File: 220498

March 8, 2016

To: All District Managers
All Regional Executive Directors

From: Honorable Steve Thomson
Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Re: The renewal of forest stewardship plans

The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations is responsible for laws, policies and practices that maintain the evolving balance between economic, social and environmental considerations for the use of British Columbia's Crown forest and range resources. Although government promotes various initiatives to stimulate economic and social benefits derived from our renewable resources, these cannot succeed without a firm basis of environmental sustainability.

As delegated decision-makers on behalf of the Minister, you know first-hand of the challenges in maintaining this balance, and of its importance. Government supports you, and thanks you for the vital work that you do in managing the increasingly complex development, and protection, of our natural resources.

With the terms of the province's forest stewardship plans (FSPs) expiring, now is the time to ensure we have a solid stewardship foundation that maintains the balance that government seeks. I have asked the province's Chief Forester to provide clear expectations for procedure and considerations to assist in your adjudication and ongoing management of FSPs.

Over the past decade, we've gained experience under a results-based regime and we've learned where to focus our improvement efforts. The outcome of this process will be an important indicator for strengthening the implementation of the forest and range management model.

Steve Thomson
Minister

cc: Diane Nicholls, Chief Forester