

**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS  
INFORMATION NOTE**

Date: July 8, 2013

Date of previous note: May 27, 2013

CLIFF/tracking #: 197682

**PREPARED FOR:** Dave Peterson, Acting Deputy Minister, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO)

**ISSUE:** Morice Non-Pine Partition

**BACKGROUND:**

- The current allowable annual cut (AAC) for the Morice Timber Supply Area (TSA) is 2 165 000 m<sup>3</sup>/year and includes a non-pine species partition equating to 550 000 m<sup>3</sup>/year. This AAC has been in effect since February 1, 2008.
- The Chief Forester included the 550 000 m<sup>3</sup>/year non-pine AAC partition in his AAC decision in order to protect the mid-term timber supply and the non-pine profile.
- Since its implementation, the AAC partition has been overharvested by about 928 000 m<sup>3</sup>, with the majority of the overharvesting occurring since 2011.
- There are two major forest tenure holders in the Morice TSA; West Fraser Mills (WFM) and Canfor.

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- Canfor's overharvesting of its share of the existing AAC partition (i.e. non-pine mid-term timber supply) triggered a need for a partition Order.
- On March 4, 2013, a Ministerial Order was issued under section 75.02 of the *Forest Act*. This Order, which is effective from September 30, 2013 to September 30, 2015, imposes a limit on the volume of non-pine that can be harvested. By law, the partition Order must apply to both Canfor and WFM, and there is a monetary penalty (i.e. triple stumpage) for volume harvested in excess of the volume limit.
- Following the issuance of the partition Order, both WFM and Canfor have asked to be given an opportunity to demonstrate that a plan could accomplish the AAC partition requirements without the risk of administrative penalties.
- In a letter dated April 8, 2013, the Minister has indicated his willingness to consider relief to from the partition order, if there is plan that demonstrates how harvesting will target the highest priority stands and protect the mid-term timber supply.
- The licensees (Canfor WFM and BCTS) provided a plan to the Regional Executive Director on May 17, 2013, that demonstrated how each licensee could meet the non-pine partition over the next 2 years. The plan was deemed satisfactory by the RED and the licensees were subsequently provided relief from the partition order by Acting Deputy Minister in a letter dated May 28, 2013 (attached).

**DISCUSSION:**

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**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS  
INFORMATION NOTE**

Date: July 15, 2013

File: 280-20/2013

CLIFF/tracking #: 199213

**PREPARED FOR: Tom Ethier, Assistant Deputy Minister, Resource Stewardship**

**ISSUE: Develop a plan for the \$10 million in additional silviculture provided to reforestation in the province beginning in 2015/16 (FLNR mandate #8)**

**BACKGROUND:**

The Minister's Letter of Expectation outlined mandate #8 "Develop a plan for the \$10 million in additional silviculture provided to reforestation in the province beginning in 2015/16."

**DISCUSSION:**

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**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS  
DECISION NOTE**

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> August 2013  
Date of previous note: N/A  
File: 19535-25/ IFPA #003  
CLIFF/tracking #: 200153

**PREPARED FOR: Gerry MacDougall, Regional Executive Director (RED)**

**ISSUE: TOLKO INNOVATIVE FOREST PRACTICES AGREEMENT (IFPA)  
FORESTRY PLAN AND AAC UPLIFT REQUEST**

**BACKGROUND:**

In a letter of 5<sup>th</sup> August 2011 (attached), Tolko has requested an extension of its Cariboo Innovative Forest Practices Agreement, including uplifts to allowable annual cuts on two replaceable forest licences in the Williams Lake and 100 Mile House TSAs of 25,000 cubic metres and 10,000 cubic metres, respectively.

In 2007, the RED of the Southern Interior Region extended Tolko's IFPA term to 2011, and granted an uplift based on the 2006 Forestry Plan. The uplift was for 10,000 m<sup>3</sup> AAC in 100 Mile TSA and 25,000 m<sup>3</sup> in Williams Lake TSA. Staff consulted with First Nations between December 2006 and December 2008 on the IFPA extension, uplift, and Forestry Plan. The RED approved a revised (2008) Forestry Plan in 2009.

The RED's decision based the uplift upon two proposed practices in beetle-attacked lodgepole pine, as described in Tolko's Forestry Plan: harvest of stands below 65 m<sup>3</sup>/ha, and rehabilitation of stands 35 to 65 years old. The Forestry Plan also committed Tolko to offer up to 100% of all increases in AAC to First Nations with traditional territories within the IFPA.

Other conditions associated with the uplift are summarised in an appendix to this briefing note (from the RED's decision rationale of 2007).

On Tolko's request in 2011, the RED granted an extension to the IFPA term until the end of 2015. Based on the understanding that nothing had changed with the terms of the IFPA staff did not consult with First Nations, intending that consultation would take place on the Forestry Plan and any AAC uplift request.

**DISCUSSION:**

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**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS  
INFORMATION NOTE**

Date: September 16, 2013  
File: 280-20/2013  
CLIFF/tracking #: 200803

**PREPARED FOR:** Tom Ethier, ADM Resource Stewardship and Rick Manwaring,  
ADM South Area

**ISSUE:** Implication of exemptions to silviculture obligations to offset licensee impacts  
as a result of the mountain caribou recovery plan

**BACKGROUND:**

Where licensees chose not to activate their harvest authorities, agreements were reached regarding mitigation of economic impacts that resulted from establishment of mountain caribou habitat protection measures. The method chosen by the Deputy in June 2012 was to relieve silviculture free growing obligations under S.91 of the FPPR. Approximately \$10 million dollars of relief will be provided to offset licensee impacts, almost entirely in the South Area. Negotiations are still occurring with Canfor and Meadow Creek Cedar but will not conclude in time for this year's planning cycle.

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**DISCUSSION:**

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**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS  
BRITISH COLUMBIA FOREST SERVICE  
BRIEFING NOTE**

File: 280-20; 18105-90/WFM

CLIFF #200195

**I PREPARED FOR:**

Jim Sutherland, Deputy Chief Forester **for DECISION**

(as requested by Brian Barber, Director, Tree Improvement Branch)

**II ISSUE:**

Request for Alternative to the *Chief Forester's Standards for Seed Use* by s.21

**III BACKGROUND:**

Under the *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation* (FPPR) section 43, a person may submit to the Chief Forester an alternative to the *Chief Forester's Standards for Seed Use* (CF Standards). The CF Standards, section 7, Selection and Use of Seeds and Vegetative Materials, states that a person must select a registered seedlot (or portion of) with a genetic worth of 5 percent or greater if that person owns, or is able to acquire, a registered lot with the requisite genetic worth, [and] the lot (or portion of) is of sufficient quantity to plant the area on which the stand is to be established (i.e. orchard seed must be used over wild seed if available).

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Standards do not use site index to define seed selection. The proposal is to eliminate seed selection requirements for class A seed for establishing a stand on a harvested area with a site index of 16 or less within three tested parent tree seed planning zones, Thompson Okanagan (TO), Prince George (PG) and Bulkley Valley (BV).

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The interpretation of the proposal is that for reforestation on harvested sites with a site index of 16 or less, the seed selection standards (use of seed with a genetic worth equal to, or greater than, 5 percent) do not apply to lodgepole pine seed covered by lodgepole pine A class A (orchard) seed planning zones. The consequence is that natural stand seed sources, B+ and B classed seed, may be selected without consideration of A class seed availability.

The CF Standards Technical Advisory Committee, with staff from Tree Improvement Branch, Resource Practices Branch, Compliance and Enforcement and BCTS evaluated the potential merit and implications of their proposal and its rationale in accordance to the CF Standards alternatives policy. Technical details were clarified with the proponent prior to the development of the final recommendations.

#### **IV      DISCUSSION:**

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