

Development Area Summary - DA 5010 (Wensley)

Location: Upper Brouse/Wensley Creek area

Development Area status: Road Construction (2016/2017); harvesting (2017/2018)

Approximate Volume: 8,000 m³

Block	Area	Harvest System	Harvest Method	Status
5011	4.0 ha with 1.2 ha WTRA	Clearcut with reserves	Ground-based	Harvest pending
5012	4.2 ha with 0.6 ha WTRA	Clearcut with reserves	Ground-based	Harvest pending
5013	6.9 ha with 1.2 ha WTRA	Partial cut – group selection	Ground-based	Harvest pending
5014	7.1 ha to be harvested; total block is 35.6 ha with 8.9 ha short term reserve and 1.7 ha WTRA	Patch cut: 3 patch clearcuts with reserves	Ground-based	Branch 2000 has been constructed (Crescent Bay Construction)

Cutting Specifications

The silviculture systems and harvest methods for the blocks within this development area are Clearcut with Reserves with conventional ground-based harvesting. Block 5013 is an uneven aged stand resulting from earlier harvesting. The block is scheduled for an intermediate cut of mature (>12.5 cm diameter) cedar and Douglas-fir trees. Smaller immature Layer 2 and Layer 3 stems will be left in groups to make up the next stand of crop trees for second entry.

Up to 10 stems per hectare of deciduous and coniferous wildlife trees will be retained in all harvest areas to provide wildlife habitat, address visual quality objectives and increase stand biodiversity. Wildlife Tree Retention Areas are dispersed across the blocks to protect wildlife and riparian habitat areas.

Roads

Branch 2000 off Wilson Lake Road was constructed in fall 2016. Two short temporary roads off Hairpin Way cross country ski trail are scheduled for construction in 2017. Temporary roads will be rehabilitated once silviculture obligations have been met.

Contract Award

Road construction – Crescent Bay Construction, Convergent Management Group (falling), Galena Contractors (hauling)

Wood Marketing

The wood from this cutting permit will be marketed to local and regional buyers – not determined at this time.

Other Resources

Other resources considered in the development and planning of the Wensley Creek area include hydrology and water quality, visual quality, recreation use, wildlife habitat and cultural heritage values.

The Wensley / Brouse area in the vicinity of the community forest has numerous licenced creeks and springs. In spring 2016 a hydrogeomorphic assessment was undertaken to evaluate risks and determine whether proposed harvesting could negatively impact water quality, quantity or timing of flows of the licenced water supplies including several licensed springs that supply consumptive-use water to Brouse area residents. Recommendations from the assessment were incorporated into the planning and block locations.

A Visual Impact Assessment was completed for the Wensley Creek development area. Modeling of proposed cutblocks and roads was done to assess the impact of development from Highway 6 and Lower Brouse. Proposed development is <1% alteration of the viewscape.

The community forest lies within the designated Wensley Cross Country Recreation Site. It is a popular area for cross-country skiing, trail and dirt biking, horseback riding and walking. The Jackrabbit Interpretive Trail traverses the length of the community forest chart area and the Arrow Lake Cross-Country Ski Club maintains 10 km of ski trails under an agreement with Recreation Sites and Trails BC. The range of recreational use was considered in NACFOR's forest development planning and we are working with the ALCCSC to maintain and improve the ski trails during road building and harvesting activities.

Silviculture

Cutblocks are planted in compliance with the stocking standards approved in NACFOR's Forest Stewardship Plan. Economic value, ecological suitability and forest health factors are considered in stocking standard development. DA 5010 is scheduled to be planted in spring 2019/2020 with a mixed species plantation of Douglas-fir, Western larch, Western red cedar and Western White pine. Planting density is 1400 stems per hectare.