

Revelstoke Community Forest Corporation



Tree Farm Licence 56

MANAGEMENT PLAN #5

Date: October 2020

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1.0 Introduction

This is the first management plan prepared for Tree Farm Licence (TFL) 56 to meet the requirements of the Tree farm Licence Management Plan Regulation (BC Reg 280/2009). This regulation was enacted by the provincial government in November 2009 which made amendments to the Forest Act. It included content requirements, submission timing and public review requirements for TFL Management Plans. These content requirements replaced the MP content requirements listed in the Tree Farm Licence document and reduced the duplication of Forest Stewardship Plan objectives and strategies.

This management plan gives a location and description of TFL 56, licence holder history, TFL consolidations and subdivisions, major TFL boundary changes, planning documents and a public review strategy. It also presents the timber supply analysis that will provide information to the Chief Forester of BC in order to determine the next Allowable Annual Cut (AAC) for TFL 56.

2.0 Location and Description of the TFL

Situated 40 kilometers north of Revelstoke, TFL 56 covers an area of 119,353 hectares. It is bounded on the west by the Lake Revelstoke reservoir, on the east by the height-of-land of the Selkirk Mountains, on the north by the Goldstream River and on the south by the Downie-Carnes height-of-land.

The land is extremely rugged and dominated by two roughly east-west valleys – those of Downie Creek and Goldstream River – and one north-south valley, that of the Columbia River (Lake Revelstoke Reservoir). Elevation ranges from 573 metres at reservoir level to 3050 meters at Carnes Peak.

The forested land base is a relatively small proportion of total area and the timber harvesting land base is even a smaller proportion. Most harvesting is confined to valley sidewalls and valley bottoms. The remaining “high country” is too rugged or does not support marketable timber.

The ruggedness has minimized human use, hence there are no settlements, little private land, and until recently little recreation use. One highway (Hwy 23N) traverses the TFL. Traffic is light and dominated by logging and other industrial traffic.

Wildlife use the TFL area extensively. Grizzly bears, black bears, moose, deer, and caribou are common. Caribou have become a management issue because they have been extirpated over much of their former range.

3.0 TFL Licence Holder History

From 1955 to 1992, the licence area was part of a much larger Tree Farm Licence (TFL 23). In 1992, the southern portion of TFL 23 (south of Revelstoke) was sold to Pope and Talbot Ltd. while the northern portion (including what are now TFL's 55 and 56) was retained by Westar Timber. In late 1992, Westar Timber negotiated a sale of the northern portion of the TFL to Evan's Forest Products Ltd. Due in large part to concerns identified by citizens of Revelstoke, the sale was disallowed and a revised deal negotiated. This revised deal -- reached in early 1993 -- saw the northern portion of what was once TFL 23 split into TFL's 55 and 56. TFL 55 was sold to Evans Forest Products and TFL 56 to the City of Revelstoke.

The first Management Plan that TFL 56 operated under was Management and Working Plan #7 for TFL 23. This was followed until MP #2 was approved in 1996. Management Plan #2 was the first MP devised solely for TFL 56 expired in May 2001.

The Revelstoke Community Forest Corporation (RCFC) was formed in April 1993 to manage and operate Tree Farm License (TFL) 56 that was purchased from Westar Timber Ltd. The corporation is wholly owned by the RCFC Holding Company Ltd., which in turn is wholly owned by the City of Revelstoke. Three local industry partners helped finance the original purchase.

The city holds 100% of the shares in the Holding Company while the industry partners' purchased timber removal rights to a portion of the license's Allowable Annual Cut (AAC). The City's sawlog allocation (60% of the AAC) is sold through a log sort. The industry partners' sawlog volumes are provided at cost (averaged annually) with species and grades representative of the profile harvested. Pulpwood is sold under separate contract with the proceeds being factored back into the cost of logs.

Previously, the corporation was wholly owned by the City of Revelstoke. In January 2000, corporate restructuring took place – the RCFC Holding Company was placed in complete ownership of the corporation. This was done for various reasons and with the advice of our lawyers and accountants.

RCFC Holding Company Ltd. and RCFC are governed by seven member Boards of Directors composed of the Mayor, two City Councilors, the City Administrator and three appointees from the community. A staff of five employees manages the day-to-day business. The industry partners have input through a management advisory committee. All forest management, construction, logging and silviculture activities are contracted out. The goal is to maximize local employment and economic benefit in the community. The Corporation is funded through the proceeds of log sales. During the community referendum, which was held to ratify purchasing the TFL, a commitment was made that tax payers would not be called upon to fund the venture.

TFL 56 lies within the Selkirk Forest District.

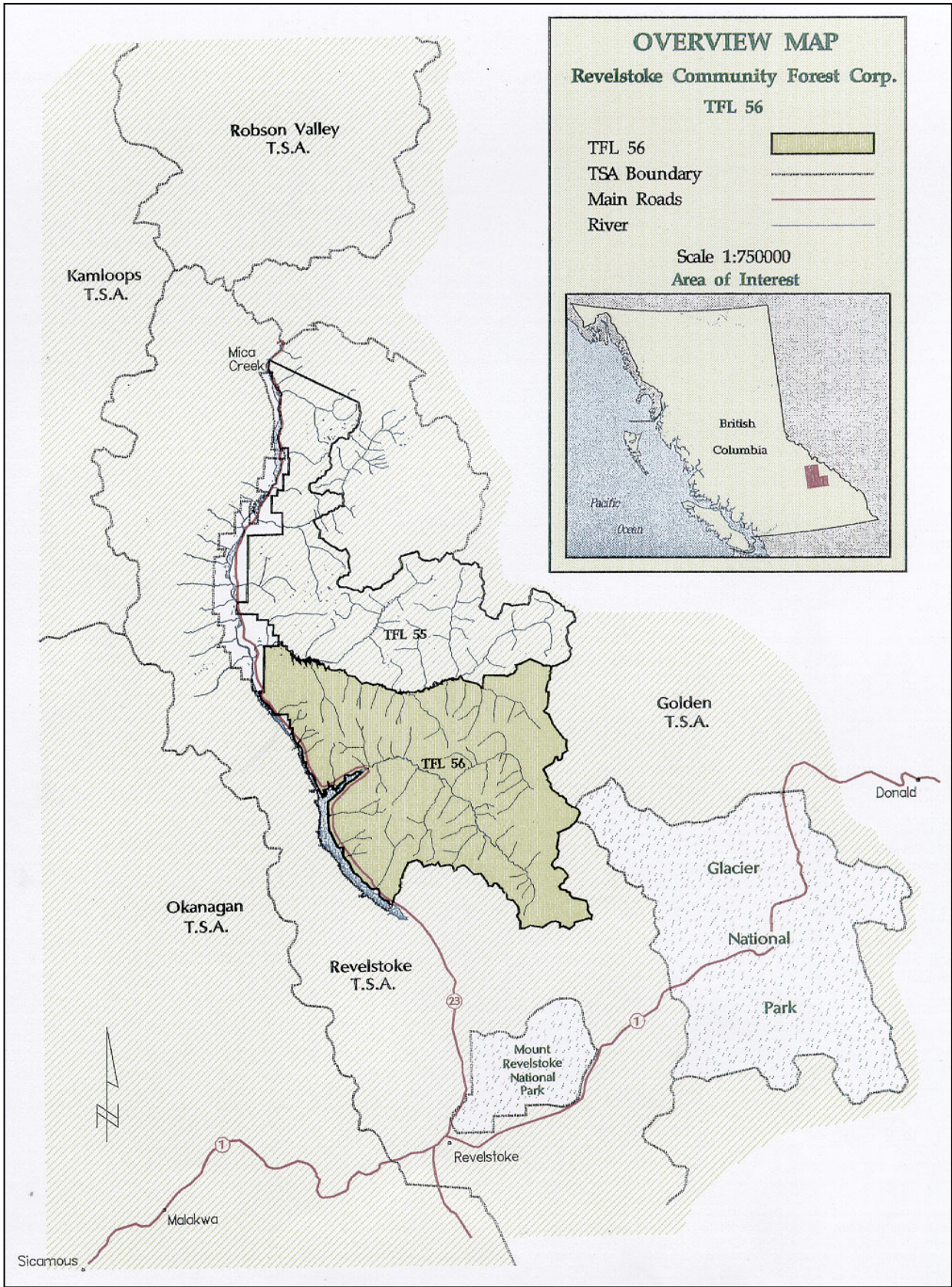


Figure 1. Location Map for TFL 56.

4.0 TFL Consolidations and Subdivisions

The current TFL 56 is a result of the subdivision of the original TFL 23 in 1992 into TFL 55. A further division in 1993 created TFL 56.

5.0 Major TFL 56 Boundary Changes

No major boundary changes have been made to the TFL. British Columbia Timber Sales (BCTS) has cutting rights on the TFL which has been established in the Nightmare and Daydream watersheds.

6.0 Planning Documents

The Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) is a legal requirement under the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) that states how RCFC plans to meet objectives set by government regarding soils, timber, wildlife, water, fish and biodiversity and cultural heritage resources related to forest practices on the TFL. This FSP has a five year term but may be extended an additional five years with the approval of the District Manager. The current FSP term ends October 18, 2020.

7.0 Public Review Strategy

The Public Review Strategy was developed for TFL 56 Management Plan #5 and approved by the Regional Executive Director on March 28, 2019. This strategy was used to give the opportunity of stakeholders, First Nations and the public to comment on the draft Management Plan.

The draft Information Package (IP) notices went out July 10, 2019 and the required 60 days was given for review and comments. Emailed letters were sent out and a few letters were mailed where email addresses were not obtained. Advertisements were also placed in the Revelstoke Review and the Sicamous Eagle Valley newspapers for two consecutive weeks in July 2019.

RCFC held a number of meetings with First Nations to discuss aspects of the information package prior to submission. During the consultation period of the draft Information Package, RCFC also worked with FLNRO staff to respond to some written questions by First Nations. The discussions with FN provide clarification and some detail around management objectives and strategies on the TFL.

No changes to the Draft IP were required as a result of the review and comment period.

The draft Management Plan (MP) notices went out May 26, 2020 for the 60 day review period. An additional 30 days was given for First Nations review and comments due to flood and Covid 19 staffing capacity issues. Emailed letters were sent out and a few letters were mailed similar to the draft IP process. Advertisements were also placed in the Revelstoke Review and the Sicamous Eagle Valley newspapers for two consecutive weeks in May/June 2020.

The public review strategy document can be found in Appendix 3.