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October 27, 2000

REGISTERED

Chief Councillor Matthew Hill
Gitksaala First Nation
57 Ocean Drive General Delivery
Kitkatla, British Columbia
V0V 1C0

Dear Chief Councilor Hill:

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to meet with representatives of your band on October 23, 2000 to discuss our proposed 2001 – 2005 Small Business Forest Enterprise Program (SBFEP) Forest Development Plan (FDP). It was a pleasure to see the familiar faces of several key elders such as Al Brown and Rufus Innes. However, it was also nice to see some new participants such as Sam Lewis and Nelson Aster.



As I noted during my introductory remarks as well as in the handout material, the intent of this formal consultation meeting was to determine:

1. What is the nature of the Kitkatla Band's interests throughout Traditional Territories affected by this proposed plan?;
2. If there are Kitkatla Band interests identified within the proposed planning area(s), will they be detrimentally affected or put at risk through the implementation of this plan?; and,
3. If the Kitkatla Band's interests have been identified as at risk, are there any improvements or changes which could be implemented to eliminate or minimize the risks or impact.

As in past meetings with band members, our conversations surrounding proposed forest management activities covered a broad range of topics. Although very informative, many of the issues discussed, particularly those related to treaty or land claim type matters were clearly beyond our ability or mandate to address. As such, and to ensure that I have a clear understanding of responses in regard to the aforementioned questions and am able to communicate these to the district manager for his consideration prior to approval of this plan, I wanted to briefly summarize my understanding of the comments and concerns raised.

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Ministry of
Forests

North Coast Forest District

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Attendees:

| | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Rufus Innes | Elder |
| Al Brown | Elder |
| Ema Innes | Elder |
| Bruce Watkinson | Band Resource Manager |
| Ken Innes | Economic Development Officer |
| Sam Lewis | Band Member |
| Roberta Barker | Band Member |
| Nelson Aster | Band Member |
| Brian Wesleyson | Ministry of Forests |
| Dan Motisca | Ministry of Forests |
| John Scott | Ministry of Forests |
| Shawn Hedges | Ministry of Forests |

Summary of FDP-Related Comments & Concerns By Area

Donaldson and Cypress Lakes – Banks Island

- Area has a high potential for culturally modified trees (CMT) and other archaeological values.
- Detailed archaeological impact assessments (AIA) are required for all proposed development – could be restricted to CMT surveys for proposed development activities some distance from tidewater.
- More time should be taken for AIA work to ensure a thorough assessment is completed.
- Both Cypress and Donaldson Lakes contain sockeye salmon.
- Both Cypress and Donaldson Lakes were historically inhabited by Kitkatla people.
- Given the important sockeye values in the area, lakes and stream need to be well buffered from forest management activities.
- Several historic stories were noted regarding values surrounding Patsey Cove.
- The Kitkatla Band now has eight members qualified in CMT surveying. The Band would like to utilize this experience for future survey work in the area.
- Concern was expressed should forest management ever be considered for the Bonilla Arm area of Banks Island which is some distance away and unaffected by current SBFEP proposals.
- A Band member noted that during a field trip to the area some months back she identified several culverts potentially blocked and in need of maintenance along the new Donaldson Lake mainline.
- The SBFEP committed to hiring qualified Band members for post-harvest reforestation and standing tending activities.
- Could be beaver in Donaldson and Cypress Lakes.
- s.18
- Could be traditional medicines in the area.
- All the trees throughout Donaldson and Cypress Lakes are owned by the chiefs and Kitkatla people.
- If logging is to continue then the Kitkatla want a 50% share in the profits.

Summary findings for Donaldson and Cypress Lakes – Banks Island: provided that the SBFEP continues with its conservative development approach and its standard pre-

harvest integrated resource management assessments (e.g. Stream classification, AIA, terrain stability etc.), it is unlikely that proposed FDP activities will put aforementioned values at risk.

Kennedy Island

- Several historic and fascinating stories were noted regarding Kitkatla history along the east side of Kennedy Island.
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- Band members appeared to be generally satisfied with our revised plans to project >95% of the 497 CMTs associated with TSL A53174.

Summary findings for Kennedy Island: provided that the SBFEP continues with its conservative development approach and its standard pre-harvest integrated resource management assessments (e.g. Stream classification, AIA, terrain stability etc.), it is unlikely that proposed FDP activities will put aforementioned values at risk.

Porcher Island

There were no comments for this sold timber sale licence northwest off Porcher Inlet.

Hinton Island/Payne Channel

- A Band member noted that he wanted to joint venture with the SBFEP/licensee for the proposed Hinton Island helicopter timber sale. Shawn Hedges responded by advising that this area could possibly form a part of a Kitkatla non-replaceable Forest Licence if it was pursued in a timely manner.
- SBFEP committed to advising a Band member of the names of the successful timber sale holders for the Hinton Island and Payne Channel timber sales.

Summary findings for Hinton Island/Payne Channel: provided that the SBFEP continues with its conservative development approach and its standard pre-harvest integrated resource management assessments (e.g. Stream classification, AIA, terrain stability etc.), it is unlikely that proposed FDP activities will put aforementioned values at risk.

Captain Cove

- A very important and sensitive area was noted along the north shore near the head of Captain Cove – has high significance to Kitkatla people and needs to be very well buffered.
- Very valuable Silver-tipped martin are found in the watershed.
- A Band member voiced his concern about the proposed major bridge crossing over Scouler Creek – he preferred to see the bridge eliminated and a second log dump and access road developed instead (note this would require access through the sensitive area noted in bullet #1 above).

- SBFEP confirmed that the Golden Cedar has now been fully buffered and protected from harvest.
- The Captain Cove area was noted as an important land claim area.
- Band members appeared to be generally satisfied with the substantial buffers established along both sides of Scouler Creek as well as along the North Shore (sensitive area).
- A Band elder repeated his past assertion that 2 small streams had been destroyed through previous road construction and harvesting activities (note this issue was previously field inspected and satisfactorily addressed in 1997 and 1998).

Summary findings for Captain Cove: provided that the SBFEP continues with its conservative development approach and its standard pre-harvest integrated resource management assessments (e.g. Stream classification, AIA, terrain stability etc.), it is unlikely that proposed FDP activities will put aforementioned values at risk.

Once again I thank you for the opportunity to meet with your Band. Should you have any further questions regarding this matter, please don't hesitate to contact me at 250-624-7460.

Yours truly,



Shawn Hedges, R.P.F.
Small Business Officer

PC: Bruce Watkinson, Gitkxala Resource Centre, General Delivery, Kitkatla BC V0V 1C0
Rufus & Ema Innes, General Delivery, Kitkatla BC V0V 1C0
Al Brown, General Delivery, Kitkatla BC V0V 1C0
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