

BLANKET SALVAGE PERMITS

(INTERIOR ONLY)

Questions and Answers

DRAFT - August 1, 2014

1. What is a Blanket Salvage Permit (BSP)?

A BSP is a cutting permit issued to major licensee pursuant to an existing tenure (i.e. replaceable forest licence; tree farm licence) where small blocks that meet certain criteria are amended into the BSP by amending and adding Exhibit A maps of the openings to the BSP.

This tenure tool can be effective in reacting quickly to salvaging insect infested areas, or harvest small dispersed patches of dead or damaged timber. The overarching intent of making this tool is twofold. Firstly it allows the removal of small patches of insect infested timber with the objective of stopping the spread of the insect (sanitation). Secondly it is to facilitate the recovery of what otherwise may be unrecoverable losses to Crown revenue from dead or damaged timber (salvage). When implementing this tool, the amount of undamaged timber that is necessary to harvest in order to salvage the timber is to be minimized.

In order for cutting authorities under BSP to receive the discounted tabular rates, the harvesting must also be consistent with the District Forest Health Strategy. See the following links for more information on these strategies.

<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/health/fhdata/template.htm>

http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/health/TSA_strategies.htm

2. What is the definition of harvesting for sanitation purposes?

Salvage for sanitation purposes means the removal of trees that are currently infested with bark beetle brood as determined by an on-the-ground survey. Supporting documentation detailing the results of the survey must be submitted with the cutting permit amendment. This also includes those trees that must be removed incidentally to facilitate the removal of the infested trees.

3. What is the definition of salvaging “damaged timber”?

The definition of *damaged timber* as it relates to BSP is defined in section 6.4(3) of the Interior Appraisal Manual as timber that:

- a. Has been blown down,
- b. Has been damaged by fire, disease, snow press, or
- c. Will die within one year, as determined by the district manager, as a result of the effects of the mountain pine beetle, or other forest pests.
- d. Will be or has been used for trap trees and associated overflow trees.

4. What are the criteria that must be met for blocks to be amended into a BSP?

Blocks may only be amended into a BSP if they meet the following criteria:

1. Volume to be harvested is 5,000 cubic metres or less.
2. The area does not exceed 15 hectares (excluding the volume harvested from any road clearing that is necessary to facilitate the removal of the dead or damaged timber).
3. Where the harvesting is for the purpose of insect sanitation, supporting documentation detailing the results of ground surveys must be submitted with the amendment to this cutting permit.
4. The district manager is satisfied that the amount of undamaged timber that needs to be harvested will be minimised.

5. What is the advantage of using a BSP?

A BSP can be an efficient administrative tool to address small areas of damaged timber that need to be salvaged quickly in order to minimize the loss in value.

Key cost saving features for major licensees of a BSP are the waiving of the requirement to cruise the timber as well as the ability to amend additional cut blocks into the permit as they are identified instead of a new cutting permit application each time.

6. Has there been a significant change to the policy on issuing BSPs.

Over the past few years, significant volumes have been harvested under BSPs. Previous direction was issued by the ADM Operations in several memos dating back to 2005 during the height of the mountain pine beetle epidemic and was focused on removing currently infested trees to reduce the overall population. Recent harvesting under BSP has focused on large areas of successive cut blocks of dead timber.

The MPB epidemic has long since passed and there is a need to return the BSP tool to what it was originally intended for, i.e. small dispersed areas of dead or damaged timber. While the actual criteria for BSP have not changed, updating the policy at this time will provide consistency and clarity with respect to issuing, amending and the pricing of BSP.

7. How is the timber harvested under the BSPs priced?

The method for calculating stumpage rates for BSP is detailed in the Interior Appraisal Manual (IAM).

Amendments to the IAM (June; July of 2014) revised the pricing methodology and included clear criteria for the pricing of these permits. Those blocks that meet the criteria are eligible for pricing using Table 6-4 (Coniferous Average Sawlog Stumpage Rates for Salvage of Damaged Timber by Forest Zone and Species).

Link to Interior Appraisal Manual:

<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hva/manuals/interior.htm>

8. Can a BSP issued prior to 2003 still be used?

Cutting permits issued after 2003 have a maximum term of 4 years and may not be extended past the 4 years. The applicable legislation and the IAM provide for the continuation of using BSP issued after 2003, and in a few cases, districts continue to extend the term of such BSPs. **Given that the terms and conditions of BSP issued prior to 2003 are significantly outdated, it is strongly advised to cease the practice of extending these permits and issue new updated BSP.** A template for the BSP has been developed and can be found on Forest Tenures Branch website for BSP.

9. Do blocks have to be within the Emergency Bark Beetle Management Area (EBBMA) to be included in a BSP?

No.

With the beetle epidemic over, there is no longer a need for the EBBMA or Emergency Management Areas. The provisions for the EBBMA were carried over from the Bark Beetle Regulation under the FRPA (109(1) and (2).

The Emergency Bark Beetle Management Areas (including those for mountain pine beetle, spruce beetle and Douglas-fir beetle) and all associated Emergency Management Units (EMU) were repealed on July 3 2014. There are no areas currently designated as EBBMA or EMU

Future incidents of similar magnitude to the mountain pine beetle epidemic will be managed as a “Forest Health Emergency” under s. 27 of FRPA.

10. Why does the policy only apply to BSPs in the Interior?

It is acknowledged that most districts in the coastal regions also use blanket salvage permits. However, they have different objectives than those used in the interior. Given the pending removal of the EBBMA, efforts were focused on updating the tenuring and pricing policies for BSP in the interior. Headquarters staff will be reviewing the policies for tenuring and pricing of BSP on the coast. Further direction on coastal BSP will be forthcoming.

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