

Subject: Rationale for Cutblock KLEK4

This rationale addresses Interfor's proposed 2.1 ha change to the northern portion of block KLEK4 in Timber License T0193, Kleeptee Creek. The change is a result of the Proposed Marbled Murrelet (MAMU) Wildlife Habitat Area (WHA) 1-583 that overlaps the entire area of this block. The addition of this WHA intends to set provincial recovery objectives so BC can demonstrate continued species management progress consistent with Federal governments' objectives to protect critical habitat. This was accompanied by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Province (BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development) and Coast Forest Products Association (CFPA) to ensure expectations of both parties are understood and accepted in a co-operative manner. The signing parties were Chris Stagg and Tom Esthier, Assistant Deputy Ministers of the MFLRNO and Rick Jeffrey, President of CFPA. The signing took place in 2016.

Prior to the signing of this MOU, development activities took place within TL T0193 in 2008/09, including the layout of Block KLEK4 (labelled K4 at layout). K4 had no overlap with a proposed Wildlife Reserve at that time. Harvesting of K4 was deferred at that time due to visual concerns.

Interfor met with the Ministry on Dec. 5, 2016 to review the proposed WHA's. The presence of Interfor's engineered block K4 was noted. At the time there were no definitive plans for Kleeptee, and the WHA overlapping this area was given a "defer" status. In 2017 Interfor decided to resume development activities in Kleeptee. Engineering and cruising processes were undertaken with the assumption that the WHA was draft and deferred. The presence of the WHA overlap came to our attention when we contacted Western Forest Products about a proposed road to access KLEK4 that would run through their tenure TFL19. They notified us of the WHA overlapping this particular road section, and upon investigation, it was noted that KLEK\$ was within a proposed WHA.

In order to address this situation, we contacted FLNRO to arrange a meeting and come to a resolution. On September 18th, 2017 we met with Monica Mather and Darryn McConkey at FLNRO's Nanaimo office to discuss alternatives that both parties could agree on. FLNRO showed Block KLEK4 to have no status and any previous plans for Interfor to harvest within the area were not recognized.

The first alternative Interfor offered was to replace the WHA within WFP's tenure that was deemed suitable for MAMU habitat. Since WFP has future plans for this area, it was rejected, so we offered an area within our tenure to the north of KLEK4 that provided good habitat for MAMU. A reserve area was proposed, however the area was too narrow for effective MAMU habitat and would need to be a minimum of 200 meters wide. In order to meet this requirement, the FLNRO requested a small piece of the northern portion of KLEK4 to meet the requirement. After some map work and looking at various shapes, Interfor agreed to delete 2.1ha from the block in order to meet the MAMU requirements, as shown on the attached map. A formal proposal has been sent to Monica and Darryn, and they are finalizing the new WHA.

The collaboration between Interfor and the Ministry has resulted in a mutual agreement that acknowledges and supports the values, considerations and objectives of both parties as intended by the MOU. Interfor has ensured that the areas proposed for the relocation of the WHA are consistent with and support the provincial recovery objectives for Marbled Murrelet, which includes the 2.1ha portion of block KLEK4. We intend to continue proactive communication and information sharing efforts between ourselves and the provincial government in order to develop effective outcomes that all parties can agree upon.