Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board

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Adam Burdett adam.burdett@gov.bc.ca May 25, 2022
British Columbia Wildfire Service

Dear Adam Burdett,

Thank you for presenting the Wildfire Risk Reduction Prescription (the Prescription) as prepared by Silvicon Services Inc for the BC Wildfire Service on March 21st, 2022. This plan described forestry activities on Seymour Ridge, within the Core Ecosystem as identified by the Bulkley Valley Land and Resource Management Plan (BVLRMP). The Bulkley Valley Community Resource Board is entrusted with reviewing the potential cost/benefit of activities proposed within the bounds of the BVLRMP, to provide comment and recommendation on behalf of the public.

The Board had previously found proposals to use forestry activities to remove fuel and timber not to match the intent of the BVLRMP in preserving the integrity of Core Ecosystems. This newer proposal identified seven distinct treatment units, and multiple phases which the Board reviewed in depth. The board reviewed the plan’s impact to recreation values, and considered input from community members.

Consensus was reached around a recommendation that the proponent should only proceed with a component of the proposal. The BVCRB agreed to recommend the first phase of the proposal could occur as described by the Prescription and during the March 21st presentation. This phase involves the removal of downed trees, debris and fuels within 20 meters each side of Seymour Ridge Trail. The Board’s consensus was contingent upon a series of conditions as outlined below.

1. During the operations, no widening of Seymour Ridge Trail’s tread is desired. Use of mini-excavators or small equipment is feasible, so long as damage or widening of the tread does not occur.
2. Additional accesses for required equipment are not recommended. Instead, use of existing access routes should allow for access to the identified work sites within Treatment Units.
3. It is strongly recommended that during removal of fuels, no live trees should be felled. This includes mature trees or the immature understory. The Board recommends that efforts should be made to reduce damage to live trees.
4. Should salvageable wood be removed from the site, the BVCRB endorses the proposal to transport it for firewood-use in Witset.

This letter explicitly endorses only a component of the Wildfire Risk Reduction Prescription. Further information gathering will result from the approved activities, and allow for later discussion and recommendations. The BVCRB was not in agreement that the wildfire risk warranted the entirety of the prescribed activities at this time.

Should you have any questions in regards to this recommendation, please feel free to contact the Board.

Yours Truly

Jeff McKay - Vice Chair BVCRB

cc Cam Bentley - Skeena Stikine Forest District Manager

cc Sarah Campbell - Licensed Authorizations Officer