

# Vanderhoof Community Forest Newsletter – July 2017

## Up and Running

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Vanderhoof Community Forest operations are now up and running after achieving the following milestones: the Community Forest Agreement and Licence acquired in March 2016, the Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) was approved in February 2017 and harvesting started shortly after with the first load reaching L&M at the end of that month.



*First load at the mill*

## Community Values

L&M and the District of Vanderhoof are currently working on a Community Forest Working Plan which will outline the community values in the Vanderhoof Community Forest. Please visit the DOV Community Forest Website - [www.vanderhoof.ca/District/Comfor.html](http://www.vanderhoof.ca/District/Comfor.html)

From this, strategies and objective will then be incorporated in to the management plan which will guide the future management of the forest.

Here are just some of the values identified from the Community Open House Meeting in 2015 -

- Recreation
- Non-timber forest products
- Wildlife management & enhancement
- Education
- Cultural Heritage



## Harvest Plans for 2017

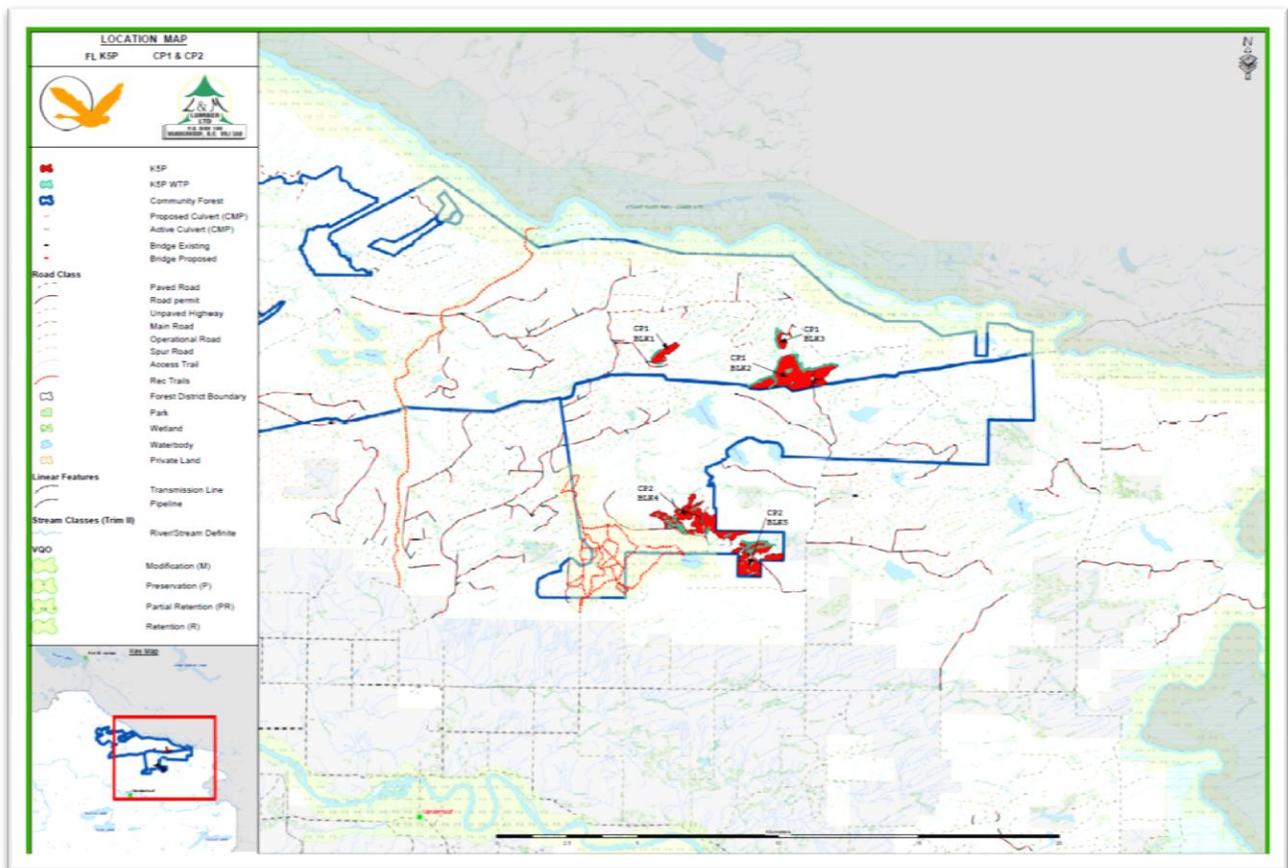
This year L&M is working towards harvesting 100,000m<sup>3</sup>; 80% of which is pine and 20% is spruce, meeting the licence criteria for focusing on the harvest of dead pine, before it is no longer economically viable to harvest. Please see the website for more detail block to block and to be able to view the map at a larger scale. Below is a summary of our progress and plans so far.

**CP1 Blk2** – Harvesting completed, hauling last loads this month

**CP1 Blocks 1 & 3** – Planned to harvest this coming winter

**CP2 Blk5** – Harvesting nearly complete

**CP2 Blk4** – Harvesting started this summer and planned to be finished by fall



For road users in the Community Forest it is important to know that active hauling is taking place on the N. Chilco road and '100 Rd' through this summer.

Our harvest plans for 2018 will be a continuation of the dead pine salvaging and more details will be available soon.



## Silviculture

Silviculture is already underway in the community forest as L&M planted 4 blocks in the community forest area; these were harvested under their licence before the community forest was established. Over 130,000 seedlings were planted, mostly pine and spruce, but also 2,000 Douglas-fir where it was ecologically suitable. A small trial was set up to observe the effects of fertilising at the time of planting on the fir, to see if benefits are sufficient enough to invest in such treatments in future community forest reforestation projects. Lakeland Mills also planted 92,160 trees in 3 blocks under their licence which are now within the community forest area.



*Tree Planters working hard!*



Although we have only just finished this year's tree planting; we are already planning for next year. Again a mix of pine, spruce and Douglas fir will be planted in the community forest and the potential for adding Balsam fir to the mix is being looked into for improving moose browse/habitat.

We are also exploring opportunities for intensive silviculture treatments to improve the value of our timber into the future, operations such as thinning, fertilising and pruning can increase yields and improve the quality of the growing stock which ultimately leads to a more productive community forest and more benefits to the community!

*Douglas fir being grown in Prince George for planting next year*

