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December 19, 1997

TO ALL MAJOR LICENSEES

Dear Licensee:

Some concerns have been raised by licensees respecting the maximum skid trail width allowed within the permits issued under the small scale salvage program (SSSP). Through this letter, I will outline some principles of the SSSP, the reasoning behind the 4 meter skid trail width and other options available to licensees.

Principles

Two underlying principles of the SSSP are: 1) to allow for the harvest of fiber not traditionally harvested thereby reducing the unsalvageable losses as identified in the Timber Supply Review - Lakes, and 2) provide increased employment. The program (and these principles) must be managed with consideration for environmental values.

4 meter skid trail - maximum

SSSP cutting permits issued during the first year of the pilot program contained variability in skid trail widths; basically, participants within the small business sector operated under variable maximum widths (ranging from 4 to 6m.), while major licensees operated under a 6 meter maximum width. All tenure holders (SBFEP, ML and WL) demonstrated that operating within a typical "snip and skid" pattern could successfully be achieved with a maximum 4 meter skid trail.

For the 1997 - 1998 SSSP pilot, it was determined that a 4 meter maximum skid trail would better reflect the unsalvageable loss harvest (harvesting less wood in access structures which isn't unsalvageable) and could successfully be carried out. It was recognized that some allowances would have to be made in areas where warranted and that the inspectors could authorize exceeding the width in these specific areas. It was also recognized that specialized equipment

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(forwarders, fallers/line skidders) would be more appropriate for this type of harvest. An added benefit to use of this equipment is increased employment.

Another item of concern is the low rate associated with SSSP and its risk to revenue. Licensees in other Districts were operating within the same parameters of our 1996 - 1997 SSSP under **blanket** salvage rates. The low rates indicative of SSSP in Lakes Forest District reflects long skids and increased harvest time due to additional constraints such as tighter skid trail widths.

Consistency

All permits and licenses associated with the small scale salvage program in 1997-1998 have been issued with the maximum skid trail width of 4 meters except one. This permit/license has been issued allowing for a 6 meter maximum skid trail under SSSP - SBFEP sector. The reason for this allowance is due to extenuating circumstances within the license area. The area targeted is on the south and north side of Tetachuck Lake and is completely unroaded. It is expected that the licensee will minimize skid trail widths wherever possible, but that wider trails are necessary for access to the 25 - 30 dump sites where the logs will be disposed.

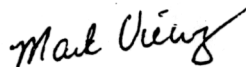
Options

Licensees should be encouraged to work within the conditions set by the cutting permit by using equipment and operators that can meet those conditions. Where site conditions warrant, the compliance and enforcement officers may authorize exceeding maximum skid trail widths.

Where licensees can not operate comfortably under the conditions of the SSSP permits, you may wish to consider harvesting under existing blanket salvage permits. If licensees do not have existing blanket salvage permits and rates, these can be issued in a reasonably short timeframe (estimated...2 weeks), so that impact to harvest of insect infested timber is minimized.

I trust this letter clarifies the District's intent toward the SSSP.

Yours truly,



Mark Vieweg
Senior Forester - Major Tenures
Lakes Forest District