

Tree Farm Licence 44 (TFL 44)

Top 20 Questions & Answers



huu ay aht

ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

1 What is the investment that citizens are being asked to consider?

- Huumiis Ventures LP (wholly owned by Huu-ay-aht) and Western have reached an agreement whereby Huumiis will purchase an additional 28% of TFL 44 LP from Western, bringing Huumiis' total interest to 35%.
- The current increase in investment lays the foundation for considering step two of the investment - an additional 16% (which would bring Huumiis' interest up to 51%; a majority interest).

2 What is step two of the deal and do we need to do it if we approve this next investment?

- Step two will be for Huumiis to purchase an additional 16% interest at a future date (2023) to increase our ownership to 51%; however, all we are asking citizens to consider at this point is 28% more.
- The Nation would seek the approval of the citizens for step two in a People's Assembly.

3 What is Huumiis Ventures LP?

- Huumiis Ventures LP is wholly owned by Huu-ay-aht First Nations but operates at arms-length from the Nation.
- Currently, Huumiis Ventures LP owns 7% of TFL 44 LP.

4 What are the key benefits of this deal for Huu-ay-aht citizens?

- **Self-Determination:** increased say by Huu-ay-aht over activities on 91% of the ḥahuuḷi of the Huu-ay-aht Ḥawiiḥ.
- **TFL 44 Jobs:** Create 50+ full-time, well-paid, long-term forestry jobs both on the land and in the office (including forestry contracts over time).
- **Revenue:** Provide for a minimum targeted annual dividend to Huu-ay-aht of \$5M+ per year in the long term (this is a long-term goal after all loans are paid off).

5 What other benefits will this investment provide?

- Huumiis will have a greater influence at the TFL 44 GP board, with 3 out of 7 seats (versus currently 1 out of 3) when forest management decisions are made affecting ḥahuuḷi of the Huu-ay-aht Ḥawiiḥ.
- With increased Huumiis ownership interest, Huu-ay-aht will have increased financial returns (increases from 7% to 35%).
- Over time, the deal will provide 50+ good-paying jobs, training, and business opportunities for Huu-ay-aht citizens, including expanding the opportunity for our citizens to become entrepreneurs.

6 What is the closing of this deal subject to?

- Approval by the Huu-ay-aht People's Assembly.
- Customary closing conditions.

7 Why does Huu-ay-aht want to increase ownership in TFL 44 LP?

- This investment supports Huu-ay-aht’s long-term vision to re-assert jurisdiction over the ʔahuuʔi of the Huu-ay-aht ʔawiiʔ (territory).
 - Decisions about this investment have been guided by ʔawiiʔ Council.
- We will have a “seat at the table” when forest management decisions are made affecting Huu-ay-aht ʔahuuʔi – and we will be able to manage it in line with our sacred principles.
- The transaction will create more jobs, training, and business opportunities for Huu-ay-aht citizens, family members and other First Nations citizens, including expanding opportunities for our citizens to become entrepreneurs.

8 What are Huu-ay-aht’s current shared and exclusive jurisdiction of lands?

- At Treaty, shared and exclusive jurisdiction was 31% of the Huu-ay-aht ʔahuuʔi.
- Following the purchase of 7% of TFL 44 LP (the business), Huu-ay-aht gained influence over forest practices in those parts of the ʔahuuʔi that fall within TFL 44.
- **Exclusive jurisdiction** includes lands 100% under our control:
 - Treaty Settlement Lands (TSL) of more than 7,300 Ha (includes former IRs), and
 - Private lands of 700 Ha.
- **Shared jurisdiction** includes crown tenures and licences:
 - Crown tenures covering over 12,000 Ha,
 - Huu-ay-aht is part of Bamfield Community Forest License, and TFL 44.

9 When will we see proper land management with zoning so we can understand what our full territory looks like?

- By direction of ʔawiiʔ Council, and as expressed by our citizens as a priority, Huu-ay-aht is underway on the development of the **Hišuk ma c’awak Integrated Resource Management Plan (IRMP)**.
- This is a coordinated forest and environmental management plan over our entire ʔahuuʔi that will involve collaboration from all our partners with land and tenures across the ʔahuuʔi: Western, HFN Forestry LP, TFL 44 LP, and Mosaic.

10 What is the Hišuk ma c’awak Integrated Resource Management Plan (IRMP)?

- A Huu-ay-aht-led coordinated forest and environmental management plan over our entire ʔahuuʔi.
- We will develop a made-in-Huu-ay-aht forest and resource stewardship plan that considers how to uphold our values for old-growth and monumental cedar, salmon and other freshwater resources, wildlife, and cultural resources (and more) in a long-term forestry strategy.
- It will inform setting of a sustainable allowable annual cut (AAC) for the entire ʔahuuʔi (including Huu-ay-aht’s Treaty Settlement Lands and Crown Tenures and TFL 44 where that overlaps with the ʔahuuʔi).

11 If the IRMP is still in progress, what is our Nation doing now, to ensure harvesting decisions aren't made while the plan is being developed?

- Executive Council has placed all harvesting on Treaty Lands on hold in 2021.
 - Harvesting on Treaty Lands will be limited while the IRMP proceeds.
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12 In terms of jobs, how would this deal benefit Huu-ay-aht citizens?

- The goal is to create a minimum of 50+ full-time, meaningful, long-term, stable jobs - both on the land and in the office - over the next five years.
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13 Will the job opportunities be for Huu-ay-aht citizens or the Huu-ay-aht community?

- Jobs will be for Huu-ay-aht citizens and family members, and over time will provide other TFL 44 First Nations citizens opportunities as well.
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14 How is Huu-ay-aht going to ensure that Huu-ay-aht citizens get the jobs?

- Huumiis has hired a Jobs and Training Manager, Marina Rayner, to ensure citizens have the support and resources to fill the jobs as they become available.
 - If you have any questions or need support, Marina is available to help.
 - Contact her at (250) 240-9119 or mraynerconsulting@hotmail.com
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15 What will be the range of pay for the new jobs?

- \$65k - \$75k/year plus benefits for USW jobs close to home on TFL 44
 - \$35k - \$75k/ year plus benefits for entry level and/or other jobs related to the TFL 44 business
 - Hourly range: \$19 - \$40 per hour plus benefits
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16 What types of jobs will be available and what are the qualifications needed to land these types of jobs?

- Jobs will be available in traditional forestry roles (falling, harvesting, bucking, scaling, etc.) as well as management and administration roles (such as accounting, forest planning, HR, management, employment and training, supporting job placement).
 - The qualifications will vary with the job. Some jobs will require basic safety and operational qualifications (example: driver's licence). HUU-AY-AHT will continue to support Citizens who seek training and education for new jobs, including on TFL 44.
 - If you have any questions Marina Rayner is available to help.
 - Contact her at (250) 240-9119 or mraynerconsulting@hotmail.com
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17 How will the union be involved? Do we have to adopt the union?

- Contractors operating on TFL 44 will remain unionized.
- HUU-AY-AHT's other businesses, including HFN Forestry LP, are not part of this transaction and will not be required to unionize.

18 How will things change if Huu-ay-aht is in the driver's seat?

- Huu-ay-aht Forestry Guiding Principles will be applied and Huu-ay-aht will ensure forestry activities are conducted across all of our lands and businesses in a manner that meets or beats provincial standards, with rigorous Huu-ay-aht monitoring, and is consistent with our values.
 - Once the IRMP is complete, we will be able to work with TFL 44 LP to implement the IRMP on those parts of the TFL that overlap the ɥahuuɥi.
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19 Does Huu-ay-aht know how and have the capacity to run a business like this?

- Yes, Huu-ay-aht has been in the forestry business for decades with generations of Huu-ay-aht citizens working in all areas of the business.
 - Huu-ay-aht has some of the best forest experts in the business working for us.
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20 What happens if Huu-ay-aht says no to the deal? If there is another buyer, does Huu-ay-aht still benefit /gain revenue?

- Huu-ay-aht gains revenue if we invest in TFL 44 LP.
- There are other potential buyers and, if we say no, those other buyers will benefit from harvesting in our ɥahuuɥi.
- Without increased or majority ownership, Huu-ay-aht will have no say on what happens over a majority of our ɥahuuɥi or a way to make changes in the long term.

