

SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT STAFF REPORT

TO: Planning and Community Development Committee – July 15, 2021

AUTHOR: Julie Clark, Planner 1/Senior Planner

SUBJECT: FORESTRY REFERRALS: BC TIMBER SALES (CRN00127), SUNSHINE COAST COMMUNITY FOREST (CRN00128)

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the report titled Forestry Referrals: BC Timber Sales (CRN00127), Sunshine Coast Community Forest (CRN00128) be received;

THAT FURTHER THAT SCRD respond to SCCF referral as follows:

THAT SCRD does not support Sunshine Coast Community Forest blocks EW-16, AN20, HM50 as proposed within Chapman and Milne Community Watersheds and near Gray Community Watershed.

AND FURTHER THAT SCCF work with SCRD Parks staff to mitigate potential impacts to any current or future proposed block in proximity to Suncoaster Trail.

AND FURTHER THAT SCRD does not support cut blocks within the area of proposed expansion of Mount Elphinstone Provincial Park.

THAT SCRD respond to BCTS referral as follows:

THAT SCRD does not support BCTS proposed block G043B4P2 on Mount Elphinstone or G053C42X within Dakota Community Watershed.

AND THAT SCRD's position on logging in Community (drinking) Watersheds and logging outside of watersheds that may affect community water sources be conveyed to the Sunshine Coast Community Forest and BC Timber Sales to request that a clear limit of zero risk to drinking water quality and quantity be established including:

- a. Define a drinking water protection strategy for proposed forestry operations that has the goal of achieving zero turbidity, zero sediment and zero pathogen input to nearby watercourses from forestry activities;**
 - b. Establish a monitoring and data sharing program**
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BACKGROUND

SCRD receives an annual referral for [BC Timber Sales \(BCTS\) 5-year Operating Plan](#). SCRD and BCTS have a Communications Protocol which prescribes SCRD response within 90 days. SCRD has been granted a 2-week extension for the 2021 referral response.

Separately, and for the first time, [Sunshine Coast Community Forest 5-year Operating Plan](#) is referred to SCRD for comment. Based on the similar nature of the technical review for impacts to SCRD service areas, both referrals are addressed in this report.

SCRD referral-responses to BCTS in 2020, 2019, 2018 are available [here](#). Information about SCRD role in responding to BCTS Operating Plans, including the Communications Protocol is also included.

In an effort to keep this report concise, readers are encouraged to refer to the summary and background sections of the SCRD's 2020 referral response for an overview of BCTS mandate, SCRD mandate and SCRD's historical responses to logging in Community (drinking) Watersheds.

DISCUSSION

In the 2021-2025 Operating Plans, BCTS proposes 12 new blocks, totalling a gross area of 205.7 hectares. The new block harvest schedule spans 2021-2025. See highlighted area of Attachment A for a list of new blocks. SCRD has already provided comment on previously referred blocks. This report provides review of new blocks only.

In the 2021-2025 Operating Plan, SCCF proposes 10 new blocks totalling a gross area of 118.10 hectares. The operation plan in total contains 18 blocks and a total of 231 hectares of gross area. This report provides review of the whole SCCF Operations Plan, as it has not been previously referred to SCRD. The new block harvest schedule spans 2022-2025. See highlighted area of Attachment B for a list of new blocks.

The summary table below provides a list of SCRD service areas that are potentially impacted by proposed cut blocks. This table is followed by a map summary of cut blocks in areas with potential SCRD service impacts.

SCRD Service Area with Potential Impact	Newly Proposed Block	Size of Block in Hectares	SCRD Service Area Comments	Additional comments, non SCRD service areas
Community Watersheds				
Milne	SCCF HM50	13.27	Block proposed within community watershed	
Chapman	SCCF EW16	33.9	Block proposed within community watershed	
Gray Creek	SCCF AN20	8.6	SCRD water intake is immediately below proposed cut block, with steep	

			topography, known high turbidity creek	
Aquifer Recharge Area	BCTS G043B4P2	17.3	Addition of density to previously referred blocks in the area of the aquifer recharge	
Dakota and McNair			Not an active SCRD drinking water supply	Downstream licenses
SCRD Trails:				
Suncoaster	SCCF HM50		Proposed future extension to Suncoaster Trail	
				Impact to trail use / experience of Crowston Lake Area
OCP Policy				
Roberts Creek OCP Policy 8.2.5	SCCF EW19, EW18A, EW18B		Within Proposed Expansion to Elphinstone PP	

Community Watersheds

A 'Community Watershed' refers to surface water and is defined under the [Forest and Range Practices Act \(FRPA\)](#) as all or part of the drainage area that is upslope of the lowest point from which water is diverted for human consumption by a licensed waterworks.

To protect the water that is diverted for human consumption, such areas require special management to:

1. Conserve the quality, quantity and timing of water flow
2. Prevent cumulative hydrological effects having a material adverse effect on water

This legislation requires forestry licensees on Provincial land to include specific mitigation measures in their Forest Stewardship Plans and operating practices to protect drinking water.

Sunshine Coast Community Forest proposes cut blocks in the Community Watersheds of Chapman, Milne and immediately outside Gray Creek.

Chapman Creek

In Figure 1, the lower reaches of Chapman Community Watershed is outlined in blue hatch. SCCF blocks are purple. BCTS is green.

Chapman Creek is the Sunshine Coast's main source of drinking water supply. The water licenses from the Province is held by SCR D and drinking water provision is operated by SCR D. SCR D has a long history of opposing logging in Community Watersheds and Chapman in particular.

Staff understand SCCF is pursuing a watershed mapping amendment that could mean that this block is outside of the formal boundary. At the present time, it is located within.

SCR D does not support the harvest of the portion of the block EW16 that is within Chapman Community Watershed.

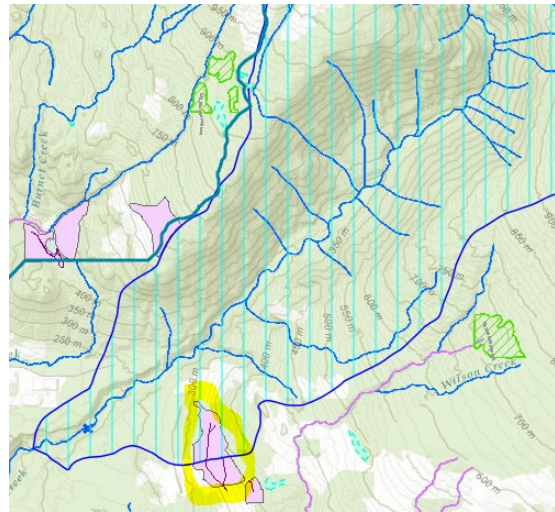


Figure 1: Chapman Community Watershed, SCCF Block EW16

Gray Creek

Gray Creek part of SCR D water supply with a water license provided by the Province. Gray Creek supply is used annually during more substantial supply shortages in the Chapman Water System.

Staff note that the Province's spatial information appears to not include SCR D water intake in the Community Watershed area: note the blue hatch area as Community Watershed and the blue X as SCR D water intake infrastructure on the creek.

Proposed cut block AN20 is upslope of SCR D water intake infrastructure, with a steep slope in between. SCCF has proactively conducted a hydrological assessment that does not foresee sedimentation impacts.

While AN20 is outside of the Community Watershed, SCR D remains concerned about the proximity of this proposed harvesting to SCR D water supply. With a view to protecting natural assets, increasing climate resilience and employing the precautionary principle, SCR D does not support the harvest of AN20.

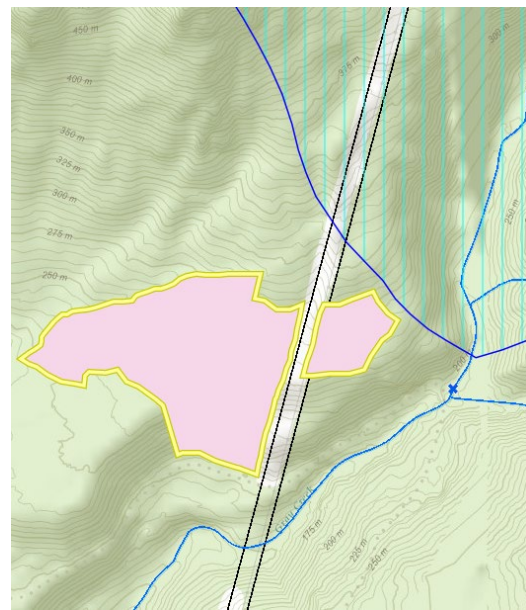


Figure 2: Gray Creek Community Watershed, SCCF Block AN20

Staff have adapted previously adopted 2018 forestry referral response to address drinking water concerns that are located outside of the Community Watershed. If harvesting were to proceed for AN20, that SCR D request a clear limit of zero risk drinking water quality and quantity be established including:

- a. Define a drinking water protection strategy for proposed forestry operations that has the goal of achieving zero turbidity, zero sediment and zero pathogen input to nearby creeks or streams from forestry activities;
- b. Establish a monitoring and data sharing program.

Milne

Milne Watershed includes Trout Lake and is an emergency water supply for SCR D.

Proposed SCCF block HM50 is within Milne Watershed boundaries and upslope from Trout Lake.

The proposed block is also proximal to the proposed extension of Suncoaster Trail and several other community trails. If an alternate proposal is envisioned for this area, within proximity to Suncoaster Trail plans, SCR D recommends that SCCF consider block location and design after consultation with SCR D Parks staff.

SCR D does not support the proposed cutblock HM50 in Milne Community Watershed.

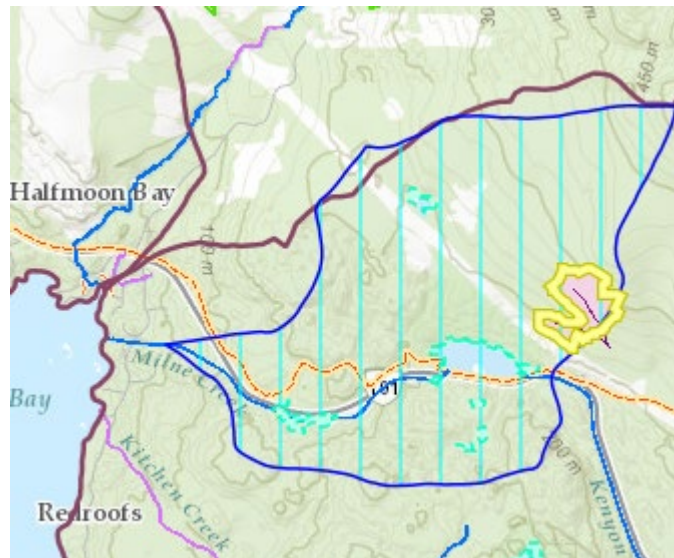


Figure 3: Milne Community Watershed, SCCF Block AM50

Aquifer Recharge Area

Logging on steep slopes, in headwaters areas, above developed communities adds to the existing identified risk of slope instability, flooding, debris flows, ravine instability and aquifer recharge potential. This risk increases again when it is coupled with the new normal of increased frequency of winter storms and increased intensity of rain events. SCRD provided comments about these risks on Mount Elphinstone in the 2020-2025 referral response.

BCTS block G043B4P2 (highlighted in yellow) adds to the density of previously referred blocks on the steep areas of Mount Elphinstone, located above the Gibsons Aquifer, a community drinking water source.

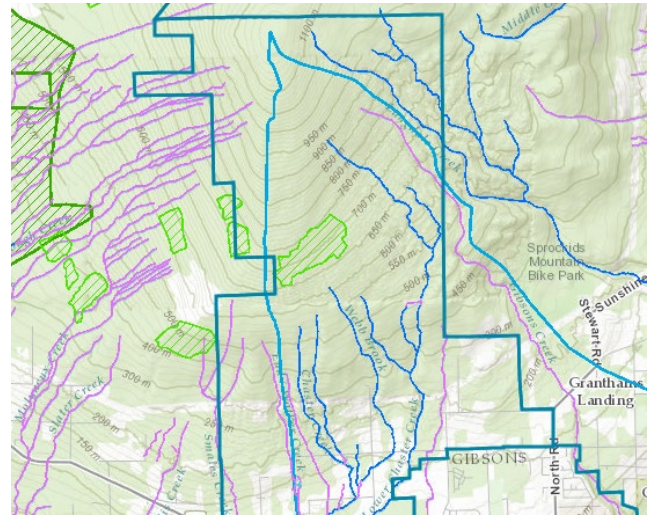


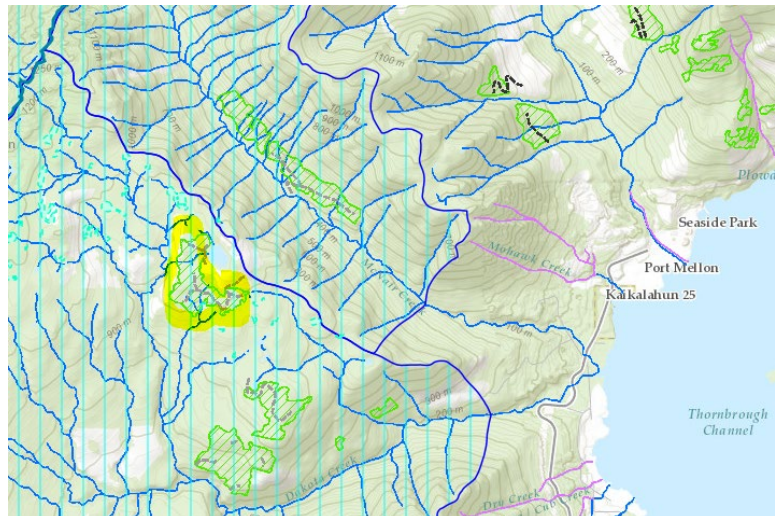
Figure 4: BCTS proposed blocks (light green) on Mount Elphinstone, with aquifer recharge zone light blue outline.

The Aquifer and the corresponding recharge zone are shared interests of SCRD and Town of Gibsons, as purveyors of community drinking water supply. The aquifer and the corresponding recharge areas are identified in [The Gibsons Aquifer Mapping Study](#) (2013).

Further to 2020 recommendations, SCRD does not support the harvest of G043B4P2 on Mount Elphinstone slopes in the Gibsons aquifer recharge area.

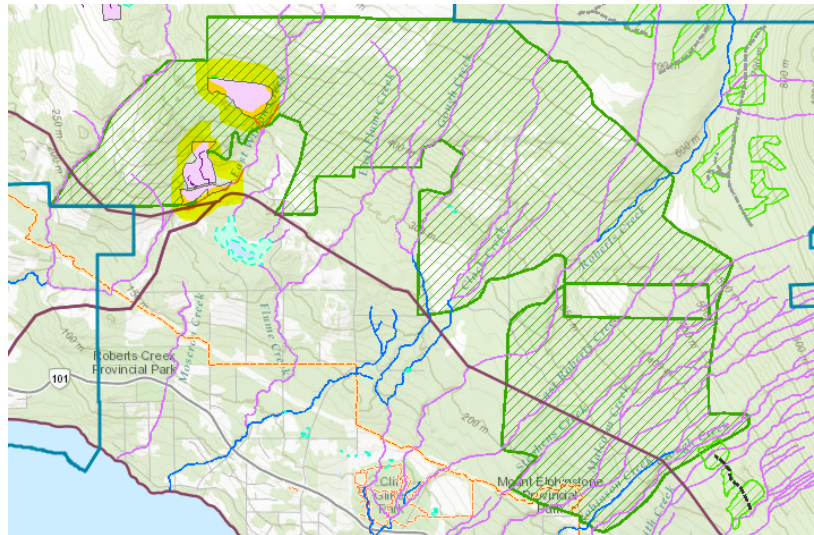
Dakota Community Watershed

Dakota Community Watershed is identified by the Province as serving community for drinking water. The licenses are not related to the current SCRD water service provision. As they are identified community watersheds, SCRD does not support logging block G053C42X.



Policy 8.2.5: Elphinstone
Provincial Park (pg. 37)

The dark green hatch area is the proposed future Elphinstone Provincial Park. The 3 purple blocks are proposed by SCCF. The proposal to log here contravenes the community's vision and objectives to the see the policy 8.2.5.



Harvesting in or near drinking water sources may have water quality impacts in the short or long term and/or increased costs for SCRD.

Recommendations from this report will be submitted in response to each forestry referral once adopted by SCRD Board. BCTS has extended the deadline to July 27, 2021 to permit response after the 90-day timeline of the Communications Protocol.

Referral comments were received from all 5 APCs and Roberts Creek Official Community Plan Committee (OCPC).

Area B indicated support for recommendations as prepared and requested stronger opposition language than “does not support” harvest in community watersheds.

Communications Strategy

Staff (infrastructure, parks, planning) will coordinate further communications with each agency as needed.

STRATEGIC PLAN AND RELATED POLICIES

Responding to BCTS and SCCF forestry referrals aligns with the SCRD Strategic Plan focus areas of advocacy for watershed governance, collaborative regional land use planning, natural asset management and climate resilience.

CONCLUSION

SCRD received forestry referrals from BC Timber Sales and Sunshine Coast Community Forest regarding 2021-2025 Operating Plans. SCRD analysis shows potential impact to drinking water services and proposed extension to Suncoaster Trail. SCRD recommends not supporting the specific blocks with potential impacts to SCRD Service Areas such as drinking water and trails.

Attachments

Attachment A – BCTS Block List 2021-2025
Attachment B – SCCF Block List 2021-2025

Reviewed by:			
Manager	X - D. Pady	Finance	
GM	X – I. Hall X – R. Rosenboom	Legislative	
CAO	X – D. McKinley	Other	

BC Timber Sales , Chinook Business Area, Powell River: Block Summary - Sunshine Coast 2021-2025 Operating Plan Summary of Blocks Relevant to the SCRD

Timber Sale Area	Timber Sale	Block ID	Operating Plan Map/Lot	Planned Harvest	Previously Harvested	Block State	Gross Area (ha)	Cruise Volume	Age Class	Species Composition (%)
Sunshine Coast	TA1631	K010B46Y	Brittain West	9/1/2025	2017	Proposed	40.0	8000	61-80	Fd50Hw20Dr20Cw10
Sunshine Coast	TA0048	G043C3ZH	Mount Elphinstone	10/1/2024	2018	Proposed	10.8	6000	61-80	Hw60Cw20Fd20
Sunshine Coast	TA0521	G043B4P8	Mount Elphinstone	4/1/2023	2020	Proposed	15.9	11000	81-100	Fd90Hw5Cw5
Sunshine Coast	TA0520	G043B4NN	Mount Elphinstone	5/1/2024	2020	Proposed	30.4	14500	61-80	Hw60Cw15Fd13Ba12
Sunshine Coast	TA0981	McNR001	McNair/Rainy	6/1/2024	2020	Proposed	42.4	17225	61-80	Hw52Ba38Cw7Fd3
Sunshine Coast	TA0048	G043B4PE	Mount Elphinstone	8/1/2024	2020	Proposed	8.2	6300	61-80	Fd71Hw14Cw14
Pacific	TA0525	GRAN001	Granville	8/1/2024	2020	Proposed	17.8	7000	61-80	Fd55Hw35Cw10
Sunshine Coast	TA0526	G052B4R8	Mount Elphinstone	5/1/2025	2020	Proposed	13.5	6000	61-80	Fd65Hw25Cw10
Sunshine Coast	TA0526	G042B4RC	Mount Elphinstone	5/1/2025	2020	Proposed	19.4	8000	61-80	Cw50Hw40Ba10
Sunshine Coast	TA0519	G043B4NV	Mount Elphinstone	10/1/2025	2020	Proposed	26.2	16000	61-80	Hw50Cw30Fd10Ba10
Sunshine Coast	TA1125	G064C3UY	McNair/Rainy	10/1/2025	2020	Proposed	22.6	9900	61-80	Hw44Fd31Cw17Dr8
Sunshine Coast	TA1125	McNA001	McNair/Rainy	10/1/2025	2020	Proposed	7.0	4000	61-80	Hw65Fd25Cw10
Sunshine Coast	TA1775	BRITE001	Brittain East	8/1/2021	-	Proposed	5.5	1000	81-100	Fd80Hw20
Sunshine Coast	TA1776	BRITW002	Brittain West	8/1/2021	-	Proposed	7.7	500	61-80	Fd40Hw40Dr20
Sunshine Coast	TA1630	RAIN003	McNair/Rainy	10/1/2022	-	Proposed	22.1	10000	61-80	Hw78Fd12Cw10
Sunshine Coast	TA1630	RAIN012	McNair/Rainy	10/1/2022	-	Proposed	23.2	11000	61-80	Hw55Cw45
Sunshine Coast	TA0521	G043B4P2	Mount Elphinstone	4/1/2023	-	Proposed	17.3	8400	81-100	Fd71Cw18Hw11
Pacific	TA1697	GRAN004	Lois North	8/1/2023	-	Proposed	22.3	13900	61-80	Fd65Hw14Cw14Dr7
Pacific	TA1697	GRAN005	Lois North	8/1/2023	-	Proposed	19.3	7500	61-80	Fd60Hw25Cw15
Pacific	TA1697	GRAN006	Lois North	8/1/2023	-	Proposed	33.9	13500	141-250	Cw50Fd40Hw10
Pacific	TA1073	GRAN003	Granville	7/1/2024	-	Proposed	5.7	3000	61-80	Cw33Fd33Hw33
Sunshine Coast	TA1631	K010B46Z	Brittain West	9/1/2025	-	Proposed	14.3	10000	61-80	Fd50Hw50
Sunshine Coast	TA1719	SECH001	Sechelt South	11/1/2025	-	Proposed	11.9	5500	81-100	Fd60Hw20Cw20
Sunshine Coast	TA1719	SECH002	Sechelt South	11/1/2025	-	Proposed	28.3	15000	81-100	Fd80Cw10Hw10
							205.7	99300		

TABLE 1

SCCF Operating Plan #2021-2025 Summary (Block List)

Date2021-04-15

Block ID	Operating Plan #	Previously Info-Shared under OP #	Planned Harvest Date	Block Status	Location	Mapsheet (1:20,000 Grid)	5 Yr. Plan Op Area (1:20,000 Grid)	LU	Biogeoclimatic Zone	Age Class	Species Composition (%)	Area Gross (Ha)	Estimated Area Net (Ha)	Estimated Volume (m3)	Planned Assess	Plan Assess	Plan Assess	Plan Assess	Plan Assess	Plan Assess	Plan Assess	Plan Assess	Harvest Method	Silviculture System
															Watershed	Gully	VIA	AIA	Terrain	Riparian	Hab	Other		
HM50	2021	2018	2021	Engineered	Trout Lake	92G.051	Halfmoon Bay	Sechelt	CWHxm	5	F60C20H10	19.8	10.0	7,500	X	-----	X	X	X	X	X	-----	GB	Retention
AN27	2021	-----	2022	Proposed	Angus Creek	92G.052	Angus/Burnett	Chapman	CWHdm	4	C100	16.2	16.2	3,200	-----	-----	X	X	X	X	X	-----	GB	Intermediate Cut
EW24	2021	-----	2022	Proposed	Chapman Creek	92G.042	East Wilson	Chapman	CWHdm	6	F70H30	11.7	11.7	9,300	-----	-----	X	X	X	X	X	-----	GB	Clearcut
HM70	2021	2019	2022	Engineered	Trout Lake	92G.051	Halfmoon Bay	Sechelt	CWHxm	5	F60H30C10	8.7	8.7	5,200	-----	-----	X	X	X	X	X	-----	GB	Retention
HM70A	2021	-----	2022	Proposed	Trout Lake	92G.051	Halfmoon Bay	Sechelt	CWHxm	4	F40H40C20	9.2	9.2	6,000	-----	-----	X	X	X	X	X	-----	GB	Retention
AN03	2021	-----	2023	Proposed	East Gray Creek	92G.052	Angus/Burnett	Chapman	CWHdm	3	F60C20H10	9.1	6.0	5,200	-----	-----	X	X	X	X	X	-----	GB	Retention
AN12A	2021	2018	2023	Proposed	Burnett Creek	92G.052	Angus/Burnett	Chapman	CWHdm	5	F60C20H10	25.2	25.2	17,840	-----	-----	X	X	X	X	X	-----	GB/CA	Retention
AN14	2021	2018	2023	Engineered	Gray Creek	92G.052	Angus/Burnett	Chapman	CWHxm	4/8	F60C20H10	5.0	5.0	3,000	-----	-----	X	X	X	X	X	-----	GB	Retention
AN20	2021	2018	2023	Engineered	Gray Creek	92G.052	Angus/Burnett	Chapman	CWHdm	4	F60C20H10	8.6	5.9	3,200	-----	-----	X	X	X	X	X	-----	GB	Retention
AN15B	2021	-----	2023	Proposed	East Gray Creek	92G.052	Angus/Burnett	Chapman	CWHdm	3	F60C20H10	12.0	6.9	5,000	-----	-----	X	X	X	X	X	-----	GB	Retention
AN3A	2021	-----	2023	Proposed	Angus Creek	92G.052	Angus/Burnett	Chapman	CWHdm	3	H40F30C30	16.2	14.4	7,000	-----	-----	X	X	X	X	X	-----	GB	Retention
EW16	2021	2014	2024	Engineered	Chapman Creek	92G.042	East Wilson	Chapman	CWHdm	5	F60H20C20	13.0	12.0	8,400	-----	-----	X	X	X	X	X	-----	GB	Retention
AN5A	2021	-----	2024	Proposed	Angus Creek	92G.052	Angus/Burnett	Chapman	CWHdm	3	F50H10C40	9.1	9.1	6,500	-----	-----	X	X	X	X	X	-----	GB/CA	Retention
EW18A	2021	-----	2024	Proposed	East Wilson Creek	92G.042	East Wilson	Chapman	CWHdm	8	F60H30C10	12.3	12.3	10,000	-----	-----	X	X	X	X	X	-----	GB	Retention
EW18B	2021	-----	2024	Proposed	East Wilson Creek	92G.042	East Wilson	Chapman	CWHdm	8	F40H30C20	5.0	5.0	4,000	-----	-----	X	X	X	X	X	-----	GB	Retention
EW19	2021	-----	2025	Proposed	East Wilson Creek	92G.042	East Wilson	Chapman	CWHdm	8	F40H30C20	17.3	17.3	15,000	-----	-----	X	X	X	X	X	-----	GB	Retention
HM64	2021	2019	2025	Proposed	Wakefield Creek	92G.051	Halfmoon Bay	Sechelt	CWHdm	5	H40F30C30	16.6	16.6	11,000	-----	-----	X	X	X	X	X	-----	GB	Retention
HM66-1A	2021	2019	2025	Proposed	Wakefield Creek	92G.051	Halfmoon Bay	Sechelt	CWHdm	5	H40F30C30	16.3	16.3	13,000	-----	-----	X	X	X	X	X	-----	GB	Retention
												231.3	207.8	140,340										

Assessment Definitions:

AIA: Archaeological Impact Assessment
CA: Cable harvest system
GB: Ground base harvest system
HAB: Habitat Survey by a qualified professional
HE: Helicopter Harvest System
HS: Helicopter Select
TSFA (THA): Terrain Field Assessment, also known as Terrain Hazard Assessment.
VIA: Visual Impact Assessment
WATER: A Hydrologic Assessment when working within community watershed (FSP Result & Strategy)

Block Status:

Proposed Review and Comments
Engineered Assessment completed
Cutting Permit Cutting Permit acquired

Note:

The gross area of the cutblocks are shown on the maps and tables. The gross area includes Wildlife Tree Retention Areas (WTRAs), riparian reserves, and other buffers or reserves that may be required depending on the site. As such, the total area shown on the map may not be fully harvested. Site specific comments or concerns of potential impacts to your interests can help SCCF relate your comments to our operations so we are better able to assess them and where appropriate manage for these values in our final plans.