

Spełkúmtn Community Forest –2022 Proposed Harvesting Referral Form

Block Name(s): **Block GR1000 and Block GR1001 and Block GR1001A**

The Spełkúmtn Community Forest is **seeking review and comment** regarding the proposed harvesting and associated road construction for cutblocks GR1000, GR1001 and GR1001A 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 Green River / Lower slopes of Mount Currie 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 GR1000, GR1001 and Block GR1001A are accessed via Br 800-1 located at ~2.3km on the Green River FSR. The blocks are 50m above the FSR location and there will be a retained stand of trees between the FSR and the lower block boundaries. This area of the community forest receives significant public community use covering a range of activities.

Short sections of new roads will be required to be constructed off of Br 800-1 to access the individual blocks. The location of the new sections of road are displayed on the attached appraisal map (Br 8001A, Br 800-2, Br 800-5 and Br GR1001-1). 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 GR1000 is a 2nd growth stand dominated by Western Red cedar and Douglas fir with a component of Western hemlock, Big-leaf maple and Birch stems throughout the block. The block is located on a gentle to rolling sidehill location. There are scattered short steep pitches exceeding 50%. Soils are deep and primarily well drained with high coarse fragment content and scattered surface colluvium rock present from rockfall of steep slopes located upslope. The merchantable stand is 60years old conifers 25-50cm diameters at 30-35m. There are larger stems present scattered throughout the stand which are remnant retention from 1st pass logging. These larger trees are approximately 100years old and have elevated wildlife habitat values and a component of these wildlife trees will be retained from harvest (~5 sph retained). There are well developed conifer regen and advanced regen (0.3 – 6.0m tall) layer across the

block, during harvest existing regeneration will be retained undamaged as much as possible and these retained regen layers will contribute to the regeneration objectives of the site. The block is classified as a moister / richer CWHds1 site.

Block GR1001 is a 2nd growth stand of Douglas fir, Western Hemlock and Western red cedar. The block is rolling to moderately steep with occasional rock outcrops. Slopes range from flat to 60%. There are 4 small ephemeral non-classified drainages bisecting the block. Crown closure is high resulting in a dark understory with moderately well developed herb and moss layers and sparse woody shrubs. There is a component of Big-leaf maple stems of various sizes within the unit. The center of the block has an area containing some larger older fire scarred trees on a rocky knob position. The block is classified as a zonal CWHds1 site with slightly drier/richer portions present.

Block GR1001A is a mature Douglas fir stand with a minor component of Western Red cedar and Western Hemlock trees. The stand is approximately 140-160 years old, the stand is developing old growth characteristics with large fire scarred vets present along with younger smaller trees (50-80yrs). This small block is located on a flat rocky knob with shallow soils and extensive moss cover. There are no riparian features within the block boundary. The block is classified as a zonal to slightly drier CWHds1 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)
GR1000	12.9	CwFd(HwMbEp)	Ground	10-50%	8000 m3	2 nd growth	235m
GR1001	2.5	Fd(CwHw)	Ground	10-60%	1500m3	2 nd growth	350m
GR1001A	0.9	Fd(HwCw)	Ground	0-25%	600m3	Mature (~160yrs)	150m

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 is high due to easy access and proximity to residential areas. There are a variety of recreation activities occurring. Dog walking, hiking, ATV/Motor bike driving, 4x4ing, shooting sports, photography and other outdoor based activities.

Within block GR1000 and GR1001A there are several motor bike trails that have been developed recently. These trails do not have any authorization to be constructed and are not constructed with any thought to protection of existing values or appropriateness of the location. Portions of these trails are already exhibiting soil movement/erosion and potential impacts to water flow patterns has already occurred. No management or protection of these unauthorized trails will occur. Harvesting operations will ignore the trails and there are no plans

to remove debris from or rehabilitate these unauthorized trails. The Spel'kúmtn Community Forest and Lil'wat Forestry Ventures do not support unauthorized trail building or development. Individual community members or public recreation groups interested in developing trails within the community forest should bring trail proposals to both the Lil'wat Nation and to the Spel'kúmtn Community Forest managers. The community forest managers can provide support for trail building authorization requests and assist with completing the necessary planning assessments and authorization submissions.

Recreation users on the Green River FSR may experience some temporary closures of the road to accommodate safe use of the road while active harvesting is occurring above the FSR and where there is potential for logs to "runaway" downslope and potentially impact road users. During harvesting operations the road will be well signed with road closure information. For the safety of the recreation public, it is requested that recreation users respect all signage and do not attempt to enter areas posted as closed.

There are commercial dog walking operators who use the general block areas on a regular basis. The Spel'kúmtn CF will reach out to local dog walking companies to ensure they are aware of the planned activities and to determine if specific planning around use of the road, location of walking routes, etc need to be considered.

Riparian / Water Licences – There are small streams and non-classified riparian features within and adjacent to the blocks. The streams all flow directly to the Green River / Green River floodplain, which have high fisheries values. Appropriate riparian management strategies will be applied during harvesting to ensure no impacts to water quality or flow occur as a result of harvesting operations.

Stream #1 in block GR1000 has had a 10-30m wide retention strip engineered adjacent to the stream location to preserve riparian values associated with this stream. Stream #2 is a small ephemeral stream feature flowing along the edge of the block. Both streams have been assessed by a qualified professional and prescriptions have been developed to guide harvesting activities around these riparian features to ensure to detrimental impacts to the stream features or downstream areas.

There are 4 small creeks and non-classified drainages (NCDs) flowing through the block GR1001. 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.

There are no streams within block GR1001A.

There are no water licences or water diversion structures located on any of the stream areas associated with these blocks.

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 “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, existing forest cover in relation to viewing positions, retention trees and topography of the valley. The area will not be visible from the Village of Pemberton core area. The most significant viewpoint has been identified to be from the Sunstone Golf Club / Pemberton Airport. 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 Partial Retention objective. Preliminary assessment suggests that following harvesting the blocks will easily meet the Partial Retention objective. Field observations and digital models prepared for the visual impact assessment indicate that the blocks will be mostly to fully screened from view by foreground vegetation and shielded by topography/viewing angles from significant public viewpoints. A preliminary visual impact assessment has been prepared which illustrates that the visual quality objective will be met. The preliminary visual assessment has been provided with this info package.

Wildfire – These blocks are located across the Green River / Lillooet River from residential areas of Pemberton. These major rivers provide an effective landscape level fuel break. To reduce the potential for ignition and to reduce the potential for a high intensity wildfire, specific fire hazard abatement measures will be utilized on these blocks during harvest. 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.

Waste materials suitable for firewood use will be piled at block roadsides and local residents are encouraged to gather firewood from these areas.

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