



Tla'amin Nation
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Backgrounder: Tla'amin and Western Renewal Agreement and Joint Planning Project

Land-Base Overview

- Area-based tenures grant exclusive rights to harvest timber and manage and conserve forests, recreation, and cultural heritage resources on a specified area of land.
- In addition to the forestry opportunities on its Treaty Settlement Lands (TSL), Tla'amin holds two area-based forest tenures, Community Forest K3P and Woodlot 1672, with a total combined area of 19,691 hectares (6,405 ha, 12,681 ha and 605 ha, respectively).
- Tree Farm Licence 39 Block 1 (Block 1) is an area-based tenure located within the Traditional Territories of Tla'amin Nation, shíshálh, and Klahoose First Nation, and near the community of Powell River. Block 1 covers approximately 70,000 hectares of productive forests, of which approximately 32% are designated as conserved. The sustainable AAC for Block 1 is 469,200 m³.
- The area covered by Block 1, Tla'amin TSL and Tla'amin tenures is highly transitioned to second growth forests. This is the result of large-scale forest fires occurring in the late 1800s and again through the 1920s. Commercial harvesting and regrowth within this area dates to the 1890s.

Renewal Agreement and Initiation of Joint Planning Process

Tla'amin and Western have a shared interest in the ongoing sustainable management of forests. As part of their work on the Renewal Agreement, the parties will explore options for long-term business opportunities in relation to their respective assets.

Western and Tla'amin are also discussing options for mutually beneficial partnerships on local housing and Western has committed a defined volume of cedar logs to support current Tla'amin cultural initiatives.

In support of the safe ongoing forestry operations within the Tla'amin Territory, the current Tla'amin forest Guardian program will be expanded to ensure there is a greater Tla'amin presence on the land base, including in Block 1.

As part of the MOU announcement, Tla'amin and Western also announced that they will be starting a Tla'amin-led, collaborative two-year Integrated Resource Management Plan (IRMP) process, with technical support from Tla'amin and Western registered professionals to:

- Consider the values expressed by Tla'amin citizens,
- Consider all 14 Recommendations of the 2020 commissioned report *A New Future for Old Forests* (BC Old Forest Review), and,
- Guide both short and long-term forestry decisions within the Tla'amin Territory.

Western and Tla'amin will work together to address their shared values, including ensuring continued public access into world renowned recreation areas through the safe use of forest roads.

Tla'amin Request Regarding the BC Old Forest Review and Reaching Consensus with Western

On April 9, Tla'amin Nation requested that the Government of British Columbia immediately put into action the 14 Recommendations of the BC Old Forest Review, with particular focus on Recommendations 1 and 6. Recommendation 1 is meaningful discussions with First Nations communities and Recommendation 6 is immediate harvest deferrals to protect BCs old growth ecosystems at very high risk of "irreversible biodiversity loss," pending completion of work to implement all 14 Recommendations.

At the time the Tla'amin request to government was made, Western had two old forests blocks (>250 years) planned and underway in Block 1, totaling approximately 35 hectares or 22,000 m³. The blocks were planned in accordance with a 250-year Management Plan and consistent with the Company's sustainability metrics and rare ecosystem retention guidelines. Information sharing on the blocks was completed with the local First Nations, including Tla'amin, prior to April 2021.

Tla'amin and Western are now discussing how they can jointly implement Recommendation 6 of the BC Old Forest Review and are working to achieve a values and science-based consensus on their recommendations for harvest deferrals over the coming months. While these discussions take place, Western will pause falling in the two old forest blocks and will not initiate new harvesting in Block 1 stands classified as old (> 250 years). Yarding and hauling of previously felled trees may continue in these areas.

Tla'amin and Western agree that the implementation of the BC Old Forest Review needs to be put into a regionally specific context and requires balance with socio-economic objectives. Tla'amin and Western are taking an approach that will support local jobs and coastal sawmilling, given Western's pre-existing long-term sustainable forest management plan for the region.

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