BRITISH COLUMBIA Ministry of Forests Revenue Branch

MEMORANDUM

21740-01

December 20, 2001

BY FAX

Jim Snetsinger
Regional Manager
Prince Rupert Forest Region

From: Bill Howard
Director
Revenue Branch

Use of Comparative Cruise Information

The purpose of this memo is to modify my memo of November 7, 2001, regarding the use of comparative cruise information in the Lakes Forest District.

In light of the magnitude of the bark beetle challenge facing some portions of the Interior of the province, I now add the following additional provisions for bark beetle infested timber:

Where the district manager has determined that the timber is in imminent danger of being destroyed and that the requirement to perform a full operational cruise will delay the expeditious harvesting and result in further damage, then:

a. The field truthing requirement of six plots per type in the Prince Rupert Forest Region's comparative cruise procedures may be reduced or waived by the district manager.

b. If the requirement is reduced or waived, and in order to substantiate the comparability of the new permit with the parent permit, the licensee must submit a statement of each timber type's characteristics as listed in the Prince Rupert Forest Region's comparative cruise procedures checklist. The statement must bear the signature and seal of a registered professional forester. The methods used by the registered professional forester to determine the comparability of each timber type are to be consistent with the diligent practice of professional forestry and must be made known to the district manager as part of the comparative cruise approval request. The district manager will use management prerogative to approve or reject the request for comparative cruise.

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Jim Snetsinger

I strongly suggest that some form of monitoring be included in your revenue risk management plan.

This authorization will be superseded by anticipated amendments to the *Cruising Manual* and the *Interior Appraisal Manual* effective April 1, 2002.

WBHoward

Bill Howard
Director
Revenue Branch

pc: Ray Schultz, Provincial Mountain Pine Beetle Manager
c/o Prince George Forest Region

Lakes Forest District Procedures for the use of Comparative Cruising for Volumes Greater than 5,000 m3 For the 2001 – 2002 Harvest Season Revised: January 14, 2002

Purpose.

The purpose of this document is to define the procedures that must be followed by major licensees that request the use of comparative cruises for cutting authorities where the total volume will exceed 5,000 m3. These procedures are a supplement to the Regional Procedures entitled "Requirements for the use of Comparative Cruises"

Use of Comparative Cruises Within The Lakes TSA

The use of comparative cruises within the Lakes TSA will only be accepted under the following conditions:

For the management of bark beetle infestations where the harvest level of current infested timber by the licensee will exceed 80% of their annual allowable cut.

- The licensee has committed all their resources to the management of bark beetles and in doing so, the licensee is required to move from pre-approved volumes (STI) to new beetle infested volumes where all detection, layout, approval, and harvesting is required to be completed within a condensed time frame. The licensee has provided sufficient information and rationale to the District Manager so he is satisfied that the normal cruising requirement cannot be completed.

Where the licensee does not meet the above requirements and has provided sufficient information and rationale to satisfy the DM about their need for the use of comparative cruises in order to harvest timber that is currently infested with beetles rather than the harvest of non infested timber.

Licensee Submission Requests:

All requests for the use of comparative cruises by forest licensees must come in the form of a letter addressed to the district manager with sufficient rationale and supporting information.

Submission Requirements:

Covering letter addressed to the district manager with sufficient rationale and supporting information

Cruise map showing location of the proposed cutblock(s) for which the licensee intends to use comparative cruise information at a scale of 1:10,000 or 1:20,000. Cruise maps must include the forest inventory labels, and stratified forest types of the proposed cutblock(s), and where applicable, forest inventory labels and or stratified forest types of cutblocks from the original cruise which is to be used for the comparison.

Completed comparative checklist (as outlined in RPR Procedures, pg. 6)

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Methods for determining forest types:

Licensee can determine the types for the proposed cutblocks and confirm forest type comparability using the following methods:

- Field truthing through the establishment of two (2) to six (6) plots for every stratified forest type(minimum of two (2) plots/type that covers the entire forest type) that is within a proposed cutblock. Plots area to be located and established on the ground using ICM standards.
- Using existing cruise plots information of the forest type that continue outside of cruised stands and into the proposed cutblock(s) for confirming forest type comparability.

2. Licensee may request that the district manager waive the 6 plot per type requirement. This request must be done in writing the licensee must submit a statement of each timber type's characteristics as listed of page 6 of the Prince Rupert Forest Region's comparative cruise checklist. The statement must bear the signature and seal of the registered professional forester (RPF). The methods used by the RPF to determine the comparability of each timber type are to be consistent with the due diligent practice of the professional forestry and must be made known to the district manager as a part of the comparative cruise approval request. The district manager will use management prerogative to approve or reject the request for comparative cruise.

Examples of determining forest types:

- Ground confirmation for single cutblock comparative cruises proposals would include a representative field check of the stratified types for that cutblock. For comparative cruise proposals where there is more than one cutblock, confirmation of types need only be required to ensure that each stratified type for all the proposed cutblocks have been confirmed. An example would be where there are four stratified types determined within four cutblocks with two of the four cutblocks containing all four types. The licensee would have to field confirm one of the four cutblocks using a minimum of 8 to a maximum of 24 ground plots to confirm the type unless otherwise waived or reduced by the District Manager.
- For large cutblocks where only the infested volume will be removed in patches and leaving the remaining green volume is left intact, confirmation of types through ground analysis would be as stated above for single or multiple cutblocks. However, the licensee would only be required to ensure that each stratified type for all the proposed cutblocks have been confirmed.

Lakes Forest District Procedures for the use of Comparative Cruising for Volumes Greater than 5,000 m3 For the 2001 – 2002 Harvest Season Revised: January 14, 2002

Determining The Appropriate Cruise To Use As The Comparison:

Licensee may suggest/recommend from their initial comparative cruise submission request which cruise or cruises, from their knowledge and experience of the area, would be the most comparable.
District Manager will determine, taking into consideration the licensees information that was provided from the original submission, which cruise or cruises will be used as the parent or comparative cruise for the cutblock or cutblocks that are to use the comparative cruise information.

Determining The Appropriate Cruise To Use As The Comparison Cont:

For each submission requesting the use of compared cruising, district staff will complete an internal review and analysis. Review and analysis will be done by creating a list of cruises within the area being proposed by the licensee and comparing the forest inventory label types and/or stratified types of these cruises to those areas that are proposed for harvest using comparative cruising information. (Note: District staff will strive for a two week turn around time for all Comparative Cruise submissions and field confirmations)

- This process would than determine the representativeness of a cruise or several cruises when compared to the proposed cutblock or blocks. The most representative cruise or cruises to use in the area proposed for new CP's would then be selected.
- For each licensee comparative cruise request, district staff may conduct random field review to confirm the information of the licensee submission.

Where Licensee/District Manager disagreement exists regarding cruise representativeness, the licensee has the option of carrying out a full timber cruise over the area being proposed for harvest.

Date: 2002-01-14

R. A. Murray
District Manager
Lakes Forest District