

Benton Butte Salvage Timeline:

- July 7, 2021: Lightning ignited three separate fires on the backside of Benton Butte. Fires eventually became part of the Cougar Rock Complex
- July 19, 2021: Area foresters began immediately planning fire salvage operations and challenges they faced included little to no road access on approximately 6 sections of endowment land and fire damaged timber in various states of deterioration which caused increased concern and economic risk to potential purchasers.
- Aug 6, 2021: Area foresters were allowed to safely enter the fire impacted areas and initially proposed two salvage sales to encompass the 5 plus sections of endowment land impacted from the fires.
- Aug 12, 2021: Area conducted a purchaser tour of the proposed salvage sales for thoughts and concerns.
- Aug 16, 2021: Area staff conducted a Video conference with Ops and Bureau personnel to finalize a proposed five (5) sale (eight block including optional units) harvest plan.
- Sept 9, 2021: The first salvage sale (**Benton North Cedar Salvage - 21,605 MBF**) **was auctioned and sold at appraised price for \$7,307,110.00 to Stella Jones Corporation**
- Sept 23, 2021: The second salvage sale (**Benton Ridge Cedar Salvage**) was offered and did not sell.
- Oct 7, 2021: The third salvage sale (**Benton South Cedar Salvage - 6,525 MBF**) **was auctioned and sold after receiving 13 bids at a price of \$2,025,248.15 to IFG.** The fourth salvage sale (**Benton West Cedar Salvage - 8,330.00 MBF**) sale was offered and did not sell.
- Nov 11, 2021: The Benton Ridge Cedar Salvage sale was reappraised upon consultation with local purchasers regarding pricing and re-offered for sale. The (**Benton Ridge Cedar Salvage sale - 7,390 MBF**) **was auctioned and sold at an appraised price of \$1,077,177.00, to IFG.**
- June 29, 2022: The fifth salvage sale (**Benton Middle Cedar Salvage sale - 9,700 MBF was auctioned and sold at an appraised price of \$1,625,338.00 to IFG.** Benton West Cedar Salvage was offered for auction a second time after sale repackaged to account for some purchaser concerns on volume removal conflicting with other salvage sales. The sale did not sell this time either.)
- Dec 30, 2022: Fire impacted volume removed from purchased salvage sales for calendar year 2022 was approximately 30MMBF on the public school, University of Idaho, and Charitable institution endowments.
- Unit forester consulted purchasers about current stand and market conditions regarding the Benton West Cedar Salvage and the other salvage sales in the vicinity under contract. He repackaged the sale again for the third time removing highly costly harvesting systems and potential volume to remove in a short timely 3 month season of recovery.

An additional salvage sale (**Benton Lookout - 1,560MBF**) was identified for potential harvest upon consultation with purchasers of the previous salvage sales that geographically aligned with those sales under contract.

- May 16, 2023: **The Benton West Cedar Salvage sale was successfully auctioned at the appraised price of \$812,506.75 to Alta Forest Products on this date in the third and final attempt by the Clearwater Area to sell it. The Benton Lookout timber sale was sold at the appraised price of \$203,258,50 to IFG.**
- May 22, 2023: The sale contracts for **Benton West Cedar Salvage** and **Benton Lookout Salvage** have been processed and signed by all parties to allow harvesting operations to begin.
- May 10-19, 2023: Planting of the North, South, and Middle Cedar timber sales began and approximately 170,000 trees were replanted on fire impacted endowment land simultaneously as harvest operations are continuing. **Thus, trees were planted as soon as the dead trees removed!**
- Summary:** Approximately 2,600 acres of endowment land was impacted from the Benton Butte portion of the Cougar Rock Complex. Access to these parcels was just in the development stage and approximately 140MMBF of green timber (predominantly high value cedar) was impacted by the fire. Scarcity of resources due to numerous fires in the region and limited access were primary factors on this fire as multiple incident management teams oversaw this fire for the next 90 days.