

Spełkúmtn Community Forest – 2021/2022 Proposed Harvesting Referral Form

Block Name(s): MK001, MK004A, MK004B, MK005A and MK005B

Lil'wat Forestry Ventures on behalf of the Spełkúmtn Community Forest is **seeking review and comment** regarding the proposed harvesting and associated road construction for cutblocks MK001, MK004A, MK004B, MK005A and MK005B specifically with respect to use of the area by members of the communities of Pemberton and Mt Currie for a range of recreation and forest land uses. **Community members are encouraged to submit any comments or concerns regarding recreation or public use activities** occurring in the vicinity of these cutblocks so that Spełkúmtn CF is aware and can plan activities to minimize any potential impact to public use and recreation within the area.

These blocks are proposed to be harvested under the Spełkúmtn Community Forest tenure agreement, A partnership between the Lil'wat Nation and the Village of Pemberton. The revenue generated from this community forest harvesting will be shared between the Lil'wat Nation and the Village of Pemberton as per the partnership agreement developed for the community forest. Harvest planning and implementation of all activities will be completed by Lil'wat Forestry Ventures. The proposed harvesting and road building details are provided below.

Original referral or revised? Original

Block Description:

Block MK001, MK004 and MK005 are located between 5.5km and 7.5km on the Mackenzie Basin FSR. The blocks are accessed via the existing Mackenzie Basin FSR and from planned and existing spur roads, as illustrated on the attached maps. All spur roads planned for construction or upgrades to existing spurs required for harvest operations are included in this referral.

Block MK001 is an Old Growth (250+ year) Douglas fir leading stand with a minor component of Cedar, Hemlock and White Pine present in low amounts. The block is located on a gentle to moderate sloping uniform sidehill. There are a range of diameter classes present across the stand with merchantable stems ranging from 40 to 100cm diameter at 1.3m and with heights ranging from 35m to 45m. The stand has an open understory with sparse conifer regen layers and well-developed herb and shrub layers dominated by black huckleberry and lesser amounts of rose and saskatoon. The area is classified as a zonal to slightly richer CWHds1 site.

Block MK004A is an Old Growth (250+ year), high elevation Mountain hemlock / Balsam fir stand with scattered rock outcrops. There is a well-developed woody shrub layer established across the unit. Slopes are gentle. Trees in the stand range from 30 to 70 cm at 1.3m and heights range from 22m to 28m. Classified as a zonal ESSFmw site

Block MK004B is an Old Growth (250+ years) Douglas fir leading stand with a diverse mix of Balsam, Cedar Spruce and Hemlock present. The understory shrub layer is dominated by vaccinium and azalia woody shrubs and there is a ~1500 sph of existing natural regen across the block ranging from 0.3 to 2.0m heights. There are numerous small rock outcrops and brushy

open patches throughout the stand. Diameters range from 30 to 80 cm at 1.3m and heights range from 30 to 35m. Classified as a zonal CWHms1 site

Block MK005A and MK005B are young second growth 100% Douglas fir leading stands with a very minor component of Hemlock and Cedar present. The blocks are 50-55 years old and portions of the stands were previously pruned and spaced. The block areas are moisture receiving sites with areas of seepage and bisected by small ephemeral creeks. Tree diameters range from 20 to 35 cm at 1.3m and heights are uniform at 24-26m. Herb and shrub layers are well established in wetter and more open portions of the stand and areas with closed canopy and dark understory have only sparse understory herb and shrubs established. Classified as richer / moister CWHds1 sites

The blocks are planned for ground-based harvesting utilizing hoe forwarding/ground skidding. The blocks will be harvested under a clearcut with reserves / retention silviculture system with retention planned at 5-20 sph across each cutblock. Retention will be arranged as individual dispersed retention trees and small patches (5-20 trees/patch).

Block	Net Area (ha)	Species Mix	Harvest Type	Slope	Estimated volume (m3)	Age Class	Length New Road (m)
MK001	5.3	Fd(CwHw)	Ground	10-55%	3500 m3	Old Growth	160m
MK004A	3.2	HmBa	Ground	10-55%	1200m3	Old Growth	270m
MK004B	4.0	Fd(CwBaHwSx)	Ground	10-55%	1600m3	Old Growth	n/a
MK005A	1.3	Fd(CwHw)	Ground	10-40%	500m3	2 nd Growth	400m (rebuild)
MK005B	4.8	Fd(CwHw)	Ground	10-40%	2000m3	2 nd Growth	150m (rebuild)

The Slelu’la7 [Owl to Mackenzie] trail runs approximately 10m outside of the east boundary of block MK004A and is located approximately 80m outside of block MK004B. During harvest of block MK004A there will be a requirement to fall and yard away from the block boundary to ensure no disturbance to the trail occurs.

Key Values and Issues:

Highlight the primary identified values, issues associated with the proposed cutblocks / roads:

Recreation –

General recreation / public use of the area is high due to the proximity to town and presence of multiple use trails in the area. Recreation activities beyond mountain biking and paragliding generally occurring are dog walking, horseback riding, botanical collections, hiking, ATV use and 4x4 driving. Through this public information sharing process any concerns identified by the public will be considered and plans developed to address the concern. Any actions developed to address public concerns will be shared with the public, the Village of Pemberton and with the

Lil'wat Nation. All parties will be made aware of harvesting plans and road use restrictions or closures prior to and during active harvest operations.

There are several mountain bike and recreation trails running through the general area but there are no sections of these trails falling within any of the planned blocks. Several trails cross the Mackenzie Basin FSR and specific information sharing will need to be completed with the Pemberton Valley Trails Association (PVTA) and the Pemberton Off Road Cycling Association [PORCA] to ensure trail users are aware of the harvesting activities so that safe trail and road use can continue during active operations. Speikúmtn Community Forest will be discussing the harvesting plans for these blocks directly with PORCA and PVTA. These discussions will focus on communication and safety, primarily around road use, timing of operations, signage and communication to PORCA membership of operational schedules. The discussions will also allow for any potential impacts to the trail network and trail use to be identified and for members of PORCA to voice any other specific concern with harvest of these blocks.

The blocks are also nearby to the Mackenzie paragliding launch zone, road use during harvest operations is not anticipated to impact paragliders use of the launch zone. No impacts to the use of the launch sites or to paragliding in the general area is anticipated to occur from harvest of these blocks. Specific info sharing will need to be completed with the paragliding community to ensure safe road use and launch zone use can continue during active operations.

Riparian – There are small S6 creeks and non-classified drainages (NCDs) flowing through the Block MK005A and MK005B. A qualified person has assessed all riparian areas and appropriate management strategies will be developed for each feature that will ensure riparian areas are not negatively impacted.

Terrain Stability – There are no slopes exceeding 60% within the block areas. There are no signs or evidence of historical slope stability issues within any portion of the cutblocks. Planned harvesting activities are appropriate to maintain slope stability and soil disturbance within acceptable limits.

Visuals – All of the blocks are located within an area of the landscape to which a Visual Quality Objective of “Partial Retention” applies. The cutblocks have been designed with the principles of good visual design and are expected to be only partially visible from any significant public viewpoints with significant screening occurring from boundary location, retention trees and topography of the valley. A formal Visual Impact Assessment will be prepared if further planning indicates visual impact studies are required. Following harvesting the blocks will be consistent with the criteria for “partial retention” and the visual impact will be acceptable.

Wildfire – These blocks are not located within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and to the SouthWest the Lillooet River provides a significant fuel break between residential areas and the block locations. There is no significant fire break between the block locations and the residential areas along Reid road, a distance of approximately 2.0km. To reduce the potential for ignition and to reduce the potential for a high intensity wildfire, specific fire hazard abatement measures will be utilized. Normal utilization of harvestable material, combined with roadside processing area clean up and piling of woody waste materials for disposal, both at roadsides and within the block area will ensure that the post-harvest wildfire risk of this area is

not increased by harvest. Local residents will be encouraged to collect firewood from waste piles prior to disposal by burning and the site will be identified as a suitable area for obtaining firewood to distribute to Lil'wat community members if the need for firewood by community members be identified.

Wildlife – There were no significant wildlife habitat or critical wildlife features identified within the planned harvest areas. The Pemberton Wildlife Association (PWA) will be contacted to determine if there are any wildlife concerns from the PWA within this area of planned harvesting. There have been no significant wildlife sightings or evidence of critical areas or features for wildlife use within the blocks. There is evidence of use by a variety of wildlife species throughout the area. Harvest of the blocks will maintain some of the existing wildlife features currently in place and it is anticipated that harvest will increase the amount of early seral stage browse species available for wildlife use following harvest. The block will have appropriate Wildlife Tree Retention Areas (WTRA) established which will maintain a component of wildlife trees appropriate for wildlife use in the general area.

Block Management – Management of other Block Specific Values

N/A

If you have questions or to provide feedback about on the proposed harvesting plans, please contact Klay Tindall, RPF, of Lil'wat Forestry Ventures at klay.tindall@lilwat.ca or Abe Litz, RPF, of Chartwell Resource Group Limited at alitz@crgl.ca