

Cheakamus Community Forest Open House – February 1, 2016

Frequently Asked Questions

Harvesting is proposed for spring 2016 in the Cheakamus 16 unit.

The long term plans for the Cheakamus Valley are shown on the 1–3 year and 4–10 year harvesting options maps. These maps plus the 2016 harvesting plans can be found at:

<http://www.cheakamuscommunityforest.com/maps-and-harvesting-plans/>

- Where is the Cheakamus 16 unit located?
 - The unit is located southwest of the quarry at Cheakamus Crossing.
 - The block starts approximately 1.4 km from the turn off to Jane Lake Forest Service Road.
 - Harvesting map http://www.cheakamuscommunityforest.com/wp-content/uploads/CK16_Harvesting_Plan.pdf

What are the anticipated impacts?

- There will be some dust and noise from logging trucks on Jane Lake Forest Service Road.
 - The location of the paved access road and landfill berm will isolate truck noise from the Jane Lake Forest Service Road.
- The harvesting block will be visible from Highway 99
 - There are visual quality objectives in place to soften the effects (i.e. moderate to very high retention or number of trees left behind).
- There will be logging traffic on Jane Lake Road and Cheakamus Lake Road to Highway 99.
 - Jane Lake Road is used by walker and bikers to access to the Sea to Sky Trail and some other mountain biking trails, including “Trash”.
- Will people still be able to access the Sea to Sky Trail and other trails in the area?
 - The main access routes will not be closed to the public during log hauling.
 - A series of warning/caution signs will be used to advise road users to be prepared to find suitable pullouts and passing areas.
 - Fuel reduction treatments near harvesting areas or along main access routes may require temporary closures.
 - An attempt will be made to be schedule these closures and treatments in the late fall or early winter to avoid disruption to users.
- How many trucks will be operating daily or how many loads over the season?
 - Estimates based on previous projects of this scale would have two to three trucks spaced out in interval cycle times for delivery to Squamish.
 - Up to 12 logging truck loads per 10 hour day could be expected for two to three weeks.
- When will operations take place?
 - Logging is usually scheduled to avoid the highest recreational use periods.
 - Road building for the Cheakamus 16 block is expected to begin in March with harvesting taking place in April and May, and hauling from May to June.

- Log transportation is not permitted on weekends or holidays.
- What kinds of safety and mitigation measures are in place?
 - There is a logging and safety plan specifying commitments and procedures for the operating partner for each project or phase.
 - A direct line of communication (cell phone contact) is available to remedy any unforeseen issues that may arise during the project.
 - All BC Transport laws and regulations are followed and all vehicles are inspected, licenced and insured.
 - Speed limits for loaded trucks on adverse sections of pavement will be less than posted.
 - Loads are all visually inspected prior to leaving the unit and again prior to entering pavement travel.
 - Active signage will be posted and maintained daily to inform the public.
- How big is the Cheakamus 16 unit?
 - The unit is 21.9 hectares in total with over five openings ranging from 1.7 to 6.5 hectares.
 - These are mostly moderate with some high to very high retention areas.
- How much old growth harvesting will take place?
 - In general 70 to 80 per cent will be in old forest types, and 20 to 30 per cent of harvesting will be second growth, where adjacently available.
 - All primary harvesting projects focus to some degree on old forests that have not been identified and mapped for protection under Old Growth and Ecosystem Based Protection.
 - Throughout the entire Cheakamus management unit, there is a requirement to retain the largest diameter trees within each project area, as part of the moderate to high levels of tree retention.
 - No areas of harvesting in the Cheakamus Management Unit will be clearcut.
 - The fuel reduction treatments are selected based on fuel types, geography and access and will involve uniform tree thinning of up to 65 per cent of the total trees less than 100 years of age using a variety of mechanical and manual methods.
- What is the destination for log sales?
 - Generally 70 per cent of logs from this region will be sold to local or domestic manufacturing facilities.
 - The balance are offered for overseas export, as long as they have been first offered and turned down by domestic manufacturers.
- How does this fit within other plans for harvesting in the Cheakamus Valley?
 - Over the long term, some areas of the Cheakamus Valley will be harvested, like other parts of the community forest, and the Cheakamus Valley will be the site of wildfire fuel thinning projects similar to the Millar's Pond project undertaken in 2015.
 - Cheakamus Valley represents one third of the Cheakamus Community Forest's available area for harvesting.
 - Not logging in this area places unsustainable pressure on the other areas of the community forest.
 - Harvesting in this unit was previously deferred until the Integrated Resource Management Plan (IRMP) could be completed in late 2015.

- This plan includes Old Growth Management Areas, and protected areas called EBM Reserves that are set aside from logging for environmental, cultural and recreational reasons. http://www.cheakamuscommunityforest.com/wp-content/uploads/CCF_Open_House_Nov_25_2015.pdf
- Once areas protected from logging were identified, it then identified overall community forest harvesting opportunities, including the Cheakamus management unit in a 1-3 year plan, and a 4-10 conceptual plan.
- <http://www.cheakamuscommunityforest.com/maps-and-harvesting-plans/>
-