



Staff Report Request for Decision

TO: Electoral Area Services Committee – July 17, 2025

AUTHOR: Julie Clark, Senior Planner
Sierra Rempel, Strategic Planning Coordinator
Kim Wilkinson, Manager of Strategic Initiatives, Hillside

SUBJECT: **BC Timber Sales (BCTS) 2025- 2029 Operating Plan Review**

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to provide a proposed response to BC Timber Sales 2025-2029 for the Board's consideration.

This report requests Board decision to accept, reject or provide alternate direction with respect to staff's recommendations as presented below.

Recommendation(s):

- (1) **THAT the report entitled BC Timber Sales (BCTS) 2025- 2029 Operating Plan Review be received;**
- (2) **AND THAT the following comments be provided to BC Timber Sales by August 4, 2025:**
 - (a) **SCRD does not support logging of MCNR006 block that is designated as community drinking watershed;**
 - (b) **SCRD, as a water license holder and in view of our responsibility to provide safe, clean drinking water, does not support logging blocks ELPH011, G043B4NV, G052B4R8 that are proposed in groundwater recharge areas of aquifers used for community drinking water. Before BCTS enables logging in these areas, SCR D requests input into evidence-based terms of reference for mitigation and monitoring plan to protect against impacts to groundwater quality and quantity. Development of such terms of reference should involve First Nations;**
 - (c) **SCRD requests engagement with BCTS to have a shared understanding of the location of the community drinking watershed boundaries in reference to SECH005, G042B4RC and G052B4R8;**
 - (d) **SCRD requests that BCTS provide a management plan to achieve the goal of zero impact to forest cover in the community drinking watersheds adjacent to SECH005, G042B4RC and G052B4R8;**
 - (e) **SCRD does not support the logging of blocks ELPH008, G043B4NN, G043B4SG, G043C3ZP, ELPH010, MCNR006 that are upslope and in the same watershed as SCR D assets, without mitigation and monitoring plans;**
 - (f) **As SCR D knows BCTS will undertake engagement with the Sᓵwᓵwú7mesh Nation on blocks that may be in, adjacent to, or potentially of impact to Areas of Importance**

- (AOI) as identified in the Skwxwú7mesh Nation Land Use Planning Agreement with the Province of BC (Phase 2), we request that the results of that engagement are shared with SCRD as appropriate to inform future planning for drinking water and other SCRD services;**
- (g) SCRD does not support logging blocks ELPH011, SECH005, SECH006, SECH004, BRITW003, BRITW004 that are proposed within priority old growth deferral areas that were established in BC’s Old Growth Management Review;**
 - (h) SCRD does not support logging of old growth recruitment areas and requests information about alternate recruitment areas to be secured;**
 - (i) SCRD does not support logging of blocks MCNA003, MCNR006, SECH003, SECH004, SECH005, SECH006, SECH008, and G05154DG that overlap with Federally-listed species at risk areas and/or Provincially Red-listed species ecosystems or plant communities without a diligence plan for ensuring zero impact to the recovery of species and/or ecosystems at risk;**
 - (j) SCRD requests that, in alignment with objectives and policies set in Official Community Plans, BCTS conduct of survey of wetlands and ponds near or within proposed cutblocks and consider buffering all wetlands regardless of size. Results shared with SCRD for future planning;**
- (3) AND THAT this report be referred to shíshálh Nation, Skwxwú7mesh Nation, the District of Sechelt and the Town of Gibsons;**
- (4) AND THAT this report be referred to SCRD Advisory Planning Commissions, with comments received forwarded to BCTS; and**
- (5) AND FURTHER THAT SCRD write a letter to the Minister of Forests to advocate for the recommendations included in this report.**
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BACKGROUND

BC Timber Sales (BCTS) is a Provincial Corporation that is responsible for harvesting approximately 20% of British Columbia’s Annual Allowable Cut and operates under the legislative and regulatory frameworks of the *Forest Act*, *the Forest Range and Practices Act*, *the Wildfire Act*, *BCTS Regulation* and the *Wildfire Regulation*.

SCRD receives an annual referral for [BC Timber Sales’ \(BCTS\) 5-year Operating Plan](#). BCTS shares proposed harvesting and road building activities in order to receive comment on and understand stakeholder interests in advance of anticipated harvesting.

SCRD received notification of the 2025-2029 Operating Plan from BCTS on May 6, 2025. SCRD and BCTS have a [Communications Protocol](#) which prescribes SCRD response within 90 days. SCRD deadline for response is August 4, 2025.

BCTS’s referral methods and the availability of data changed this year relative to prior referrals. For example, BCTS-planned roads were not included in the referral, along with other data that has

previously been provided in MS Excel format such as net volume, target age class, planned auction date, or information on species at risk, terrain stability or hydrology. The result was a more time-consuming review for SCRD staff with less available information. This year's referral contained 12 new blocks and an additional 8 previously referred blocks that had changed substantively and thus triggered additional review, totalling approximately 500 ha of area. By comparison the previous (2023-2027) referral contained only 5 new blocks and review encompassed 100 ha of area.

This report provides analysis of the Operating Plan, and recommendations for SCRD response. BCTS is seeking feedback on and only has a mandate to consider or act on feedback related to the 2025-2029 Operating Plan.

Please see SCRD webpage link <https://www.scrd.ca/bcts-logging> for background information about BCTS, SCRD's role in responding to annual Operating Plan referrals and past referral responses.

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

The methods for SCRD's review of BCTS 2025-2029 Operating plan are:

Spatial Analysis: SCRD's review of the 2025-2029 Operating Plan includes a spatial analysis of proximity to SCRD service areas, assets and community interests (as identified in Official Community Plans) such as natural assets that support climate and ecological resilience, as well as non SCRD drinking water supply.

Potential Impact review: A review of potential impacts is provided by a multi-department team to specifically consider the blocks with proximity to SCRD services, assets or community interests and appropriate recommendations. The technical review team includes staff from utility services/capital projects, strategic initiatives, parks, asset management, GIS and Planning.

Summary of Analysis: SCRD staff have prepared a summary of the spatial analysis and potential impacts to SCRD services, community interests, presented by electoral area in Attachment A. A review of relevant OCP policy statements is also included.

Draft Recommendations: From the analysis summary, proposed recommendations are presented below, grouped by area of concern. Several blocks repeat across recommendations as there are multiple concerns with those blocks.

Proposed recommendations in response to BCTS 2025-2029 Operating plan

1. SCR D does not support logging of MCNR006 block that is designated as community drinking watershed.

- SCR D has a long, documented history of opposing logging in designated community drinking watersheds

2. SCR D, as a water licence holder and in view of our responsibility to provide safe, clean drinking water, does not support logging blocks ELPH011, G043B4NV, G052B4R8 that are proposed in groundwater recharge areas of aquifers used for community drinking water. Before BCTS enables logging in these areas, SCR D requests input into evidence-based terms of reference for mitigation and monitoring plan to protect against impacts to groundwater quality and quantity. Development of such terms of reference should involve First Nations.

- **Block ELPH011** appears to be proposed within the recharge area of Aquifer 560 and 552 in which SCR D holds water licenses for community drinking water and in which SCR D Board has directed continued well-field development for community drinking water.
- **Block G043B4NV** appears to be proposed within the recharge area of Elphinstone aquifer lobe of Aquifer 560 in which SCR D and Town of Gibsons hold water licenses for community drinking water. On June 12, 2025, SCR D Board made a resolution (159/25) relating to providing a letter of support for Elphinstone Community Association’s advocacy to defer harvest of this block.
- **Block G052B4R8** appears to be proposed within the recharge area of Aquifer 564 in which SCR D Board has directed continued well-field development for community drinking water.
- For more detailed analysis please see Attachment A.

3. SCR D requests engagement with BCTS to have a shared understanding of the location of the community drinking watershed boundaries in reference to SECH005, G042B4RC and G052B4R8.

4. SCR D requests that BCTS provide a management plan to achieve the goal of zero impact to forest cover in the community drinking watersheds adjacent to SECH005, G042B4RC and G052B4R8.

- **Block SECH005** appears to be proposed immediately adjacent to McNeil Lake Community watershed, an SCR D drinking water source.
- **Block G042B4RC and G052B4R8** appear to be proposed immediately adjacent to Chapman Community Drinking Watershed, an SCR D drinking water source.
- SCR D would like BCTS to clarify how they will assess risk and implement effective actions to preclude impacts to the forest cover in each of the McNeil Lake Watershed and Chapman Watershed as a result of harvesting activities associated with SECH005, G042B4RC and G052B4R8.

5. SCR D does not support the logging of blocks ELPH008, G043B4NN, G043B4SG, G043C3ZP, ELPH010, MCNR006 that are upslope and in the same watershed as SCR D assets, without mitigation and monitoring plans:

- **MCNR006** appears to be proposed in the watershed upstream from SCRD assets of the Dakota Creek Flood Control Berm and Hillside Industrial lands (in addition to being in a community drinking watershed).
- **Blocks G043B4NN, G043B4SG, G043C3ZP, ELPH010, ELPH008** appear to be proposed in the watershed that drains into Cliff Gilker Park, an SCRD asset that has experienced significant climate impacts resulting from flooding.

6. As SCRD knows that BCTS will undertake engagement with the Sḵwx̱wú7mesh Nation on blocks that may be in, adjacent to, or potentially of impact to Areas of Importance (AOI) as identified in the Sḵwx̱wú7mesh Nation Land Use Planning Agreement with the Province of BC (Phase 2), we request that the results of that engagement are shared with SCRD as appropriate to inform future planning for drinking water and other SCRD services..

- It appears that BCTS plans for example at McNab Creek, Rainy River, McNair Creek and ELPH011 may overlap with Sḵwx̱wú7mesh Nation's AOI 94 and 82.

Potential Impacts to Community Interests

In addition to review of forestry impacts on SCRD services and assets, SCRD staff reviewed for impacts to noted community interests such as those represented in policy in Official Community Plans, the Community Climate Action Plan and interests such as private property access to drinking water that is not supplied by SCRD. These interests are noted in Attachment A.

7. SCRD does not support logging blocks ELPH011, SECH005, SECH006, SECH004, BRITW003, BRITW004 that are proposed within [priority old growth deferral areas](#) that were established in BC's Old Growth Management Review. The Province of BC has recognized Priority Deferral areas of Old Growth.

- It appears that multiple BCTS Blocks **ELPH011, SECH005, SECH006, SECH004, BRITW004,** are proposed over Priority Deferral areas for old growth. **BRITW003** may impact a Priority Deferral area.
- SCRD would like to understand why BCTS is proposing to log these areas that are indicated as high value to the Province and to the Sunshine Coast.
- Old growth forest can support community values such as protection for Species at Risk, climate resilience and community natural assets.
- The Sunshine Coast is falling short of B.C. targets for retaining old growth forests.

8. SCR D does not support logging of old growth recruitment areas and requests information about alternate recruitment areas to be secured.

- It appears that **SECH003, SECH006, SECH010, SECH005, SECH008, SECH004** BCTS blocks are proposed over Recruitment Forest.
- In addition to Priority Deferral forests, the Province of BC has identified [Recruitment Forest](#). "Ecosystems with little or no remaining old forest face the highest risk in the province. Reducing risk in these highest risk ecosystems requires recruiting appropriate younger forest to grow old..."

9. SCR D does not support logging of blocks MCNA003, MCNR006, SECH003, SECH004, SECH005, SECH006, SECH008, and G05154DG that overlap with Federally-listed species at risk areas or Provincially Red-listed species ecosystems or plant communities without a diligence plan for ensuring zero impact to the recovery of species and/or ecosystems at risk.

- It appears that blocks **MCNA003, MCNR006, SECH003** overlap with known locations for federally or provincially-listed species at risk, as noted by BC's Conservation Data Centre and Federal data for Critical Habitat.
- In British Columbia (BC), "red-listed" ecosystems are those identified as endangered or threatened provincially by the Conservation Data Centre (CDC). These ecosystems are considered to be at high risk of extinction or extirpation within the province.
- BCTS's data portal does not indicate that these areas are known to BCTS or what management approaches will identify and provide appropriate protections to those areas.
- SCR D suggests BCTS engage a qualified environmental professional (e.g. a Registered Professional Biologist with Species at Risk experience during active time for local species) to determine appropriate protections to support the recovery of ecosystems, habitats and species, so proposed logging will not occur in or impact the recovery of species at risk or red-listed ecosystems.

10. SCR D requests that, in alignment with objectives and policies set in Official Community Plans, BCTS conduct a survey of wetlands and ponds near or within proposed blocks and consider buffering all wetlands regardless of size. The results shared with SCR D for future planning.

- Wetlands are important areas to Sunshine Coast's hydrology, ecology and climate resilience. The *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA) definition of wetland has a size constraint, however it is noted that on the Sunshine Coast, many small wetlands may be interconnected. Small hidden forested wetlands are important carbon sinks, until exposed to elements and dry out. BCTS may consider buffering all wetlands regardless of size. Following best practices, the survey should be conducted in both fall and spring.

Organizational Considerations

This year's BCTS's rereferral has proven to be very time-consuming for staff and has demanded substantially increased resources as compared to prior years. Staff will be following up with BCTS about this change in referral process in order to plan for future referrals.

A number of the recommended responses to BCTS request the provision of additional information or even the establishment/agreement of term of reference. These actions, if accepted by BCTS, would require operational resources for SCRD to analyze and engage with.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

SCRD is concerned about the short, medium, and long-term financial impacts to residents, local governments, and agencies of the Sunshine Coast because of hydrologic changes (the flow of water: timing, volume, duration) associated with forest harvesting close to local government assets and developed communities. There is a significant amount of effort required to accurately project the long-term impact of deforestation on the hydrology of a stream. SCRD does not have mandate, resources or responsibility to fund this work; the companies that wish to conduct timber harvesting close to watercourses should provide assurance that the existing downstream users will not be negatively impacted.

With the 2025-2029 BCTS Operating Plan, SCRD identifies financial concerns related to:

- The project to replace bridges in Cliff Gilker (recently decommissioned due to flooding); only 3 of 5 decommissioned bridges will be replaced in part due to the increased streamflow
- Protection of drinking water, including aquifers
- Stormwater impacts: SCRD asset protection and private property

LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

SCRD provides a response to the BCTS referred in alignment with its legislative authority and in areas where SCRD feels it has a duty of responsibility to the public interest.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

This referral response supports the Strategic Focus Area of Water Stewardship in the Board's 2023 – 2027 Strategic Plan.

TIMELINE

SCRD will respond to BCTS by August 4th, 2025 and follow up with any additional comments provided by Advisory Planning Commissions.

COMMUNICATIONS

Internal: SCRD's review of the 2025-2029 BCTS Operating Plan included communications and technical review from SCRD's Infrastructure Services, Parks, GIS, Asset Management and Planning teams.

External: SCRD’s review of the 2025-2029 BCTS Operating Plan will be shared with Advisory Planning Commissions, Town of Gibsons, District of Sechelt, shíshálh and Skwxwú7mesh Nations and the Ministry of Transportation and Transit.

A letter to the Minister of Forests to advocate for the recommendations included in this report is recommended.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

SCRD conducted a review of the 2025-2029 BCTS Operating Plan. The review was limited in scope to the information provided by BCTS, which was less than in years previous.

SCRD does not support blocks for harvest in areas that may have an impact to community drinking water, is immediately upstream from SCRD assets, proximal to SCRD services or overlapping with priority old growth deferral.

SCRD requires more information to understand potential impacts to community interests such as non SCRD drinking water or fire protection sources, recruitment forest, species at risk and wetlands.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Electoral Area F, E, D, B, A Official Community Plan policy statement analysis

Reviewed by:			
Manager	X – J. Jackson	Finance	
GM	X – I. Hall X – S. Gagnon X – R. Rosenboom	Legislative	
CAO	X – T. Perreault	Asset Management	X – K. Doyle



Electoral Area F: West Howe Sound

OCP statements

11. Soames Point Environment Objective #1: "To protect the aquifer and surrounding watershed within the Soames Creek ravine." (p.23)
12. Williamson's Landing Land Use Objective #5: "To support limited gravel extraction and sustainable forest practices on resource properties." (p.54)
13. Williamson's Landing Environment Objective #2: To encourage sustainable forest practices on the Sechelt Provincial Forest lands. (p.59)
14. Grantham's Landing Environment Objective #1: "To supply high quality clean drinking water from the Granthams & Soames aquifer, while providing for an opportunity to integrate surrounding water systems for only for back-up emergency mutual aid purposes." (p.14)
15. Grantham's Landing Environment Objective #2: "To provide an adequate buffer to creek ravines to protect fish species and natural wildlife corridors, and to retain the high quality drinking water supply." (p.16)
16. Soames Point Infrastructure Objective #1: "To supply high quality clean drinking water from the Granthams & Soames aquifer, while providing for an opportunity to integrate surrounding water systems only for back-up emergency mutual aid purposes." (p.20)
17. Soames Point Environment Policy #1: "The Soames Creek ravine shall be protected from Shirley Macey Park to the ocean for the purposes of preserving the drinking water quality, mature forest cover, wildlife corridor, and limited recreational opportunities (foot-path)." (p.23)
18. Gateway Environment Objective #2: "To protect the unconsolidated aquifer that provides water supply to the Hopkins Landing Water District." (p.37)
19. Gateway Environment Policy #1: "An aquifer protection development permit area should be introduced for the industrial area on Stewart Road in order to protect the integrity of the down slope ground water supplies." (p.37)
20. Hopkins Landing Infrastructure Policy #1: "The SCRD, through its Waterworks Master Plan shall integrate the water systems within the Hopkins Landing neighbourhood to create back-up security, primarily for the purposes of fire protection. The Hopkins Landing Water District currently operates independently from the SCRD systems of Soames & Langdale wells and Chapman Creek water systems." (p. 28)

Blocks	Potential impact to SCRD Service Area	Comments about Natural Assets in the Community's Interest
MCNA003		<p>WATER for FIRE PROTECTION</p> <p>Is outside SCRD fire protection area but recommend BCTS be in touch with Strata Corp VR850 (25141) in the public interest of those owners, as the block is above a Point of Diversion for Fire Protection: "A standby system is maintained to fight fires."</p>

		<p>FEDERAL SPECIES AT RISK: This block overlaps with Federal Species at Risk.</p>
McNR006	<p>DRINKING WATER WATERSHED and SCRD ASSETS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Dakota Creek Watershed, a community watershed as defined under the Forest & Range Practices Act (FRPA). • Potential impact to downstream SCRD assets of the Dakota Creek berm and Hillside Industrial Park. 	<p>FEDERAL SPECIES AT RISK: This block partially overlaps with Federal Species at Risk.</p>
ELPH011 (partial also in Elphinstone)	<p>DRINKING WATER AQUIFER; SCRD Assets</p> <p>Above Soames Well capture zone and Langdale Well capture zone. Potential impacts to the aquifers that SCRD currently uses for water for community consumption, and has drilled two new production wells, applied for expanded water licences and is completing the final engineering design <u>(Langdale wells)</u>.</p>	<p>OLD GROWTH FOREST PRIORITY DEFERRAL (partial overlap); old growth management review flagged this area as important.</p>
G043B4NN (partial, also in Roberts Creek)	<p>STORMWATER; SCRD ASSETS:</p> <p>Note this is a previously referred block</p> <p>G043B4NN is located within DPA #3, Slope Hazards. This known hazardous area inherently adds risk and stormwater management responsibilities for downstream property owners, land managers and service providers. Impacts of logging exacerbate these risks through changing hydrological regimes such as decreasing of soil infiltration, the increase of snow cover and thus snow melt, and increase rainfall impacts on clear cut areas. The SCRD owns multiple assets along Roberts Creek, including Cliff Gilker Park and Roberts Creek Pier Park. Cliff Gilker was negatively impacted by high water flows in 2021, resulting in damages to park infrastructure. SCRD recommends that in advance of proposing/engineering cutblocks on Mount Elphinstone near Roberts Creek, that a review of the cumulative impact to ground water resources of Aquifer</p>	<p>GROUNDWATER/WELLS</p> <p>The watershed of Roberts Creek is not designated Community Watershed, however, BC Well Database lists 164 private licensed groundwater wells pulling from Aquifer 555. Changes in land cover and hydrology on these slopes have the potential to impact private/commercial downstream drinking water licences on Roberts Creek.</p>

	<p>555 by qualified experts selected by Local Government water service providers be completed. Historical and any proposed forestry activities for the next 5 years, and climate change considerations should be considered as part of such assessment.</p>	
<p>ELPH008 note this is a previously referred block</p>	<p>STORMWATER; SCRD ASSETS ELPH008 is located within DPA #3, Slope Hazards. This known hazardous area inherently adds risk and stormwater management responsibilities for downstream property owners, land managers and service providers. Impacts of logging exacerbate these risks through changing hydrological regimes such as decreasing of soil infiltration, the increase of snow cover and thus snow melt, and increase rainfall impacts on clear cut areas. The SCRD owns multiple assets along Roberts Creek, including Cliff Gilker Park and Roberts Creek Pier Park. Cliff Gilker was negatively impacted by high water flows in 2021, resulting in damages to park infrastructure. SCRD recommends that in advance of proposing/engineering cutblocks on Mount Elphinstone near Roberts Creek, that a review of the cumulative impact to ground water resources of Aquifer 555 by qualified experts selected by Local Government water service providers be completed. Historical and any proposed forestry activities for the next 5 years, and climate change considerations should be considered as part of such assessment.</p>	

Electoral Area E: Elphinstone

OCP statements

- **Section C-2.3: Integrated Stormwater Management Plan Policies**
 - The Regional District should undertake stormwater planning at the watershed level and at the individual development level (see Part C-3: Low-Impact Development Servicing) that takes into account the full spectrum of rainfall events in order to maintain or replicate to the greatest extent possible natural systems, thereby protecting stormwater as a resource for:
 - (a) Groundwater recharge to maintain base flows in streams;
 - (b) Fish, other aquatic species and wildlife;
 - (c) Potable water supplies; and
 - (d) Aesthetic and recreational use. (p.77)
- **Section B-1: Local Environment and Development Permit Areas**
 - To protect the natural environment, its ecosystems and biological diversity related to fish and wildlife, forests, watercourses and the marine shore zone. (p.10)

Blocks	Potential impact to SCR D Service Area	Comments about Natural Assets in the Community's Interest
ELPH011 (partial)	DRINKING WATER AQUIFER; SCR D ASSETS See above	Above residential areas
G043B4NV (partial also Roberts Creek) note this is a previously referred block	DRINKING WATER AQUIFER; SCR D ASSETS Substantively resized (doubled in size from 23.19 to 48.24 ha) since 2023 referral. No harvest volume information is provided. New information regarding aquifer recharge areas is available. Based on the hydrogeology study completed by Town of Gibsons in 2025, it is anticipated that this cutblock will impact the extensive braided network of surface drainage channels in the upper Chaster Creek Watershed. The study suggests that this area could be the main recharge area for the Elphinstone Aquifer Lobe (within the larger mapped Aquifer 560). SCR D operates Chaster Well, which draws water from the Elphinstone Aquifer Lobe.	Above residential areas

Electoral Area D: Roberts Creek

OCP statements

- Objective 9.g. “Encourage best practices of water management and conservation to minimize the impact on the Regional District’s water and local aquifers, while considering the needs sufficient for agriculture use.” (p.47)
- Objectives 13a.-h (some more relevant than others, emphasis mine for more useful ones) (p.62)
 - **13a To protect watershed areas and the quality of water.**
 - 13b To supply sufficient quality and quantity of Regional District water for domestic consumption, agriculture and fire protection purposes.
 - 13c Water conservation programs and development of related infrastructure are
 - supported.
 - **13d To protect surface and groundwater which are necessary for ecosystem health, independent supply to individual lots and Regional District community water systems.**
 - 13e To avoid zoning changes that result in the depletion of existing wells or springs or water bodies used as water supplies.
 - **13f To avoid the creation of new flooding hazards or the aggravating of existing flood hazards that could result from changes to storm water drainage patterns.**
 - 13g To encourage the Regional District to undertake aquifer mapping.
 - 13h To support a community-driven watershed study.
- Policies 13.8-13.9 (p.63)
 - 13.8 Deforestation is a significant concern and any forestry activity should take into account possible impacts on water quality and supply.
 - 13.9 Community-driven watershed studies to identify "Well-Head Protection Areas" and provide recommendations for management of development within such areas should be undertaken to ensure that the water quality of recharge areas for ground water wells is maintained.
 - i. The studies should consider the impact of forestry activity on both Crown and private land with regard to water quality, supply and flow.
 - ii. The studies should facilitate an innovative community-driven watershed study to examine horizontal rather than vertical movement of water using slowing down devices, such as gabions and swales, to recharge the aquifer as one means of maintaining supply for wells.
 - iii. This will be a non-traditional watershed study to make Roberts Creek an exemplary community watershed/forest harvesting area (i.e. not recommending larger culverts as the solution to controlling flow).
- From the Resource and Community Watershed overview section (p.106-107)
 - “Water: increasingly a key issue and frequently associated with climate change. The upland forested areas within the OCP proposed

boundary contain much of the Chapman and Grey watersheds as well as with many major creeks and subsidiary streams that require protection and maintenance to allow safe movement of water through residential areas. There is concern that Roberts Creek will need their own source of water in the future. The Technical Report which guides the OCP has suggested that Roberts Creek have a back-up water supply anticipating the effects of climate change and drought. It is also noted that 30% of Roberts Creek residences use well water and changes in upland forest harvesting and clearing for residential dwellings affect the movement of water and the aquifers that support the wells. The shíshálh Nation Strategic Land Use Plan (2007) identifies water as the greatest overall concern.” (p. 106)

- “Environmental Services: Forest cover on sloped land provides significant services such as erosion control, stream maintenance, water quality and aquifer protection. These services protect the increasingly high-value Roberts Creek waterfront and dense residential areas in the central core as well as public infrastructures. In the past Roberts Creek has experienced log jams creating debris floods, washout of roads and increased water flow as a result of upland changes.” (p.107)
- Objectives 19a-g from the Resource and Community Watershed section (emphasis mine) (p.108-109):
 - **19a To keep as much forest as possible in the watershed area and uplands of the OCP area and beyond for the provision of: a) environmental services such as: a steady quality and quantity of water, carbon sequestering (GHG) benefits, erosion control, flood mitigation and wildlife sanctuaries; b) economic benefits in a sustainable working forest and viable recreational areas, and; c) social, cultural, spiritual, and generational resilience.**
 - **19b To ensure the protection and maintenance of the biological diversity and sustainability of the forest.**
 - **19c To ensure that forest uses are ecologically, economically and socially responsible and balanced.**
 - 19d To encourage the effective involvement of the local community in Forest Management planning by way of meaningful consultation and cooperation with the Province, First Nations and forestry companies in forest lands stewardship.
 - 19e To support the development within the community of value added manufacturing of local forest products.
 - 19f To allow Crown Provincial Forest lands to be used for public education in integrated resource management and holistic, sustainable forestry and to demonstrate the associated economic aspects of forestry.
 - 19g Within Crown Provincial Forest lands to allow for uses, such as outdoor recreation, that are compatible with integrated resource management and holistic forest practices
- Policies 19.5, 19.6, 19.10:
 - 19.5 Protection of the Community Watershed is a primary concern of the SCR D and is a key part of the Strategic Land Use Plan for the shíshálh Nation (SLUP), and any activities near the Community Watershed boundary must take this into account. The SLUP sets out the shíshálh Nation’s objectives to protect the Chapman and Gray Creek watersheds and notes the Joint Water Management Agreement signed by the shíshálh Nation and the SCR D.
 - 19.6 The Regional District adopted a Source and Assessment Response Plan (SCR D 2012) for the Chapman Creek watershed and it supports the COMMUNITY WATERSHED land use designation and Rural Watershed Protection zoning designation.

- o 19.10 Map 1 designates land as COMMUNITY WATERSHED, this is land within the boundary of the Chapman Creek Watershed and is the location for the main water collection and treatment facility that serves the majority of residents on the Sunshine Coast. No resource, commercial or industrial activities shall be permitted within this area. Recreational and environmental based activities that have no negative impact upon the watershed shall be permitted. Restricted watershed use areas may be designated and protected. Residential development is not permitted in this area.

Blocks	Potential impact to SCRD Service Area	Comments about Natural Assets in the Community's Interest
G043B4NN (partial also West Howe Sound) Note this is a previously referred block	SCRD ASSETS See above.	
G043B4NV (partial)	See above Elphinstone.	
G042B4RC	DRINKING WATER WATERSHED (potential edge effects) Adjacent to Chapman Creek Watershed and many of its contributing tributaries. Concern for edge effects/blowdown.	
G043B4SG	SCRD ASSETS: above Cliff Gilker	
G043C3ZP	SCRD ASSETS: above Cliff Gilker	
ELPH010 Note this is a previously referred block	SCRD ASSETS: above Cliff Gilker, STORMWATER concern; ELPH010 is located within DPA #3, Slope Hazards. This known hazardous area inherently adds risk and stormwater management responsibilities for downstream property owners, land managers and service providers. Impacts of logging exacerbate these risks through changing hydrological regimes such as	GROUNDWATER/WELLS The watershed of Roberts Creek is not designated Community Watershed, however, BC Well Database lists 164 private licensed groundwater wells pulling from Aquifer 555. Changes in land cover on these slopes have the potential to impact private/commercial downstream drinking water licenses on Roberts Creek.

	<p>decreasing soil infiltration, the increase of snow cover and thus snow melt, and increase rainfall impacts on clear cut areas. The SCRDR owns multiple assets along Roberts Creek, including Cliff Gilker Park and Roberts Creek Pier Park. Cliff Gilker was negatively impacted by high water flows in 2021, resulting in damages to park infrastructure.</p>	
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Electoral Area B: Halfmoon Bay

OCP statements

- From the Vision: “We protect and live in harmony with our natural environment and its diverse habitats.” (p.iii)
- From the Goals: “To ensure on-going biodiversity through the protection, restoration and enhancement of plant and animal habitats” (p.iv)
- Objective 6.1: “To protect sensitive habitats and wildlife corridors” (p.12)
- Objective 6.3: “To protect areas of old growth forest.” (p.12)
- Objective 6.6: “To protect our foreshore, creeks and wetlands.” (p.13)
- Objective 6.11: “To preserve natural ecosystem networks on both public and private property.” (p.13)
- Policy 12.14: “Existing deposits of sand and gravel currently being utilized for extraction are included within the Resource designation. Mining and other resource extraction and processing shall not occur within community drinking watersheds and shall only occur at a scale that is suitable for supplying Sunshine Coast needs.” (p.30)
- Objective 12.15: “The SCR D encourages and supports the Ministry of Forests Land and Range to manage the Sechelt Provincial Forest lands in a way that mitigates conflicts and the impact of forestry related activities on other land uses.” (p.30)
- Introduction to Section 25: “The Halfmoon Bay community values the lands and waters throughout Electoral Area B for their natural ecosystem functions, for eco-tourism and recreation opportunities, for future sustainable resource use and extraction and for the benefit of the local community” (p.48)
- Objective 27.1: “To maintain the existing natural flow characteristics of watersheds within the OCP area by taking into account the cumulative impacts of development within the watershed areas.” (p.52)

Blocks	Potential impact to SCR D Service Area	Comments about Natural Assets in the Community’s Interest
SECH003	No comments on this block related to SCR D service	RED-LISTED ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES —This block partially overlaps multiple areas identified by BC’s Conservation Data Centre (CDC) as an ecological community are at the highest risk of being lost/ at the highest level of concern OLD GROWTH RECRUITMENT FOREST – partial overlap
SECH006		OLD GROWTH FOREST PRIORITY DEFERRAL overlaps area that old growth management review flagged as important. OLD GROWTH RECRUITMENT FOREST – partial overlap RED-LISTED ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES overlaps area identified by BC’s Conservation Data Centre (CDC) as an ecological community are at the highest risk of being lost/ at the highest level of concern

		<p>PRIVATE PROPERTY The southern portion of this sub-block appears to be a privately owned parcel.</p>
SECH007		<p>PRIVATE PROPERTY A portion of this block appears to be a privately owned parcel. No comments on this block related to SCRD service--most of this block is in District of Sechelt)</p>
SECH010		<p>OLD GROWTH RECRUITMENT FOREST – partial overlap Recommend engagement with SC Trails</p>
G052B4R8	<p>DRINKING WATER AQUIFER; DRINKING WATER WATERSHED (potential edge effects) Note this is a previously referred block</p>	<p>This block has substantively changed / is larger and is proposed above Aquifers 564, where SCRD Board has directed staff to continue development of a wellfield (Sechelt shishalh Hospital Well). Changes in land cover could potentially impact aquifer recharge or water quality.</p>

Electoral Area A: Egmont / Pender Harbour

OCP statements

- There are a number of quotes that were pulled but are specific to DPAs and development, and may not be as relevant to this except insofar as they demonstrate a commitment to watershed/forest protection when it comes to residential/commercial/industrial development
- There is also considerable discussion of industrial development and ensuring it does not adversely impact sensitive habitat
- Community Vision: “Our vision is to foster a unified, vibrant, healthy, safe, and diverse community within our unique lake, mountain, and marine coastal landscapes that balances economic opportunities with the natural environment.” (p.4)
- Community Goals: “To protect the quality and quantity of all water sources.” (p.4)
- Objective 2.2.1(f): “To provide adequate protection to the environment as a whole including, air quality and watersheds which contribute to water supplies and overall health of the forests.” (p.12)
- Objective 3.2.3(a): “To protect the quality and quantity of tidal, non-tidal and watercourse areas and groundwater sources and surrounding riparian areas for the purpose of maintaining the natural environment as well as drinking water supply sources.” (p.32)
- Policy 3.2.2: “Restore and protect habitats that support native species of both plants and animals and address threats to biodiversity from invasive species and land development in sensitive areas.” (p.31)
- Policy 3.9.1(a): “To maintain the existing natural flow characteristics of watersheds within the Plan area by taking into account the cumulative impacts of development within the watershed areas.” (p.45)
- Objective 3.9.2(j) – focused on development but potentially relevant: “Development shall not result in the pollution of surface or groundwater supplies. Particular care shall be taken to ensure that there are no detrimental impacts to agricultural land, water wells or streams due to water pollution.” (p.46)

Blocks	Potential impact to SCRD Service Area	Comments about Natural Assets in the Community’s Interest
SECH005	DRINKING WATER WATERSHED (potential edge effects) Abuts but is not in McNeil Watershed. Potential concern for edge effects/blowdown.	OLD GROWTH FOREST PRIORITY DEFERRAL overlaps area that old growth management review flagged as important. OLD GROWTH RECRUITMENT FOREST – partial overlap FEDERAL SPECIES AT RISK: This block partially overlaps with Federal Species at Risk.
SECH008		GROUNDWATER/WELLS SCRD does not have water licences in this area and it is not in a community watershed. Suggest BCTS engage any POD holders who may be impacted. OLD GROWTH RECRUITMENT FOREST: partial overlap

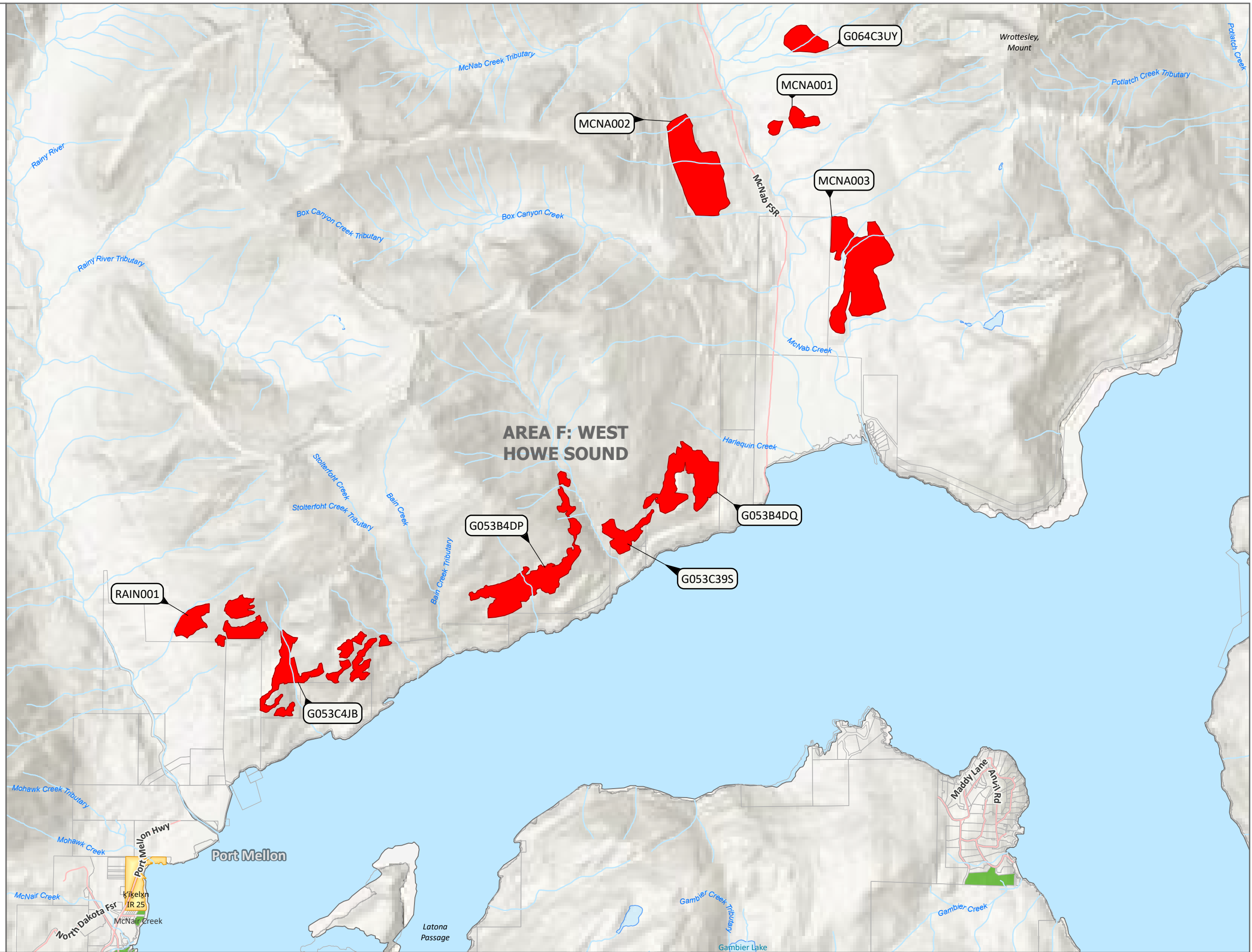
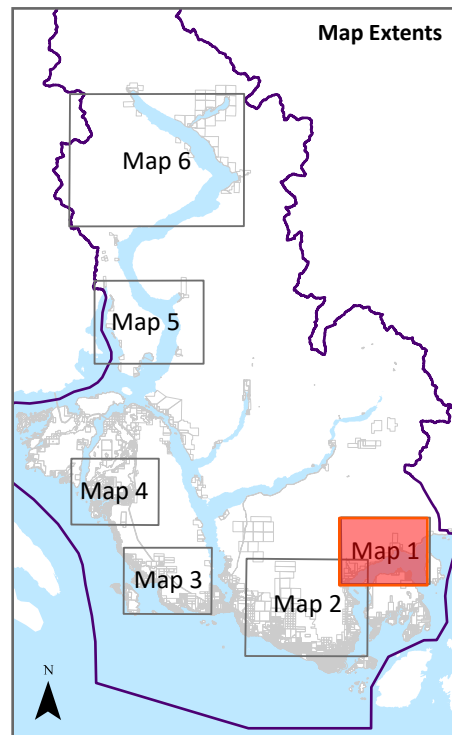
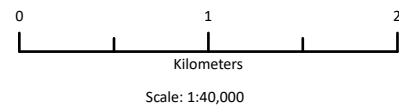
		<p>FEDERAL SPECIES AT RISK: This block partially overlaps with Federal Species at Risk.</p>
SECH004	Slope stability may also be a concern	<p>GROUNDWATER/WELLS SCR D does not have water licences in this area and it is not in a community watershed. Suggest BCTS engage any POD holders who may be impacted</p> <p>OLD GROWTH FOREST PRIORITY DEFERRAL overlaps area that old growth management review flagged as important. OLD GROWTH RECRUITMENT FOREST: overlaps almost entirely and area identified by BC as important for Old Growth recruitment</p> <p>FEDERAL SPECIES AT RISK: This block partially overlaps with Federal Species at Risk.</p>
BRITW003	No comment	<p>OLD GROWTH FOREST PRIORITY DEFERRAL—edge effects</p>
BRITW004	No comment	<p>OLD GROWTH FOREST PRIORITY DEFERRAL partially overlaps area that old growth management review flagged as important. FEDERAL SPECIES AT RISK: This block partially overlaps with Federal Species at Risk.</p>



BCTS OP PLAN BLOCKS 2025

Map 1

- BCTS OP Plan Blocks 2025
- Parks
- First Nation Lands
- Parcels
- Electoral Area Outlines
- SCRD Boundary
- Lake
- Road
- Stream

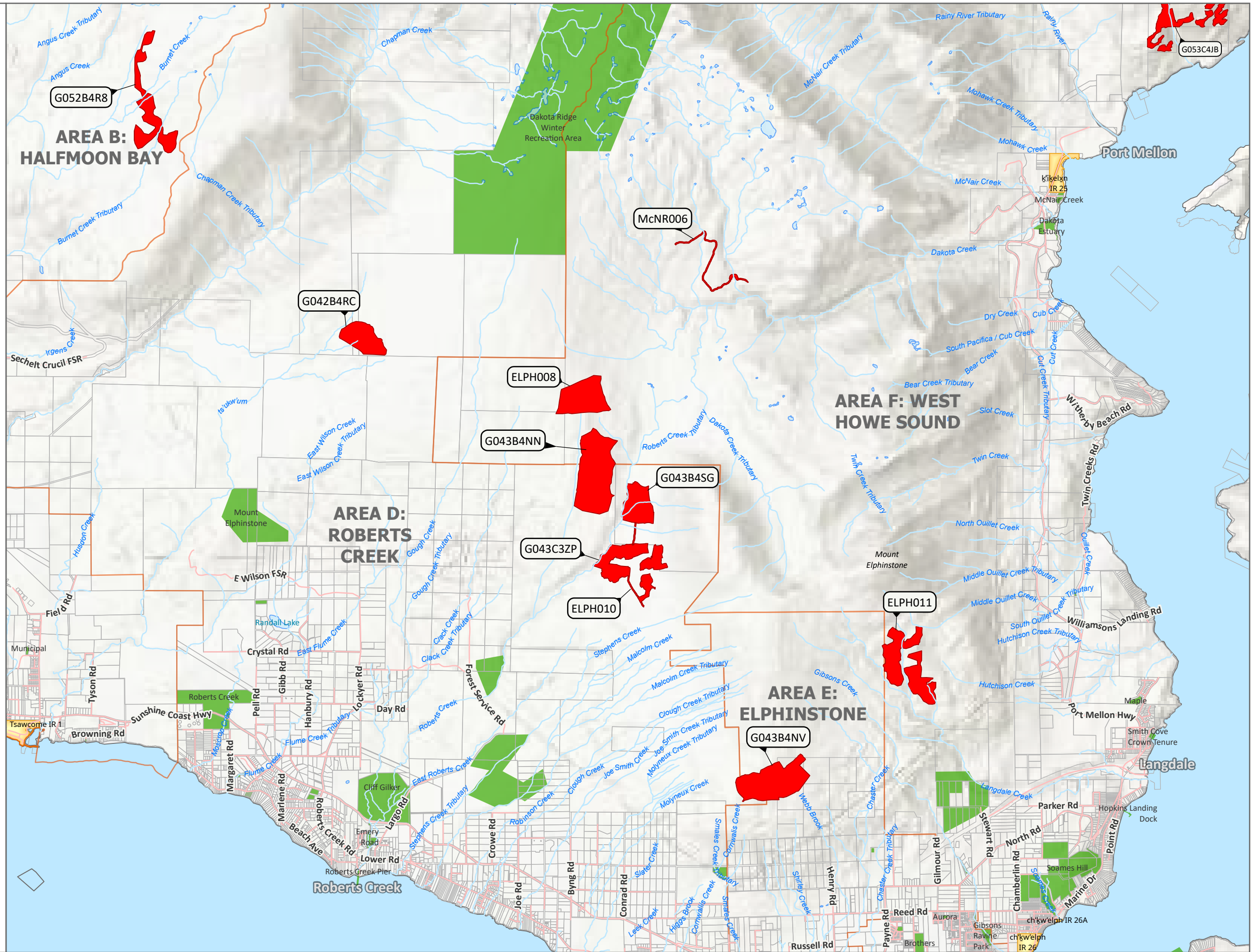
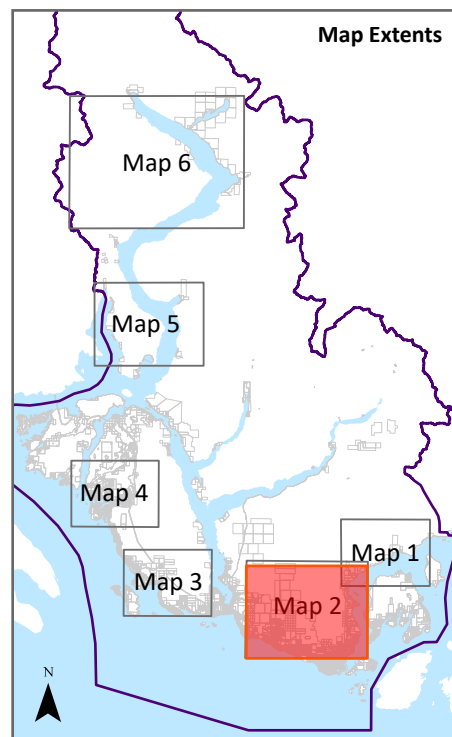
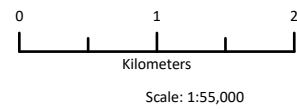




BCTS OP PLAN BLOCKS 2025

Map 2

- BCTS OP Plan Blocks 2025
- Parks
- First Nation Lands
- Parcels
- Electoral Area Outlines
- SCR D Boundary
- Lake
- Road
- Stream

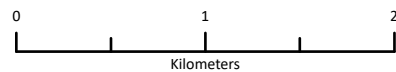




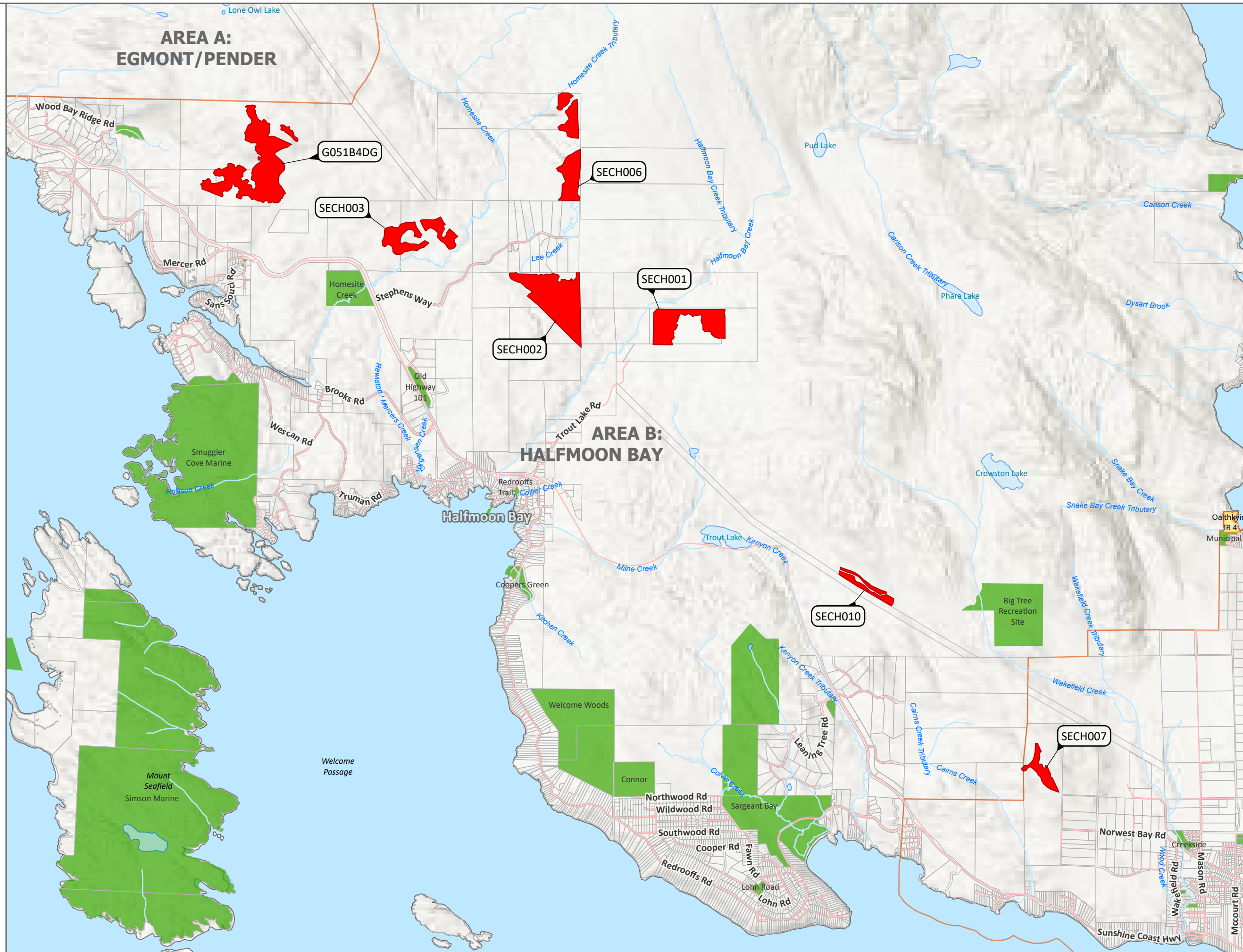
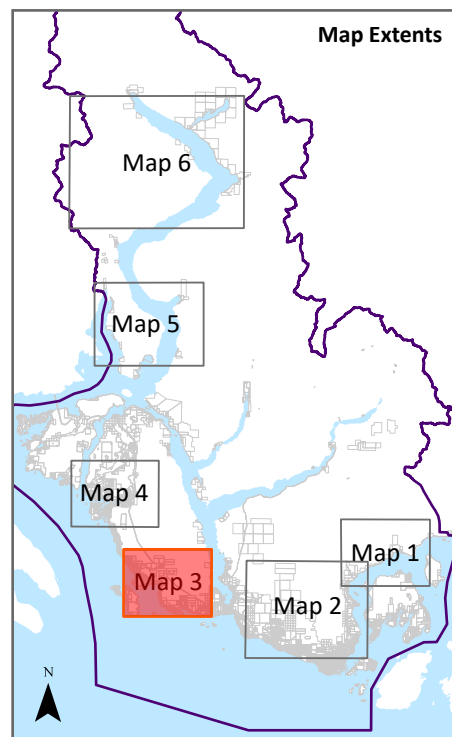
BCTS OP PLAN BLOCKS 2025

Map 3

- BCTS OP Plan Blocks 2025
- Parks
- First Nation Lands
- Parcels
- Electoral Area Outlines
- SCRD Boundary
- Lake
- Road
- Stream



Scale: 1:40,000

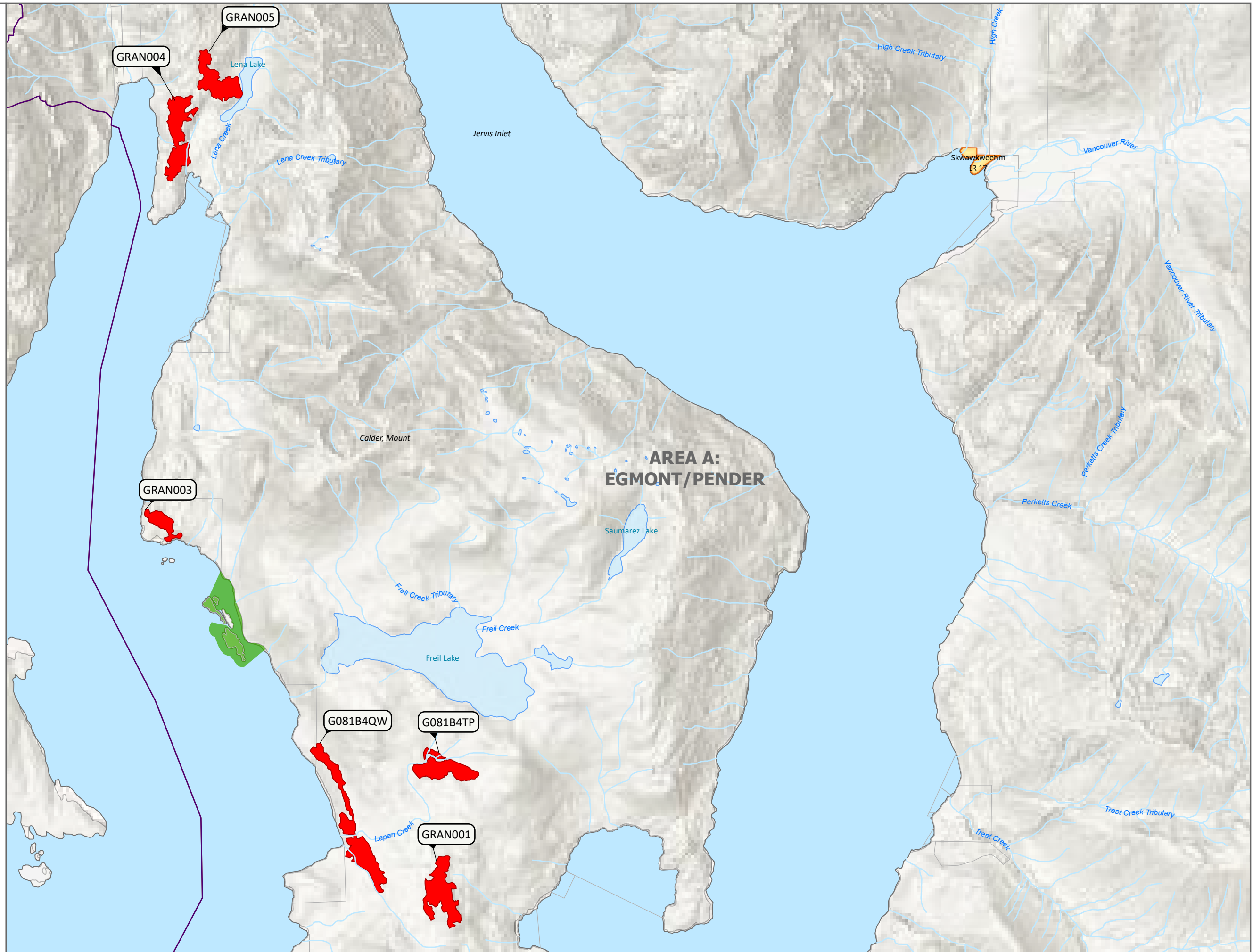
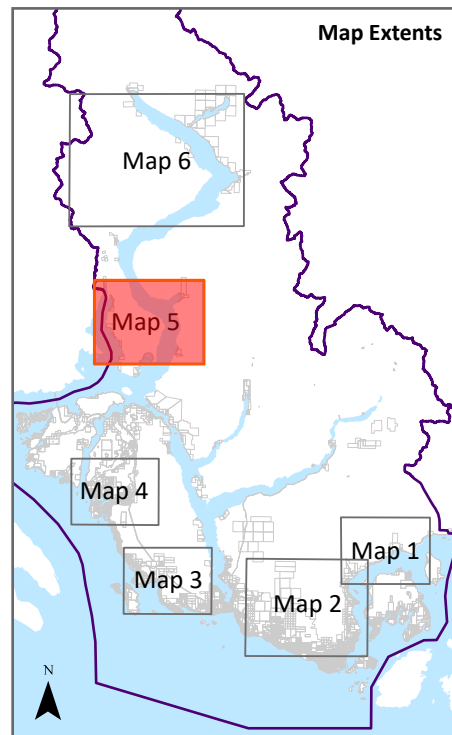
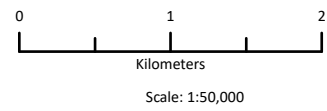




BCTS OP PLAN BLOCKS 2025

Map 5

- BCTS OP Plan Blocks 2025
- Parks
- First Nation Lands
- Parcels
- Electoral Area Outlines
- SCRD Boundary
- Lake
- Road
- Stream

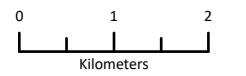




BCTS OP PLAN BLOCKS 2025

Map 6

- BCTS OP Plan Blocks 2025
- Parks
- First Nation Lands
- Parcels
- Electoral Area Outlines
- SCRD Boundary
- Lake
- Road
- Stream



Scale: 1:80,000

