

Prince George Natural Resource District Small Scale Salvage Guidelines



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**Ministry of Forests, Lands
and Natural
Resource Operations**

Prince George Natural Resource
District

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Notices

Spruce Bark Beetle

The following notice is for clients of the Small Scale Salvage Program (the Program) in the Prince George Natural Resource District (the District). A regional forest health strategy is being put in place and will be managed by the Districts, the major licensees and BC Timber Sales. As such, the District will not be accepting any applications under the Program that involves the spruce beetle until further notice.

Robson Valley

The following notice is for clients of the Small Scale Program (the Program) operating specifically within the Robson Valley, Timber Supply Area 17 (TSA 17). In May of 2014, the Allowable Annual Cut for TSA 17 was reduced to 400,000 cubic metres. As such, the volume of timber available for the Small Scale Salvage Program was also reduced. Clients wishing to pursue a small scale salvage opportunity must contact the District first to see if there is any volume available for this purpose. Volume will be available on a first come, first serve basis. However, because of the small amount of volume available, the District Manager reserves the right to limit the volume available to each client.

WASTE

The following notice is to remind licensees of their obligation to report the waste from their licence areas into the WASTE system via the Electronic Submission System. This is an obligation of the licensee that is described in section 6.00 of the licence document.

Provincial Guidelines

Purpose

To establish an application and approval process for small scale timber salvage that is efficient, effective and transparent. Further information regarding small scale salvage can be found on the provincial website:

<https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hth/timber-tenures/small-scale-salvage/index.htm>

Professional Applications

Professional reliance is one of the pillars of the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) and an important component of the Small Scale Salvage (SSS) application process. The District Manager, prior to approving an application must be satisfied the signing professional has proposed a professional quality plan that meets the District Guidelines.

A Regional Manager or District Manager may establish local guidelines or procedures provided that they are consistent with the purpose of this policy and do not contradict the procedures and standards herein.

- Guidelines may be established to set out small scale salvage priorities based on local forest management objectives and circumstances.
- Local procedures may be established where they are needed to achieve the purpose of this policy.
- Local guidelines or procedures must be made known to potential applicants in an appropriate manner and time.

Scope of Application

1. Province wide
2. Forestry Licence to Cut is issued without advertising for the purpose of salvaging timber volume between 50 m³ and 2000 m³.

Definitions

1. "Applicant" means the person or company who is the intended licensee for the Forestry Licence to Cut.
2. "Application" means a written request, submitted to the Ministry in a manner consistent with the procedures and standards outlined below.
3. "Post-Harvest Report" means a written report, submitted to the Ministry in a manner consistent with the procedures and standards outlined below.
4. "Professional" means a member of a professional regulatory body, who is registered to practice in BC, is qualified for the work and can be held accountable by the professional regulatory body.
5. "Small Scale Salvage Plan" means a part of a District Forest Health Strategy that sets out objectives and priorities for Small Scale Salvage, or a plan designated by the District Manager.

District Guidelines

Although the professional application is in a template format, professionals are reminded of their obligation to take the necessary steps in both assessing the suitability of the proposed salvage area, and gathering all of the information for an application. Where a signing professional is

unsure of any requirements in the application, they are encouraged to contact the SSS coordinator for clarification.

In addition to the requirements listed in the attached professional application package, the guidelines must also be followed when preparing your application. Note that these guidelines are periodically updated and you are encouraged to check online to ensure you have the latest version. Current District guidelines for the Prince George Natural Resource District, the application, and other small scale salvage documents can be found on the District website:

<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/dpg/SSS/SSSIndex.htm>

District Guidelines

Program Focus

The program focus is to harvest unsalvaged losses, specifically, dead and/or dying timber that would otherwise not be harvested by another tenure within the shelf-life of that timber. The Prince George Natural Resource District has developed criteria to define unsalvaged losses and determine scope of the program. These criteria are used to evaluate the appropriateness of an application.

Program Criteria

It is the signing professional's responsibility to ensure all aspects of the program criteria are met prior to submitting an application.

The following criteria are used to evaluate a proposed SSS application to determine if the application is targeting unsalvaged losses. These criteria form the Prince George Natural Resource District Small Scale Salvage Guidelines as directed by the District Manager.

- A single FLTC up to 2000 m³ must be able to address the salvage for a particular area, and therefore it is not acceptable to submit multiple SSS permits adjacent to each other.
- For any given harvesting opportunity that would otherwise be available to other forms of tenure (such as a Forest Licence or Timber Sale Licence), no more than 20% of the cumulative total of all harvesting opportunity of any area should be harvested as SSS.
- Shelf-life is defined as the length of time after death that the tree will be useable considering the current merchantability specifications for salvage timber. Note that this must be addressed in the major licensee / BCTS referral (see Clearances and Referrals). SSS is not intended to address the salvage of large volumes of dead or damaged timber.
- Bark beetle salvage/beetle attack levels are to be determined by the Northern Interior ground detection standards (see web link Additional Information).
- To be considered under the SSS program, the openings for one licence must be widely dispersed from openings of another licence. This will generally be considered as requiring mobilization of equipment.
- It is unacceptable to propose salvage harvests adjacent to areas NOT subject to reforestation obligations (e.g. existing SSS less than 1 ha). No buffer is required when harvesting adjacent to areas with reforestation obligations (e.g. plantations -- see landings and skid trails for access through plantations). Application areas must also not be adjacent to each other as per the program focus (>100m from one another).

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- Harvest strategies should be proposed where residual trees will be retained on the block or when selective harvesting is proposed. Harvest strategies should detail the proposed stand structure post-harvest and methods to protect under story, mid story and merchantable stems.
- **Incidental Harvest** - For salvage operations the maximum total allowable harvest of non-target trees is 10% and should be minimized wherever possible. The incidental harvest of non-target trees is intended to facilitate safe working conditions.

Process Overview

1. Pre-planning phase – Applicant
 - Ensure area of interest is vacant Crown land (may consult District)
 - Obtain all necessary referrals, including major licensee/BCTS
 - Risk assessment of archaeological potential (may consult District)
2. Submit professional application package – Applicant
 - Professional application
 - Stumpage Rate Request form
 - Major licensee/BCTS referral
 - Any other referral documentation
 - 5 copies each of 1:10,000 and 1:50,000 maps
3. Application review and consultation phase– District
 - Application reviewed by SSS coordinator for completeness and/or conflicts
 - Initiate consultation process with First Nations (60 day period)
4. Approval and award – District and Applicant
 - Approval pending successful conclusion of consultation period
 - Licence deposit prepared for applicant (10% of estimated stumpage or \$500, whichever is more)
 - Licence documents offered for applicant signing once deposit received
 - District Manager countersigns documents
 - Licence issued

Overlapped Applications

All applications are processed on a first come first served basis. Should one application overlap another, the application with the earlier submission date will prevail.

Three Sale Limit

The District Manager reserves the right to institute a three sale limit at any point in time. In this case, an applicant may only hold a combination of applications and licences not exceeding three at any time. Once logging is completed on a sale (i.e. all felling and hauling) this will no longer count toward the limit.

Clearances and Referrals

A Forestry Licence to Cut can only be issued on vacant Crown land. To ensure this, it is imperative that *ALL* potential land status conflicts are checked prior to submitting your application. Checking "YES" on the relevant sections of this application indicates these checks have been done to a complete and professional standard.

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- Private land, Tree Farm Licenses (TFL 30 and TFL 53), Indian reserves, Agricultural Development Areas (Lands and Water BC), Settlement Reserve Areas (Lands and Water BC), and parks or protected areas are examples of areas that will *NOT* be considered for Small Scale Salvage.
- Areas located within an Agriculture Development Area, or within the Crown Land Plan must have a supportive referral from the Lands office.
- The proposal *MUST* also be referred to the appropriate major licensee or BCTS if within their operating area. A referral form is included in this application package, and it is a requirement to complete and include this with all submissions.
- A supportive referral from the major licensee or BCTS indicates that they have no intentions for a particular area within the shelf-life of the timber in that area (see Program Criteria for definition of shelf-life).
- A supportive referral from the major licensee or BCTS must be current; within one year of the date that the application for small scale salvage is received by the District.

The following tools are available for checking land status:

- A map showing the operating areas of all Major Licensees and BCTS is available for viewing at the District Office in the main entrance. This map will show the applicant the necessary licensee they must refer to. For all referrals, the SSS referral form (included with this application package) must be included when submitting the application.
- Potential *private* land conflicts can be checked at www.bconline.gov.bc.ca or with the Government Agent at any BC Access Centre. iMap BC (<http://maps.bcgov>) identifies district lots, subdivisions, and encumbrances. Tantalus GATOR (<https://tantalus.clrs.gov.bc.ca/>) provides all Crown Land information.
- Clients are advised to consider the Regional District Official Community Plan (<http://www.rdfg.bc.ca/building/Dev0101.html>). For clarification or to discuss potential conflicts, please contact the Regional District Fraser-Fort George.

All referrals must be current, within one year of the application date.

Archaeological Information and Review

Archaeological information cannot be released. However, potential conflicts with proposed harvesting may be ascertained through discussion with the Prince George Natural Resource District. Note that any CMTs or archaeological resources found on site must be recorded, and discussed with the District.

All applications must undergo a 60 day consultation period, carried out by District. The consultation period will not commence until the application has been reviewed and is considered complete.

Trapper / Guide / Mining Claims Notification

Guide-Outfitter information is available to the public and can be found at http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/fw/wild/documents/guide_outfitters.pdf. Trap line numbers **must be** provided with the application. Trapper identity can be however the corresponding trapper identity is not readily available to the public. If applicants have this information, they are encouraged to complete a referral to the respective trapper. Otherwise, they must notify the Forest Service and we will complete this referral.

ESF Submissions

All SSS application packages (paper copies) must also be accompanied by an ESF (Electronic Submission Framework) submission. The process for submitting a completed SSS application is as follows:

1. ESF submission
 - a. FTA submission – Submit client and proposed licence information with spatial data. Please ensure that each opening is assigned a unique block number or identifier.
2. Submit Professional Application. Clearly record the ESF submission ID's and the auto generated FLTC number.
3. Within 60 days of harvest completion:
 - a. RESULTS – Opening Definition submission – Submit opening information with spatial data, stocking standards, SU spatial data, disturbance updates, and forest cover via ESF. Please treat each opening as a separate block with a unique block number or identifier.
 - b. Post Harvest Report Signed by RPF
 - c. Deposit released once all obligations completed.

The ESF submissions will be uploaded to FTA and RESULTS and a Submission ID will be generated for each. A Licence number will also be generated once the FTA submission has been accepted. The Submission ID and FLTC number must be recorded on the professional application when submitted.

A list of Service Providers for ESF Submissions can be found at the following link: <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/his/results/serviceproviders.htm> or by contacting the District office.

For More information regarding ESF submissions, or how to become an ESF submitter, visit the web site at: <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/his/esf/>

Also, review the RESULTS Silviculture Information Submission Guidebook at: <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/publications/00026/pdf/fs708-guide.pdf>

Stumpage Rates and Silviculture Levies

Currently, stumpage rates for Small Scale Salvage Forestry Licences to Cut are determined using various Table Rates that can be found in Section 6 of the Interior Appraisal Manual, and are adjusted from time to time. Stumpage rates are determined based on the day the licence is issued and are fixed for the term of the licence.

Silviculture levy calculations may be adjusted at the discretion of the District Manager to ensure the levy reasonably reflects the expected costs associated with the actual hectares proposed for harvest. A possible adjustment would include using a district average volume per hectare to pro-rate the conversion from \$/hectares to \$/m³. Licensees have, in the past, overestimated the total volume on the site due to conversions with weight scaling to avoid over harvest penalties. This in turn translates to levy being applied to larger volume which may not actually be harvested, resulting in insufficient silviculture funds being collected. The goal is to collect a levy that reflects the estimated silviculture costs based on the \$ per hectare indicated in the IAM (multiplied by incremental costs for working on a smaller scale). As such the District Manager may propose to use a district average volume per hectare and multiply it by the total hectares in the application.

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The base rate of \$/ha is derived from Table 4-2 in the Interior Appraisal Manual (IAM) using the biogeoclimatic zone/subzone. In the case where there is more than one zone/subzone within an application with different base rates, the zone/subzone with the higher base rate will be used.

Currently, silviculture levies are calculated for all applications using the following formula:

$$\text{Silviculture Levy} = \frac{(\text{base rate } \$/\text{ha} \times 1.7) \times \text{application hectares}}{\text{total volume of application}}$$

Licence Deposits

If your application is approved, the District requires a deposit that is equal to 10 % of the stumpage, or \$500, whichever is greater. This deposit must in one of the following forms: certified bank draft, cash, safe keeping agreements, or a letter of credit. Deposits are to be made payable to the Minister of Finance. When the licence obligations are satisfactorily completed, the deposit will be returned to the licensee. In the case of outstanding obligations, a portion or all of the deposit may be retained until such time as the obligations are deemed by the District Manager to have been completed. If the licence has not expired prior to the obligations being complete, the licensee must forfeit the license documents in order to have the deposit released.

Appraisal Data

A Stumpage Rate Request Form must be completed, signed, and sealed by a forest professional and included with the application package. All possible species must be accounted for; therefore volumes must be $> 3 \text{ m}^3$ for each species.

Ministry Review

Once the application is received, a field inspection may be completed on the site to ensure District expectations are being met. Once the licence is issued, the licensee is required to comply with the obligations set out in the licence document as well as the district policy discussed here. This may be accomplished by a pre-work carried out by the signing Professional Forester.

Post Harvesting Report

Within 60 days of completion of harvesting, a qualified professional must conduct a site inspection and complete post Harvesting Report attesting to the following:

1. The timber targeted for salvage has been removed in accordance with the approved plan.
2. Waste and residue has been assessed and the primary species by volume per hectare have been recorded.
3. The stocking status of the stand has been assessed and is in accordance with the approved plan.
4. Measures undertaken to protect soil, water, archaeological features and wildlife habitat have achieved the required results.
5. Access trails, roads and landings have been deactivated to an acceptable standard, or restored to their original condition (including unobstructed ditch lines).
6. In the opinion of the professional, the licensee has completed all on-site obligations under the Licence.

An ESF submission to RESULTS must also be completed within 60 days of harvesting including an update of the Disturbance History, Forest Cover attributes, and spatial information.

Licence Closures

Please review the information within this package on Post-Harvest Reports. The deposit cannot be returned to the licensee until the contractual obligations within the licence document have been met, as per the Post-Harvest Report. If, due to extenuating circumstances, the licensee cannot meet certain contractual obligations within the licence document (e.g., hazard abatement), a request for a partial return of the deposit may be made. In these cases, the District will withhold the deposit or \$500 of the original deposit, whichever is greater, and request that the licensee surrender their licence documents.

Specific Standards

Road Use

No new roads may be constructed under the Small Scale Salvage Program. However, if a road needs to be used to access the salvage area, the following applies:

- Safe use of forest roads is imperative. Therefore all applicants are **required** to obtain a safety orientation from all primary users of the roads they are planning to use. Applicants are also encouraged to thoroughly review the Forest Road Procedures and Management System Documents that are attached to these guidelines.
- With a few exceptions, "minor salvage operations" do not have to apply for Road Use Permits, or Road Permit Exemptions. Some examples of exceptions include: (1) use of a non-status road where a minor upgrade is required to facilitate a stream crossing; (2) use of a non-status road that requires maintenance to a stream bank to use the road; (3) the use of the road will materially affect the use of the road by others; and (4) the use of the road will materially impact forest resources. Refer to s 22.1 of the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) and s. 79.1 of the Forest Planning and Practices Regulation (FPPR) for more information.
- For Permit Roads or Forest Service Roads, proper notification to the Road Permit holder or the person(s) responsible for maintaining the road (e.g. Road User Committee) is required. Refer to s. 80.1 of the FPPR. Applicants are encouraged to enter into a Road Use Agreement as it will assist them in fulfilling their legislative requirements.
- All roads that will be utilized for hauling, including, road kilometres **must** be indicated on the application in the "Transportation Information" section. (e.g. 15-25 km on the 100 Road) and road status (i.e., FSR, road permit, Ministry of Transportation and Highways).
- Ministry of Transportation and Highways has specific requirements where joining a public road or highway. These can be checked at:

http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/publications/eng_publications/TCM/Traffic_Control_Manual.htm

Landings

Landing construction should be avoided and existing landings should be utilized wherever possible. However, if a landing must be constructed, it must not exceed 0.2 ha in size. Landing area and volume must be accounted for in the application if trees are to be removed from the site. Landings must also be indicated on the map where outside the harvest area. The appropriate major licensee **MUST** be informed if landings are proposed in existing plantations during the referral, as per the SSS referral form (proposed landings in cutblocks not free to grow are not included in the total harvest area).

Skid Trails

The maximum skid trail width allowed is 5.0 metres. When choosing skid trail use natural or other existing openings to the greatest extent possible. There shall be no excavated or bladed trails. Skidding through plantations should be avoided wherever possible. If access through a plantation is required, this must be explicitly indicated on the application, and the licensee **MUST** be informed of this in the referral, as per the SSS referral form.

Mapping

Five colour copies of a 1:10,000 scale computer generated map and five colour copies of a location map (1: 50,000) must be attached to the application. Please follow the attached *Mapping Standards* -included in this package. Applications that do not meet this standard will be placed on hold until the appropriate edits are made.

Ecological Classification and Stocking Standards ID

The Professional must determine the appropriate Biological Ecosystem Classification (BEC) and determine the associated Standards ID found in the “Reference Guide for FDP Stocking Standards”.

http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/silviculture/stocking_stds.htm

Selective Harvesting Retaining a Free Growing Stand

To assess whether or not a free-growing stand can be retained, the following procedure is recommended: (1) assess pre-harvest stocking and stand structure, including biogeoclimatic zone and ecotype; (2) determine the amount of volume/stems per hectare to be removed; and (3) compare 1 and 2 to the *Establishment to Free Growing Guidebook Prince George Forest Region* to see if the stand after the proposed harvest would have adequate stocking. The submitting forester must then determine whether or not this stocking will achieve free-growing. Documentation of this is required on the application. Note that a tree that is susceptible to mountain pine beetle attack, damaged or infested *cannot be considered free-growing* (see Appendix 10 of the *Free Growing Guidebook*).

Silviculture Considerations

The prescribing Forester must carefully consider the impacts of harvesting the site. The responsibility to carry out silviculture obligations rests on the Crown therefore silvicultural considerations are a critical part of the application process. SSS applications should not be proposed on sites where extensive silviculture tending will be required. For SSS, extensive silviculture is defined as any site preparation activity or a stand tending activity that may be required more than once. It is unacceptable to propose salvage on a site that will be tough to regenerate and meet free growing obligations.

Alternative Stocking Standards

Generally, stocking standards will adhere to the standards found in the “Reference Guide for FDP Stocking Standards” for the Prince George Forest Region (http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/silviculture/stocking_stds.htm). However, in limited circumstances, alternative Stocking standards may be proposed for selective harvest applications. When proposing alternative stocking standards the prescribing Forester must consider the implications to future harvesting and limiting factors of tree species. For example, a Forester may propose to change sub-alpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*) from an acceptable species to a preferred species to meet minimum preferred stocking where the trees are vigorous and have attained a mid canopy

position or higher. It would be unacceptable to propose sub-alpine fir as a preferred species where the removal of the canopy would subject the trees to windthrow, sunscald or other damaging effects.

A rational must be provided to describe the site and tree characteristic and include standards that will result in the area being stocked with ecologically suitable species that address immediate and long-term forest health issues on the area; and may include other relevant information there by documenting the Forester's decision.

It is recommended the Forester submit the rational and receive approval by the District Manager prior to submitting the application.

Incidental Harvest

For salvage operations the maximum total allowable harvest of non-target trees is 10% and should be minimized wherever possible. Therefore, the applicant and professional must consider the operational constraints of their logging equipment and expertise prior to completing the layout and application for small scale salvage.

Blowdown/Windthrow

SSS operations must not increase the potential for blowdown/windthrow. Professionals must evaluate potential retention levels for blowdown/windthrow against suitability for the program and good forest management. Additionally, salvage applications will not be approved where it is proposed to harvest potential future blowdown/windthrow.

Range

Natural range barriers and range fences must not be removed for salvage operations. Section 51 of FRPA can be reviewed for more information regarding range. Natural range barriers and improvements are not always obvious and it is recommended that the holders of range licences be consulted prior to submitting an application. Any questions regarding range or range tenures should be directed to the District Range Officer.

Mapping Standards

The following describe minimum standards for a map that must accompany a Small Scale Salvage Application (Forestry Licence to Cut). Applicants should also check the District Guidelines to for any additional standards. All maps submitted must be in colour.

1. **Scale** 1:10,000 and 1:50,000
2. **Reference** to appropriate 1:20000 forest cover map sheet number (e.g. 93 G064)
3. **Geographic** description (name of nearest known feature or operating area).
4. **Access description** from nearest town or well-known point.
5. **UTM coordinates** or latitude and longitude.
6. **Legend.**
7. **Jurisdictional / Tenure boundaries** of private land, Indian reserve, parks, woodlot licence, or other tenures must be included.
8. **GPS information** of the following areas proposed for harvesting under the Forestry Licence to Cut:
 - a. Harvest boundaries: all proposed harvest areas > 0.2 ha must be GPSed and mapped, with an indication of the type of silviculture system proposed (e.g. selective or clearcut).

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- b. Skid trails and landings: all access trails between harvest sites must be GPSed (dispersed skid trails for single tree removal do not have to be GPSed); all landings outside the harvest area must be GPSed.
9. **Riparian features** within the application area, including non-classifiable drainages, streams, wetlands and lakes.
10. **Stream crossings and machine free zones.**
11. **Clearcut** areas and **Plantations** adjacent to the areas proposed for salvage, and any access trails through these areas if applicable.
12. **Timber type / forest cover** as per TRIM standard of equivalent (label and polygons).
13. **Range** structures, including fences, excavations or constructed livestock trails.
14. **Recreation** sites and **Known** features
15. **Cultural heritage** resource features.
16. **Wildlife habitat areas, OGMAs.**
17. **Trapping** cabins, identified trapping sites, access trails or trap line routes.
18. **Water supply** for domestic intakes and water supply infrastructure.
19. **Resource features**, as defined by legislation, in the vicinity of the salvage area.
20. Government approved experimental projects, growth and yield plots, stream stations, operational trials and research installations.
21. **Harvest method.** Clearly indicate the Harvest method proposed. Where clearcut and selective harvesting are proposed, they must be defined by Standards Units
22. **Standards Units/Silviculture Units.** Clearly delineate the SU's where different stocking standards apply. (This may require a third set of maps at 1:10,000)
23. **Other SSS Patches.** Any SSS patches the licensee has submitted or approved **must** be shown on the maps. These patches should be "greyed" out and labelled appropriately.