BRITISH COLUMBIA

File: 19500-25/ Major Licensees

November 2, 2001

Major Licensees
Lakes Forest District

Dear Licensee:

This letter serves as revision to my expectations for small patch sanitation (SPS) to major licensees. Specifically, the discussions have included a continuance to my previous guidance where I relaxed the maximum skid trails widths used to access small patch sanitation "blocks" to 6 meters (from the 4 meter maximum) and a request to consider the employment of the "keyhole" method of SPS harvest versus the "infested trees only" method currently used by tenure holders. This request has been made in light of the stumpage rates determined for SPS and the point that the rates were determined using cost survey data from a variety of Districts who administer SPS in different ways.

In my letter of January 19, 2001, I outlined my reasoning for allowing a maximum allowable skid trail width of 6 meters. This reasoning remains valid; therefore, I hereby extend the allowance for another year ending October 15, 2002.

With respect to the Lakes District cutting permit clauses outlining "infested trees only" harvest for SPS, I also find this method inconsistent with other Districts and unduly constraining for Lakes licensees. Imposing this rigourous harvest method provides a disadvantage in two ways: a higher level of probing surveys and layout requirements as well as a reduced potential for recouping the high costs of harvest by minimizing the amount of timber available. Again, it is reasonable to consider that that the major licensees conducting SPS within Lakes Forest District are at a competitive disadvantage due to the skid trail width constraint and that this constraint is significant.

Based on the above rationale I hereby provide the direction that "keyhole method" of harvest under the SPS cutting permits for major licensees is permissible. The concept is further defined as the removal of all trees within the "ring" of trees that would comprise the infested trees. As example where an infestation center may contain 20 trees in circular fashion, it would be considered permissible to remove those twenty trees plus all trees within that 20 tree "ring" and incidentals. As comparison to previous practices, it would only have been permissible to harvest the 20 infested trees plus trees incidental to their removal. I do, however, have some concern

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with respect to adequately managing the forest resource with the increased latitude and, therefore, reiterate the following expectations and conditions (as in January 19, 2001 letter):

- The adjustments outlined above will be for an interim basis extending from October 15, 2001 to October 15, 2002. I will continue to assess the impact of this deviation and determine whether continuation is appropriate. If the rate or consistency issue becomes resolved during this interim period, the final date will be adjusted.
- Licensees have thus far conducted SPS operations in such a manner as to reduce the impact of non-infested timber as much as possible. I expect licensees to continue operations in this way, recognizing that this adjustment will continue to allow for more efficient use of equipment.

Please call Mark Vieweg or me at 692-2200 if you have any concerns or questions.

Yours truly,

Bob Murray
District Manager
Lakes Forest District

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