

STAFF REPORT

TO: Committee of the Whole MEETING: September 8, 2020

FROM: Kelsey Cramer **FILE:** 2017-20

Park Planner

SUBJECT: The Great Trail and Arrowsmith CPR Regional Trail – Licence Renewal

RECOMMENDATION

That the Regional District of Nanaimo enter into a licence agreement with Mosaic Forest Management Company for The Great Trail and the Arrowsmith CPR Regional Trail from August 1, 2020 to December 31, 2025.

SUMMARY

The Regional District of Nanaimo's (RDN) licence to operate approximately 15.5 km of The Great Trail (TGT), formerly the Trans Canada Trail, on Island Timberlands property, now managed by Mosaic Forests, expired at the end of July 2020. The original non-exclusive licence was issued by Island Timberlands in 2004 and was renewed several times.

Mosaic Forest Management Company now manages forest lands for both Island Timberlands and TimberWest. The RDN also holds access agreements with Island Timberlands and TimberWest for the Arrowsmith CPR Trail, which originated in 2000 and 2007, respectively.

In addition, a portion of The Great Trail including one side of the Haslam Creek Bridge are under licence with TimberWest (Attachment 1 Context Maps).

Mosaic Forests has offered to renew the agreements for The Great Trail and the Arrowsmith CPR trail under a new consolidated licence agreement until December 31, 2025 (Attachment 2).

The cost of the five-year licence is a \$500 administration fee (excluding GST).

BACKGROUND

The Great Trail

The RDN's section of The Great Trail (formerly the Trans Canada Trail (TCT)) is located in Electoral Area C and runs south from the City of Nanaimo through Extension to the border with the Cowichan Valley Regional District. The RDN's portion of trail is approximately 22km in length, with a gap at the Nanaimo River. Most of the trail is on Mosaic Forests property.

The conception of the TCT through the Regional District began in the late 1990's and was initiated by Nanaimo area volunteers led by Trails BC. The RDN's formal involvement began in 2001 with the Haslam Creek Suspension Bridge, constructed under licence from Island Timberlands and TimberWest.

In 2004, the RDN assumed responsibility for all the trails on Island Timberlands property between Nanaimo and Haslam Creek under non-exclusive licence. That licence was renewed in 2009, 2014, 2016, and in 2018 with the addition of a parking lot and new access trail at Timberlands Road.

The Arrowsmith CPR Trail

In 2000, the RDN obtained a five-year non-exclusive licence from Island Timberlands (then Weyerhaeuser) for approximately 3.8 km of trail that forms part of the upper loop of the historic Arrowsmith CPR Regional Trail (ACPRRT), located in Electoral Area C. A separate private land licence was established with TimberWest for the bottom section of the Regional Trail, located in Electoral Area F. In its entirety, the 10 km trail runs up from Cameron Lake through the private forest lands to the old ski hill site in the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District's Mount Arrowsmith Regional Park.

The Island Timberlands licence was renewed in 2005, 2010, 2015, and 2017. The TimberWest licence included three automatic five-year renewals, securing the trail until December 2026.

The original Island Timberlands and TimberWest licences are now under the management of Mosaic Forests. The attached licence offer for a five-year term (2020-2025) reflects ongoing support for The Great Trail and the Arrowsmith CPR Trail by the Timberlands manager.

ALTERNATIVES

- 1. That the Regional District of Nanaimo enter into a licence agreement with Mosaic Forest Management Company for The Great Trail and the Arrowsmith CPR Regional Trail from August 1, 2020 to December 31, 2025.
- 2. That alternate direction be provided.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The previous licence fees for The Great Trail and the Arrowsmith CPR trail under tenure from Island Timberlands totaled \$800 plus GST for the two-year term renewals. The TimberWest licence recognized a one-time administration fee of \$500.

The cost of the new consolidated agreement with Mosaic Forests is a \$500 administration fee. This expense is covered in the approved 2020 Regional Parks operating budget. Annual operation and maintenance costs for the ACPRRT and TGT is approximately \$7,500 per year, which is also covered in the 2020 Regional Parks operating budget.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

People and Partnerships - Seek opportunities to partner with the provincial and federal governments, other government agencies, and community stakeholder groups in order to advance strategic plan goals and objectives.

The operation of a regional trail network in the RDN depends upon access to private forest lands and agreements with other levels of government. The 20-year history of recreational trail opportunities through land agreements with the private forestry companies on Vancouver Island highlights the value of establishing these partnerships. The RDN is grateful to the Mosaic Forest Management Company for continuing to support this access.

Kolsey Cramer

Kelsey Cramer kcramer@rdn.bc.ca August 17, 2020

Reviewed by:

- Y. Gagnon, Manager of Parks Services
- P. Carlyle, Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments:

- 1. Context Maps
- 2. Mosaic 2020-2025 Licence Offer for TGT and the ACPRRT