



REPORT

To: Committee of the Whole

Report Number: DS-COW-002

From: Tyra Henderson, Corporate Officer

Date: May 14, 2020

Subject: Treaty Land Entitlement in the Peace River Regional District**RECOMMENDATION: [Corporate Unweighted]**

That the Committee of the Whole receive the May 14, 2020 report titled “Treaty Land Entitlement in the Peace River Regional District”, which provides an overview of the Treaty Land Entitlement areas of interest that have been identified by Doig River First Nation, Blueberry River First Nation, Saulteau First Nations, Halfway River First Nation, and West Moberly First Nations, for discussion.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

The Province of British Columbia is in discussions with five Treaty 8 First Nations in northeast B.C. about potential land transfers. The Province is working to transfer lands which have been owed to Treaty 8 First Nations for more than 100 years, and to transfer land to accommodate those Treaty 8 First Nations for the impacts on their treaty rights from the Site C Clean Energy Project.

The Province will fulfill land transfers through Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) settlements and Site C Tripartite Land Agreements (TLA). At the time of this report, Blueberry River First Nation, and West Moberly First Nations do not have Site C Land Parcels identified, and Doig River First Nation Site C land parcel information is not available. Below is a table with information that is available to the public from the Province’s website that includes maps of the areas of interest.

	Doig River First Nation	Blueberry River First Nation	Saulteau First Nations	Halfway River First Nation	West Moberly First Nations
TLE Parcel	Areas of interest identified	Areas of interest identified	Areas of interest identified	Areas of interest identified	Areas of interest identified
Site C Land Parcels (TLA)	Pending	N/A	Areas of interest identified	Areas of interest identified	N/A

Table 1: Link to the Ministry's webpage: <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/govtogetherbc/consultation/land-transfers-in-northeast-british-columbia/>

Staff have compiled information on the proposed TLE and TLA areas of interest and identified PRRD Official Community Plan designations, and other PRRD policies that impact the lands. The intent of this research was for the PRRD to review current plans and policies and how they apply to the identified areas of interest. It should be noted that many of the PRRD’s Official Community Plans were developed prior to any significant discussions regarding TLE or TLA in the region, and therefore any related language is minimal and general in nature.

Summary of Findings

In general, the majority of the areas of interest are rural and far from development. Below are observations as they relate to each Nation's identified areas of interest. Depending on if lands remain fee simple, additional provincial regulations may also apply.

Doig River First Nation

The majority of areas of interest are rural/back country and designated Agricultural-Rural within the Rural OCP.

Blueberry River First Nation

The areas of interest on the west and east side of Charlie Lake, around the Red Creek area, and to the northwest of Charlie Lake are all within the Agricultural land use designation of the North Peace Fringe Area (NPFA OCP). A number of policies and guidelines currently would apply to the areas of interest close to Charlie Lake, specifically the Watershed Reserve Development Permit Area, Charlie Lake Watershed Reserve No. 0288651, Subdivision and Development Guidelines, and Lakeshore Development Guidelines.

Two additional areas of interest are designated as Agricultural-Rural within the Rural OCP.

The remaining areas of interest are located outside of any PRRD planning boundaries.

Saulteau First Nations

Many areas of interest are situated within the West Peace Fringe Area OCP, where land use designations include Agricultural, Open Space, and Moberly Lake Settlement. In addition, there are also many areas of interest that are located outside of any PRRD planning boundaries.

Saulteau First Nations have both TLE and TLA areas identified, and many are within either the District of Hudson's Hope or the District of Tumbler Ridge's boundaries.

Halfway River First Nation

There are two TLE areas of interest identified, and one TLA area of interest identified, which overlap. These areas are designated Agricultural-Rural in the Rural OCP.

West Moberly First Nations

Areas of interest were discussed during the West Peace Fringe Area OCP update process. A few areas of interest are within the PRRD Mandatory Building Permit Area and some are in the Moberly Lake Settlement land use designation.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Committee of the Whole provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- ☒ Partnerships
- ☒ Collaboration with Local and First Nations governments

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

None at this time.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

None at this time.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

None at this time.

Attachments:

1. Attachment: Doig River First Nation Areas of Interest Overview Map
2. Attachment: Blueberry River First Nation Areas of Interest Overview Map
3. Attachment: Saulteau First Nations Areas of Interest Overview Map
4. Attachment: Halfway River First Nation Areas of Interest Overview Map
5. Attachment: West Moberly First Nations Areas of Interest Overview Map
6. Attachment: Government of British Columbia Information Package Land Transfer Fact Sheet