



STRAIT OF GEORGIA BUSINESS AREA PLACES HIGH PRIORITY ON SAFETY AND SOUND FOREST MANAGEMENT

BC Timber Sales (BCTS) was founded in April 2003 with a mandate to be the cost and price benchmark for timber harvested from public land in British Columbia. Through 12 Business Areas and an operational presence in 33 locations, BCTS manages some 20 percent of the annual provincial Crown harvest.

From operations in Campbell River, Port Alberni and Powell River, the Strait of Georgia Business Area conducts forest planning, timber cruising, layout and engineering, road construction and maintenance, bridge installations, and silviculture activities such as tree planting, surveys and stand treatments in an area encompassed by the Campbell River, South Island and Sunshine Coast Forest Districts. These forestry activities provide economic benefits to local businesses through the purchase of goods and services. Timber sales support communities by making wood available to loggers, wood processors and other forestry businesses of varying size, including major licensees. BCTS contracts annually with local suppliers for forestry work, road and bridge construction, and reforestation activities.

In its first five years, BC Timber Sales provincially offered 73 million cubic metres of timber to the market, sold 63 million cubic metres and generated \$430 million in net revenue for the Province. Over the same period, the Strait of Georgia Business Area offered 6.3 million cubic metres of timber to the market and sold 5.9 million cubic metres.

BC Timber Sales is the largest tree planter in B.C., with 199 million tree seedlings planted provincially since 2003 and 7.6 million seedlings planted in the Strait of Georgia Business Area over the same period. Operating with the principle of sound forest management, the Strait of Georgia Business Area has achieved International Organization for Standardization (ISO 14001) certification of an Environmental Management System for the entire business area and is targeting Sustainable Forest Management certification by the end of 2009.

Safety is an overriding principle of BC Timber Sales and the organization, including the Strait of Georgia Business Area, achieved SAFE Company certification in August 2008. BCTS strongly supports a culture of safety across the B.C. forest industry and is committed to the safety of all people affected by its operations – staff, contractors, licensees and the public.

Planning and consultation are central to the business practices of the Strait of Georgia Business Area and we dialogue with local communities and 54 First Nations when developing landbase plans. Communities benefit from BCTS purchasing goods and services from local businesses and suppliers.

The Strait of Georgia Business Area provides front-counter walk-in service from its office in Campbell River, where customers can pick-up or drop-off Timber Sales Licence tender packages/bids, contract tenders and copies of other documents.

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For more information:

www.for.gov.bc.ca/bcts/areas/TSG.htm

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