



OPERATIONAL UPDATE FOR DEVELOPMENT AREA 114 – SUMMIT LAKE

NACFOR will be carrying out the operations between November 7, 2016 and March 31, 2017 which may include:

- Summit FSR 3.5 km upgrade to widen corner and improve safety
- Skid and haul felled wood and complete construction on Br 3300
- Clean up and complete roads Br 4200 and Br 5500
- Construct Br 3500
- Construct Br 1000
- Harvest approximately 10,000 m³ from DA 114 – the volume could be more or less depending on site conditions.

NACFOR priorities and objectives:

Improve safety on Summit FSR mainline road by widening road at Aspen Creek crossing (approx. 3.5 km Summit FSR). This will involve rock drilling, blasting, hauling and placement of rock to build an approach to Br 3300. We will coordinate this work with Interfor operations as they will be hauling logs over the road system starting in November 2016.

Clear right of way and construct Branches 3300 and 3500 to allow road materials to “set up” and to ensure that road drainage is adequate prior to harvesting.

Ensure drainage structures on existing and new roads are functioning to address geotechnical risks. Proper drainage and regular road maintenance are critical activities.

Utilize available and experienced contractors that are working in the area.

Skid and market trees that have been felled since February 2016 on Br 3300 to salvage log value and control forest health issues (Douglas-fir bark beetle incidence is increasing in the area).

Strategies to minimize impacts to toads:

Timing of harvest in winter on snowpack is one of the mitigation strategies used by NACFOR. In the winter toads are hibernating underground.

The three cutblocks lowest in elevation (2001, 2004, 2005) are designated by NACFOR as winter only harvest. These cutblocks are closer to breeding habitat and all feature a diverse forest with species and micro topography complexities that provide good terrestrial habitat for toads.

Other cutblocks further up slope from Summit Lake may be suitable for summer or fall harvest depending on specific analysis prior to and during harvest activities.

All cutblocks contain Wildlife Tree Retention Areas (WTRA's) and dispersed Wildlife Trees. Micro-reserves protecting high value habitat features for toads have been surveyed and mapped out in the three lower blocks.

NACFOR is constructing temporary roads – they will be “un-built” and re-sloped after harvest with organic debris placed back on the disturbed areas. Rehabilitated roads and landings will be planted.

Some logging debris will be placed in piles and left for dispersed toad habitat along with other features.

The Summit Lake area has had repeated harvest and natural disturbance over the years, which has created a diversity of habitat across the landscape.

Other Issues:

Protecting toads and toad habitat are very important to NACFOR and represent one of the issues that are being managed at Summit Lake, along with other considerations and constraints which include:

- Grizzly bears
- Geotechnical and terrain stability issues
- Domestic watersheds
- Maintaining visual quality
- Recreation and access
- Archeological and cultural heritage considerations
- Private land interfaces
- Log markets and transportation logistics
- Availability of well trained and competent contractors

All combined these issues provide a complexity of management for Summit Lake and many other areas in the Community Forest.

Our website www.nakuspcommunityforest.com is the “go to” spot for information on forest management at Summit Lake and other issues. For more information please contact Hugh Watt (h.watt@truenorthforestry.com) or Frances Swan (f.swan@truenorthforestry.com) or call the NACFOR office at 250-265-3656 (office hours – 8 am to 5 pm)