

Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board

Smithers, BC | V0J 2N0

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Jay Baker
Manager of the Wetzin'kwa Community Forest Corp
c/o Silvicon Services
Smithers B.C.

Date: October 25, 2019

Dear Jay Baker

Thank you for presenting the Wetzin'kwa Community Forest Corp (WCFC) Fuel Management Plan for the area of Provincial Forest land in the Bulkley Land and Resource Management Plan 1998 (LRMP) on Seymour, Ptarmigan, and Tatlow Ridge to the Bulkley Valley Community Resource Board (BVCRB) on Sept 16, 2019. The BVCRB is entrusted with representing the public interest within The Bulkley Land and Resource Management Plan (BVLRRMP) and is responsible for reviewing the costs and benefits of any proposed logging treatments.

The BVLRRMP designated Core Ecosystems to be intact units of unfragmented natural forest with the purpose of maintaining biodiversity (Sybille Haeussler Ecologist and an original BVCRB member personal communication). The WCFC has proposed to harvest beetle-killed wood within the Seymour Core Ecosystem to try to reduce fire hazard to the town and rural properties. The Seymour Core Ecosystem has already experienced substantial fragmentation and disturbance (e.g., roads, trails, mountain pine beetles) since establishment in the 1990s. Any decision to alter the core further should consider the likelihood and magnitude of potential hazard-reduction benefits as well as costs to these values.

Biodiversity values:

1. The BVCRB is not convinced that Wetzin'kwa's proposal will reduce fuel hazard sufficiently in the CORE to mitigate wildfire risk to the community of Smithers and residents of the Bulkley Valley, particularly in a year with extreme fire weather. Your plan may actually increase the risk of ignition.
2. The BVCRB is not convinced that your three proposed CORE replacements adequately replace the values of unfragmented natural forest, and rare and endangered ecosystems.

VQO values:

1. The BVCRB is not convinced that the plan will maintain the established VQOs in the area of the plan visible from Smithers and the Bulkley Valley.
2. The BVCRB is not convinced that the plan will minimize the visual impact on other users of Smithers Community Forest SCF, Special Management Zone 2 (SMZ2) of the LRMP

Recreation values:

1. The BVCRB is not convinced that plan will maintain the non-motorized status outlined in the Recreation Access Management Plan for the recreational trails in the northern portion of the SCF SMZ2 of the LRMP.
2. The BVCRB is not convinced that the plan will protect the recreation trail features as per 2.4.10 LRMP.

Based on the above the Wetzin'kwa Fuel Management Plan is not acceptable to the BVCRB.

Yours Truly

Eric Becker Chair
BVCRB

cc. Wetzin'kwa Board of Directors
cc Jevan Hanchard D.M. FLNRORD
Cc Ryan Holmes FLNRORD
cc Doug Donaldson Minister of FLNRORD