

PROPOSED LOGGING OF MT ROSE SWANSON

BC Timber Sales (BCTS) is having their say on logging Mt Rose Swanson (Mt. RS). You might want to know what the Armstrong Spallumcheen Trails Society (ASTS) and our Experts are saying – see the links to our documents below. See the dates for public participation at the end – not much notice.

BCTS is proceeding as early as this winter with its plans to log Mt. RS. ASTS has data and assessments that show BCTS is not being forthright and is not doing the risk assessment work needed for long term implications of logging Mt. RS. BCTS is clear that it is not looking at downstream impacts to the community. There are no indications that local government is conducting such risk assessments. There is no cost-benefit analysis being done – i.e. the cost/benefit of this logging, and further future planned logging, as compared to other economic, environmental and safety costs and implications.

ASTS has hired experts to inform the process, because BCTS and the local government(s) are not doing this work to inform the public, and the community that will be impacted.

Majority of Mt. RS Blocks Will Be Cleared

BCTS suggests that this logging will not be significant but consider that the [BCTS map](#) shows that the majority of the area will be clear-cut, with only 85 single trees (0.8 trees/acre) retained within the cut-blocks.

*Note that ASTS is in the process of obtaining a forest assessment, considering age and importance of Mt. RS as recruitment forest/Old Growth. This is necessary work that is not being done and informs the impacts of logging Mt. RS. that the public needs to know and that Government should be assessing but is not.

BCTS Risk Assessment - Insufficient and Misleading – See Our Expert Responses

BCTS Hydrology Risk Assessment: BCTS had a hydrology assessment completed in December 2025, which was not shared (with the Spallumcheen Select Committee) until May of 2026, despite promises to provide it when it was complete.

This Assessment is narrowly scoped for partial risks and *does not assess the proposed logging*, and does not assess *downstream values* to the community regarding public safety or water quality and quantity post logging, among other risks to the environment and to our economy.

We had our experts review and comment on this – see the [BCTS Hydrology Risk Assessment](#).

Links to Documents

See the ASTS response letter, and documents from Michele Hill of Hill Environmental and Dr. Alila regarding concerns about the BCTS assessment's, missing and misleading impact information, and credibility:

- [ASTS Letter](#)
- Dr. Younes Alila, P. Eng., Professor of Forest Hydrology, UBC, Vancouver peer reviewed the BCTS Hydrology Assessment and raises credibility and defendability issues. [Alila Peer Review](#)
- Hill Environmental raised many questions concerning: the limited scope of the study; limited area assessed; impacts on adjacent water courses; affects on water quality; impact on water-related resources (agriculture, natural ecosystems, etc.); and reliability of the sources of precipitation data used. [Hill Environmental Review](#)

Concerns have also been raised regarding the impact of logging on local water sources, as private residences around the base of Mt RS rely on wells fed by slow snow-melt from the forest. Impacts on surrounding agriculture and other uses have not been assessed.

Other Missing Assessments

The BCTS Hydrology Risk Assessment indicates other risks that need to be assessed, including Slope Stability Risks. BCTS indicates this assessment is being done but we do not know how this assessment is being scoped or when it will be complete. Will we get the opportunity to review and engage with BCTS before it permits logging as early as this winter? The BCTS Hydrology Risk Assessment did not assess the proposed logging and it states:

There are risks to water intakes, natural watercourses, public roads, residential and agricultural development, and public safety that require careful consideration when determining the amount and distribution of harvest to complete. (pg. 31 Recommendations)

Additionally, research indicates that logging increases fire risk by allowing the cut-blocks and adjacent land to dry out more rapidly during summer months. BCTS has not conducted a Wildfire Risk assessment.

To date, there is extremely limited information and a patchwork of assessment work that does not provide credible information. In fact, this approach to impact assessment results in skewed and misleading science and assurances.

More Information to Know

- The proposed development includes a mere 15-meter (50 foot) wide “buffer” around existing trails, which will leave the harvested areas visible from many vantage points. Within this buffer, BCTS is permitted to remove up to 50% of trees greater than 17.5 cm in diameter, effectively allowing selective logging of the “buffer” zones.
- The mountain hosts approximately 30 kilometres of trails. Over the past five years, trail counters have recorded just under 100,000 users, or about 1,700 users per month on average year-round. This area represents the only accessible crown land for residents and visitors of Armstrong and Spallumcheen, making it vital for community health, well-being and an opportunity for economic diversification (tourism).
- Beyond the proposed cut-blocks, planned for as early as this winter, there are plans for future logging. This is only the start. BCTS assures us there will be 5-year reviews but this is no assurance.

Conclusions

Cumulative impacts need to be included in any defensible risk assessment or the assessment is at best inadequate and inaccurate in scope.

Without the appropriate science, BCTS cannot know whether it can protect any values that Mt. RS provides. Logging could result in irreparable harm that once done might never be repaired.

Without valid impact assessments a reliable cost/benefit analysis cannot be done. There is no cost/benefit analysis for this logging of Mt. RS. It has never been shown that logging is the best economic use of the forest. For example, elsewhere the long-term economic value of recreational use has been shown to exceed the brief financial benefit of logging. The costs and damage to key economic drivers of our community such as agriculture, have not been assessed, and water security and public safety have not been assessed.

Why Mt RS? We know enough based on historic use and protection in general, that Mt RS provides important wilderness biodiversity and ecosystem benefits that makes its natural infrastructure intrinsically valuable, worth understanding and protecting. Natural infrastructure is the use of natural ecological systems such as wetlands and forests, to provide essential services like flood protection, water cleansing, and climate resilience. If our mountain is managed with all values in mind (timber, economic, ecological, Indigenous, recreation, tourism, health/well-being, etc.), the benefits of it will continue to sustain future generations.

Public Comments – Logistics

BCTS is planning new road and cut block development on Mt RS, with the proposal available for public review and comment until October 15, 2026.

BCTS will be holding a public **Open House** at the Spallumcheen Township office (4144 Spallumcheen Way), on Thursday, September 10th, 2026, from 3:00 - 6:00pm.

BCTS will be also be holding a **Field tour** showing the plan on the ground, on Sunday, September 20th, 2026 from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. These will be starting at the end of Chamberlaine Road.

If you can't attend in person then please send your comments to Grace Chomitz (grace.chomitz@gov.bc.ca).

Contact **ASTS** if you want to share your concerns at astrailssociety@gmail.com
If you would like to meet and discuss the issues via Zoom, please let us know.