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October 19, 2017

To: Major licensees in the Mackenzie and Prince George Timber Supply Areas

Subject: Expectations for the 2018 Omineca Spruce Beetle Joint Action Plan

As you are aware, spruce beetle aerial surveys this season have indicated that the beetle has continued its spread within the Mackenzie and Prince George Timber Supply Areas and it is time to update the Omineca Spruce Beetle Joint Action Plan (Plan) for 2018. I wish to thank licensees in collaborating with their industry partners and the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operation and Rural Development staff on producing the Plan for 2017. I understand that all parties have agreed that the date for completing the 2018 Plan is December 15, 2017.

I would like to take this opportunity to ensure the 2018 Plan incorporates the following expectations and considerations:

- Licensees continue to work together and with government, to develop the most effective spruce beetle mitigation strategies;
- Demonstrate involvement of all major licensees in each of the respective Timber Supply Areas;
- Clearly indicate that all major licensees are prioritizing the harvesting of forest health priority stands – either spruce beetle control efforts or mountain pine beetle salvage;
- Clearly indicate that each of the spruce beetle impacted geographic areas have a management strategy in place;
- Clearly demonstrate that harvest strategies minimize the harvest of un-infested spruce;
- Demonstrate commitment that the major licensee response is increasing proportionately with the spread of the beetle population;
- Demonstrate open and transparent landscape-level planning to focus spruce beetle mitigation efforts;
- Balance government objectives for spruce beetle control with the need to protect non-timber values in consideration of the Chief Forester's guidance on stand and landscape-level retention and all other existing guidance documents concerning the ecosystem management and protection; and

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- Continue major licensee and ministry engagement around the best estimate of stand shelf life to be used in the 2018 action plan.

If you have any questions, please contact John Huybers, Prince George District Manager, Omineca Spruce Beetle Coordinator by telephone at (250) 614-7442 or email: [john.huybers@gov.bc.ca](mailto:john.huybers@gov.bc.ca).

Sincerely,



Greg Rawling,  
Regional Executive Director  
Omineca Region

cc. John Huybers, District Manager, Prince George Natural Resource District,  
Omineca Spruce Beetle Coordinator  
David Schwarz, District Manager, Mackenzie, Natural Resource District  
David Van Dolah, District Manager Stuart Nechako, Natural Resource District