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September 25, 2002

«Address»

Dear «Dear»:

02.10.01

Byrd
Andre
Colleen
Damon
DL
As Return

This letter is in reference to the harvesting strategy in the Quesnel Forest District as it pertains to beetle-infested timber.

As trees killed by the Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) last summer have changed colour over the past few months, it has become evident that the extent and intensity of the beetle attack have increased significantly. Probe information indicates that the MPB had another successful flight this summer. The volume of timber in stands with a significant level of attack is now many times the AAC for the Timber Supply Area (TSA). I believe it is appropriate for us to review our harvesting strategy and specify a new approach.



I suggest that the following strategies are appropriate measures to be taken by licensees in order to meet their salvage commitments, and I propose to have them incorporated in the district's MPB strategic plan when it is updated:

- In the suppression zone, it is critical to focus our harvesting power on infested trees. In this zone the normal approach will be small patch or single tree removal. If larger blocks are approved, they will be tightly focussed on green attack and will have total damage levels of at least 25% by stem count. The focussed approach will ensure that we maximize the effectiveness of our harvesting power.

In the maintain low, holding and salvage zones, which comprise most of the district, harvesting should be focussed on heavily attacked stands. I expect proposals for harvesting after April 1, 2003, to document attack levels in excess of 25% by stem count. Application of single tree and small patch operations will be limited to special situations.

- A licensee may request a condition of approval at the forest development plan stage that allows for the submission of documentation of the 25% damage level at the cutting permit application stage.

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Ministry of
Forests

Quesnel Forest District

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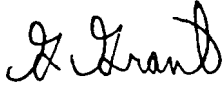
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«Dear»

- In all harvest planning, but particularly in the salvage zone, it is important to consider the non-timber values and the needs of users of these resources. It is also important to plan harvesting in a way that is conducive to efficient silviculture practices as we reforest these stands.

I have directed my staff to consider the above criteria when they are reviewing operational plans and amendments.

Yours truly,



Gerry Grant, R.P.F.
District Manager
Quesnel Forest District