



July 27, 1999

Woods Managers, Quesnel Forest District licensees
SBFEP, Quesnel Forest District

Dear Sirs:

Re: Guidelines for Douglas-fir Management in the Quesnel Forest District

The following is guidance for the management of Douglas-fir in the Quesnel Forest District, as requested by the licensees. Douglas-fir is an important part of the timber supply, but there are also important wildlife habitat and stand-level biodiversity values to consider when determining fir management strategies.

General guidelines for all Fir Stands in the Quesnel Forest District

Fir stands within the district should be regenerated to approximately the same proportion of fir as occurred in the original stand.

Large diameter, windfirm Douglas-fir is a priority for Wildlife Tree retention, both as wildlife tree patches and as individual trees. Individual fir trees which are retained will generally be veteran trees at least one age class older than the majority of the stand, or which are dominant trees which are taller than the rest of the stand.

Individual trees that are retained for biodiversity reasons should be included in the WTP area, as described in the document *Stand Level Biodiversity Guidelines for the Quesnel Forest District* (District Manager, February 25, 1999).

Fir that will have little chance of being windfirm or of having healthy growth should be harvested. Typically fir which has a height/diameter ratio > 100 is likely to break off in the wind, and fir that has $< 30\%$ live crown is not likely to release well.

Mule Deer Winter Range Stands with Douglas-fir $> 40\%$

There are constraints to harvest of fir-leading stands in Mule Deer Winter Ranges, as described in detail in the CCLUP Mule Deer Strategy and Integration Report. Should harvesting be considered in such stands, MoF and MELP should be consulted early in the planning process to determine opportunities.

Individual Mule Deer Winter Range plans, when completed, will include harvest strategies for different stand types.

Mule Deer Winter Range Stands with Douglas-fir < 40%

The MDWR Strategy recommends retention of all fir, except that required to be removed for operational reasons, in stands with fir < 40% (p. 68 and Appendix 8.11). The Integration Report (p. 13) does not change this recommendation, although it specifies that the non-fir component (primarily pine) will be managed on a normal rotation. This should be considered interim direction to be more fully addressed in individual MDWR plans (Integration Report, p. 50). If this direction appears silviculturally inappropriate to support fir persistence on a specific site, consult with MoF and MELP.

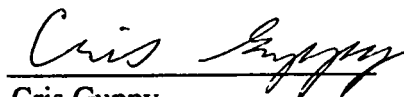
Fir-leading areas which are 4 hectares or greater should be typed out separately and managed as fir-leading stands. Special measures may need to be taken to maintain such stands if there is a significant windthrow hazard.

Please remind your professional foresters that consultation with MELP and MoF is encouraged, should they be unclear as to the objectives of the recommended forest management practices.

Yours truly,

 99-08-03

Gerry Grant, RPF
District Manager,
Quesnel Forest District



Cris Guppy
Forest Ecosystem Specialist
Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks