been identified within the SCFD to fulfill the requirements of section 1 of the notice for MAMU. This area is outside of the CFA FDU. This block is not in vicinity to any of these Marbled Murrelet Habitat Areas.</p>
COMMENTS
<p>A search through the Conservation Data Center was identified near WS043/WS062 which protects a known feature and it's specific location is remains confidential. A representative of MOE was contacted to assess any impacts of SCPI operations and confirmation from MOE was received that harvesting will not conflict with this protected feature. No other sensitive areas were identified in CDC or within the block. Element Occurrence ID#8024 also occurred near the block which plant species <i>Cuscuta pentagona</i> (Field Dodder) is known to occur. This plant is on the BC Provincial Invasive Plant List and invasive plant infestations caused by Licencee forest practices will be destroyed and measures to minimize invasive plant spread will be implemented. These measures are outlined in Section 1.6 of the Forest Stewardship Plan.</p>

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3. WATER AND FISH (FPPR Sections 12(3), 12.1(2), 47-51, 52(2) & 53)

- **Fish Presence/Absence surveys are to be conducted by a Qualified Professional as part of the Riparian Assessment. Procedures will follow the Fish Stream Identification Guidebook as required for identifying fish stream reaches. At minimum, if the stream gradient is less than 20%, then the stream is assumed to be fish unless a) the stream is simultaneously dry (i.e. ephemeral) , b) is not connected by known fish lakes or fish streams upstream AND c) cannot have recruitment from downstream resources.**

See the "Water and Fish" section in the Site Plan for the intended results for streams within the block. The Logging Plan map further outlines operational procedures for each waterbody.

No other actions are prescribed within the block.

4. WATERSHEDS

- **Applicable only within Community Watersheds or within 100m of a known licensed waterworks intake.**

This block is not within a community watershed.

5. RECREATION

- **Note recreation inventory management for designated polygon**

Primary recreational uses are biking, hiking and nature viewing. No trails or recreational use were observed within the block. Maintain access to the Big Tree Reserve at all times. If safety warrants that the road is to be closed, then a sign must be posted at the Hwy and Crowston Lake FSR informing motorists of the closure.

6. VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

- **Visual Impact Assessments are required if block is within a Known Scenic Area.**

A Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) has been completed by Chartwell Consultants Ltd. (Warren Hansen, RPF, dated August 17, 2006). The block meets the Visual Quality Objective (VQO) for Partial Retention (PR) for VLU #13015. The VIA is included in the Site Plan file.

7. CULTURAL HERITAGE

- Site Plan addresses possible impacts to Aboriginal Resources that is identified during the Forest Stewardship Plan review, or as directed by the District Manager or through other information sharing sessions provided by the affected First Nation. Pre-1846 resources are protected by the BC Heritage Act and Post 1846 resources are protected in agreement with the Licence, affected First Nations group and the Ministry of Forests.

The Forest Practices and Planning Regulation defines cultural heritage resources as those resources that are the focus of a traditional use, by an aboriginal people, and that are of continuing importance to that people. Cultural heritage resources do not include archaeological sites, which are managed under the *Heritage Conservation Act*. This Act provides for the protection and conservation of British Columbia's archaeological resources.

Examples of cultural heritage resource may include such things as non-timber forest products, such as medicinal plants, and post-1846 culturally modified trees (culturally modified trees older than 1846 will be considered under the *Heritage Conservation Act*).

Cultural heritage resources may also include "traditional use sites". These are defined as any geographically defined site that has been traditionally used by one or more group of people for some type of activity. These sites will often lack the physical evidence of human-made artifacts or structures, but will retain cultural significance to a living group of people. Examples include such things as ritual bathing pools and resource gathering sites.

Cultural heritage resources will be specific to each First Nation and, therefore, may differ between First Nations.

Government's objective for cultural heritage resources is to conserve or, if necessary, protect cultural heritage resources that are:

- the focus of a traditional use by an aboriginal people,
- of continuing importance to that people, and
- not regulated under the *Heritage Conservation Act*.

The following factors should be taken into consideration when proposing results and strategies to conserve and/or protect cultural heritage resources:

- value or importance to traditional use to an aboriginal person,
- relative abundance or scarcity of the resource,
- historical extent of the resource,
- impact on timber harvesting rights, and
- options available for mitigating impact of forest practice on the resource

The FSP states: "The CFA FDU is entirely within the traditional territory of the Sechelt Indian Band, therefore, the strategy of SCPI to meet the objective set by government for cultural heritage resources will be to maintain an effective, ongoing working relationship with the Sechelt Indian Band by:

- Consulting with them regarding the strategic planning of forest resources within the CFA FDU whenever such plans are made or changed,
- Providing detailed site-specific operational information for review and comment including Site Plans of areas identified for potential timber harvesting and road construction, and
- Consulting with them regarding the identification and management of cultural heritage values within the operational areas of the CFA FDU
- Offering to meet with them to discuss any aspects of planned operations or to conduct walk through assessments of blocks.
- Encouraging the Sechelt Indian Band to provide information on cultural heritage resources to improve planning."

Draft Site Plans and operational maps were provided to the Sechelt Indian Band with no block specific comment received. An Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) has not been completed. First Nation present use is low. One recent bark-stripped Cw was observed outside the block and will not be impacted by harvesting operations. No archaeological sites or artifacts were identified during field work or during site data collection. Also, previous industrial forest practices have occurred prior to stand establishment that would make discovering cultural features low. Cw retention for cultural purposes is provided in the form of retaining Cw Vets and small merch trees within the WTP and retention patches. As well, Cw seedlings will be planted for reforestation purposes that can assist to provide for future cultural purposes. No further archaeological work is required.

Should unanticipated cultural materials or features (including archaeological materials, culturally modified trees, or human remains) be encountered during timber harvesting and related activities, all work in the immediate area will cease and the appropriate First Nations groups, the Archaeology Branch and a qualified archaeologist will be contacted.

8. RANGE

- Required where cattle grazing is being managed for.

There is no range use in the vicinity of this block.

9. RETENTION TARGETS

- Forest Influence Calculation (Silv System, patch arrangement, Targets), leave tree specifications

Four internal aggregate retention patches have been identified and 3 dispersed trees per hectare will be retained. The retention is intended to assist in meeting the definition of the Retention Silviculture System. Two WTP's have been established external, but immediately adjacent, to the opening boundary in order to contribute to stand and landscape level biological diversity. Both the aggregate retention patches and the WTP's are representative of the adjacent stand in terms of species composition and ecological classification. If the an "in-block" marked leave tree must be must felled for safety reasons, then a replacement tree of similar size, and species must be left in the same area. Unmarked dispersed trees will also include small merchantable western red cedar in the 10-30cm DBH range up to 25% of these trees to be acceptably retained; and based on biological considerations, a tree is not acceptable as a residual crop tree if it meets or exceeds the following levels of damage of Damage Type C of the Tree Wounding and Decay Guidebook for long-term retention:

- The tree has a wound that girdles more than a third of the stem circumference.
- The tree has one wound exceeding 400 cm² on the stem.
- The tree has a wound on a supporting root within 1 m of the stem.
- The tree has a gouge in the stem.

Forest Influence is estimated to be over 90% as trees will be uniformly dispersed throughout the block.

10. OTHER RESOURCES

- **Mineral Tenures**
- **Guider/Outfitter**
- **Minimum Harvest Ages**
- **Higher Level Plans**

Mineral Tenure – Block does not overlap any registered mineral tenure.

Guider/Outfitter – Trout Tales – Scott Elliott – Registered Guider for Wormy and Trout Lakes. Block has no impact to this resource.

Minimum Harvest Ages – Minimum Harvest Ages – Sampled block ages in WS043= 64.1 yrs (avg) – Min Harvestable age for F (good/medium) sites is 55-60 years. Blocks meets TSR policy target. Stand is economically harvestable. No rationale is required to harvest younger than minimum targets, however the following information is provided for further clarification:

- Block has significant areas (5-10%) of root rot (laminated root rot) that are scattered throughout the block. These root rot areas are now emerging as a concern due to the trees blowing down and creating voids within the forest. By harvesting these stands earlier, we can salvage losses, plant root rot resistant species to stop the spread and turn these areas back to productive site.

Higher Level Plans – As identified in the FSP. The block resides in the Sechelt Landscape Plan. Block is consistent with the objectives of the plan.

10. FOREST HEALTH MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

All engineering works within this block has taken windthrow into consideration. See "Windthrow Assessment" located in the Site Plan file. During the site plan assessment, the Site Plan Forester noted areas of laminated root rot. These areas were sketched on a map to be used to survey (post harvest) the extent of the root disease and to plant Cw or Pw in the identified areas. See Reforestation Prescription for detail.