



Oct. 20, 2025

Board to audit forestry operations near Port McNeill

CAMPBELL RIVER – The Forest Practices Board will conduct an audit of Aat'u Forestry Limited Partnership's Forest Licence A19236 in the Campbell River Natural Resource District of the North Island Timber Supply Area, starting Monday, Oct. 20, 2025.

The audit will examine whether forestry activities carried out between Oct. 1, 2023, and Oct. 24, 2025, comply with the Forest and Range Practices Act and the Wildfire Act. Activities subject to audit include timber harvesting; road and bridge construction, maintenance and deactivation, silviculture; wildfire protection; and related operational planning.

Forest Licence A19236 is held by Aat'u Forestry Limited Partnership, a company owned by the Ehatesaht First Nation, and is managed by Strategic Natural Resource Group from its Campbell River office. The licence covers an operating area of about 60,000 hectares, of which Aat'u currently manages an allowable annual cut of approximately 50,000 cubic metres.

The audit area is on the west coast of Vancouver Island, about 70 kilometres south of Port McNeill, near the community of Zeballos, within Ehatesaht territory and neighbouring territories of the Nuchatlaht and Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k:tles7et'h' Nations. The forests in the area include western hemlock, amabilis fir, western red cedar, yellow cedar, mountain hemlock and Douglas fir. The area supports recreation, such as fishing, kayaking and camping. Land use is guided by the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan.

Once the audit is complete, a report will be prepared. Any party that may be adversely affected by the audit findings will have an opportunity to respond. The board's final report and any recommendations will be released to the public and provincial government.

The Forest Practices Board is B.C.'s independent watchdog for sound forest and range practices, reporting its findings and recommendations directly to the public and government. Auditees are selected using a modified random sampling method without considering past performance or public complaints.

The board audits forest and range practices on public lands and the appropriateness of government enforcement. It can also make recommendations for improvement to practices and legislation.

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