

K t u n a x a N a t i o n

COMMUNITY FOREST

Dominion Government Blocks



June 15, 2005, Cranbrook - The Ktunaxa Kinbasket Development Corporation (KKDC) is very pleased to announce its most recent business initiative, the Ktunaxa Nation Community Forest.

Located on the Dominion Government Coal Blocks, which are two federal land parcels located in the upper Flathead River Valley near Fernie, the Ktunaxa Nation Community Forest is a significant agreement with government that has been more than seven years in the making.

Prior to 1998, the Ktunaxa/Kinbasket Tribal Council (K/KTC), Natural Resources Canada (NRC) and the provincial Ministry of Forests (MoF) began developing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for administering joint forestry management interests on the Dominion Government Coal Blocks. The Ministry of Forests is responsible for administering forest management activities on the federal government's Dominion Government Coal Blocks.

In April 2003, the Minister of Forests presented a letter to the K/KTC offering to directly award a Community Forest Pilot Agreement Forest Licence to the K/KTC on the Coal Blocks. The K/KTC passed a resolution accepting the offer and supporting the KKDC's desire to take on responsibility for management of the Community Forest Pilot Agreement Forest Licence.

The MoF issued the Community Forest License to the KKDC on September 16, 2004. The MOU was signed in February 2005 and clearly outlines the agreement for KKDC management of forest resources through the Dominion Government Coal Blocks Forestry Program.

The Ktunaxa Nation Community Forest covers a total area of 20,000 hectares. The KKDC and its Forest Tenures Group are responsible for the day-to-day operational management, administration and business activities of the Community Forest. As well, the KKDC Forest Tenures Group has developed a five-year management plan which includes a five-year business plan, forest development plan, and a wildfire protection and environmental response plan.

To date the Ktunaxa Nation Community Forest has created a variety of new forestry-related jobs and contracts for Ktunaxa citizens including positions in harvesting and logging-truck driving, and in technical disciplines. New job opportunities have also been realized for local resource management businesses and neighbouring community members.

Other accomplishments include an approved road permit, two approved cutting permits, three forest health (mountain pine beetle) contracts and an application for forest investment account project funding for silviculture activities.

The KKDC has an operating agreement with Tembec Industries to assist in overall forest resource management in the Community Forest including planning, development, operations and financial administration of the Forest Licence.

The KKDC, on behalf of the Ktunaxa Nation Community Forest, is an associate member of the British Columbia Community Forest Association.

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