



Cortes Forest General Partnership – Future Projects Cutblocks SQ1 – SQ6 – Squirrel Cove

Harvesting at the Cortes Community Forest (K4G) is under consideration at cutblocks SQ1 – SQ6 in the vicinity of Squirrel Cove (see attached map). A brief description of the project and the individual blocks is provided.

General Project Description:

Access to the Squirrel project will be via rehabilitation of an old road used for the previous harvest of several cutblocks (approximately 25 years ago) as well as the new construction of approximately 1.3km of new road.

The main cutblocks (SQ1-5) are relatively small cutblocks (1.2ha – 3.0ha) and will be managed using a "Seed Tree" silviculture System. Along the way an intermediate harvest (commercial thinning) is planned along the way and that intermediate harvest makes up cutblock SQ6.

Harvest is planned for spring 2016 and the target harvest volume is 5000m3.

<u>Silviculture System</u> (A silviculture system is a planned program of silviculture treatments throughout the life of the stand to achieve stand structural objectives based on integrated resource management goals. It includes harvesting, regeneration, and stand-tending methods or phases.)

<u>Seed Tree</u> – defined as a silviculture system in which selected trees or tree groups are left standing after the initial harvest to provide a seed source for natural regeneration.

- Blocks SQ1-5 are a modification of a classic 'Seed Tree System' as artificial reforestation (tree planting) will occur to ensure that a Douglas Fir / Western Red Cedar forest is established for future generations
- Reserve trees not only provide a seed source but provide significant value in terms of biodiversity, visual landscape benefits, and creation of 'Old Growth' trees and the inherent value of older forests.

<u>Intermediate Harvest</u> – Intermediate harvesting (partial harvest) refers generically to stand entries under any silviculture system to cut selected trees and to leave selected trees for various stand objectives.

Cutblock Description

- **SQ1** Cutblock SQ1 is 1.2ha. The species composition is estimated at Fd55%Hw30%Cw15% and the volume is estimated at 600m3/ha. The silviculture system is 'Seed Tree' where approximately 25 trees/ha will be maintained post-harvest at approximately 20m inter-tree spacing. Retained trees will be selected from the dominant and co-dominant tree classes (i.e. intermediate and largest trees). The harvest will be hoe-forwarding.
- **SQ2** Cutblock SQ2 is 2.5ha. The species composition is estimated at Fd55%Hw20%Cw25% and the volume is estimated at 600m3/ha. The majority of block SQ2 has blown down and much of the harvest will be salvage. Much of the volume at block SQ2 is intended to provide for the firewood demand on Cortes Island. The silviculture system is also 'Seed Tree' where approximately 25 trees/ha will be maintained post-harvest at irregular spacing subject to the availability of reserve trees (amongst the blowdown) and safety. The harvest will be hoe-forwarding.
- **SQ3** Cutblock SQ3 is 2.6ha. The species composition is estimated at Fd70%Hw20%Cw10% and the volume is estimated at 450m3/ha. The silviculture system is 'Seed Tree' where approximately 25 trees/ha will be maintained post-harvest at approximately 20m inter-tree spacing. Retained trees will be selected from the dominant and co-dominant tree classes (i.e. intermediate and largest trees). The harvest will be hoe-forwarding.
- **SQ4** Cutblock SQ4 is 3.0ha. The species composition is estimated at Fd45%Hw15%Cw40% and the volume is estimated at 550m3/ha. The silviculture system is 'Seed Tree' where approximately 25 trees/ha will be maintained post-harvest at approximately 20m inter-tree spacing. Retained trees will be selected from the dominant and co-dominant tree classes (i.e. intermediate and largest trees). The harvest will be hoe-forwarding.
- **SQ5** Cutblock SQ5 is 1.4ha. The species composition is estimated at Fd70%Hw15%Cw15% and the volume is estimated at 550m3/ha. The silviculture system is 'Seed Tree' where approximately 25 trees/ha will be maintained post-harvest at approximately 20m inter-tree spacing. Retained trees will be selected from the dominant and co-dominant tree classes (i.e. intermediate and largest trees). The harvest will be hoe-forwarding.
- **SQ6** Cutblock SQ6 is 12.54ha. The species composition is estimated at Fd60%Hw20%Cw20% and the volume is estimated at 550m3/ha. Block SQ6 is an intermediate harvest where 15% of the co-dominant trees will be harvested. The yarding at SQ6 is planned for a skidder (subject to availability) where several small skid trails will be developed with trees fell towards the trail for removal.

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