



Proposed Logging Plan For ITA Lands near Gitause I.R. #1

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Prepared for: Kitselas Development Corporation



Background

Westland Resources Limited has prepared this proposed Logging Plan (LP) for Kitselas Development Corporation on land transferred from the Province of BC to the Kitselas First Nation as a part of the Interim Treaty Agreement.

The following logging Plan is a result of a timber reconnaissance and field assessments completed in the fall of 2014 to determine the timber values for the site. In addition, other resource values were identified and considered during the field engineering and where necessary, mitigating strategies incorporated into this plan.

Property Location

The properties identified as DL 833, DL 834, DL 984 and DL 5153 are located approximately 18 kilometers west of Terrace adjacent to the developments of Gitau, Kleanza creek and Usk. The properties with the exception of DL 5153 and a portion of DL 833 are on the west side of highway 16.

The land is generally flat with a minor terrace in DL 834 separating the upper bench of DL 984 from the low river bottom properties to the north. DL 5143 is comprised predominately of steep rock terrain with little operable timber opportunities. This lot is primarily on the east side of highway 16.

Numerous small and large wetlands exist from old river channels; the two largest are found on DL 8633 and run in a north south direction. (See attached Property Location Map)

Property Timber Values / Markets

The property is approximately 166.5 hectares in size, of which 52.6 hectares is considered unmerchantable coniferous forests, and 51.8 hectares is currently unmerchantable deciduous or wet land forests. The remainder area contains potentially economically viable timber. Other resource values constrains a portion of this area, currently limiting the harvestable area to 36.6 hectares

The net available timber is estimated at 36.6 hectares or approximately 12000 m³ (see attached Gitause Timber Reconnaissance Map and Logging Plan Maps).

Markets will include Japanese Hemlock peeler logs, China sawlogs, cedar logs for small local sawmills and domestic sawlogs that contain small amounts of rot. Logs will be processed to an 8 inch top, with the remainder of the log being processed to a 5 inch top to be loaded out at a future date for either firewood or pulp. This wood may be hauled to Kitwanga Sawmills, provided they install their planned small wood line.

See attached pro forma for harvesting cost estimates and values.

Property Access

Highway 16 provides good access to the properties. DL 984 has two established access points located on the upper bench. Properties to the North: DL 834 and 833 will require highway access permits to access the merchantable timber. The highway curves here are long and gradual and there was a previous permit granted by MOTH to harvest CP



7. Other options may be to access a portion of the area from private land to the north where a road enters DL 833 and heads toward the Skeena River. The PNG natural gas line parallels the west side of the highway and will need to be considered in access plans to cross this utility. (see Highways access map)

The portion of DL 5153 located on the east side of highway 16 has very limited timber values and operable ground. Access to the highway and proximity to the hydro lines will make any access plans a challenge; accessing from the NE corner of DL 833 could be an option. Accessing timber type 2 on the west side of the highway will require crossing wetlands or accessing from the private property to the north. The private landowner has recently agreed to allow access for timber harvesting

Harvesting

Harvesting of merchantable timber types will be 100% ground based systems. Primary harvesting equipment will be feller buncher, grapple skidder, hoe chucker and log processor. Some timber types on the lower bench will require winter harvesting or dry summer conditions to protect fine textured soils and riparian resources.

Reforestation

Reforestation is planned for all proposed harvesting areas. Reforestation standards will closely follow the Ministry of Forests district stocking standards that identifies the acceptable tree species, tree densities and time frames that reforestation is to occur. (see attached Silviculture Plan)

Other Values

Visuals

- The area is adjacent to the subdivisions of Gitaus, Kleanza creek and the community of Usk as well as highway 16. Consideration may be given to the visual impact of development.
- Units T1-1, T2- 3 and 4 are directly adjacent to the highway and Gitause access road. Retaining small trees along the edge will provide a partial screen. Retaining higher mature trees would in all likelihood results in the trees blowing down. A small area on unit T2-3 between the old and new highway will be retained to provide a visual buffer for part of the unit
- DL 984 borders Kleanza Creek Provincial Park to the south.
- Units T2-1 and T2-2 are not visible to the driving public.

Water Quality

- The village of Gitaus has recently undertaken water drilling activities on DL 984 and has established well heads within the area adjacent to Block T1. This block is also located within the Kleanza Community Watershed. Information on the



proposed impacts to water quality from harvesting this unit will be provided by KDC.

Archaeology

- A preliminary field review of the area was conducted by Kleanza Consulting Ltd of Terrace BC in November of 2014.
- One archeology site containing 2 cache pits (site GDTc 106) and two potential sub surface sites were identified in an Archeology Impact Assessment survey.- These sites were excluded from the harvesting boundaries of the area. Six post 1846 sites of culturally modified trees were identified within the harvesting boundaries, some as recent as the last few years. A member of the Kitselas Lands and Resource Department was in attendance during the assessment. (see attached Archaeology Report)
- All known or potential archaeology sites have been excluded from the proposed harvesting boundaries.

Blow Down

- Proposed harvest area T1-1 has been subjected to blowdown events over the last number of years- it is estimated that it currently contains approximately 20 % blowdown, with recent blowdown occurring since the original field assessment. Retention of trees within this area will be impractical at providing a blowdown resistant stand.
- Blowdown has been primarily orientated in a north direction.
- The remaining area along the northern boundary should incorporate 'feathered edge' strategies at the time of harvesting to reduce the potential for further significant blowdown. This would involve the retention of wind resistant trees along a 50 meter band adjacent to the harvesting boundary and removing the taller and larger trees. The objective will be to reduce the velocity and direction of the wind.
- This portion of the unit is excluded from harvesting due to the marginal merchantability of the timber as well as the identification and location of an archaeology site (GdTc-22).
- The potential for this area and Unit 1 to blow down remains high.
- Blowdown has the potential to reduce economic viability of harvesting as well as creating a significant wildfire threat to surrounding communities.

Riparian

- There are two significant wet lands adjacent to Units T2-1 and T2-2 located on the north end of DL 833. Buffers from harvesting have been located in the field protecting these wetlands from impacts.



- A Riparian Mangement Plan has been developed for this site and will become an integral part of harvesting operations. (See attached Riparian Management Plan)

Wildlife

- The proposed harvesting of Units T2-1 and T2-2 and T2-3 all contain or partially contains identified Moose Ungulate Winter Range (MUWR). If harvesting is to occur on the these three units between November 15 and May 1st, a Registered Professional Biologist will be required to assess the planned operations prior to commencement of harvesting for potential impacts. These units due to the access roads are best suited to be harvested during frozen winter conditions.

Activities Prior to harvesting

- Present harvesting proposal to community members
- RP Bio to assess MUWR for units T2,1,2 and 3 for winter harvesting
- Determine potential Harvesting impacts of Unit T1 on water quality
- Re-apply for highway access permit
- Apply for crossings of Pacific Northern Gas Pipeline

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Appendix:

1. Property Location Maps
2. Gitaus Timber Reconnaissance Map
- 3 Logging Plan Maps
3. Pro Forma-Logging Costs / Timber Values
4. Highways Access Map
4. Silviculture Plan
5. Archaeology Report
6. Riparian Management Plan