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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **WELLS GRAY COMMUNITY FOREST PARTNERS WITH SIMPCW RESOURCES GROUP TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH.**

Chu Chua, BC - The Wells Gray Community Forest (WGCF) is excited to announce that they have purchased a portion of Simpcw Resources Group's Forest license. This license allows the community forest an annual harvest of 5,000 cubic meters of timber in a sustainable manner. Wells Gray Community Forest and Simpcw Resources Group look forward to cooperating to manage the landscape within this land base, marking a significant milestone in the community's commitment to responsible forest management and the promotion of local economic growth.

According to Wells Gray Community Forest Corporation, "We are committed to managing the landscape to maintain healthy forest ecosystems and promote a future resilient forest. Our priorities will be to meet the needs of our community's social and economic well-being while balancing and mitigating the potential impacts to the multiple values these forests provide. We look forward to engaging and collaborating with our local communities, First Nations partners and the residents of Upper Clearwater, to identify the values and desired outcomes to include in our forest management plans."

Simpco Resources Group is dedicated to implementing sustainable forest management practices and acknowledges the value of collaborating with local communities to achieve this objective. The transfer of this license to the Wells Gray Community Forest will foster local job creation and generate economic benefits while simultaneously safeguarding the local ecosystem. "This partnership highlights the shared vision of Simpcw Resources Group and the Wells Gray Community Forest to prioritize responsible resource management and sustainable economic development," said Paul Donald, CEO of Simpcw Resources Group.

Overall, the transfer of a forest license by Simpcw Resources Group to the Wells Gray Community Forest is a positive step towards sustainable forest management practices and a demonstration of the benefits of working in partnership with local communities. The volume transfer is a result of negotiations by Simpcw with Interfor during a larger sale of tenure from Canfor to Interfor in the North Thompson. Simpcw purchased 40,000 cubic meters in 2022 from Interfor, allowing this subsequent sale to the Wells Gray Community Forest. "Simpco is working to ensure a locally sustainable supply of logs while maintaining an enhanced standard of forest stewardship." said Kúkwi7 (Chief) George Lampreau.

Simpco Resources Group, which is owned by the Simpcw First Nation, is a versatile and diversified construction and resource company that offers various professional services while pursuing business opportunities in Simpcwúlecw. The company has a track record of successful and responsible forest management practices that prioritize the conservation and sustainability of the natural resources in the region. Through their commitment to excellence, Simpcw Resources Group continues to be a valuable contributor to the forestry industry and the local economy.

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