



File: 19410-20/30

Date: October 3, 2016

To: All tenure holders within the Fraser TSA

Re: Update on First Nation Woodlands Licence Areas and Chart Area Review Process

Further to the *Chart Area Review and Integration of the Forest Revitalization Tenures Project Charter*, dated October 5, 2015, and our operating area meeting on April 21, 2016, feedback was requested from licensees on the timber position analysis and draft operating area map that were presented. The map provided at this meeting illustrated an update to the First Nations Woodlands Licence areas being considered and the necessary changes that will be required by existing tenure holders within the Chilliwack Forest District to accommodate this important government initiative. The extended review period to provide input is now complete and this important feedback is being integrated into a revised operating areas map.

The draft *Chilliwack Natural Resource District Draft Operating Areas Map*, dated April 15, 2016, contained three important themes:

1. Update to the areas of interest for those First Nations moving towards area based woodland establishment;
2. Increase to the operating area for Western Canadian Timber Products and for those First Nations (FNs) whose volume based tenures are under its management control;
3. Retirement of the Bill 28 areas and vacant Crown land areas by way of the creation of the First Nations District Reserve areas. The latter being held specifically for those First Nation groups that have chosen to continue with their volume based tenure allocations or for those that at this point, have not determined their course of action with regards to forest management opportunities within the Fraser Timber Supply Area.

I will acknowledge that process has been challenging, however, it has been a critical milestone in moving forward to facilitate the establishment of new area based tenures and re-balancing operating areas as needed in the Chilliwack Forest District. This revised Operating Area Map requires implementation and will be considered the initial phase of a multi-phase process. Phase one will consist of a consolidated **Chilliwack Resource District Operating Areas Map** and updated timber position analysis using the latest approximation of First Nations Woodlands Tenure areas.

This revised map will be posted and made available by October 31, 2016. Analysis of the total timber position will follow the same format of total Timber Harvesting Land Base (THLB) volume by tenure group, species, slope, age class and economic zone criteria. Within 2 weeks of posting this revision we will reconvene the Fraser TSA Cooperative Association and other TSA forest licensees to explain

the map revisions and to confirm its implementation.

Phase two of this reallocation process will be carried out by year end 2017. This will assign portions of the First Nation District Reserve areas to ensure stewardship and planning certainty to those FN continuing with volume based opportunities , account for the BC Timber Sale (BCTS) reserve volume established within FNWL and rebalance where necessary the BCTS operating areas within the mandate of the Market Pricing System targets.

If you should have any questions on the above, please contact Tom Cole at tom.cole@gov.bc.ca or 604-898-2169.

Sincerely,



Leonard Feldes, RPF
Acting District Manager
Chilliwack Forest District