

# KALESNIKOFF

TIMBER INSPIRES

**Project A092 – Hills Wildfire Risk Reduction**  
**Public Referral Document, Harvest Plan Information, and Feedback Form**  
**July 29, 2025**



## **Introduction – Kalesnikoff's North Slocan Operating Areas:**

Kalesnikoff Lumber Company's Forest Licence (FL) A20194 provides timber rights within a number of operating areas, or 'charts', on public forest lands within the Arrow Timber Supply Area (TSA). In 2020, an Operating Area Review (OAR) process, intended to evenly distribute available timber to local licensees, saw several areas re-allocated, and Kalesnikoff received two new operating areas at the north end of Slocan Lake. The Bonanza chart encompasses the northeast-facing slope above Bonanza Creek between the Summit Lake ski area and the community of Hills, and the Shannon area consists of the lower slopes west of Hills and along the west side of Slocan Lake south as far as the Wragge Beach recreation site. The two operating areas are separated by public forestlands allocated to another licensee. The Bonanza and Shannon Creek Forest Service Roads (FSR's) provide the primary access infrastructure in the area and see significant public use, especially during the summer months. To date, Kalesnikoff has not undertaken any operations within these two planning units. Kalesnikoff's primary management objectives when sourcing timber from within this landscape unit are to enhance community wildfire resilience, maintain habitat and biodiversity, maintain forest health, and to maintain or enhance recreation opportunities.

## **Background – Wildfire Risk Reduction Initiatives for the Community of Hills B.C.:**

Planning and operations are underway in wildland urban interface (WUI) areas to improve community wildfire resiliency throughout the province. Kalesnikoff has a number of operating areas that interface with private land, municipal boundaries, and various public and private assets throughout the West Kootenays. As such, we have shifted the focus in our timber sourcing strategy to include areas where local communities have been identified as being at risk for wildfire impacts. In 2023, The Ministry of Forests Wildfire Risk Reduction (WRR) program contacted Kalesnikoff and informed us they were beginning public engagement in the community of Hills. After attending several community meetings hosted by the Ministry WRR program, meeting with local stakeholders, and consulting with the BC Wildfire Service, we have now completed the primary planning requirements for a project intended to reduce wildfire risk to the southern portion of the community.

## **Who We Are:**

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### **About Kalesnikoff:**

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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 well 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.

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### **Our Commitment:**

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#### **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. This plan will result in an application for a Cutting Permit (CP), that will be applied for under our Forest License (FL A20194), 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.

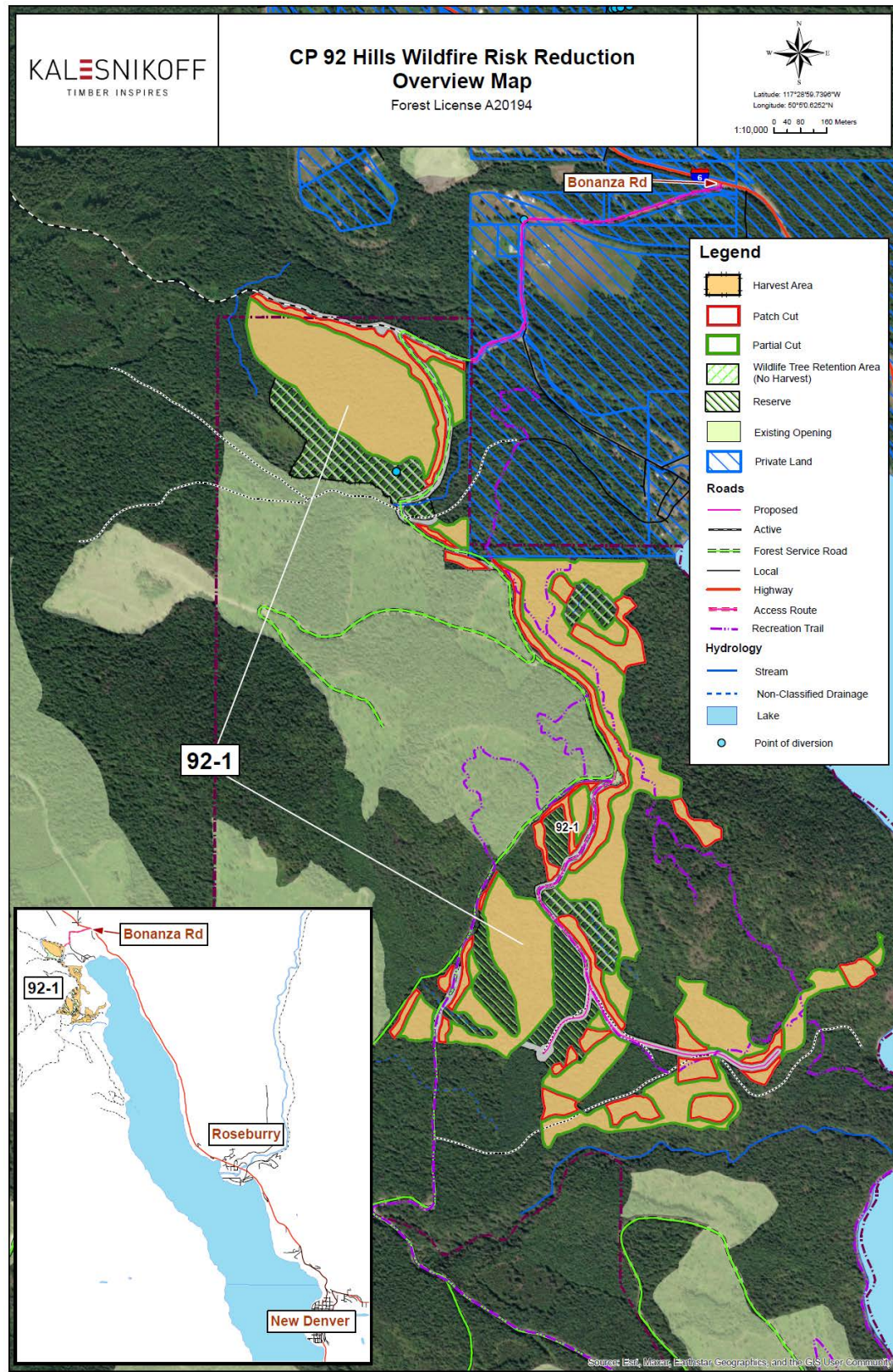
Please review the proposed harvest plan and related information in this document, then feel free to provide your input in the section marked "**FEEDBACK FORM**" by **September 15, 2025**. This document and the Feedback Form will also be posted on the Forest Stewardship page of our website at the following address: <https://www.kalesnikoff.com/sustainable-forest-stewardship>. It can be completed and emailed to [referrals@kalesnikoff.com](mailto: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](mailto: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:

### Overview Map



## **Access and Infrastructure Requirements**

Project A092 is accessed primarily via the Shannon Creek FSR. Older spur roads accessing the south portion of the block require some upgrades, and a short section of the operational road heading up Bonanza will see some brushing and grading. The referral map above gives an overview of the proposed block and road works in relation to the community and existing infrastructure.

## **Harvest Methods**

Project A092 consists of one proposed block with terrain that is very gentle by Kootenay standards. The low-gradient terrain allows for ground-based harvest operations using conventional equipment. Additional details of the harvest plan are found below in the Harvest Plan Summaries section.

## **Specific Planning Requirements and Considerations:**

Careful consideration must be given to a variety of forest values during any timber 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

Each of the FRPA values must be considered and balanced in accordance with legislated regulations set by government that identify specific objectives and stipulate practice requirements to meet the objectives.

In addition to the identified FRPA values, we apply several other lenses to our proposed developments. Wildfire resilience to help protect local communities and the forest ecosystems surrounding them features prominently in our planning processes now. Additionally, incorporating general climate change expectations in order to help our local forests adapt accordingly over the long term has become standard practice. We have also recently proposed that agroforestry practices be investigated as a potential tool for use in interface zones around our communities to help simultaneously promote wildfire resilience, biodiversity, and food security. While general 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. And, importantly, 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 forests at high risk for biodiversity loss are considered and protected where appropriate. This project has no overlap with any priority deferral areas, and does not contain old growth forest. If any individual old veteran trees are encountered during harvest they are to be retained to help maintain stand-level biodiversity.

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 several for each

site or landform 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 for this project (in no specific order) as:

**Recreation Trails** – A number of user-built recreation trails exist within the project area. Consultation with trail users and careful planning of the harvest pattern maintains this trail network with minimal disturbance. The majority of the block is to be harvested with a partial cut system that will see equipment trails located strategically to create a pattern of fuel-free zones within the forest. The harvest pattern will allow for additional recreation trails to be constructed with ease if desired.

**Wragge Beach Access** – The project is adjacent to the Shannon FSR, the access route for the popular summer camping site at Wragge Beach. Operations will be timed outside of the prime summer months when this road sees significant public traffic. Maintenance activities such as brushing and grading will ensure the road is in equal or better condition at the completion of harvest.

**Ungulate Winter Range** – Low elevation areas throughout the West Kootenays see ungulates such as Mule deer moving down from their higher elevation summer habitats to overwinter in these relatively low snowpack zones where they can find browse and thermal cover. Accordingly, government regulations require specified areas of suitable winter habitat to be maintained in a condition that retains sufficient mature forest cover to accommodate the needs of this species. Most of the lower slopes in our local areas have some level of timber harvest restriction to ensure these needs are met. Utilizing the most up-to-date forest cover data available, we have determined the winter range requirements for Mule deer will continue to be met after the completion of this project.

**Visual Quality** – The established visual quality objectives (VQO) for the landform on which project A092 is situated are '*partial retention*' and '*retention*'. The partial retention (PR) 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. The retention VQO permits visible alterations which are difficult to see, small in scale and natural in appearance.

Some examples of techniques used to ensure the proposed harvest plan does not unduly reduce visual quality are as follows:

- 1) Pre-harvest visual design, including:
  - Avoidance of rectilinear boundaries and overly geometric block shapes.
  - Strategic location of retained timber in patches, small groups, or at the individual level to break up lines of sight and reduce the appearance of harvested areas.
  - Creating smaller openings that will be screened from view by reserve areas in between them.
  - Patchy harvesting design.
- 2) Utilization of LiDAR data and 3D modelling software to accurately predict the visual impacts from harvesting and road construction. Geospatially accurate digital 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 where they occur..

A visual impact assessment was undertaken for this project and the simulations which form a part of that exercise can be seen below. In each case it was determined that the VQO would be met and the visual effect of these opening will be small in scale on the landform.

### **A092 Visual Simulations**

**Viewpoint #1: Bonanza Road Beach** – The harvest areas are not visible from the beach except for one small patch appearing in tan colour near the upper right portion of the landform.



#### **Water Infrastructure –**

One licensed water system is present within the project area. Consultation was undertaken with water users, and no-harvest buffers put in place to ensure there are no adverse effects on the system.

#### **Wildfire Risk Reduction –**

Due to its proximity to private land and the community of Hills this area has been identified by the BC Wildfire Service as a priority for wildfire risk reduction efforts. Kalesnikoff has engaged with the Ministry of Forests Wildfire Risk Reduction (WRR) program to improve community wildfire resiliency around Hills, and has collaborated with the BC Wildfire Service to ensure this project will yield a reduced risk to the community.

### **Harvest Plan Summaries:**

The following is a brief description of site conditions and the specific harvest plan for this project:

**Block 1** – Existing forest conditions in the project area are generally relatively uniform, and consist of mature stands that tend to be dominated by Western hemlock with significant components of Western red cedar and Douglas-fir. Western larch and Western white pine occur sporadically, and there are occasional pockets of deciduous species such as birch and aspen.

As mentioned above, the terrain is relatively flat and simple by Kootenay standards. The easy terrain allows for conventional ground-based equipment to operate throughout the harvest area. The harvest pattern is generally described by two distinct treatment units (TU's), shown on the overview map above:

The Partial Cut unit constitutes 60% of the total treatment area. Within this TU, designated trails have been located to create discontinuities in forest fuels, creating a network of what will be lineal fuel-free zones that can act as fire guards for suppression purposes. The intent is to harvest narrow strips of timber along the trails and remove a portion of the more fire-prone species from adjacent to the trails, leaving the remainder of the forest intact. This TU will see only one third of the timber removed, thus retaining a high



proportion of intact forest, and therefore protecting biodiversity while creating easier access and fuel-free areas for future fire suppression efforts if needed. It is expected that the Partial Cut unit will meet the requirements for uneven-aged management and not strictly require reforestation, however consideration is being given to reforestation of the areas adjacent the trails. The post-harvest condition will also allow for additional new recreation opportunities along the trails.

The Patch Cut treatment unit constitutes approximately 22% of the plan area. These units see a higher level of tree removal, with large individual trees and groups of trees retained that are healthy and mostly of more wildfire resilient species such as Douglas-fir and larch. Patch cuts are located adjacent to access roads to create a safe work space along the road such that it acts as a viable fire guard, as well as in some instances further from the roads to create small openings that can act as safe anchor points or staging areas for suppression efforts. Patch cut openings range from well under a hectare up to about two hectares in size. These areas will be reforested with a suitable mix and density of wildfire-resilient species.

The other 18% of the plan area is reserved from harvest entirely, and designated either as Reserve or Wildlife Tree Retention Area (WTRA). WTRA designation gives those stands protection from harvest for a full rotation until the adjacent stands are mature once again. WTRA's constitute over 10% of the plan area.

### **Public Engagement Summary:**

Kalesnikoff is committed to transparent communications and engagement with Indigenous communities, local stakeholders and the general 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 may 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.

The following feedback form includes a few specific topics of interest to Kalesnikoff for public feedback, however we wish to receive feedback and questions regarding any aspect of our operations you may consider important. Please take moment to fill out and return the form, or get in touch by any of the means listed in this document in order to share your thoughts.



## Feedback Form:

Kalesnikoff is seeking feedback with respect to this harvest plan. We intend to begin operations within this area sometime in late 2025 or in 2026.

We are seeking input from Indigenous peoples, local stakeholders and the interested 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.

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### Topic 1: Existing and Proposed Infrastructure:

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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?***

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## Topic 2: Natural or Significant Features

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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.**

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## Topic 3: Wildfire Risk Reduction

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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 licensees 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 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.**

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**Topic 4: Other information**

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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?**

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**Topic 5: Preferred Method of Communication**

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**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: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Topic 6: Other Related Input**

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

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## 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](mailto: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.)

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