



# BLIX CONSULTING

## Forestry and Outdoor Recreation Services

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January 12, 2019

**Re: 2019 Danger Tree Assessment Findings at 461 Quatsino Blvd (undeveloped property)**

**Dear Robert:**

**The following is a summary of the Danger Tree Assessment findings completed by Blix Consulting January 9, 2019, for the undeveloped lot with the address 461 Quatsino Blvd.** A visual tree assessment was completed for the entire 1.45ha lot with the focus on any ‘larger’ trees located within 10m of the property line particularly in the front portion (0.7ha’s) where future development is proposed to take place. The property line was relatively easy to establish as it has developed properties surrounding it and a fence line down the entire north side. This assessment was completed for a ‘Level of Disturbance 3 ...meaning it recognizes permanent structures will be constructed and development of the property will utilize heavy machinery, keeping in mind the assessment is only valid for windspeeds up to 65km/hr.

Field conditions although not ideal at the time (2ft of snow), were acceptable to complete the assessment primarily because of the nature of the stand of trees (young and small) and with the exception of not being able to examine the roots (minimal concern) the assessment was completed with the following findings and recommendations.

**FINDINGS:**

- 1) The area within the property boundary of 461 Quatsino Blvd appears to have been previous cleared... twice? Initially some 50-60 years ago which likely removed any large old growth trees (logged?) and more recently 8-10 years ago primarily down the middle of the property where smaller alders (6-10m in ht.) dominate. The fringes of both the northern and southern boundaries contain the majority of conifers that were not removed as part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> clearing thus range between 40-60 yrs. old and average 15-20m tall..... *as a result only one Danger Tree was identified; that being a 40 cm diameter Birch tree* located near the northwest corner (closest to Quatsino St.) which was noted to have a broken top and thus was marked as a ‘Danger Tree’ with both ‘Pink’ as well as ‘Orange & Black poka dot’ flagging tape (see attached photos). This tree should be removed concurrent with initial property development ideal with a piece of larger sized machinery (backhoe) or if determined safe to do so by a certified hand faller.
- 2) The primary coniferous tree species and notably the ‘largest’ trees on this property were identified as *Sitka Spruce* with diameters ranging from 25 to 65 cm but with heights significantly shorter than average due to excessive light and multiple tops resulting in uncharacteristically bushy/limby trees. *Notably the multiple tops on the Spruce is often associated with the Spruce Leader Weevil insect which suppresses its ability to grow in height but doesn’t kill the tree and in this case is potentially an attribute as it creates a ‘hedge like’ visual buffer that is generally very ‘wind firm’.*
- 3) Less than 10% of the other conifers were a mix of Lodgepole Pine, Western Hemlock, and Red Cedar all which appeared to be healthy and Safe.
- 4) The tallest tree noted was a Spruce tree with a diameter of 56cm and a height of 25m. However, as noted above the majority of Spruce with similar diameters were considerably shorter and ranged between 15-20m in height.
- 5) All trees other than the one ` Danger Tree` noted above, were assessed as young and healthy (Class 1 trees) and showed no signs of weakness. In addition, because of there age and height all tree species appear ‘wind firm’.
- 6) A clump of 6 larger-cottonwood trees (20m in height at present) and located just outside the southern property line although healthy and safe at the present time may be of some concern in the future as they continue to mature and often are susceptible to dieback creating large dead limbs. *This however is not a concern at the present time.*



**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 1) As noted above, the 40 cm Birch Tree with a dead top and labelled as *Danger Tree #1* should be removed concurrent with initial property development ideal with a piece of larger sized machinery (backhoe) onsite or if safe to do so by a certified hand faller.
- 2) When developing the property with machinery it is recommended that care be taken to minimize damage to the root structures of any trees which may want to be left as a visual buffer from surrounding properties. Should any significant root damage occur (may be unavoidable?) to some trees it may be prudent to remove them concurrent with development rather than wait for the trees to show signs of weakness and potentially becoming ‘Danger Trees’ in the future? Alternatively, if there is some doubt as to how much root damage may be deemed acceptable in order to maintain the tree a quick reassessment can be completed for any such trees following the land clearing process.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this assessment and /or the recommendations please feel free to contact me anytime.

Regards,

Andrew Blix (*Certified WDTA....#P2408*)



**Photo#1:** Looking east (from appmnts on Wedeene St.) at the undeveloped property of 461 Quatsino Street. NOTE: The tallest tree on the property is a 25m tall Sitka Spruce tree (25m) located on the right side of the photo.



**Photo# 2:** The lone Danger Tree (#1) identified on the property of 461 Quatsino Blvd. A Birch Tree with a broken top.



**Photo#3:** Looking at the base of the 40cm Birch Tree referred to as 'Danger Tree#1' and marked with flagging tape.



**Photo#4:** Showing both the younger and smaller 8-10m tall Alder trees (primarily located down the middle of the property ) and the larger bushy Sitka Spruce most often noted down the edges of the property line and likely spared removal as part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> land clearing effort 8-10 years ago?