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December 19, 2000

Major Licensees

Dear Sir/Madam:

Lakes Forest District Beetle Management Strategy for Backcountry Lakes.

The purpose of this letter is to provide some clarity to bark beetle management within Backcountry lake areas.

The Lakes Forest District is unique in both the large number of lakes to be found, and the high accessibility of the landscape for the purpose of resource development. The Lakes LRMP document has designated a number of areas to be managed as Backcountry Lakes.



Backcountry Lakes provide the opportunities for maintenance of conservation(e.g. aquatic ecosystems, fish and wildlife habitat, water quality) and backcountry recreation(e.g. high scenic quality, remote setting, limited access, minimal disturbance)values. They also provide opportunities for development, in a manner that minimizes impacts to conservation and recreation values, including timber harvesting (with an emphasis on forest health) and mineral exploration and development.

The management of Backcountry Lake areas falls primarily to the Ministry of Forests.

To manage bark beetles within the Backcountry Lakes the Ministry of Forests will employ pro-active beetle control measures that adhere to the conceptual approach of managing with a light hand on the land. The LRMP defines "Light hand on the land" as a management strategy that attempts to use practises that minimise the effects of resource development and access on both the ecological and visual integrity of the land. It includes practises such as selective harvest and low impact access structures.

It is our intent to follow the steps as out lined in the Lakes Forest District Bark Beetle Management Strategy. (See attached addendum 1)

Page 1 of 2

• THE GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA IS AN "EMPLOYMENT EQUITY EMPLOYER" •

Ministry of
Forests

Lakes Forest District

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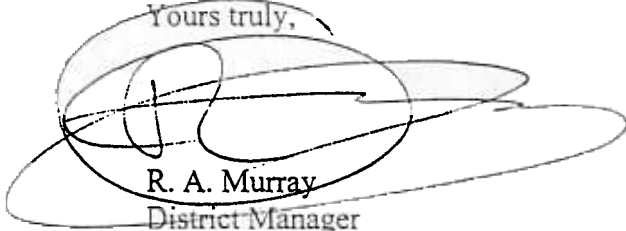
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The Lakes Forest District may enter into an agreement with Major Licensees to carry out harvest activities in Backcountry Lake areas for the removal of beetle infestation centres. Areas to be considered include: Fleming Lake, Gullwing Lake, Henrietta Lake Cluster, Mackenzie Lake, Uduk Lake, Chief Louis Lake.

The District Manager recognises that forest management practices may change from the above as bark beetle populations increase and sweep across the TSA. Changes to Backcountry Lake objectives will have to be made through amendments to the LRMP Monitoring Committee. If a Backcountry Lake loses its natural environment function due to unforeseen industrial activity (e.g. beetle salvage) the monitoring committee in conjunction with the government can propose an alternate lake to be managed as a backcountry Lake.

Any questions or concerns with the above please contact Alex Bergen at 692-2200.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. A. Murray', is written over a circular stamp. The signature is somewhat stylized and overlaps the text of the stamp.

R. A. Murray
District Manager
Lakes Forest District

Attachment(s):

pc: Mike Watson, Small Business Forester