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## QUESTION AND ANSWERS

January 21, 2021

Ministry of Forests, Lands,  
Natural Resource Operations, and Rural  
Development

### Rose Swanson Mountain - Proposed BC Timber Sales Development

#### Q1. Who is British Columbia Timber Sales (BCTS)?

- BC Timber Sales (BCTS) is a self-financing program within the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD). BCTS sustainably manages the harvesting and reforestation of approximately 20 per cent of the timber available for harvest from British Columbia's timber harvesting land base. "Timber harvesting land base" is public land where environmentally sound timber harvesting is allowed and economically feasible.
- By providing a reliable supply of sustainably harvested timber through open and competitive auctions to loggers, wood processors and other forestry businesses, BCTS supports workers and rural communities throughout British Columbia.
- BCTS, on behalf of the Province, is managing the Rose Swanson harvest plan development.
- For more information on BCTS' program, visit [www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/bc-timber-sales](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/bc-timber-sales) or watch a video about BC Timber Sales' business and operations: [youtu.be/sJDLHYyGVg8](https://youtu.be/sJDLHYyGVg8)

#### Q2. Where is the Rose Swanson Mountain proposed development located?

- The development is broken into 10 small cutblocks ranging in size from 0.5 ha to 7.5 ha. The total harvest area is 28.3 ha. This development accounts for approximately 4% of the identified sensitive area. See the [TA0495 Location map](#) and the [Rose Swanson Harvest Plan map](#).

#### Q3. Why is harvesting being proposed for the Rose Swanson Mountain area?

- The Rose Swanson operating area is part of the Okanagan timber supply area. A timber supply area (TSA) is public land designated by the Ministry, in accordance with the *Forest Act*, to be managed for a range of objectives including timber production.
- The Chief Forester, an independent statutory decision maker, determines the Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) for public land in British Columbia. Under the *Forest Act*, AAC is the rate of timber harvest determined for an area and is specified as a volume of wood (cubic meters) per year.
- Rose Swanson has not contributed to the AAC in many years.
- Timber harvesting must be spread out between all operating areas in the Okanagan TSA to ensure that all areas of designated public land contribute to the AAC.
- There has been Douglas-fir bark beetle identified in the proposed development, the harvesting of these trees will slow the spread of bark beetle in the future in this area.

#### Q4. When will the license be auctioned and harvesting occur?

- This area is planned to be auctioned the summer/fall of 2021.
- Harvesting will likely begin early winter 2021 and may be completed by the end of that season.
- To minimize interactions with recreational users of the area, no harvesting is planned outside of the winter months.

#### Q5. How does the "Use Recreation and Engagement Public Reserve" (UREP), "Notation of Interest" (NOI), and Rose Swanson Sensitive Area designation affect harvest planning for this area?

- The NOI is managed by FLNRORD and includes the UREP/recreation reserve. The Rose Swanson area NOI ensures activities planned in the area consider the recreation interests.

- The Rose Swanson Sensitive area was established by the Ministry in 1997. The objectives of the sensitive area designation are as follows:
  - Maintain and enhance trail network for use by recreationalists
  - Protect the visual quality of the area
  - Maintain recreation values by limiting timber harvesting to low-impact silvicultural systems.
  - Protect area against vandalism and timber theft
- BCTS worked with the Ministry's Okanagan Shuswap district recreation staff to ensure the development plans meet the intent of the UREP and the Sensitive Area designation.
- BCTS' development plans include the protection of trails and visual quality. The development is small in scale, utilizing a retention silviculture system that consists of small cutblocks.
- Post-harvest, BCTS timber harvesting roads and trails will be deactivated or rehabilitated to discourage vehicle access.

**Q6. What is the silviculture system that is planned for this area?**

- The silviculture system being used is classified as a "retention system". The basis for a Retention Silviculture system focusses on at least 50% of the harvest area in each block being less than one tree length to another standing tree. Within these small blocks, there will be retention of both old growth and second growth trees through wildlife tree patches and or individual trees and stubs.
- Larger cedar, Douglas-fir and all live deciduous species will be used for retention.

**Q7. What has BCTS done with regard to public consultation?**

- BCTS initiated public consultation with its Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP 2014).
- Referral letters were sent to First Nations and stakeholders, including citizens with adjacent private land parcels (2019).
- A 2019 FSP advertisement in the *Vernon Morning Star* included a link to proposed roads and blocks.
- Preliminary meetings were held with the township of Spallumcheen, private citizens who requested field trips, and the Armstrong Trail Society.
- A follow up meeting with BCTS, the township and the trail society occurred November 23, 2020.
- A representative cross-section of stakeholders has been contacted to gather feedback on the proposed plan. The issues raised by the groups BCTS engaged with are identical to the issues raised by other concerned citizens.
- BCTS considers all the feedback it receives as it works to create harvest plans that balance the diverse values of users and uses that this forest provides.
- Throughout the planning stages, BCTS professionals consider the identified values, incorporated measures to reduce any impact to these values and look to achieve a balance between all values being managed on the landscape.
- Advertisements planned for publication in the local area newspapers will direct people to this Q&A document. Links to this Q&A will also be posted on the township of Spallumcheen and the Armstrong Trail Society's web pages to ensure broad distribution.

**Q8. Will new roads be built to access the planned development?**

- No new roads are to be built. Upgrades to a portion of existing roads labeled as K825.01, K825.02 and K825.03 (see the [Rose Swanson Harvest Plan map](#)) are required to ensure safe log hauling activities. Other access to harvesting will be via skid trails.
- All roads will be deactivated following hauling activities; this includes a barrier/large ditch at the start of each road, cross ditches and erosion bars where required to ensure natural drainage patterns are maintained. The barrier/large ditch at the start of K825.01, 02 and 03 will deter vehicle traffic. Newly constructed skid trails will be rehabilitated and replanted post-harvest

**Q9. Has a terrain assessment been completed and what were the results?**

- BCTS professionals have reviewed the terrain mapping, and there are no unstable or potentially unstable areas in or adjacent to the planned development. Additionally, no terrain features that exhibit any concerns related to unstable terrain were identified during field assessments.

**Q10. How will the planned development affect the existing skid trail network off the end of Chamberlain road that is currently used by many recreationalists?**

- The existing skid trail network accessed off the end of Chamberlain road is a remnant of past logging in the area. These skid trails were built by early loggers and provided a suite of recreational opportunities for users. These trails will still be useable by all recreationalists after harvesting and hauling activities have ceased.
- Following the proposed development, the upgraded K825.01, 02 and 03 roads (see the [Rose Swanson Harvest Plan map](#)) will be deactivated. Deactivation will ensure natural drainage patterns are maintained and water run-off is controlled through ditch-line maintenance, cross ditches and erosion bars. A barrier/large ditch will be built at the start of K825.01, 02 and 03 to deter vehicle traffic.

**Q11. Will the harvested areas be re-planted?**

- Yes, all harvested areas will be replanted with a mixture of ecologically suitable species and to a prescribed density within two years of harvest completion.

**Q12. Will water values be protected?**

- Yes, water values will be protected. Field level riparian assessments have been conducted within the proposed harvest areas. No streams or wetlands were identified in the area of harvest.

**Q13. What thought was given to the impact of logging on the aquifers and the hydrology of the area?**

- The very small size of this timber sale license, and the road rehabilitation and deactivation post-harvest, pose negligible impact to the hydrology in the area.

**Q14. What about wildlife values?**

- During the planning and development phase, professional foresters and species and ecosystem at risk information specialists reviewed data from available sources such as the conservation data centre (CDC) to ensure any at risk species are managed. Migratory bird habitat is assessed, and best management practices are incorporated into the plan (e.g. timing windows for harvesting or specific leave tree requirements). An ungulate winter range assessment was completed to ensure adequate winter habitat is available in the area post-harvest.
- Specific wildlife attributes identified during fieldwork will be protected. For example, animal dens and repeat use nests (stick nests) will be protected.

**Q15. Will the Armstrong Trail Society trails be impacted by the harvesting?**

- No, the harvesting will not impact the trails.

**Q16. How is old growth being managed in BCTS' development plans?**

- Old growth is managed at the landscape level not at the individual tree level, so not every old growth tree will be identified for retention. It is the responsibility of the forest planners to ensure that appropriate amounts of representative old growth is available in each Landscape Unit.

**Q17. Is there any overlap of Old Growth Management Areas (OGMAs) and the planned development?**

- No there is no overlap with any OGMAs.
- There is one OGMA located 1.5 km south east of the planned development, and it has been set aside to provide old growth forest attributes to this area.

**Q18. What trees are protected under the Special Tree Protection Regulation, and are there any identified within this area of development?**

- The Special Tree Protection Regulation protects specified trees from being cut, damaged or destroyed and protects supporting trees within 56 m of a specified tree.
- In the interior of British Columbia, a Douglas-fir must be at least 160 cm diameter at breast height (DBH) to be a specified tree.
- In the interior of British Columbia, a western redcedar must be at least 290 cm diameter at breast height (DBH) to be a specified tree.
- The area planned for development has been reviewed extensively by professionals and no trees that fit the size requirements of the special tree protection regulation have been identified.
- If during the completion of planning and harvesting a tree fitting the size requirements is identified, it will be protected.

**Q19. How does BCTS ensure that the licensee follows the prescription?**

- BCTS ensures compliance on timber sale licenses (TSLs) by completing an initial pre-work meeting with the licensees. During pre-work meetings, the conditions of the license are outlined to the timber sale licensee. Following startup of harvesting activities, a BCTS representative performs regular inspections to ensure legal and environmental obligations are being followed appropriately. Following the completion of harvesting, a final inspection is completed by BCTS representatives to ensure all obligations have been fulfilled.
- BCTS subscribes to Sustainable Forest Management principles and holds a third-party certification standard. All activities are extensively monitored and audited to ensure compliance with legislation.

**Q20. Has Consultation with local First Nations been completed?**

- BCTS has and continues to consult with First Nations on all harvest proposals.

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