Squamish Community Forest
Information Summary for Proposed Harvest Blocks LAVA2 and LAVA6

Proposed Harvest Areas and Roads Description

Proposed blocks LAVA2 and LAVA6 are located between Mamquam River and Ring Creek. The blocks are accessed from 3.5km along Mamquam Forest Service Road, Powerhouse Springs Road, MAM1150 forestry road and MAM1100 forestry road (also known as Blindside Connector/Hoods Connector).

The proposed blocks and roads are located within Sḵwx̱wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) Traditional Territory, and within the səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation) Consultation Area.

The southern portion of LAVA6 is within the District of Squamish municipal boundary.

Tables 1 and 2 provide a summary of the proposed blocks and associated roads.

Table 1. Block Summary

Block	Area (ha)	Wildlife Tree Retention Area (ha)	Description
LAVA2	8.1ha Gross (including WTRA and Roads) 6.5 Net	1ha	Second growth, approx. 75 year old stand (age class 4) with a species mix of predominately Douglas-fir, with minor western hemlock and western redcedar.
LAVA6	4.6ha Gross 4ha Net	0.6ha	Second growth, approx. 81-120 year old stand (age class 5/6) with a species mix of predominately Douglas-fir, with minor western hemlock and western redcedar. Includes 1.2 ha of forest designated for old growth recruitment.

Table 2. Roads

Proposed Road	Length (m)	Comments
MAM1100	2.024m	Existing road requiring upgrades to access both blocks
MAM1145	104m	Existing road requiring upgrades to access LAVA2. To be rehabbed post-harvest.
MAM1150	876m	Existing road requiring upgrades to access both blocks
MAM1130	199m	Proposed new construction to access timber in LAVA6. To be rehabbed post-harvest
MAM1140	123m	Proposed new construction to access timber in LAVA2. To be rehabbed post-harvest.

Access Notes
The Fortis Eagle Mountain-Woodfibre Pipeline Project is utilizing the Mamquam FSR (0.0km to 6.5km) and Powerhouse Springs Road (0.0km to 0.5km). The newly opened Squamish Canyon boardwalk attraction utilizes Powerhouse Springs road from 0.0km to 2.0km. There is public parking for the Squamish Canyon base lodge facility at 1.7km. A traffic safety and access management plan will be developed between the Squamish Community Forest and Squamish Canyon for use of the Powerhouse Springs road for hauling activities. This plan will be implemented during harvesting activities.

Harvesting Systems and Retention
These blocks are planned to be harvested using ground-based methods with a retention silviculture system.

In LAVA 6, 40 stems per hectare (sph) have been marked for retention in the recruitment polygon overlap. The remainder of the block has retention marked at 15 sph with a total of 92 trees marked throughout the block. Dominant trees or trees with wildlife features were marked for retention, dispersed throughout the block mostly as individual trees.

In LAVA 2, 15sph are marked throughout the block for a total of 108 trees. Dominant trees or trees with wildlife features were marked for retention throughout the block as groups/clumps. Dominant deciduous trees and smaller coniferous trees were also marked for retention in this block but not included in the tally.

Archaeological Potential
The Squamish Forest District Archaeological Overview Assessment (A0A) (Millenia Research 1997) ranks the area of the proposed blocks as low to moderate potential areas.

Chance Find Procedure
The Sḵwx̱wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) Chance Find Procedure will be included in field layout and pre-works with contractors for the road reconstruction/construction and timber harvesting activities presented in this referral.

Cultural Designations
The proposed timber harvest areas are not located within or adjacent to any Cultural Management Areas or Squamish Nation Síiyamín ta Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (cultural sites) as identified within the Sea to Sky Land and Resource Management Plan, nor within any Kwa kwayx̱ welh-aynexws (Wild Spirit Places). The proposed harvest areas and associated roads do not overlap and are not adjacent to any newly designated areas in the Squamish Nation Phase 2 Land Use Planning Agreement (2025).

X̱ay Temíxw Land Use Plan
Based on the Land Use Plan Map (First Draft May 22, 2001) for X̱ay Temíxw – Squamish Nation Traditional Territory Forest and Wilderness Land Use Study, as presented in the 2023 reproduction, the proposed LAVA2 and 6 blocks are located within the Mamquam River Restoration Area subzone of the Forest Stewardship Zone.

Historic Features
Remnants of a former cabin site were found within the original projected block shape. The block shape was modified to create a 5-10m buffer from the site.

Riparian Areas
Riparian assessments have been completed by qualified professionals. For LAVA2 one ephemeral non-classified drainage (NCD) was identified within the block. Small, saturated areas with sensitive soils were identified during field work and retention was concentrated in these areas.

In LAVA6 two ephemeral NCDs were identified within the block. The southern/lower block edge runs near and partly parallel to an NCD that becomes Powerhouse Creek further downslope.

Community Water Values
LAVA 6 is located within the Ring Creek aquifer, in a Section 17 Watershed Reserve Area. At its closest point, the block is about 675m uphill of the District of Squamish's Powerhouse Springs infrastructure, the main source of potable water for the municipality.

At its closest point, LAVA6 is about 365m uphill from the water intake for Garibaldi Springs Water Company.

The Community Forest will take special care to prevent hydrocarbon spills and will have a documented spill response plan and ample supply of spill clean-up materials on site at all times.

Old Growth Management
Portions of LAVA2 are adjacent to an Old Growth Management Area.

The southern portion of LAVA 6 overlaps with 1.2ha of an Old Growth recruitment polygon. Retention throughout this overlap has been marked at an increased amount of 40 stems per hectare of dominant trees.

Wildlife and Species at Risk
No species at risk have been identified during field site visits. Streams were assessed for coastal tailed frog habitat. All streams (NCDs) have low potential for tailed frogs, lacking the preferred habitat and perennial flow.

While the proposed harvest areas potentially support a variety of wildlife species, there are no legally designated areas for the protection of biodiversity and wildlife within the proposed Community Forest harvest blocks and roads.

An Ungulate Winter Range polygon is located adjacent to portions of LAVA6.

LAVA6 is within the federal (Canadian Wildlife Service) Modeled Core Critical Habitat for spotted owl *caurina* subspecies in the maritime subregion. There are no prohibitions on harvesting in this modelled habitat. Current legally protected habitat area for Spotted Owls has been designated by the provincial government. None of the designated areas are within Squamish Community Forest.

The likelihood that a spotted owl is observed is generally low within this area. If an individual is observed, the Community Forest will work with Qualified Resource Professionals to determine appropriate management measures.

Wildlife Connectivity Corridors
Based on the draft ecological connectivity network models prepared by Nature Squamish (ecoscapes-maps.naturesquamish.ca), the southern portion of LAVA6 is modelled as a core habitat patch. The northern portion of the block is modelled as high to moderate rated connectivity linkage when considering a wide range of species.

The area of LAVA2 is modelled as moderate rated connectivity linkage when considering a wide range of species.

The relatively small size of the blocks (4ha net for LAVA6 and 6.5ha net for LAVA2) and planned in-block retention (40sph in southern portion of LAVA6 and 15sph elsewhere) support the maintenance of wildlife values in the area. The small blocks will provide early seral feeding areas adjacent to older forest stands and contribute to a diverse mosaic of forest age ranges at the landscape level.

Silviculture
All harvest areas will be reforested with suitable mix of tree species as promptly as possible after harvest completion. The species mix for reforestation will be developed by a Qualified Resource Professional based on field assessments. Tree species for reforestation will likely consist of a mix of Douglas-fir and western redcedar. It is expected that the blocks will infill naturally with a low to moderate density of western hemlock regeneration. Fill plants will be completed if seedling survival or natural infill are found to be insufficient.

Roads utilized for harvesting will have post harvest plans developed and will be seasonally deactivated if road use in the future is likely or rehabilitated and returned to a productive state if identified as a road not required for use for future harvesting opportunities.

Terrain Stability
A geoscientist was contracted to assess block access in the field and completed a Terrain Stability Assessment (TSA) on July 9th, 2026. The purpose of the TSA was to assess potentially unstable sections along road reactivation and new construction and to provide guidance to contractors. This report will be used to guide road upgrade and construction works during harvest phases.

Visual Quality
The area of the blocks has a Visual Quality Objective (VQO) of Partial Retention. The blocks may be partially visible from various forestry roads and locations. Draft Visual Impact Assessments (VIAs) have been completed to confirm the harvest of these blocks meet the Partial Retention VQO and that a full VIA is not required.

Wildfire
LAVA2 is located at the outer edge of the 1km Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). To the extent possible with market and operational considerations, harvesting will be planned to take place outside of the fire season.
As per standard operating procedures, fire weather and danger class ratings will be monitored throughout road build and harvest operations, and crews will switch to fire hours or pause work if fire danger thresholds are exceeded.

Measures to mitigate post-harvest fire risk will include piling of residual woody debris for disposal, both at roadsides and within the blocks. All roadside areas (within 10m of all roadsides) are to be clean of fine fuel components and debris piled at roadsides for disposal.

Recreation
There is a high level of recreational use in the LAVA2 and 6 areas including dirt biking, mountain biking, trail running and hiking. There are moto and mountain bike trails throughout the area that have been developed and are managed / maintained by the local Squamish Dirt Bike Association (SDBA) and the Squamish Off-Road Cycling Association (SORCA). All known trails have been included on the block maps.

The access to the blocks via forestry road MAM1100 is currently used as a dirtbike and mountain bike trail access known as Blindside Connector and Hoods Connector.
Dirtbike trails within LAVA2 include portions of Blindside, Blindside Connector and Bonsai Moto.
Dirtbike trails within LAVA6 include portions of Hornet's Nest and Seppuku and Bonsai Moto.
Other trails crossed by the access roads to the blocks include Powerhoods Connector, Heatwave, and Powerhouse Plunge.
Trail specific management strategies will be developed in discussion with primary trail user groups.

Squamish Community Forest will engage with SDBA and SORCA to develop a trail closure and communication plan to ensure harvesting operations are conducted in a safe for both logging crews and recreation users.

To the extent possible with market and operational considerations, harvesting will be planned to take place outside of the main biking and tourism season.