



September 8, 1999

File: 34200-03/Fish
Conservation/Windows and
Measures

Bob Murray
District Manager
Ministry of Forests
Lakes Forest District
Box 3500
Burns Lake, BC, V0J 1E0

Dear Bob Murray:

Re: Skeena Region Work Windows and Measures.

I submit the attached document to meet our legal obligations under the Forest Practices Code, as Designated Environment Official for Sections 21(3) of the Timber Harvesting Practices Regulation (temporary stream crossings and other operations in a fish stream) and Sections 13(h) and 19 of the Forest Road Regulation (crossings in fish streams, road deactivation). These measures and timing or "work" windows must be used by operational planners and forest industry operators for all fish stream crossings and instream activities.

District Management Teams and Industry staff are encouraged to review these measures and work windows with us to ensure appropriate interpretation and to expedite implementation. We expect immediate implementation of these measures as the legal requirement to apply such measures and windows was effective June 15, 1998.

In addition to the measures stated in the document the following additional measures will apply to the Lakes Forest District:

1. Stream classifications to non-fish bearing status (S5 or S6) based on only one season of sampling must be approved by the Designated Environment Official.
2. Refer all activities on alluvial fans to the Designated Environment Official.
3. Bury all culverts on fish streams (embedded) so that they lie below the natural streambed a minimum of 30 cm or 20% of the vertical rise which ever is greater.
4. Fill the culvert bed to the natural streambed level using clean up or angular rock of a size equal to or greater than the D90 of the natural streambed.
5. Fit the culvert to the natural stream channel so that the width of the culvert at the 30 cm or 20% of the vertical rise equals the stream width.
6. The culvert must be set at the same gradient as the stream bed.

7. Gradient not to exceed 3.5% unless baffled. Baffled culverts not to exceed 5% and velocities do not exceed 1.2 m/s for culverts less than 24.4 m and 0.9 m/s for culverts greater than 24.4 m.
8. Culvert length not to exceed 61 m.
9. Migration Delay not to exceed 7 days, once in 50 years and 3 days in the average annual flood.
10. Care should be taken when using stream classification inventories for the purpose of determining species presence. Most of these inventories stop when fish are detected and thus do not identify the full diversity of fish species present in the stream. Thus, in the absence of full species inventories, the overall reduced risk timing window for the Lakes Forest District is August 1 to August 15.

Our intent is to implement this document until April 30, 2000, and to incorporate any changes during March and April. This is a living document and suggestions are welcome.

Yours truly,

John Stadt, R.P.Bio.
Forest Ecosystem Specialist
Lakes District

Attachment: Skeena Region In-stream work windows and measures
cc: Dionys de Leeuw, Senior Habitat Protection Biologist, Skeena Region