

Spełkúmtn Community Forest –2022 Proposed Harvesting Referral Form

Block Name(s): MI100A, MI100C, MI100D

The Spełkúmtn Community Forest is **seeking review and comment** regarding the proposed harvesting and associated road construction for cutblocks MI100A, MI100C and MI100D specifically with respect to use of the area by members of the communities of Pemberton and Mt Currie. **Community members are encouraged to submit any comments or concerns regarding public use activities or affects of harvesting on existing forest values** associated with the south Miller Creek area where the planned blocks are located. Review and comment by the community is requested so that Spełkúmtn CF is aware and can plan activities to minimize any potential impact to public use and ensure any forest values of concern for the community are addressed.

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 managed by Lil'wat Forestry Ventures. The proposed harvesting and road building details are provided below.

Original referral or revised? Original

Block Description:

Block MI100A, MI100C and MI100D are located between ~ 6km and 7.5km on the Pemberton Creek FSR. This area of the community forest receives only minor public community use as there is no public access into the area. The existing road access runs through Cedar Grove Estates and public access is controlled by the residents via a private locked gate. An alternative access route is currently under development which involves installation of a new bridge across Miller Creek to access the Pemberton Creek FSR. The new access route also crosses private property owned by the Talbot family. There will continue to be no public access into the area due to the private property crossing requirement.

Short sections of new roads will be required to junction off the FSR to access the individual blocks. All spur roads planned for construction and/or upgrades to existing spurs required for harvest operations are included in this referral. Any new roads constructed to provide block access will be fully rehabilitated back to a productive state following harvest completion. The areas of rehabilitated road will be planted with appropriate tree seedlings during block reforestation activities.

Block MI100A and MI100C are Old Growth (250+ year) mixed species stands of Balsam and Douglas fir with lesser amounts of Cedar, Yellow Cedar and Hemlock. The blocks are located on a gentle to moderate sloping uniform sidehills. There are a range of diameter classes present across the stand with merchantable stems ranging from 40 to 100+cm diameter at 1.3m and with heights ranging from 35m to 45m. The stand has an open understory with patchy clumps of conifer regen layers (primarily Balsam) and well-developed herb and shrub layers dominated by black huckleberry. The area is classified as a zonal to slightly richer CWHms1 site.

Block MI100D is a mature (~180 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 to moderately steep. Trees in the stand range from 30 to 70 cm at 1.3m and heights range from 30m to 35m. Classified as a zonal montagne CWHms1 site.

The blocks are planned for ground-based harvesting utilizing hoe forwarding/ground skidding. The blocks will be harvested under a retention silviculture system with retention planned at 10-20 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)
MI100A	6.4	FdBa(CwHwYc)	Ground	10-55%	4800 m3	Old Growth	235m
MI100C	3.9	FdBa(CwHwYc)	Ground	10-30%	3120m3	Old Growth	114m
MI100D	9.0	HwHmBa	Ground	10-55%	4500m3	Old Growth	n/a

The Innergex Miller creek hydro generating facility penstock and the upper Lillooet hydro project transmission line run adjacent to the block locations / along roadsides. An onsite planning visit will be completed with Innergex prior to harvest activity commencing to ensure no impact to the project infrastructure occurs. Specifically, spur road locations and suitability of existing road crossing of the penstock must be determined and limits of approach and any specific measures required when crossing under the existing Tx line, or when harvesting adjacent will require identification. Shared road use procedures will also be discussed.

Key Values and Issues:

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

Recreation –

General recreation / public use of the area nil/low due to the lack of public access. There are no known recreation uses that will be affected by harvesting activities.

Riparian / Water Licences – There are small S6 creeks and non-classified drainages (NCDs) flowing through the blocks. A qualified professional has assessed all riparian areas and appropriate management strategies (riparian buffer reserve zones, machine crossing limitations, etc) will be developed for each feature that will ensure riparian values (water flow and quality) are not negatively impacted by harvesting activities. South Miller creek is located a minimum of 50m downslope of block MI100C, the area between the creek and the block boundary is mature forest. There will be no impact to water quality or flow in South Miller Creek resulting from harvesting activities.

There are domestic / irrigation water licences on Miller Creek located ~4km downstream from the block location which are held by / serve residents along Pemberton Meadows Road. Riparian management plans to be used during harvest will be appropriate to ensure there is no impact to water quality or to any downstream water license intake areas. Water license holders will be identified and notified of the timing of planned harvesting activities. There are water

lines associated with the water licences reported to be buried in/adjacent to the FSR in the vicinity of the new alignment/bridge crossing. A plan has been developed to avoid any soil excavation during road construction (road will be built using overland fill technique) in the new alignment which will ensure no disturbance to the existing water line occurs.

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 for maintaining slope stability and limiting soil disturbance to acceptable levels.

Visuals – All of the blocks are located within an area of the landscape to which a Visual Quality Objective of “Modification” 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. The area will not be visible from the Village of Pemberton core area. The most significant viewpoints have been identified to be from the sports field / old high school location on Pemberton Meadows Road and from the bridge crossing site over Miller Creek along Pemberton Valley Road. A preliminary visual assessment from these locations has been prepared. The preliminary assessment indicates that the visual impact of the planned harvest will be appropriate for an area with a modification objective. Preliminary assessment suggests that following harvesting the blocks will easily meet the Modification objective and will likely be consistent with the more restrictive (less visible) visual quality objective of “Partial Retention”. The preliminary assessment has been provided with this info package.

Wildfire – These blocks are not located approximately 4km from residential areas and not within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and Miller Creek provides a fuel break between residential areas and the block locations. There is hydro infrastructure adjacent to the block locations (Tx lines). 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. Woody debris will be disposed of through burning during appropriate conditions.

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