
City of Kelowna

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 22, 2003
FILE: 5460-09
TO: City Manager
FROM: Transportation Manager
RE: Logging Operations for South Slopes

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council authorize logging trucks accessing the burnt areas on the City's south slopes to start operation on City roads beginning at 4:00 am (instead of 7:00am bylaw start time) between the period of December 29, 2003 and March 1, 2004.

BACKGROUND:

Due to the wild fire event this past summer, there is a large area on the slopes south of the City with standing burnt trees. The trees still have a market value if logged within a critical period of time (six months to a year).

There is a community benefit to removing the trees. Left in place they will create an unappealing visual image to the local neighbourhoods and the overall City, a reminder of the devastating fires. If left to rot and fall down, they could become another fire hazard or be unsafe for recreational uses of the area. The dead trees will also support beetle populations.

The logging licensees are changing their processing methods in an attempt to accommodate the massive amounts of burnt volumes. It is crucial for them to get much of their work completed by mid-February. After this date the timber loses any merchantability as the temperature warms up. As well, moving the trees while the ground is frozen minimizes the damage to the City's roads.

Both the Noise Control Bylaw (6647) and the Traffic Bylaw (8120) restrict these operations on City roads to start no earlier than 7:00 am. The purpose of this restriction is noise related. However, recognizing the timing for the logging companies and the importance to the community, the inconvenience or nuisance of starting operations early is considered a reasonable trade-off.

Subject to Council's approval of this variation to the bylaws, staff will place notices in the local papers advising the public of the reason for this decision.

Ron Westlake, P.Eng.
Transportation Manager

John Vos
Director, Works & Utilities

cc. Bylaw Enforcement Supervisor
Roads & Equipment Superintendent
Traffic & Transportation Engineer