

For Immediate Release
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TIMBERWEST SPRING TREE PLANT TOPS 2.5 MILLION

NANAIMO – Mild winter weather allowed TimberWest Forest Corp. to start its spring planting program early this year. By mid-April, more than 2.5 million seedlings will be in the ground on the Company’s public and private lands on Vancouver Island and the coast of BC.

Hiring local, Safe Certified planting companies to do the job, TimberWest is planting 450,000 trees on its public lands, approximately 1 million on its south island private lands and another 1.1 million on its north island private lands this spring.

“Prompt reforestation is key for TimberWest,” says TimberWest Chief Forester, John Mitchell. “Planting takes place annually with little-or-no backlog from year to year. It’s an integral part of sustainable forest management .” The benefits of sustainable forest management are many, including soil and water protection, carbon capture, and biodiversity.

Reforestation at TimberWest involves the expertise of tree planters, nursery workers, professional foresters and scientists. The Company’s Mount Newton Seed Orchard on the Saanich Peninsula, facilitates the research and development of improved seed selected for desired form and growth rates. Local nurseries then cultivate seedlings of local species that go back into the ground where they are best suited to grow.

The timing of TimberWest’s replanting program is also important. The best time to plant trees is during the dormant season. Weather conditions are cool and allow plants to establish roots before spring rains and summer heat stimulate new top growth. Ongoing care is taken to ensure the success of the seedlings. Brushing keeps invasive species at bay, and browse guards — the white plastic cones sometimes seen capping young trees — help to protect from grazing elk and deer.

The regulations of the Ministry of Forests and Range, Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) and BC’s Private Managed Forest Land Act set requirements for reforestation on public and private lands, maintaining high levels of protection for forest values, including watersheds and wildlife habitat.

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