



ANTHROPOLOGICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH CONSULTANTS

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January 9, 2019

VIA EMAIL

Colin McKenzie, RFT
Area Engineer
Nootka Forest Operation
Western Forests Products Inc.
300 Western Drive
Gold River, B.C. V0P 1G0

Dear Colin McKenzie:

**Re: Archaeological Overview Assessment of Proposed Cut Block Z33 HL,
Tree Farm Licence 19, Campbell River Natural Resource District**

This letter reports our archaeological overview assessment (AOA) of proposed cut Block Z33 HL located about 1.5 km north of Espinosa Inlet, in Tree Farm Licence 19, Campbell River Natural Resource District (Map 1). Block Z33 HL is in the asserted traditional territory of the Ehattesaht First Nation. The close proximity of Block Z33 HL to Oclucje IR 7 of the Nuchatlaht First Nation (Map 1) suggests potential, but undefined, Nuchatlaht traditional interests.

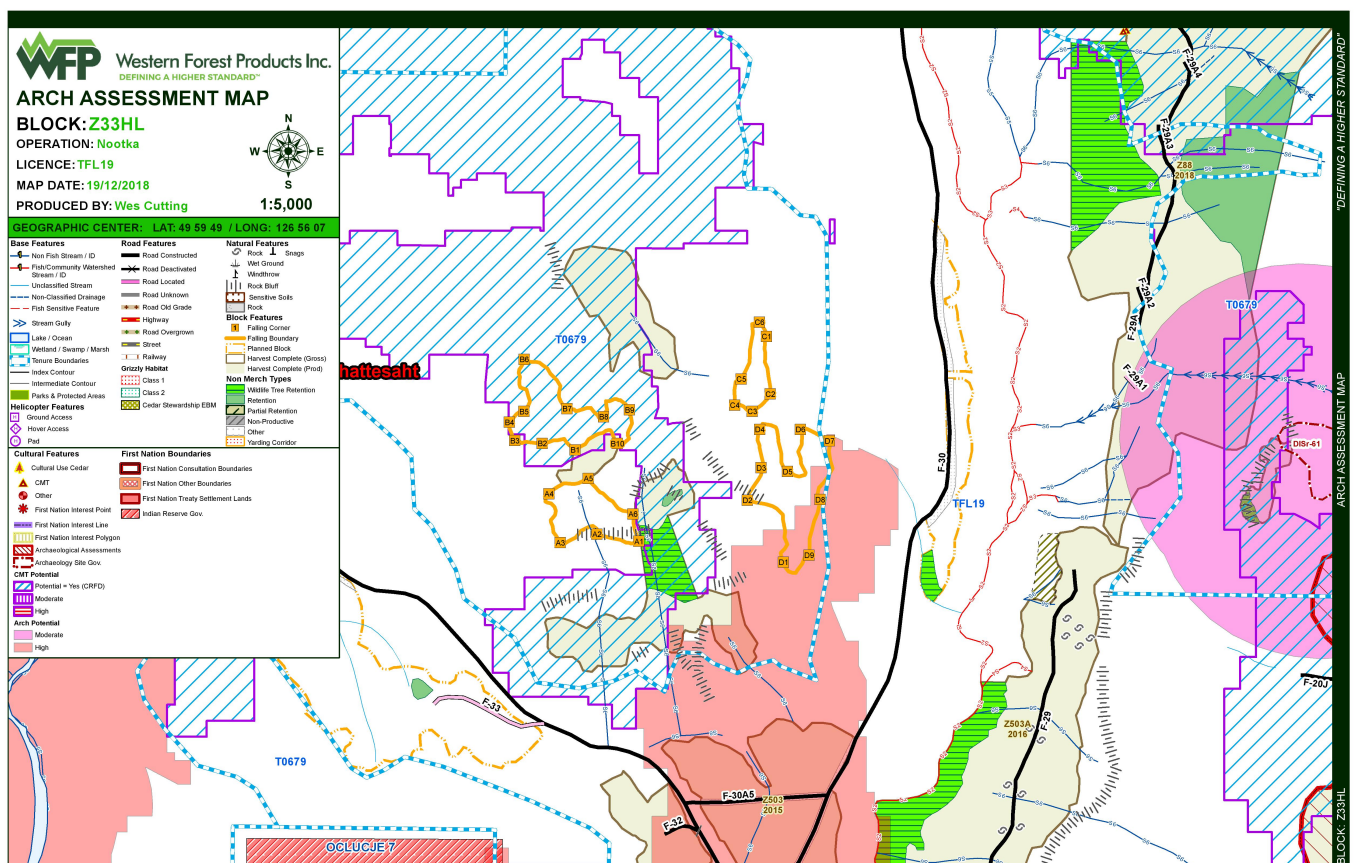


Re: Archaeological Overview Assessment of Proposed Cut Block Z33 HL Page 2

Our assessment found that proposed Block Z33 HL had nil potential for both culturally modified trees (CMTs) and subsurface archaeological sites. The absence of known archaeological sites within and adjacent to the proposed cut block, together with the low to nil archaeological potential, does not merit further archaeology.

Study Area

Proposed Block Z33 HL is located east of Espinosa Creek and south of Rowland Creek about 1 km northeast from Indian Reserve No. 7 Oclucje of the Nuchatlaht First Nation (Map 1). Block Z33 HL has no road access. The Fair Harbour forest road from the village of Zeballos connecting to Forest Road 30 comes within about 500 m from Block Z33 HL, thereafter access is on foot up a steep hillside. The proposed cut block has been traversed, engineered and timber cruised. Timber harvesting by heli-logging is scheduled for early spring 2019.



Re: Archaeological Overview Assessment of Proposed Cut Block Z33 HL

Page 3

Block Z33 HL consists of four parcels (types) that total 4.2 ha (Map 2). The block contains of mainly old growth timber with stands of immature to mature hemlock/balsam 70% and red cedar 30%. Most red cedar stands are confined to the northwest parcel (type 1).

Block Z33 HL contains no culturally significant landforms. The terrain within the block and its surrounding area is extremely rugged and steep with natural rocky barriers.

AOA Methods

A range of documentary information was reviewed and evaluated for an initial assessment of the archaeological potential of the proposed Block Z33 HL. Then a Preliminary Field Reconnaissance (PFR) checked the documentary information and tested the initial assessment of archaeological potential. Based all these sources of information, a final assessment of archaeological potential was determined.

Documentary Sources

The documentary sources evaluated included the Block Z33 HL plan (Map 2) prepared by Western Forest Products Inc., the Remote Access Archaeological Database (RAAD) site inventory, and three Archaeo Research AOAs conducted in the general area from 2015 to 2018.¹ All these sources together depict the locations of: cut blocks, forest roads, known archaeological sites (CMTs and features), traditional use (TUS) areas, predictive modelling of areas with CMT potential and of areas with high and moderate archaeological potential.

According to the and Western Forest Products mapping layers (Map 2), no known archaeological sites or Traditional Use Sites or land use are recorded within or adjacent to Block Z33 HL.

However, archaeological potential modelling mapped by Western Forests Products (Map 2), shows that the southern and eastern margins of the southeast parcel (type 4) of Block Z33 HL has high potential for CMTs and other archaeological resources.

¹ AOA letter report, Dewhirst and Somogyi to Howie Ackman, January 2, 2015, "AOA of 8 Proposed Cut Blocks (Z503A, Z508D, Z108C, Z108D, Z113B, I514, L520, L521) in Tree Farm Licence 19, Campbell River Forest District."

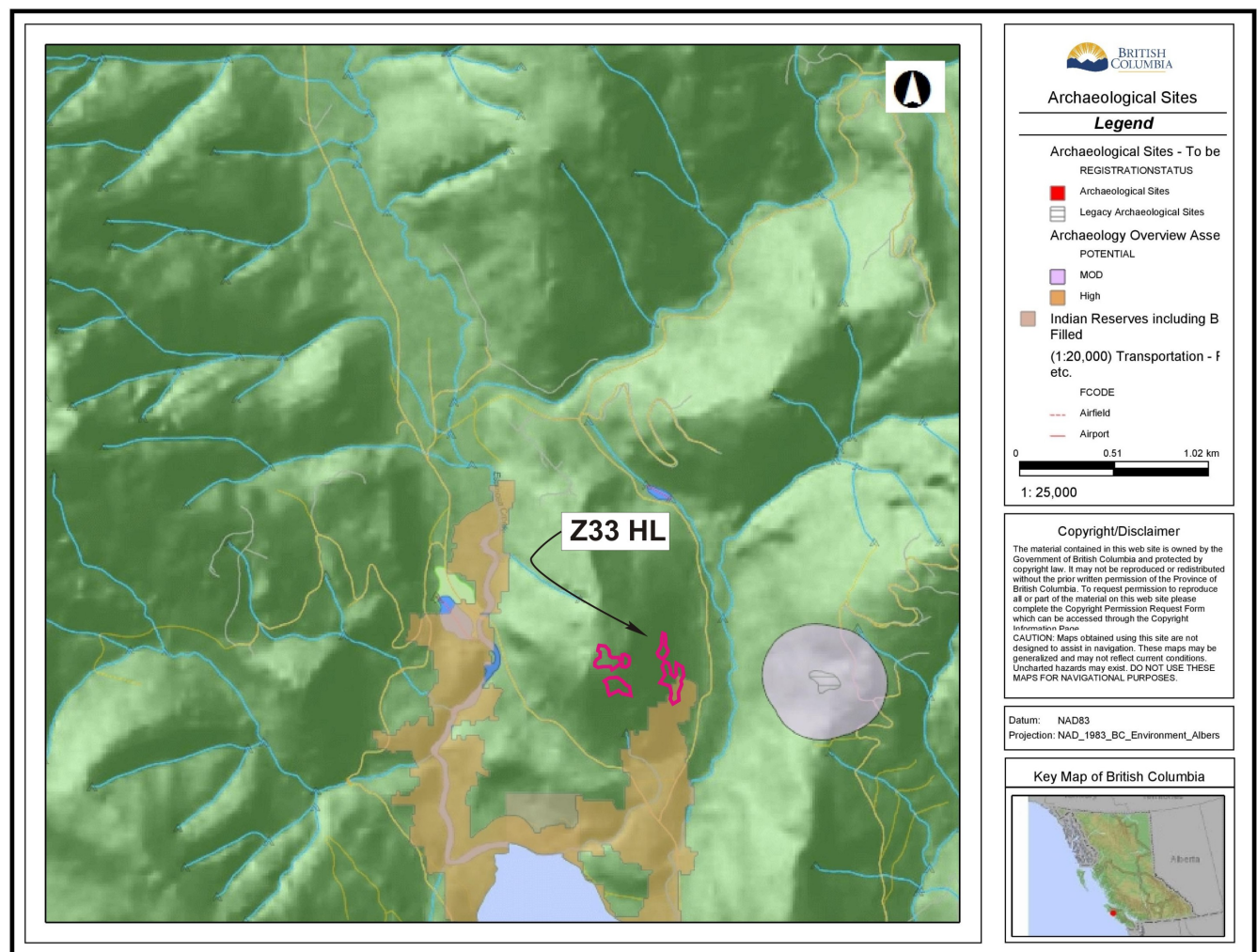
AOA letter report, Dewhirst and Somogyi to McKenzie June 6, 2017, "Archaeological Overview Assessment of Proposed Cut Blocks: L48, L48HL, L53HL, Z108E and Z505, Tree Farm Licence 19, Campbell River Forest District."

AOA letter report, Dewhirst and Somogyi to McKenzie, June 1, 2018, "Archaeological Overview Assessment of Proposed Cut Blocks L33HL, Z86, Z115, and Associated Haul Road Rights-of-Way, Tree Farm Licence 19, Campbell River Forest District."

Re: Archaeological Overview Assessment of Proposed Cut Block Z33 HL Page 4

Also, Western Forest Products predictive modelling of CMT potential (Map 2) shows a high CMT potential for the northwest parcel (type 1), which also contains a high concentration of red cedar.

The RAAD archaeological inventory (Map 3) indicates that no recorded archaeological sites are present within or near Block Z33 HL. However, the RAAD inventory shows some high archaeological potential modelled on the south and east margins of the southeast parcel of Block Z33 HL.



Map 3. RAAD mapped inventory of archaeological potential in relation to Block Z33 HL.

The area of modelled high archaeological potential mapped in the southern and eastern margins of the southeast parcel (type 4) of Block Z33 HL (Maps 2 and 3) was tested in the Preliminary Field Inspection of all four parcels.

Re: Archaeological Overview Assessment of Proposed Cut Block Z33 HL

Page 5

The PFR also checked the northwest parcel (type 1), which had modelled high CMT potential and predominantly red cedar stands. The PFR did not find any CMTs in the northwest parcel, and therefore concluded that it has a low CMT potential.

Preliminary Field Inspection (PFR)

A Preliminary Field Inspection (PFR) checked the data from available documentary sources and assessed the archaeological potential based on both documentary information and field observations. The PFR of Block Z33 HL was carried out on December 20, 2018 by archaeologist John Somogyi-Csizmazia (Archaeo Research Ltd.) and Wes Cutting, RFT (Western Forests Products Inc.). A member of the Ehattesaht First Nation to assist on the PFR was not available. The PFR observations, together with documentary sources, assessed the archaeological potential of Block Z33 HL.

The PFR found no CMTs and no archaeological resources in the four parcels (types). The area of modelled high archaeological potential in the southeast parcel (Maps 2 and 3) is in a forest cover of predominantly white wood, thus precluding the possibility of CMTs; moreover, no CMTs were observed in the parcel. The steep, rugged terrain in all four parcels precludes any potential for subsurface archaeological sites.

Results

Our final overview assessment, based on documentary sources and the PFR, found that no archaeological sites are present in Block Z33 HL, and that Block Z33 HL has no archaeological potential for CMTs and for subsurface archaeological resources. No mitigation or further archaeological measures are necessary. This assessment is based on the following findings:

1. No registered archaeological sites, including CMT sites, are present or adjacent to the proposed cut block. The nearest registered archaeological sites are CMT site DLSr-61 (legacied), about 750 m east and DLSr-76 2.5 km southwest of the proposed cut Block Z33 HL.
2. The forest vegetation of proposes Block Z33 HL consists mainly of white wood (western hemlock and balsam), thus precluding the presence of CMTs.
3. Landforms, such as elevated terraces, associated with subsurface archaeological resources are absent. Instead, the terrain in and surrounding Block Z33 HL consists of steep slopes and rock outcrops. Terrain is steep rugged, rolling, irregular, and variable.

Re: Archaeological Overview Assessment of Proposed Cut Block Z33 HL
Page 6

4. No recorded traditional use (TUS) sites or areas, either within or immediately adjacent, are present.
5. A modelled high archaeological potential mapped on the southern and eastern margins of the southeast parcel in Block Z33 HL (Maps 2, 3) was found in the PFR to have no CMTs, no potential for CMTs because of white wood stands, and no potential for archaeological resources because of a steep, rugged, rocky hillside.
6. The modelled high CMT potential for the northwest parcel (type 1), which contains predominantly red cedar, was found in the PFR to have no CMTs, therefore this parcel has a low potential for CMTs.
7. Western Forests Products Inc. personnel did not observe any cultural features such as CMTs during initial block boundary, engineering, lay out and timber cruising.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Based on the above findings, proposed cut Block Z33 HL has no archaeological resources and no potential for CMTs and other subsurface archaeological resources. Further archaeological work is not recommended.

However, despite the nil archaeological potential, Western Forest Products Inc. forestry crews and their contractors should be watchful. If CMTs or other sites are encountered, crews should stop work in the immediate vicinity and notify the Archaeology Branch and the Ehattesaht First Nation.

Yours truly,

Archaeo Research Ltd.



John Dewhirst, M.A., RPCA



John Somogyi, M.A., CRM Dip.