

KALESNIKOFF

TIMBER INSPIRES



Photo of K096 – Block 5

Timber Harvest Project K096-5 – Croasdaile Creek Harvest Plan Information and Feedback Form

December 8, 2022

Introduction:

Kalesnikoff Lumber Company's Forest Licence (FL) A30172 in the Kootenay Lake Timber Supply Area provides timber rights within several operating areas on the east shore of Kootenay Lake. Our Gray Creek operating area covers the western aspects and tributary drainages from Crawford Bay south to LaFrance Creek. The area is characterized by streams of various sizes, generally originating in steep mountainous headwater areas and making their way to the lake down incised gullies through the gentler lower slopes. Face units between the streams vary between rugged and rocky to moist benches with relatively uniform terrain. The area often enjoys mild winter conditions at lower elevations due to its warm aspect and proximity to the large body of water of Kootenay Lake, however upper-level catchments may receive significant snowfall. The shoreline of the lake sees a mix of private land and public forestlands, with small communities receiving most of their domestic water supply from surface water sources originating in catchment areas upslope.

Project K096-5 consists of a single proposed cutblock within the Croasdaile Creek catchment, just north of Gray Creek. This block utilizes existing infrastructure, with no new road construction required.

Who We Are:

About Kalesnikoff:

Kalesnikoff Lumber Company is a local, fourth-generation family-owned company based in Thrums, B.C. We have lived and worked in the west Kootenays for over 80 years and care about our local communities and our employees, contractors and suppliers who we consider extended family.

We create our plans and make decisions based on local knowledge of our forests, environment, communities, and on evolving best practices in sustainable forestry. We live here, and our forestry and business practices reflect our ongoing pride in our legacy of taking care of the land and people in our area. We are committed to making the most of every tree we plant, harvest and process — striving to create the most benefit for our employees, the community and our customers.

We're trying to improve on how we work with local communities in advance of harvest operations to better understand their priorities, concerns and interests, and we develop our final harvest plans based on community input as well as technical, regulatory and environmental considerations.

Our Commitment:

Kalesnikoff will:

- a) adhere to government regulations and guidelines when planning and conducting harvesting activities.
- b) adhere to the results and strategies described within our approved Forest Stewardship Plan, available on our website, at <https://kalesnikoff.com/sustainable-forest-stewardship/>
- c) carefully consider the various risks of our harvesting activities and seek the advice of third-party qualified registered professionals as necessary throughout our planning process.
- d) utilize the most up-to-date imagery and technology available to help draft operational plans.
- e) prepare detailed drainage plans where necessary.
- f) use modern road building practices with attention to maintaining natural drainage patterns.
- g) use environmentally sound timber harvesting practices.
- h) carry out monitoring and maintenance of roads and structures on a regular basis to avoid issues that may be caused by weather events or improperly functioning drainage structures.
- i) ensure reforestation of harvested areas in a timely fashion, with an appropriate species mix which considers site-specific conditions and climate change variables.
- j) operate in a manner that limits environmental impact, prevents pollution, and protects the health and safety of our employees, contractors and the public.
- k) incorporate scientific discovery, government direction, public feedback, and local knowledge to reduce our environmental footprint and help further the public interest by continuously improving the sustainability of our operations over time.
- l) engage with Indigenous peoples, local communities and the public in an open and transparent manner.

How this Public Referral Document Works:

Kalesnikoff Lumber Company has developed a proposed harvest plan within our Gray Creek operating area. This plan will result in an application for a Cutting Permit (CP), that will be applied for under our Kootenay Lake Forest License (FL A30172), which provides timber harvesting rights on provincial public forestlands. We are sharing this plan with Indigenous peoples, stakeholders and the local community to provide information about key factors we've identified and considered, the proposed harvest areas and other identified forest values, as well as to seek your feedback and input on other information you believe should be considered.

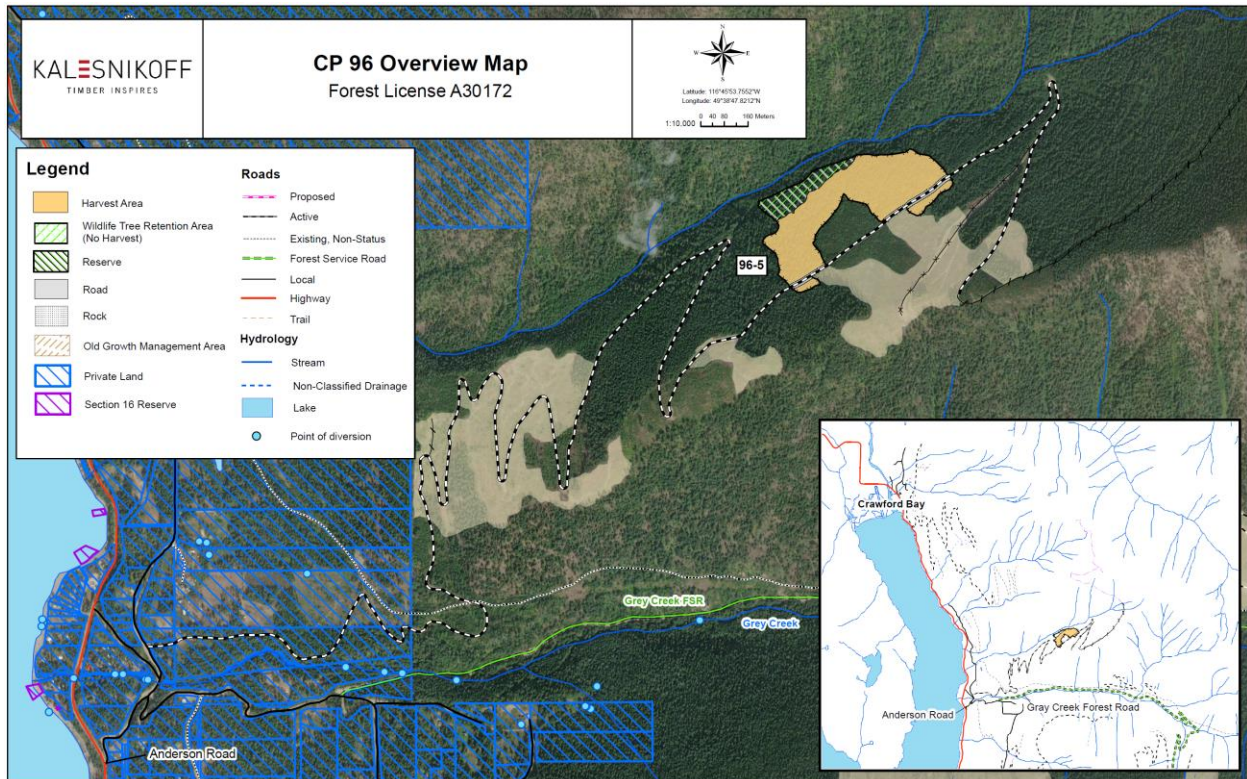
Please review the proposed harvest plan and related information in this document, then feel free to provide your input in the section marked "**FEEDBACK FORM**" by **February 10, 2023**. This document and the Feedback Form will also be posted on the Forest Stewardship page of our website at the following address: <https://www.kalesnikoff.com/sustainable-forest-stewardship>. It can be completed and emailed to referrals@kalesnikoff.com, mailed to PO Box 3000 Hwy 3A, Thrums BC, V1N 4N1 or a hard copy dropped off at our main office at 2090 Hwy 3A in Thrums. You can also share your input by simply emailing comments or questions to the same address or by calling our office at 1-250-399-4211, extension 231 for Gerald Cordeiro, our Forest Development Manager.

If you'd like to receive email updates regarding this proposal and plan, or any of our other activities in your specific area of interest, please provide your email address and contact information in the Feedback Form, or email it to referrals@kalesnikoff.com. Please tell us briefly who you are, and advise if you hold a water license or other tenure rights on Crown land, plus any other information you think could be important. Thank you.

About the Proposed Harvest Plan:

Access and Infrastructure Requirements

Project K096-5 is accessed primarily via the Croasdaile Creek forest road, which passes through private land at the bottom end. The map below gives an overview of the proposed block in relation to existing infrastructure.



Harvest Methods

Due to moderately steep terrain within 96-5 the timber proposed for harvest will require the use of an overhead cable yarding system. This commonly-used harvest method allows timber to be landed at roadside, often without the need for any heavy equipment on the ground. More specifics will be provided below in the block summary section of the document.

Specific Planning Requirements and Considerations:

Careful consideration must be given to a variety of forest values in any harvest planning exercise. The Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) identifies 11 primary forest values to be considered, in no specific order, as follows:

- Biodiversity
- Cultural Heritage
- Fish/Riparian
- Forage and Associated Plant Communities

- Recreation
- Resource Features
- Soils
- Timber
- Visual Quality
- Water
- Wildlife

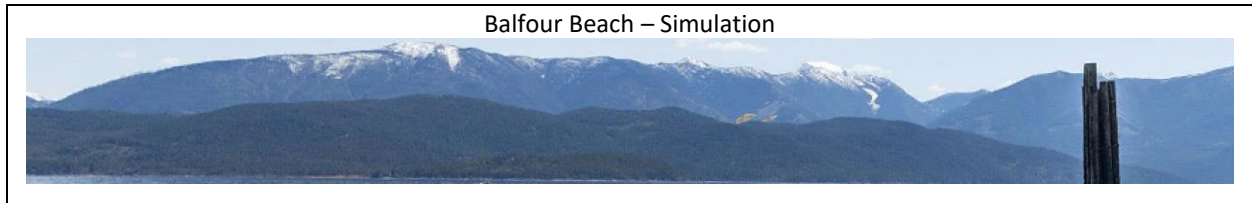
In addition to the identified FRPA values, we apply several other lenses to our proposed developments. Wildfire resilience for both the local community and the forest itself features prominently in our planning processes now, as well as incorporating general climate change expectations and how to help our local forests adapt accordingly over the long term. We have also recently proposed that agroforestry be investigated as a potential tool for use in interface zones around our communities to help simultaneously promote wildfire resilience and food security. While forest health may be inferred from the maintenance of the above identified values, we are currently in an era of epidemic bark beetle infestation, and this factor also plays a leading role in our planning process. Additionally, the provincial government has recently identified 2.6 million hectares of forest throughout B.C. as a high priority to defer from harvest in order to ensure old stands at high risk for biodiversity loss are considered and protected where appropriate. This project has no overlap with any priority deferral areas.

The following are a few of the primary planning considerations with respect to this particular project. While all forest values are considered for each proposal, generally speaking there will be a few for each site that are more complex to reconcile and balance against timber harvesting. Site-specific analysis for this area yields a few of the most pertinent values or considerations here (in no specific order) as:

Visual Quality – The established visual quality objective (VQO) for the landform 96-5 occurs on is ‘*partial retention*’. The partial retention VQO permits visible alterations from forestry activities which are easy to see and may be small to medium in scale with characteristics that appear natural, and not rectilinear or geometric in shape. Visible alterations within the partial retention VQO should generally not exceed 7% of the perspective view of the landform from a significant public viewpoint. Efforts have been made to ensure the openings will not unduly reduce visual quality from the selected viewpoints of the Fish Hawk Bay Marina Resort and the Balfour Beach. The proposed block is not expected to be visible from the Fish Hawk Bay Marina Resort. Examples of Kalesnikoff’s strategy to achieve the desired result are:

- 1) Pre-harvest visual design, including:
 - Avoidance of rectilinear boundaries and overly geometric block shapes.
 - Strategic location of retention patches to utilize standing timber which will screen the openings from sight.
- 2) Utilization of LiDAR data and 3D modelling software to accurately predict the visual impacts from harvesting and road construction. Geospatially accurate 3D simulations are created for the selected viewpoints and are used to improve on potential problem areas before harvest occurs and to ensure the post-harvest condition is consistent with expectations.
- 3) Prompt re-planting of harvested areas to promote the fastest possible green-up of visible alterations.

Below is a simulation showing the expected appearance of the proposed area after harvesting. The block will be partially visible from this viewpoint, however due to the long distance from Balfour Beach it does not dominate the viewscape. A visual impact assessment indicates all areas will meet the definitions for '*partial retention*' from each viewpoint.



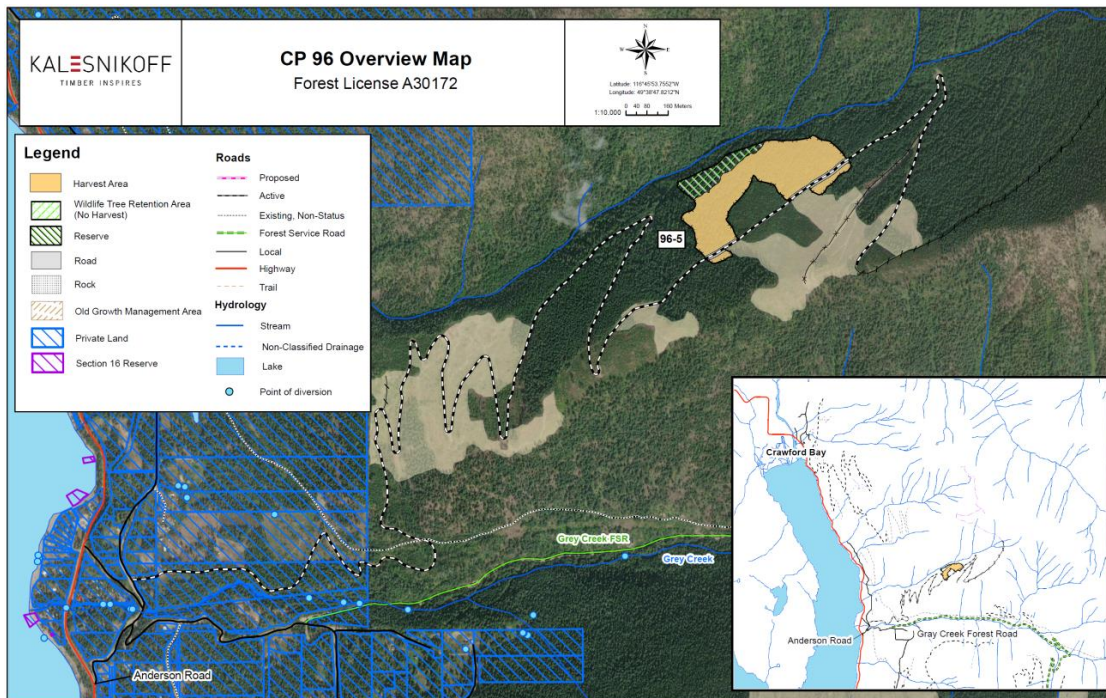
Biodiversity – In order to help maintain biodiversity on this site at the stand level, retention of individual and grouped leave trees will occur throughout the block. The desired effect will be to provide vertical structure of habitats, a source of seed, shade, long-term coarse woody debris recruitment, and visual cover. In addition to retaining 20% of all Cedar, 5% of all Douglas-fir, Hemlock, Spruce, and Larch will be left standing. White pine and deciduous species will be retained to the greatest extent possible within safety and operability constraints wherever they occur. This dispersed retention is in addition to a designated wildlife tree retention area (WTRA) situated below the cutblock and above Croasdaile Creek, which represents 14% of the total block area.

Water – Croasdaile Creek is a domestic-use watershed, and as such requires a high level of diligence in terms of planning and implementation of timber harvesting and related activities. The intent is to limit disturbances within a given watershed to levels which will not result in measurable changes to the hydrological regime, maintaining water quality, quantity, and timing of flow such that aquatic ecosystems and human needs continue to be well-served. A geospatial analysis of forest cover in the Croasdaile watershed estimates the current equivalent clearcut area (ECA, a measure of the extent of disturbed forest in relation to the watershed size) at 10.2%. K096-5 represents an additional 12.4ha of harvest area, increasing the ECA to 12.3%. Generally, ECA levels below 20% do not raise concerns of detrimental changes to hydrological function, so this project does not represent a level of harvest that would unduly increase risks to water users or the aquatic environment.

Harvest Plan Summary:

Block Summary:

Project K096 consists of a single cutblock occurring in the vicinity of Gray Creek. The following is a brief description of the site conditions and harvest plan for the block. The referral map is provided again for reference.



Block 5 – The single harvest area in this project, Block 5 is located adjacent to and mostly below the existing Croasdaile Creek main road. The terrain is moderately steep, so an overhead cable yarding system will be employed as the harvest method. The cable system will pull hand-felled timber up to the existing road, therefore no new road construction is required for this block. Within the block are several old machine trails which may be utilized to provide a mechanical anchor for the cable system at the bottom of the block at the contractor’s option. Any trails which are used by equipment will be deactivated appropriately with drainage control in place at the end of the harvesting phase.

The current forest canopy in this block consists of a ‘Kootenay mix’ of predominantly Hemlock and Cedar, with scattered Douglas-fir and occasional representation of other species such as Spruce, Larch, and Birch. Mature trees of all present sizes will be retained as described above under the section on biodiversity. The site will be reforested with a species mix that is suitable to the elevation, aspect, specific site conditions, and future climate expectations. Given the amount of dispersed retention of mature trees it is also expected that natural regeneration will play a role in the long-term reforestation of this block.

Public Engagement Summary:

Kalesnikoff is committed to transparent communications and engagement with Indigenous communities, local stakeholders and the public throughout the planning, road construction and harvest operations, and silviculture phases of our woodlands program. We will share information on our website and by email with any interested parties who provide their contact information. While engagement and referral periods for individual projects will have dates specified in order to receive timely feedback, the public is welcome to contact us at any time with questions, concerns, or comments related to our activities. We will strive to respond to individual queries in a prompt and comprehensive manner.

Feedback Form:

Kalesnikoff is seeking feedback with respect to this harvest plan. We intend to begin operations within this area as early as 2023.

We are seeking input from Indigenous peoples, local stakeholders and the public regarding what you think we should know and consider as we move forward in finalizing our plans. We'd like to hear from you about:

1. Infrastructure (buildings, roads, fencing, water-works, rec trails, etc.)
2. Natural features or important resource values not identified in our proposed plan.
3. Wildfire risk reduction in your community.
4. Other information you would like to receive.
5. How you would prefer to be kept informed.
6. Any other questions, comments or concerns you may have.

Topic 1: Existing and Proposed Infrastructure:

Consistent with our commitments, we will use modern road building practices with attention to drainage control and will monitor and maintain roads and structures on a regular basis.

- 1. Are there any key pieces of infrastructure or sites of interest (roads, buildings, fencing, water-works, rec trails etc.) that you would like to know more about or think we should know more about? (Ongoing road maintenance issues, siltation problems, seasonal issues, values at risk etc.) Is there any other infrastructure we should be aware of, or that you would like more information on?***

Topic 2: Natural or Significant Features

Kalesnikoff consistently adheres to government regulations and guidelines when planning and conducting forest harvesting activities, including those protecting or maintaining features of environmental, social or cultural significance. Whenever possible, we also respect significant local and informal features and landmarks of importance to the community.

2. Are there any key environmental, social or cultural features that were not identified in our proposed harvest plan that should be considered? Please provide a description and location of each feature.

Topic 3: Wildfire Risk Reduction

As our collective understanding of climate change and the increased potential for catastrophic wildfires grows, there is a need for further discussion as to how we may best approach and mitigate this hazard. Forest licences are viewed as a key component in this process as we hold tenure rights to harvest timber on public forestlands and have a high level of interest in maintaining healthy forest cover over the landscape through proactive forest health management. There is a growing consensus that Provincial funding will not be able to cover the entire cost of fuel reduction treatments due to the vast scope of the issue, and that some amount of timber harvesting near and adjacent to communities can help to reduce wildfire risk. This type of work requires collaboration and careful consideration in the planning process. Kalesnikoff is committed to working with communities where we operate to arrive at locally supported decisions around tackling this important issue. Please help move this conversation forward by giving us some input to consider.

3. Are you in favor of wildfire hazard mitigation treatments around your community? Do you own property that is at risk, or which may currently be in a condition that contributes to the risk? Please give us your thoughts.

Topic 4: Other information

We are committed to ongoing engagement and communications to help ensure local communities are aware of our harvest and related activities. We are open to continuing communication throughout and beyond our harvest planning processes.

4. What other information, if any, would you like to receive?

Topic 5: Preferred Method of Communication

5. Please check your preferred form of communication for this project:

You can get in touch with us at any time using the contact information listed below. Please let us know how you would like to receive any additional information from us. If you received this referral package via email and would rather not receive further updates for this project, you can be removed from our email list by checking the third box.

- Email
 Kalesnikoff website
 I know enough. I don't want more information

If you chose "Email", please provide yours here: _____

Topic 6: Other Related Input

6. Please provide any other questions, comments or concerns you may have regarding our proposed harvest plans.

How Public Input Will Be Used:

Your feedback is important to us. Input received through this community consultation will be compiled, reviewed and considered by Kalesnikoff Lumber Company along with technical, environmental and social considerations in planning for this harvest. We'll do our best to alleviate any concerns and incorporate public input into our plans.

How you can return your Feedback Form to Us:

1. Mail your completed form to:
 - Woodlands Team, c/o Gerald Cordeiro
Kalesnikoff Lumber Company
PO Box 3000 Hwy 3A
Thrums, BC
V1N 4N1
2. Drop your Feedback Form off at our office:
 - 2090 Hwy 3A
Thrums, BC
3. Scan and email your completed Feedback Form to: referrals@kalesnikoff.com
4. Provide a written submission by email or regular mail (addresses above).

To sign-up for a mailing list:

Name: _____
Email address: _____
Phone # (optional): _____
Address (optional): _____
Postal Code (optional)*: _____

Please give us a brief description of your area of interest (community, neighborhood, watershed, etc.)

*If you don't wish to enter your address, you may still identify your neighborhood by entering a postal code only.