
NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Forests and Range

CHERRYVILLE RECEIVES FORESTRY INVITATION

CHERRYVILLE – The Province’s invitation to the Cherry Ridge Management Committee to apply for a Probationary Community Forest Agreement will enhance long-term stewardship in the area, Okanagan-Vernon MLA Tom Christensen announced today on behalf of Forests and Range Minister Rich Coleman.

“This agreement would allow the management decisions of the forest on Cherry Ridge to be made in Cherryville,” said Christensen. “The committee will be able to make decisions that affect the forest and the community’s environment, water and recreation options as well as pursuing the economic and employment opportunities a community forest provides.”

The agreement would allow the committee to manage a proposed 900-hectare area of forest on Cherry Ridge that the Village of Cherryville uses as a water source, and also highly regards for its recreation values and wildlife habitat. The agreement would carry an initial five-year term, and also grant the committee the right to harvest a total of up to 1,500 cubic metres of timber per year from the Cherry Ridge area and a proposed 450-hectare area nearby.

The Cherry Ridge Management Committee has operated small-scale salvage licences over the years to log beetle-killed and other dead timber and voluntarily replanted areas.

“The agreement would lead to forestry and ecosystem management techniques and priorities that are favoured and selected by area residents,” said Cherry Ridge Management Committee president Wayne Cunneyworth. “The committee looks forward to the long-term stability and stewardship a community forest will bring to Cherry Ridge.”

Community forest tenures are area-based, and give communities exclusive rights to harvest timber, as well as the opportunity to manage forest resources such as timber and plant products, recreation, wildlife, water and scenic viewsapes.

Probationary community forest agreements are a form of legal tenure by which the Province grants the rights to manage the forest resources within a specified area to communities that wish to more fully participate in the stewardship of local Crown forest resources. They are intended to stimulate long-term employment, forest-related education and skills training as well as other social, environmental and economic benefits while meeting environmental stewardship standards. After an initial term of five years, the agreements may be replaced with a long-term agreement of not less than 25 years.

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