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June 20, 2002

For your info

Implementation

Will S

Mike W

Dear Licensee:

I have attached a memorandum from Doug Konkin, Assistant Deputy Minister, MOF which provides direction for "Residue and Waste Surveys on Cutblocks harvested for Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) Control. As you will note in the memo, this also applies to licensees who are actively harvesting other bark beetle species. Although the memorandum is self-explanatory in terms of eligibility and expectations, the following direction is provided for licensees considering a request for flexibility to utilization standards or a continuance of flexibility from last harvest season:



- Licensees should submit a letter of request to the District Manager for deviating from the current utilization standards and specify the utilization standard relief sought;
- Licensees should provide detail on each point numbered 1 through 5 on page 1 and 2 so the District Manager may be satisfied about licensee performance and efforts in reducing bark beetle impact;
- Licensees should provide their estimate of waste and residue volumes on an average volume per hectare for DM consideration;
- This memorandum also applies to those licensees actively managing spruce beetle;

Licensees will be expected to provide a list of bark beetle cutblocks that were not waste and residue surveyed by December 31st of each calendar year – this will be outlined in the DM letter of approval.

Please call me or Mark Vieweg at 692-2200 with any concerns or questions.

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Ministry of
Forests

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Ministry of
Forests

Assistant Deputy Minister
Field Services & Timber Sales

MEMORANDUM

File: 10117-20/MPB
19400-04/PROV
19900-01

JUN 07 2002

ORIGINAL

To: All Regional & District Managers

EXEMPT 4 PAGES

From: Doug Konkin
Assistant Deputy Minister
Field Services & Timber Sales

Re: Residue and Waste Surveys on Cutblocks Harvested
for Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) Control

In his memo dated November 30, 2001, regarding residue and waste surveys on cutblocks harvested to control MPB (MPB cutblocks), Greg Koyl directed that residue and waste surveys and billings be discontinued. Although not explicit in the memorandum, it was subsequently clarified that both monetary and cut control billing of residue and waste on such areas was to be discontinued as a result. The above mentioned memo applies to those MPB cutblocks where the primary logging was not completed on November 30, 2001, or where timber harvesting has commenced on or after that date. Those cutblocks where residue and waste surveys need not be carried out are those cutblocks designed and approved for the purpose of controlling the spread of mountain pine beetle whether harvested by major licensees, woodlot licensees or by the Small Business Forest Enterprise Program. Residue and waste surveys will continue to be required on those cutblocks harvested that are not MPB cutblocks.



The MPB epidemic continues to expand. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide additional direction regarding management of timber utilization in units impacted by the MPB.

Some licensees have taken a very proactive and aggressive approach to optimising their impact on beetle populations through timber harvesting. Through their diligent efforts, they have created a situation where timber utilization standards are a limiting factor preventing more beetles from being addressed. For such licensees, flexibility in timber utilization standards has potential to enable them to further enhance their effectiveness on the epidemic where the following circumstances exist:

The licensee has applied, or will apply, the economic maximum proportion of the licence AAC (a proportion agreed to between the district manager and the licensee) to priority, green attack beetle stands. The proportion of AAC mentioned should logically include AAC dedicated to controlling all species of bark beetle;

2. The licensee has, in the opinion of the district manager, consistently used aggressive, high beetle-control-efficacy harvest designs intended to maximize the volume of MPB, green attack timber harvested with its AAC;
3. The licensee has, for the ensuing harvesting season, submitted evidence to satisfy the district manager that the licensee will harvest in priority, green attacked MPB stands the volume equivalent to the additional volume of residue and waste enabled by the granting of flexibility in timber utilization;
4. MPB infestation levels in the management unit are such that the district manager is satisfied that flexibility in timber utilization will have a material, positive effect on the MPB management effort;
5. The cut control performance or plan of the licensee is such that 100 percent of the licence AAC will be harvested, and therefore additional harvesting of green attack MPB could be done if utilization flexibility is granted.

These circumstances may also exist for a given licensee in a given district engaged in epidemic management of a bark beetle other than MPB, in which case this memorandum is also applicable to cutblocks harvested to control that species of bark beetle. Where all these circumstances exist, the district manager may notify the licensee and ministry compliance and enforcement staff that the avoidable waste benchmarks described below will apply on MPB cutblocks.

Avoidable Waste Benchmarks:

For harvesting of MPB cutblocks only, the Logging Residue and Waste Manual will be amended to provide increased avoidable waste benchmarks to be applied where a district manager has granted flexibility in timber utilization as follows:

	Dry Belt	Transition Zone	Wet Belt
Interior	9 m ³ /ha	15 m ³ /ha	25 m ³ /ha

Accounting For Depletion:

Volumes up to the avoidable waste benchmarks described above will not be billed either monetarily or to cut control. It must be noted, that the chief forester is required to consider the standard of utilization that is in current practice at the time of each timber supply review. It is anticipated the chief forester will consider the impacts on timber supply that may result from the utilization practices enabled by this memorandum. To account for residue and waste volumes on MPB cutblocks for depletion purposes, licensees and district managers will mutually determine an average volume per hectare value. This value is to be applied to each MPB cutblock that was not residue and waste surveyed. Prior to December 31, 2002, for each calendar year, licensees must submit to the district manager, a list of harvested MPB cutblocks (indicating hectares by licence), that were not residue and waste surveyed in order to have the pre-determined residue and waste volume value applied. These volumes will be recorded and tracked by the district manager, so they may be reported to the chief forester as timber depletions for the purposes of timber supply review.

Cut Control Carry Forward Consideration:

There may be instances where a licensee is granted the utilization flexibility described in this memorandum, but does not harvest the annual allowable cut under the forest license on an annual or periodic basis. The regional manager may consider such under-harvesting, while adjudicating a request for undercut carry forward in the context of whether or not the licensee did everything reasonable to avoid the under-harvest.

Timber Pricing:

There will be no changes to cruising, appraisal, ~~scaling~~ procedure, or policy as a result of implementing the direction provided in this memorandum.

Forest Management:

Clearly, it is expected that the utilization practices enabled by this memorandum will be implemented in a way that does not confound the objectives of mountain pine bark beetle control and other forest management outcomes prescribed. In particular, licensees must implement bucking practices that recognize the risks of increasing the deposition of MPB infested residue and waste in debris piles that may not be disposed of prior to the beetle flight period and plan the management of those risks in forest development plans and site plans in keeping with the forest health provisions of the *Forest Practice Code of British Columbia Act*, as well as professional and company accountability. Further, the flexibility enabled by this memorandum must not be implemented in partial cutting situations in a manner that results in MPB objectives not being met.

Compliance and Enforcement:

Implementation of this memorandum will result in deviation from utilization and bucking specifications entrenched in forest licenses or cutting permits. While a given licensee may be willing to amend contractual utilization standards to reflect the type of direction provided by this memorandum, regional or district managers are not advised to do so in light of the temporary nature of the MPB epidemic. The specific objective of the direction provided in this memorandum is to enable a higher volume of pine beetle infested timber to be harvested during the emergency created by the current epidemic. Compliance and enforcement staff is requested to be mindful of this specific objective and the fact that the revised waste benchmarks will apply as they monitor the timber utilization and bucking practices of licensees.

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All Regional & District Managers

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However, if in the forest officer's opinion the residue and waste levels on MPB cutblocks appear to exceed the residue and waste benchmarks described above, the licensee will be required to complete a residue and waste survey and the appropriate avoidable waste benchmark levels will apply.

Term:

This memorandum will remain in effect until it is withdrawn, or is replaced by more broad policy change relating to timber utilization. It is recommended that district managers make their decisions licence specific and term certain based on the annual cycle of the MPB.



Doug Konkin
Assistant Deputy Minister
Field Services & Timber Sales

pc: Ray Schultz, Beetle Management Co-ordinator, Prince George Forest Region
Tim Sheldan, Executive Director, Operations Division
Jim Langridge, Director, Resource Tenures and Engineering Branch
Bill Howard, Director, Revenue Branch
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