



BRIEFING NOTE FOR DECISION

DATE: January 8, 2019

PREPARED FOR: John Allan, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

ISSUE: Funding options to support Simpcw First Nation in Interfor Tenure Purchase

s.13; s.16

Page 02 of 67

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13; s.16



Approved / Not Approved

Approved by John – eApp4276

Signature
John Allan, Deputy Minister

Date

PREPARED BY:

Tracy Ronmark
Director, Strategic Initiatives
Regional Operations, South
(250) 320-2827

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	JA	March 4, 2020
Associate DM	RM	March 3, 2020
DMO		
ADM	PR	Jan 8, 2019
RED	GM	Dec. 17, 2019
Program Dir/Mgr.	TR	December 17, 2019

BRIEFING NOTE FOR DECISION

DATE: March 5, 2020

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

ISSUE: Rescind and replace the Ministerial Order for the K'omoks Designated Area

RECOMMENDED OPTION:

Rescind and replace the Minister's Order for the K'omoks Designated Area to allow the District Manager to issue a licence to K'omoks First Nation for timber salvage purposes.

BACKGROUND:

- K'omoks First Nation (K'omoks) is in Stage 5, Negotiating a Final Agreement, in the BC Treaty Commission process.
- K'omoks Designated Area was established February 1, 2013 (Attachment 1), pursuant to Section 169 of the *Forest Act*, following the K'omoks signing of the Agreement-in-Principle on March 24, 2012 with Canada and British Columbia.
- The Minister issued a Ministerial Order (MO) to prevent further forest development but excepts operations pertaining to Woodlot Licence W0026 or existing roads.
- The K'omoks Designated Area was amended on December 1, 2016 (Attachment 2) to extend the term until December 1, 2022.
- Lands selected for K'omoks Treaty are in the North Island and Arrowsmith Timber Supply Areas on the east coast of Vancouver Island.
- K'omoks is seeking an exception in the MO to allow salvage harvesting in one of the parcels of land in the K'omoks Designated Area.

DISCUSSION:

K'omoks wishes to harvest damaged timber resulting from recent wind events in a land parcel referred to as Williams Beach in the North Island Timber Supply Area which is Schedule 2 (Attachment 3) of the K'omoks Designated Area. The unutilized damaged timber has the potential to increase wildfire risk and insect infestation as well as enticing unauthorized timber harvests. In seeking the MO amendment (Attachment 4), K'omoks is being pro-active in addressing damaged timber issues prior to the Effective Date of the treaty.

The District Manager of the Campbell River Natural Resource District is unable to issue a licence under the current wording of the MO. An amendment to the MO is needed to allow an additional exception for the District Manager to issue a licence to K'omoks or their designated representative for timber salvage purposes. Current specified exceptions for Woodlot Licence W0026, held by Chinook Woodlots Ltd., and for existing roads will be continued in the new Minister's Order.

The proposed amendment will rescind and replace the current Minister's Order.

OPTION 1: Rescind and replace the Ministerial Order for the K'omoks Designated Area to allow the District Manager to issue a licence to K'omoks First Nation for timber salvage purposes.

Implications:

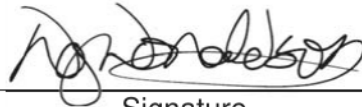
- Allows a licence to be issued to K'omoks for salvage purposes on land identified in Schedule 2 only. Land identified in the other schedules will remain unaffected by the exemption for timber salvage purposes;
- Damaged timber is utilized thus reducing potential increases in risk of wildfire, insect infestation or unauthorized harvests;
- Assists K'omoks in managing their future timber lands in addressing emerging issues;
- The Province will receive revenue as per the Damaged Timber Salvage Stumpage Rate outlined in the Coast Appraisal Manual; and
- Rescinds and replaces the previous MO signed September 4, 2013.

s.13; s.16

RECOMMENDATION:

- **OPTION 1**

Approved / Not Approved



Signature

Honourable Doug Donaldson
Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural
Resource Operations and Rural
Development

March 20, 2020

Date

Attachments (4):

1. BC Reg. 34/2013
2. BC Reg. 276/2016
3. Schedules for K'omoks Designated Area
4. Ministerial Order

PREPARED BY:

Doug Gibbard
Sr. Advisor, First Nations Relations
West Coast Region
(250) 751-7106

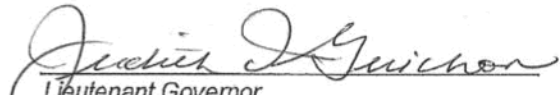
REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	JA	March 15, 2020
ED, Leg.	MK	March 12, 2020
ADM	CS	March 11, 2020
Mgr. Leg Branch	JW	March 11, 2020
RED	SH	March 9, 2020
Director	JC	March 5, 2020

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

ORDER OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL

Order in Council No. 050 , Approved and Ordered JAN 31 2013


Lieutenant Governor

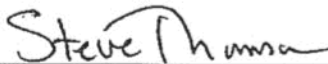
Executive Council Chambers, Victoria

On the recommendation of the undersigned, the Lieutenant Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, orders that, it being in the public interest, the Crown land outlined in heavy black and shaded grey on the maps on file with GeoBC, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, with the file name Komoks_PT13_No1_20120822, is specified as the K'omoks Designated Area under section 169 of the *Forest Act* for the period ending December 1, 2016.

DEPOSITED

February 1, 2013

B.C. REG. 34/2013



Minister of Forests, Lands and
Natural Resource Operations



Presiding Member of the Executive Council

(This part is for administrative purposes only and is not part of the Order.)

Authority under which Order is made:

Act and section: *Forest Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 157, s. 169

Other:

October 25, 2012

page 1 of 1

R/1027/2012/27

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
ORDER OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL

Order in Council No. 822 , Approved and Ordered December 01, 2016


Lieutenant Governor

Executive Council Chambers, Victoria

On the recommendation of the undersigned, the Lieutenant Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, orders that B.C. Reg. 34/2013 is amended by striking out “for the period ending December 1, 2016.” and substituting “for the period ending December 1, 2022.”

DEPOSITED

December 1, 2016

B.C. REG. 276/2016



Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations



Presiding Member of the Executive Council

(This part is for administrative purposes only and is not part of the Order.)

Authority under which Order is made:

Act and section: Forest Act, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 157, s. 169

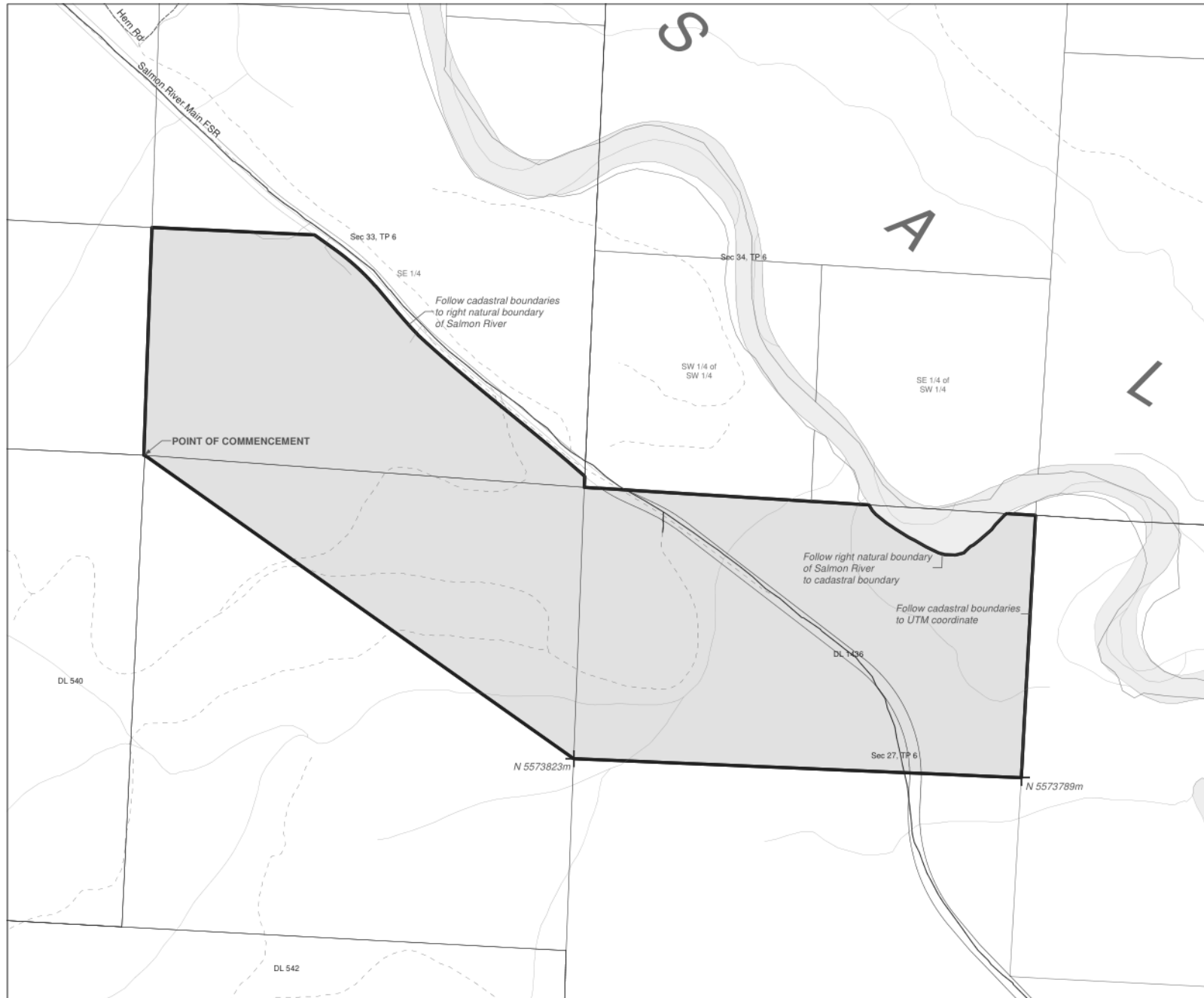
Other: OIC 50/2013 (K'omoks Designated Area)

October 25, 2016

page 1 of 1

R/935/2016/27

K'ómoks Designated Area Schedule 1 of 6



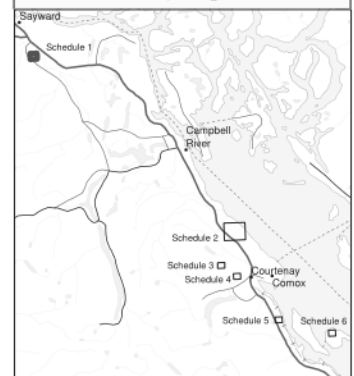
Legend

 K'ómoks Designated Area

Point of Commencement

Southwest corner of Sec 33, Tp 6,
Sayward District, thence clockwise

Key Map

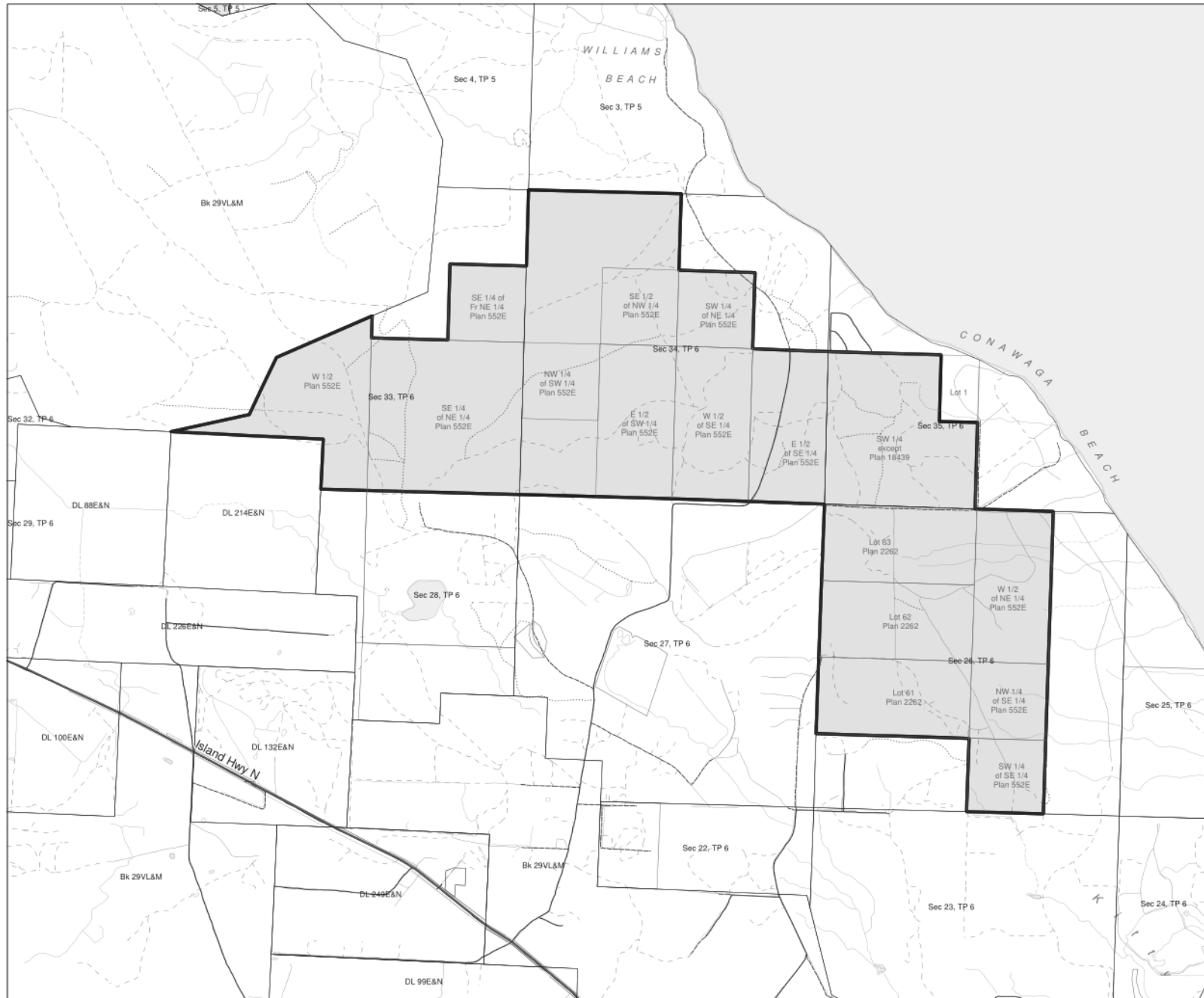


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Date Created/Revised: August 22, 2012
Created by: GeoBC, RG

Ratio scale correct at 17" X 22" pagesize

K'ómoks Designated Area Schedule 2 of 6

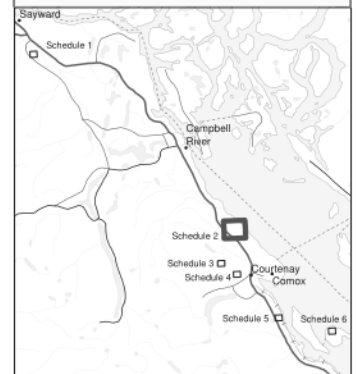


Legend

 K'ómoks Designated Area

Point of Commencement
Not required

Key Map

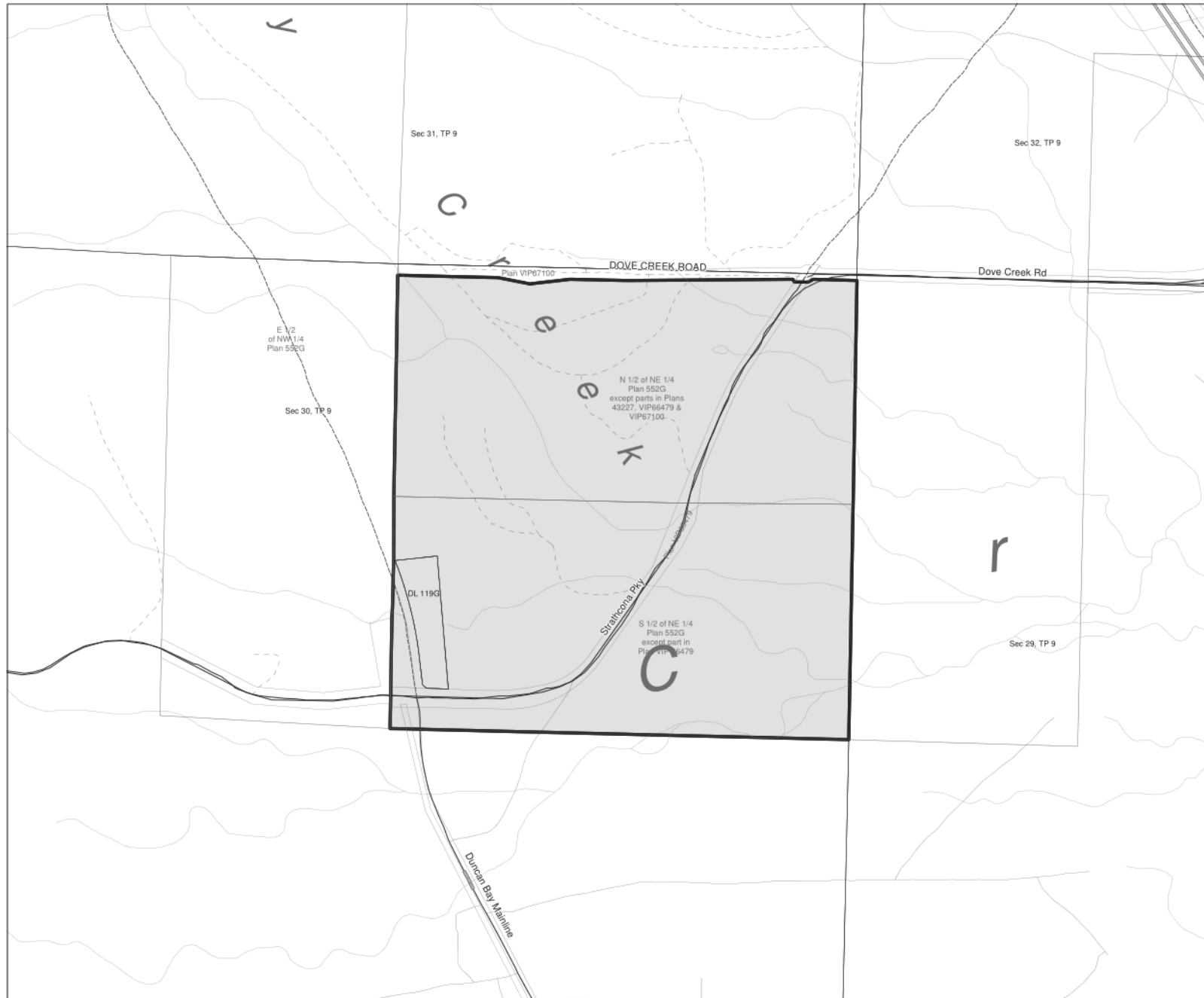


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K'ómoks Designated Area Schedule 3 of 6

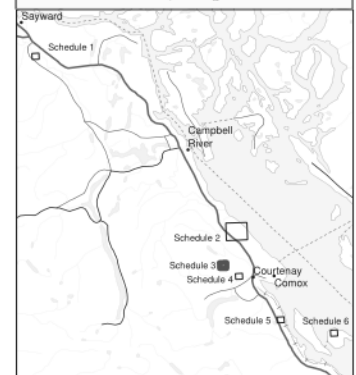


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 K'ómoks Designated Area

Point of Commencement
Not required

Key Map

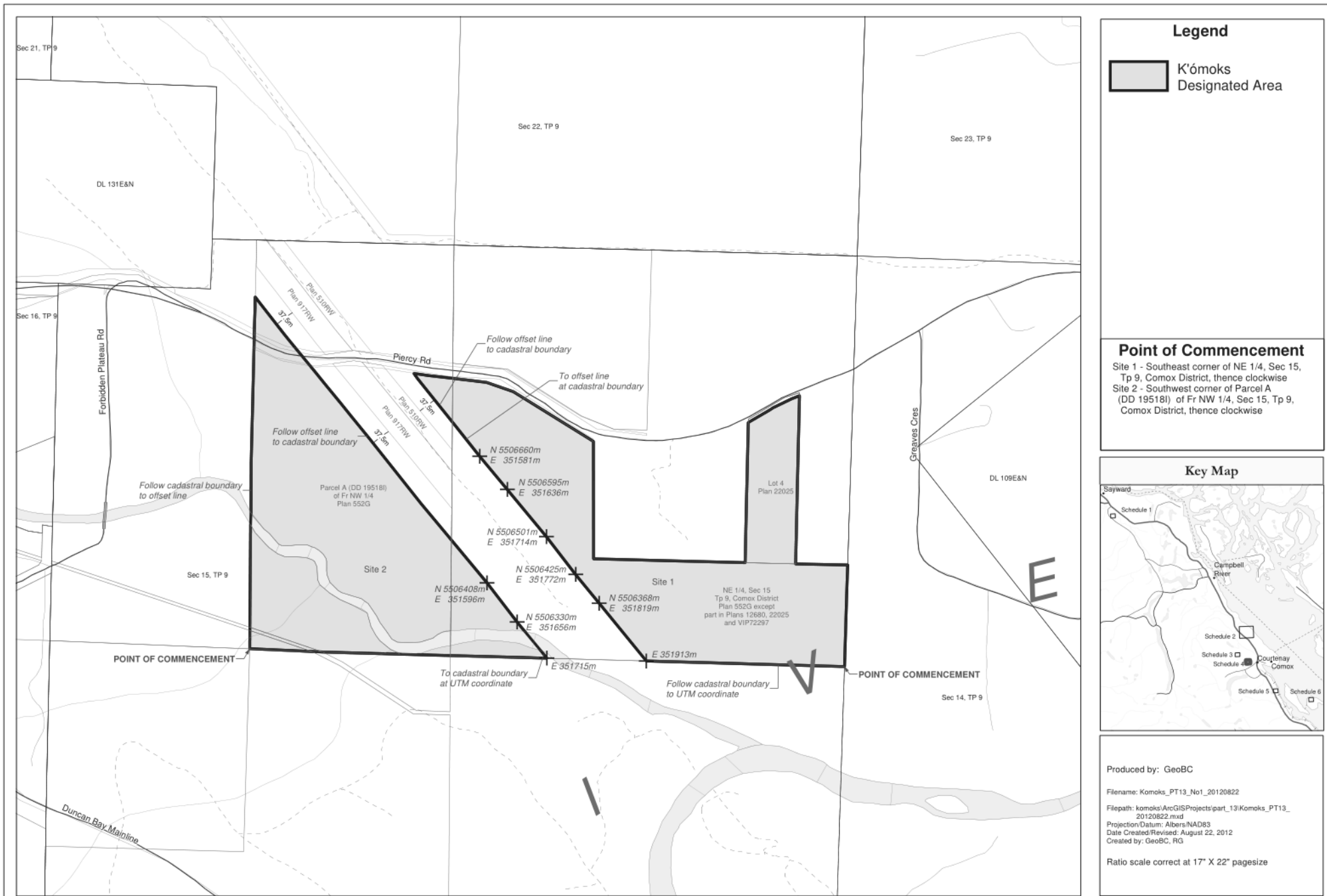


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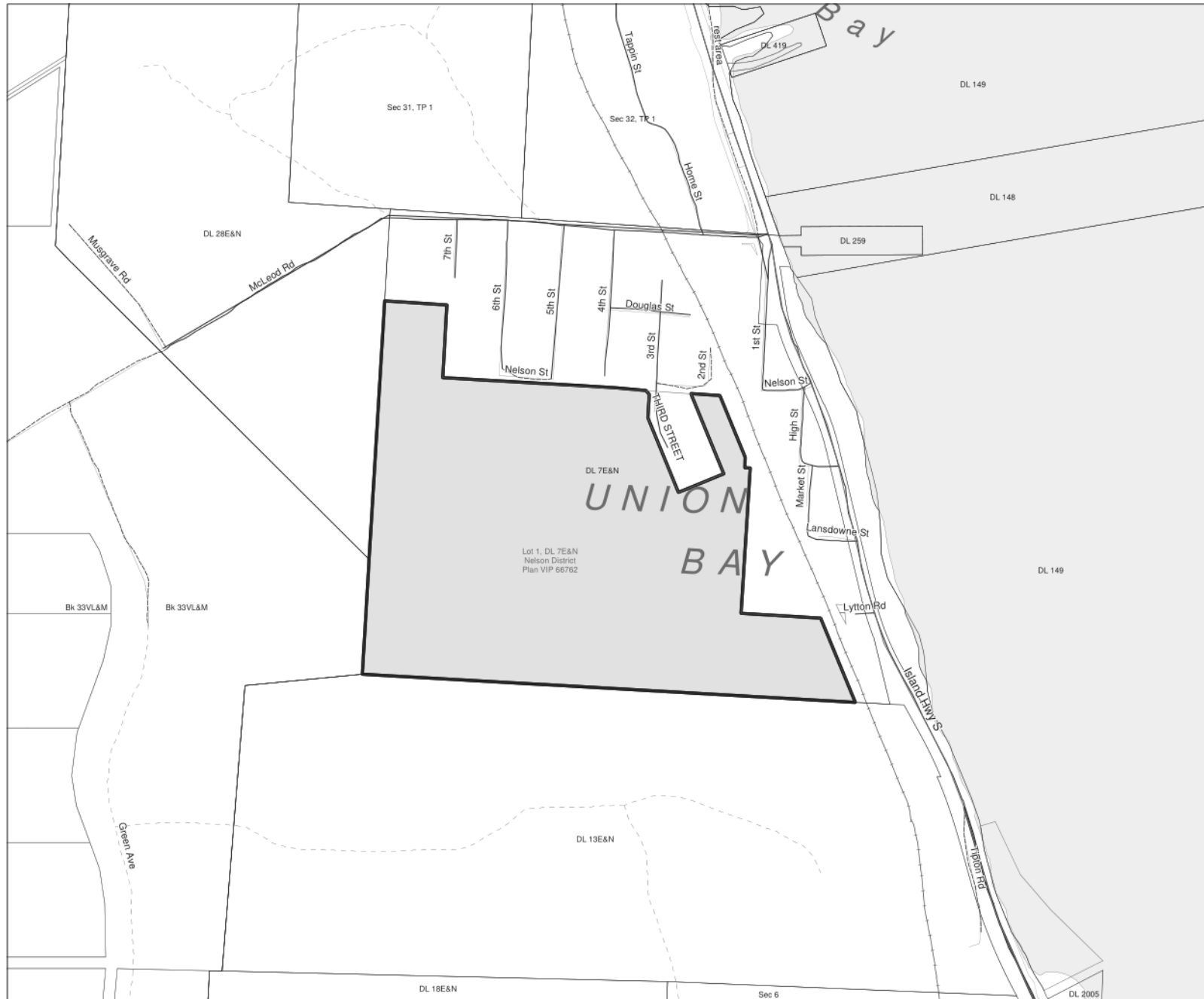
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K'ómoks Designated Area
Schedule 4 of 6



K'ómoks Designated Area Schedule 5 of 6



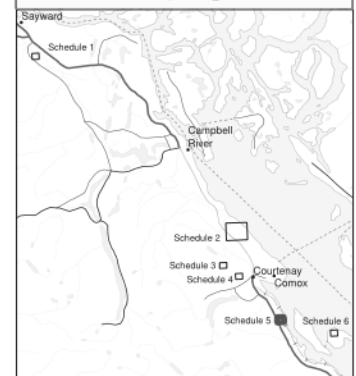
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 K'ómoks Designated Area

Point of Commencement

Not required

Key Map

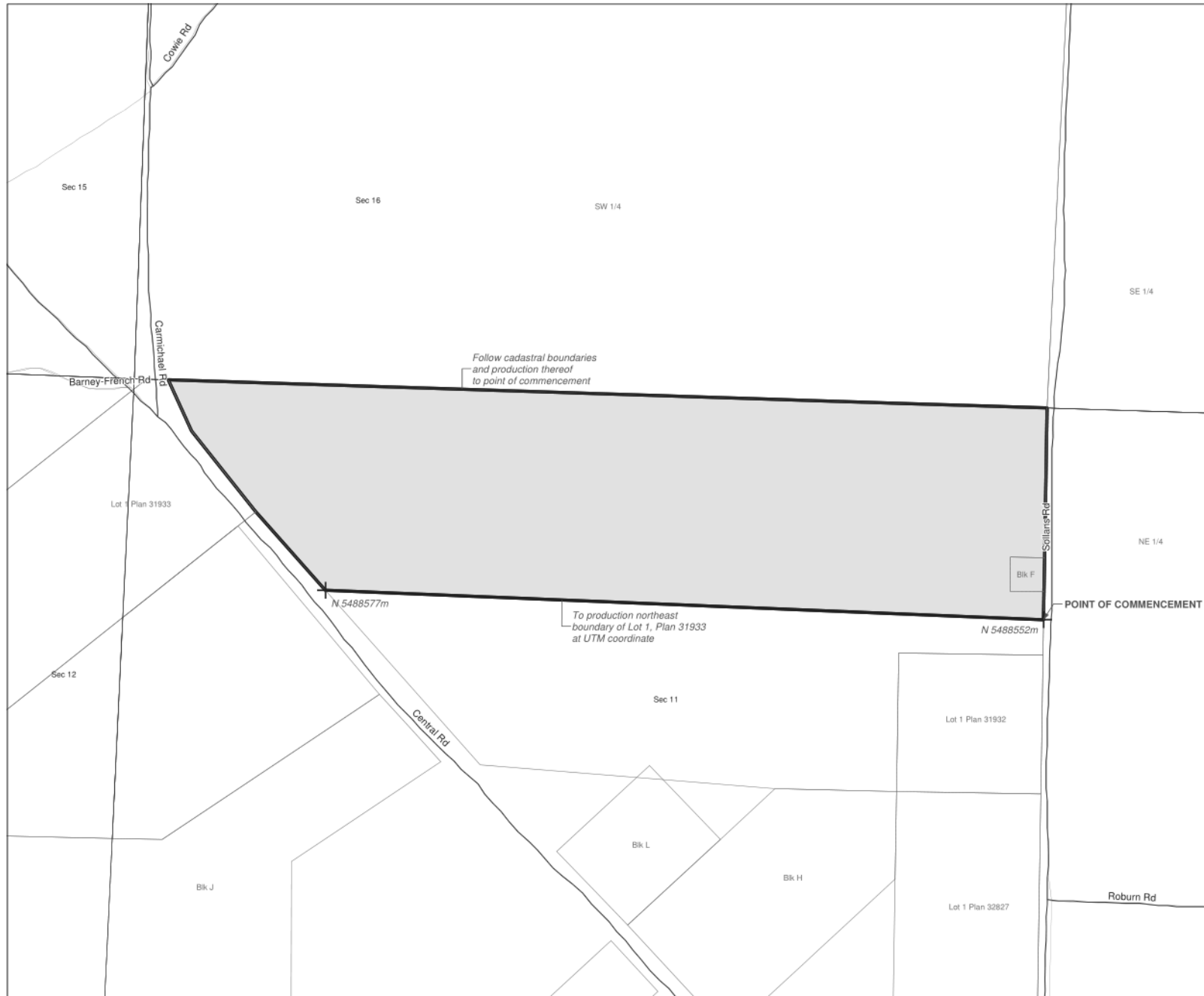


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K'ómoks Designated Area Schedule 6 of 6



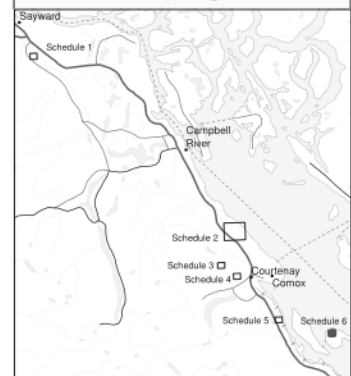
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Point of Commencement

West boundary of NE 1/4, Sec 11
Hornby Island, Nanaimo District at UTM
coordinate N 5488552m, thence clockwise

Key Map



Produced by: GeoBC

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Projection/Datum: Albers/NAD83
Date Created/Revised: August 22, 2012
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PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

ORDER OF THE MINISTER OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL
RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Forest Act

Ministerial Order No. M078

I, Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, order the following with respect to the *K'omoks Designated Area*, established by B.C. Reg. 34/2013:

- (1) This Order rescinds and replaces the ministerial order made under to section 170 of the *Forest Act* by the Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations on September 4, 2013.
- (2) Any person who, under the *Forest Act*, *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act* or the *Forest and Range Practices Act*, has the discretion to issue a permit, licence or plan is directed to not do so if any part of the permit, licence or plan relates to all or part of the *K'omoks Designated Area*.
- (3) Paragraph (2) does not apply to the following:
 - (a) a permit, licence or plan pertaining to woodlot licence W0026,
 - (b) a permit, licence or plan pertaining to an existing road, or
 - (c) a licence for the purpose of harvesting, cutting, removing or processing timber if the following applies:
 - (i) the timber is blowdown green or aged timber, or timber that is physically damaged or damaged by fire, disease, or insects; and
 - (ii) the licence has been supported through a Band Council Resolution of the K'omoks First Nation; and
 - (iii) the land on which the licence applies is restricted to all or part of the area shown outlined in heavy black and shaded grey on Schedule 2 of the K'omoks Designated Area.

March 20, 2020

Date



Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource
Operations and Rural Development
(or authorized signatory)

(This part is for administrative purposes only and is not part of the Order.)

Authority under which Order is made:

Act and section: Forest Act, section 170

Other: _____

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

- (4) Those parts of the rights of a holder under a cutting permit, licence to cut, timber sale licence or portion of an operational plan that relate to all or part of the *K'omoks Designated Area* are suspended unless the permit, licence or operational plan is listed in Section 3 of this order.

(This part is for administrative purposes only and is not part of the Order.)

Authority under which Order is made:

Act and section: Forest Act, section 170

Other: _____

BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

DATE: March 6, 2020

PREPARED FOR: **Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister**
Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

ISSUE: Engagement Report for Interior Forest Sector Renewal

BACKGROUND:

- The Interior Forest Sector Renewal (IFSR) engagement pathways brought in considerable input:
 - 36 Community engagement sessions were held
 - Over 500 on-line survey forms completed
 - 92 written submissions received
- A “What We Heard” report (WWHR) was completed by a third-party contractor summarizing the engagement feedback and provides a high-level summary of top key themes and ideas that emerged from the quantitative analysis.
- The report emphasizes that there is considerable consistency on key themes and opportunities, while also reflecting the diversity in approaches for action.
- The WWHR is structured to align with the six policy themes detailed in the IFSR Discussion Paper. The contractors did not feel there was enough difference to include regional chapters. The report does include stand-alone summaries of the engagement input from Indigenous participants for each policy theme in recognition of the unique relationship the provincial government has with Indigenous people.

DISCUSSION:

- The engagement analysis and WWHR do not reveal any significant new ideas for policy or program changes that had not been heard by the ministry before.
- The report does provide an updated picture of the collective state of the mind of the forest sector, local and Indigenous communities, key stakeholders and the public, as reflected in the current priorities and areas of focus that rose to the top through statistical analysis.
- Key findings include strong support for:
 - Reform of the tenure model including redistribution of forest tenure to support existing and emerging manufacturing opportunities and to increase local community influence.
 - Advancing Indigenous participation in the forest sector.
 - Increased effort to enhance carbon sequestration through silviculture practises and improving forest biodiversity.
 - Advancing fibre utilization, market diversification, and supporting incentives for innovation and investment.
- While the WWHR provides a broad picture, ministry staff completed in-house analysis of the data concurrently to ensure a deeper understanding of what was heard that can be used to advance a broader range of initiatives to advance sector renewal.

- The staff are developing the process for how the engagement information will be used as part of the IFSR Framework process (see Appendix 1) to identify and advance options for policy/program changes.
- Staff are actively advancing the process for how the engagement information will be used to inform and help shape policy and program reform as we actively support interior forest sector renewal in the months and years ahead.
- As a starting point, an inventory has been created of current initiatives at or nearing implementation which will contribute to renewal. This will provide the opportunity to start raising the profile of work underway.
- The next focus will be on identifying the mid-term opportunities that can be advanced to implementation in the next 12 months, with specific attention being given to how to maintain the commitment to renewal reflected by the level of engagement. In particular, staff will be live to opportunities to leverage existing partnerships and opportunities for collaboration.

NEXT STEPS:

1. Prepare materials for announcement and release of WWHR (reference Appendix 2 for proposed response details)
2. Complete the inventory of current initiatives underway that align with the input from the engagement process to advance sector renewal
3. Advance further internal review of the engagement analysis to identify options for policy/program change and operational initiatives to advance renewal in the next 12 months
4. Define opportunities for continued engagement, collaboration and partnerships with Indigenous and local communities, industry, and stakeholders.
5. Work with established TSA Coalitions to share deeper analysis of what was heard ideas; incorporate and advance ideas from coalitions in to IFSR Framework mid and long-term efforts.

Appendix 1: IFSR Framework

Appendix 2: Ministry Response to Receipt of Report

PREPARED BY:

Brenda Hartley
Director, Strategic Initiatives
Interior Forest Sector Renewal
FPIRD
(250) 371-1977

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM		
Associate DM		
DMO		
ADM		
Program Dir/Mgr.	JS	20/03/06



Appendix 1: IFSR Framework

s.13

Appendix 2: MINISTRY RESPONSE TO RECEIPT OF REPORT

The Interior Forest Sector Renewal engagement process took place from July 18-October 11, 2019. Input came through three distinct pathways:

- **36 community engagement sessions** (by invitation) were held throughout the interior with representation from industry, First Nations, local government, labour and other stakeholders, including 3 sessions co-hosted with the First Nations Forestry Council.
- **Over 500 on-line survey forms** were completed.
- **92 written submissions** received by mail or email.
- Cumulatively, this resulted in over 7,000 individual ideas or suggestions to be analyzed, with many common themes.

Government commissioned independent analysis of the information received through these pathways. The analysis is reflected in the “*What We Heard: Engagement on Interior Forest Sector Renewal*” report (WWHR) to produce a high-level summary of the primary focal points and ideas. While most of the ideas are not new, the report reflects the current priorities and opportunities related to renewal from First Nations, local communities, industry, and other stakeholders that chose to participate.

The ministry will use the results of the WWHR and additional in-depth analysis of the engagement materials to identify options for a diverse range of opportunities to advance renewal over the short, medium and long term.

Renewal of the Interior Forest Sector is intended to be an iterative process that will require continued engagement, collaboration and partnership with Indigenous and local communities, the different industries within the interior forest sector, and other key stakeholders. Renewal will be realized through steady and progressive actions over the months and years ahead.

BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

DATE: March 9, 2020

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

ISSUE: Southern Mountain Caribou recovery – Revelstoke area

BACKGROUND:

- To address the population declines BC has committed \$47M over five years to actively implement our Caribou Recovery Program.
- Several program areas support an integrated approach:
 - Monitoring/Inventory
 - Herd Planning
 - Habitat Protection and Restoration
 - Maternal Penning/Conservation Breeding
 - Predator and Primary Prey Management
- The Caribou Recovery Program is actively engaging across the province with stakeholders and indigenous and local governments through Herd Planning.
- Herd Planning is designed to ensure the opinions and information of those close to the herds is used to inform recovery recommendations and government decisions.
- The Revelstoke herds are a priority. Initial engagement has started with engagement anticipated to be completed in the Fall of 2020.
- There is a long history of Caribou management and Caribou recovery efforts in the Revelstoke area.
- 295,000ha or 39% of the Revelstoke Caribou herd's habitat is already protected from harvesting.
- If through the herd planning process, there is an identified need for further habitat protection this will be supported by a socio-economic impact assessment.
- The Province will be exploring all tools for Caribou recovery planning, not just habitat protection.
- The Revelstoke Complex herds include, Columbia North & South and Frisbee/Boulder.
- Populations estimates of these herds are:
 - Columbia South 4
 - Frisby-Boulder 11
 - Columbia North 147

DISCUSSION:

On February 21, 2020, BC signed the Partnership Agreement (PA) and the Bilateral Section 11 (S11). The PA does not apply in this area. The S11 provides a framework to support collaborative recovery work which includes operational Caribou recovery actions as well as the herd planning process. Herd planning will provide an opportunity for Indigenous Nations, communities, and stakeholder groups to participate in a collaborative, transparent process to inform decision makers on the path toward recovery for local Caribou.

The Caribou populations in the Revelstoke area have been the focus of a lot of attention over the years. The BC government has invested a lot of time and effort in these herds and particularly in the Columbia-North herd area. Through the MCRIP process, large portions of the high value winter habitat were protected from forest harvesting and several areas important to Caribou were closed to snowmobiling. The maternal penning project on the shores of Lake Revelstoke has contributed a lot to our understanding of the deep challenges facing the province in Caribou recovery. We are currently undertaking a five-year review of the results of the maternal penning project to better understand contribution to recovery efforts in the area. In addition, we continue to monitor primary prey population in the area after managing the population down to a more natural level. At this time, we are also monitoring the influence and expansion of whitetail deer populations in the area, Predator management continues in the area although very few wolves have re-populated this area.

s.13

Through previous discussions, the Revelstoke community has expressed concern over further constraints to their community forest and impact to the area's timber supply in general. We have committed to working through issues collaboratively with the intent to fully understand the consequences of a given proposal prior to anything being formally proposed to decision makers.

The Caribou Recovery Program is scheduled to start herd planning processes in the area very shortly and have commenced initial meetings with Indigenous communities tied to these herds.

MINISTRY RESPONSE:

- Ministry staff will continue to ensure local governments are well informed and engaged in the herd planning discussion.
- We are working to find a solution that stabilizes identified Caribou herds while minimizing impacts on the sectors and recreation.
- We appreciate the proactive role the local governments and sectors are taking in engaging on this file.

PREPARED BY:

Darcy Peel
Director – Caribou Recovery Program
Species at Risk and Recovery Branch
Resource Stewardship Division
(778)220-3449

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	JA	Mar 10 2020
Associate DM		
DMO		
ADM	DM	Mar 10 2020
Program Dir/Mgr.	DP	Mar 9 2020

BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

DATE: March 16, 2020

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Minister Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

ISSUE: Summary Status on the Modernized Land Use Planning Program

BACKGROUND:

- In early 2018, the Province announced a three-year commitment of \$16.3 million to support a phased approach to modernized land use planning. Funding after the initial three years is about \$7.8 million annually.
- Land Use Planning (LUP) processes are co-led, in partnership with the Province and Indigenous Nations, with significant collaboration and input from local governments and with the engagement of impacted stakeholders.
- In 2019, Cabinet endorsed proposed projects including 11 initial projects to advance under the program. Projects have been initiated in high priority areas where there are willing First Nations and important land use issues to resolve.
- Of the 11 LUP projects reviewed by Cabinet in June 2019, six have reached government to government agreement and are advancing into the next phase of the LUP process. These include:
 - Fort St. John LRMP Update Project (three projects within)
 - Shishalh Nation Land Use Planning Project
 - Nicola Watershed Land Use Planning Project
 - Southeast Wildlife Corridor.
- The other projects are in various states of government-to-government discussions and are not yet at a stage of releasing information to the public.
- Modernized land use planning is important to address gaps in existing land use plans including climate change, socio economic and indigenous knowledge. It is intended to increase economic certainty and sustainable practices on the land base.

DISCUSSION:

Land use planning has strengthened current relationships between the Province and First Nations communities and has been identified by First Nations Leadership Council as important in the implementation of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*. Building lasting relationships with First Nations and developing a partnership approach to the LUP process takes time and has lengthened the initial phase of the planning process. Spending time to establish and build trust in the process will benefit all parties as the LUP processes advance.

s.13; s.16; s.17

The Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and the FLNR Resource Planning and Assessment Branch (RPAB) continue to lead engagement with First Nations and communities on the overall framework for effective government to government land use planning approaches and best practices. s.13; s.16

s.13; s.16

Since 2018, RPAB has met with numerous key stakeholders including UBCM, BC Hydro, Oil and Gas Commission, Forest Practices Board and the Forest and Range Practices Advisory Council. s.13; s.16

s.13; s.16

PREPARED BY:

Tricia Morris
Manager, Land Use Planning
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Assessment Branch
778-698-9348

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	JA	March 23, 2020
Associate DM		
DMO		
ADM	TE	March 20, 2020
Program Director	TM	March 17, 2020
Manager	TM	March 17, 2020

Page 24 of 67 to/à Page 28 of 67

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.12; s.13; s.16

BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

DATE: March 23, 2020

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

ISSUE: 2020 Planting Season at risk due to Covid19 virus.

BACKGROUND:

- This year's planting program is estimated at 308 million trees with 230 million scheduled to be planted over a ten-week period starting at the end of this month.
- 2020 represents the single largest planting program the province has ever managed and is a direct response of the government's response to the 2017 and 2018 wildfires.
- The 2020 tree planting season has already started on the Coast and starts April 21, 2020 in BC's interior and contractors and crew need to begin mobilizing and thawing trees the week of March 23, 2020.
- The Covid19 virus is creating huge uncertainty and ministry staff, licensees and contractors are all looking for guidance from the both FLNRORD and the Ministry of Health (MOH).
- Tree seedlings are perishable and irretrievable, and the season cannot be delayed due to biological constraints (summer moisture deficit). Every week's delay in getting seedlings in the ground will result in about 20 million trees being lost.
- The immediate economic impact to the province is approximately \$250 million of public funds, however, the longer-term damage to the silviculture industry and the province's overall response to the wildfire rehabilitation is considerably more.
- Of related concern is the optics of up to 5,000 transient trees planters descending upon small rural communities that are currently enjoying a level of separation from major population centers ie. assuming a reduced level of Covid19 transmissions risk.
- The planting industry recognizes that the majority of their work takes place out of more remote camps, with the balance being accommodated in motels, lodges and resorts where they rely to some degree on local facilities.
- A similar plan will be needed for Wildfire Management Branch as we ramp up for the 2020 wildfire season

DISCUSSION:

The season is biologically timebound and time is of the essence. The Forest Sector (Planting Community, Industry, and Govt staff) are all strongly aligned in efforts to implement a successful planting season even during this crisis period. The planting workforce is engaged and ready to begin the planting season, but they require certainty as to provincial guidelines for operations and camp standards. Collaborative processes are underway to prepare for alternative Covid19 adapted processes, including camp health and safety procedures (modeled after BC Wildfire Camp and BCTS Planting guidance), workforce support, communications, and engagement with municipal leaders. The contracting community is seeking provincial government messaging early in the week of March 23rd to be able to initiate these contingency measures and have a chance of delivering the planting program. The rumours already circulating about potential provincial travel bans are creating uncertainty with the planting community and the implications once planters are deployed in remote locations.

The optics of severely restricting or cancelling British Columbia's planting program at a time when other provinces will be looking towards us for leadership in silviculture related to wildfire recovery and climate change mitigation is of concern to both industry and ministry staff alike.

Related priorities include our current discussions with the federal government for funding to deliver the recently announced "2 billion tree program". The loss of contractors and labour in a business already stretched to capacity means that it will be all the more critical to achieve the 2021 and 2022 planting goals.

Even though the Western Forestry Contractors Association (WFCA) is working with BCTS, licensees and their members to develop creative new measures to prevent Covid19 and keep workers and local communities safe, specific help and guidance from the province is needed now and throughout the planting season to provide certainty. Very close collaboration between FLNRORD and the Ministry of Health is needed immediately if the planting season is to be salvaged. Mitigating factors such as the demographics of the 5000 planters being mobilized from across Canada (85% are under the age of 30) should be a critical consideration in ameliorating some community concerns.

CONSIDERATIONS:

FLNRORD Executive need to work collaboratively with the MOH to determine the necessary strategies and guidance to enable the 2020 planting season to be delivered to the best of our ability. Guidance for industrial camp standards etc. need to be released as soon as possible to allow planting contractors to adapt their current plans accordingly. To ensure success, staff from the MOH will be needed to work with FLNRORD for the duration of the season to monitor activity and refine procedures as conditions with the Covid19 provincial response change.

NEXT STEPS:

FLNRORD to provide a briefing to the Ministry of Health detailing the challenges facing delivery of the 2020 planting season and requests that they work collaboratively on solutions and timely release of guidance.

FLNRORD/MOH will draft a clear statement the forest sector in the week of March 23rd to help them with making plans for mobilizing the workforce and thawing trees.

A Minister's letter or news release will be explored to remind the public, municipalities and local government about the importance of this years' planting season to the province while maintaining COVID19 appropriate procedures.

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	Initials	Date
DM Ravi Parmar	RP	Mar 30, 2020
Associate DM	RM	Mar 27, 2020
DMO		
ADM	DNicholls	March 23, 2020
Exec Director.	SBerg	March 23, 2020

BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

DATE: March 23, 2020

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development

ISSUE: Developing new land policies for conservation and protection decisions

BACKGROUND:

- Over the last several years, new conservation and protection pressures have emerged that require structured and consistent decisions and responses. New pressures include:
 - Federal targets of 17% by 2020, 25% by 2025 and 30% by 2030 (BC supported the 17% target and is currently at about 20%).
 - 22 million hectares of species at risk critical habitat identified by the federal government.
 - Indigenous proposals of new Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs) of 14 million hectares with federal funding targeting 7 million hectares.
 - Environmental non-government organizations stating 50% protection required.
 - New initiatives such as the old growth review and land use planning.
- BC has a long history of responding to conservation needs including building a world-class protected area system and creating conservation management within resource development areas to ensure sustainable resource practices. However, historical decisions and processes did not generally incorporate Indigenous values or participation or consider a changing landscape due to climate change.
- The federal government has been involved by creating funding mechanisms directed to Indigenous governments but has done so without provincial government involvement. Federal interest in BC to protect more lands has created significant expectations with Indigenous governments. Funding has generally not included assessment or compensation costs and BC is unable to provide.

s.12; s.13

DISCUSSION:

Three major policies related to land use have been developed by the current government administration since 2017. They are:



s.12; s.13

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Associate DM		
DMO		
ADM	TE	March 25, 2020
Program Dir/Mgr.	BB	March 22, 2020

Page 33 of 67

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s.12; s.13

BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

DATE: March 23, 2020

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

ISSUE: Signing of the Inter-Provincial Agreement for Coordinated Regional Defence Against Invasive Species

BACKGROUND:

- Invasive species impose substantial ecological, economic and social impacts, including loss of productivity to agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries, and forestry, impacts on infrastructure, hazards to human health and safety, and degradation of native ecosystems.
- Zebra and quagga mussels are particularly high profile and damaging invasive species that are spreading in North America.
- Although they've never been detected in B.C., if zebra or quagga mussels become established, the economic impact would be more than \$43M per year.
- Invasive mussels have not yet been detected in BC, AB, SK, and the Yukon. They were confirmed in MB in 2017.
- This threat to Western Canada prompted the development and signing of the first Inter-Provincial Agreement for Coordinated Regional Defence Against Invasive Species in 2015.

DISCUSSION:

Invasive species management is a priority of the Provincial government. The Inter-Ministry Invasive Species Working Group (IMISWG) is the coordinating body for invasive species management within the BC government, and has representation from all resource and land management ministries, with lead roles in FLNR, ENV (including BC Parks), and TRAN.

Invasive plant policy, prevention and management efforts are led by FLNR. ENV has a lead role in policy development on invasive animal management, delivery of the Invasive Mussel Defence Program, and invasive species management within BC Parks. ENV's scientific expertise in terrestrial and aquatic invasive animals provides support for invasive animal management projects delivered through FLNR.

In December 2015, B.C. signed the "Inter-Provincial-Territorial Agreement for Coordinated Regional Defense Against Invasive Species" along with Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and the Yukon. This agreement broadly addressed aspects related to identification of new or emerging invasive species, preventing the spread of known invasive species and control or management options to reduce or eliminate invasive species in western Canada. The Agreement:

- specified that the initial focus will be on aquatic invasive species and preventing the further spread of zebra and quagga mussels into western Canada;
- was not intended to duplicate or replace existing programs;
- leveraged existing capacity and investments across jurisdictions.

Some key activities that have been achieved to date under the previous Agreement include:

- Coordinated messaging on invasive species priorities across western Canada at important national and international meetings such as Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers (CCFAM) and the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER).

- Discussions initiated between the western director's committee and the federal Pesticide Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) regarding the need for registered pesticide control products to address highly priority aquatic invasive species such as zebra and quagga mussels.
- Shared outreach messaging for aquatic invasive species prevention such as Clean, Drain, Dry.
- Coordination of watercraft inspection stations including procedures, shared messaging and notifications of high-risk watercraft. A secret boater exercise was conducted in 2017 and evaluated inspection stations across MB, AB, and BC.

The 2015 Agreement had a five year term and now requires renewal. The Northwest Territories is expected to sign onto the new Agreement. Very minor changes have been made to the scope and terms of the Agreement (see attachment).

NEXT STEPS:

1. Sign-off by the respective Ministers in each jurisdiction.

Attachments:

1. Draft Inter-provincial Agreement
2. Decision deck (ENV)

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	Initials	Date
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ADM		
Program Dir/Mgr.		

Page 36 of 67 to/à Page 47 of 67

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s.13; s.16

BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

DATE: March 26, 2020

PREPARED FOR: John Allan, DM Forests Lands Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD)

ISSUE: Progress of the BC/Canada ADM Committee on Forest Sector Support

BACKGROUND:

- The BC/Canada ADM Committee on Forest Sector Support was established in January, co-chaired by FLNRORD ADM Diane Nicholls and Natural Resource Canada (NRCAN) ADM Beth MacNeil to:
 - provide whole-of-government leadership on the current challenges in the forest sector;
 - ensure that existing federal and provincial programs are fully leveraged; and
 - identify gaps in current supports and provide direction to address these gaps.
- BC ministries participating on the committee with FLNRORD (both Office of the Chief Forester and Rural Operations Tenures and Engineering divisions) include:
 - Social Development Poverty Reduction
 - Advanced Education and Skills Training
 - Labour
 - Premier's Office
 - Jobs Economic Development and Competitiveness
 - Municipal Affairs and Housing

s.13; s.16

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Page 49 of 67 to/à Page 59 of 67

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MEETING BULLETS

DATE: March 28, 2020

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

REGARDING: Meeting with Sierra Club BC, Ancient Forest Alliance and Wilderness Committee

SUMMARY:

- The independent old growth strategic review panel has concluded engagement and is currently drafting its recommendations report. The report is due by April 30, 2020 and will help inform a renewed old growth strategy for BC.
- New provisions in the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA) amendments has been focused on landscape level forest planning. FRPA is not a tool that sets strategic old growth policy or targets but does set practice regulations to implement forest policies.
- BC was the first jurisdiction to reach and surpass the international terrestrial conservation targets of 17% and is now estimated at 20% protection. New protected areas are a land use decision and BC has implemented a partnership model with First Nations for land use planning.

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DMO		
ADM	TE	March 30/20
Program Dir/Mgr.	BB	March 28/20



BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

DATE: March 18th 2020

PREPARED FOR: John Allan, Deputy Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

ISSUE: Federal Government COVID19 Response Measures Align with Some Priorities of the Canada/ British Columbia (BC) ADM's Committee on Forest Sector Support

BACKGROUND:

s.13; s.16

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Page 63 of 67

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Page 64 of 67 to/à Page 67 of 67

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