

August 16, 2001

Community Forest
First Nations
Lakes Forest District
Major Licensees
Small Business Forest Enterprise Program
Woodlot Licensees

Re: Direction for Cultural Heritage Resource reconnaissance and Archaeological Impact Assessments (AIA) for Harvest Areas that are NOT Infested with Bark Beetles.

Pursuant to *Section 37(1) of the Operational Planning Regulation, Information that must be available before a silviculture prescription may be approved, subsection (e)*, the district manager is required to direct licensees to complete archaeological impact assessments (AIAs). Pursuant to *Section 15(1) of the Woodlot License Forest Management Regulation, Archaeological impact assessment may be required*, the district manager is required to direct licensees to complete archaeological impact assessments (AIAs). This letter will outline the three-step procedure for determining whether proposed areas of operation will require an AIA. The three steps are 1) prepare cultural heritage resource information and recommendations, 2) if required, reconnaissance, and 3) if required, AIA.



Step 1: The licensees will provide the Lakes Forest District with maps for harvesting areas that (a) require silviculture prescriptions or (b) are directed by the district manager if the proposed area has been exempted from the requirement for silviculture prescriptions. The Lakes Forest District will prepare cultural heritage resource (CHR) maps (sample attached) that document known cultural heritage resources (Lakes Archaeological Resource Project - LARP) and record the potential for cultural heritage resources (Archaeological Overview Assessment - AOA).

Lakes Forest District will use the CHR map to complete a Cultural Heritage Resource spreadsheet (sample attached). The spreadsheet will document the information found on the CHR map as well as noting the first nations' claiming traditional territory within the proposed area and giving recommendations for further actions. There are three possible recommendations 1) no reconnaissance or AIA required, 2) licensee to complete field reconnaissance for cultural heritage resources, and 3) archaeologist is required to complete an archaeological impact assessment. Upon completion of step 1, the district manager will provide a letter of direction to the licensee. Enclosed with this letter will be the CHR spreadsheet.

Step 2: If reconnaissance is required, it may be completed by a person qualified through proven experience to have the ability to identify CMTs and other commonly occurring cultural heritage

Page 1 of 2

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**Ministry of
Forests**

Lakes Forest District

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To: Licensees and First Nations

resources, such as cache pits. Details of their experience and the names of several references should be provided to the Lakes Forest District. The recce person is responsible for identifying, flagging and accurately mapping all cultural heritage resources they identify in the field. The licensee must submit a copy of reconnaissance information (including recce notes and Level 1 CMT recording forms) and photographs taken in the field, an accurate map that identifies the areas examined and the location of identified cultural heritage resources, and a succinct report describing the fieldwork completed and cultural heritage resources identified.

Reconnaissance may occur through the winter months, providing that snow conditions do not obscure the modification scar of culturally modified trees. If harvest is to occur in areas where reconnaissance was completed during snow cover conditions; harvest is restricted to frozen ground and/or snowpack conditions. This is to protect any other cultural heritage resources that have not been identified. Reconnaissance information will be used in conjunction with CHR information to determine whether AIAs are required. The district manager will provide a letter of direction to the licensee. Enclosed with this letter will be the CHR spreadsheet.

Step 3: This step can be achieved as a result of step 1 or 2. A qualified archaeologist must complete an Archaeological Impact Assessment on the harvest area. The AIA report and copies of information and photographs taken during fieldwork must be submitted to the Lakes Forest District.

The licensee and person(s) conducting activities on behalf of the licensee are responsible for ensuring the requirements of *Section 51 of the Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act*, Previously unidentified resource features are met. Cultural heritage resource information is provided to the licensee to assist in fulfilling this obligation.

Yours truly,

R.A. Murray
District Manager

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