

## **Forest Development Planning – Proposed Cutting Permits**

NACFOR's activities are guided by practices and provisions required to meet legally established objectives for forest resource values. Some of these resources include biodiversity, hydrology, soils, timber, wildlife, water quality, riparian areas, fish habitat, community watersheds, visual quality, cultural heritage resources and recreation. In order to manage for these values, a broad range of assessments are carried out during the planning phase and results of this work are incorporated into final plans.

### **Development Status:**

The following assessments are ongoing in 2016:

#### **Terrain Stability**

The scope of this assessment is to identify potential terrain stability concerns with the proposed development and present a partial risk analysis of the elements at risk. Recommendations from the report will be incorporated into development plans.

#### **Hydrological Assessments**

NACFOR is currently conducting watershed assessments of consumptive and community watersheds to determine the impacts of past and proposed forest harvesting. The study includes Equivalent Clearcut Area updates and measurements of road length, number of stream crossings, length of road on unstable terrain and other attributes to guide development planning in these watersheds. Stream channel assessments will be carried out in June – July 2015 to look at channel morphology, evidence of erosion and aggradation, sediment inputs and overall channel stability.

#### **Visual Impact Assessments**

All three development areas are within Partial Retention visual polygons so modelling of proposed cutblocks and roads will be completed to assess the impact of harvesting on the viewscape from known viewpoints or high traffic locations along the Highway 6 corridor. Block design measures such as tree retention, irregular block shapes and limiting the cutblock size will be implemented to mitigate the visual impact. Anticipated impacts will be low for the Box Highway and Upper Lookout areas as openings will be screened from the highway by a timber buffer. The Summit East blocks will be assessed from the high use rail trail on the northwest side of Summit Lake.

### **Archaeological Overview Assessment**

Using a predictive modelling approach, all areas were assessed for potential archaeological values. The Box Highway area showed some potential for archaeological sites due to the proximity to water and gentle terrain. Upper Lookout and Summit East show no potential. Further field investigations in the Box Highway area will be carried out by an archaeologist in summer 2015. As well, NACFOR will be working with the Splotsin First Nation and Okanagan Nation Alliance to determine cultural heritage values for the proposed development areas.

### **Riparian Assessments**

Streams, gullies and riparian areas were assessed in the recce/layout phase to determine appropriate management regimes. Buffers will be established on small streams and NCDs to protect riparian areas. Best practices include machine free zones and retention of mature forest canopy and understory vegetation. A fish inventory was conducted on Nakusp Creek to determine fish presence and species. Rainbow and Eastern Brook trout were found in the development area so a 40-metre reserve area has been established along each bank of Nakusp Creek to protect fish and fish habitat.

**2016 Forest Development Areas** (see Development Areas Keymap)

<b>Location</b>	<b>DA 1310 East Slewiskin</b>	<b>DA 2120 Lower Lookout</b>	<b>DA 2810 Summit Lake East</b>	<b>DA 3010 Scalping Knife</b>	<b>DA 5010 Wensley Creek</b>
Proposed Blocks	6	4	4	4	6
Silviculture System	Clear cut with reserves (dispersed retention and wildlife tree areas)	Clear cut with reserves (dispersed retention and wildlife tree areas)	Clear cut with reserves (dispersed retention and wildlife tree areas)	Patch cut with openings under 2 hectares in size (20 patches)	Small clear cut openings with reserves (dispersed retention and wildlife trees)
Approximate Harvest Area	100 hectares (gross area including ~ 15 ha of retention areas)	10 hectares	30 hectares	20 hectares	21 hectares
Estimated Volume (m3)	20,000	2,000	12,000	3,000	8,000
Harvest System	Approximately 50 ha conventional ground based harvesting and 50 ha cable	Ground based harvesting; temporary roads	6.5 ha of conventional ground based harvest; 23.5 ha of cable harvest	Conventional ground based harvesting with temporary roads	Conventional ground based harvesting with temporary roads