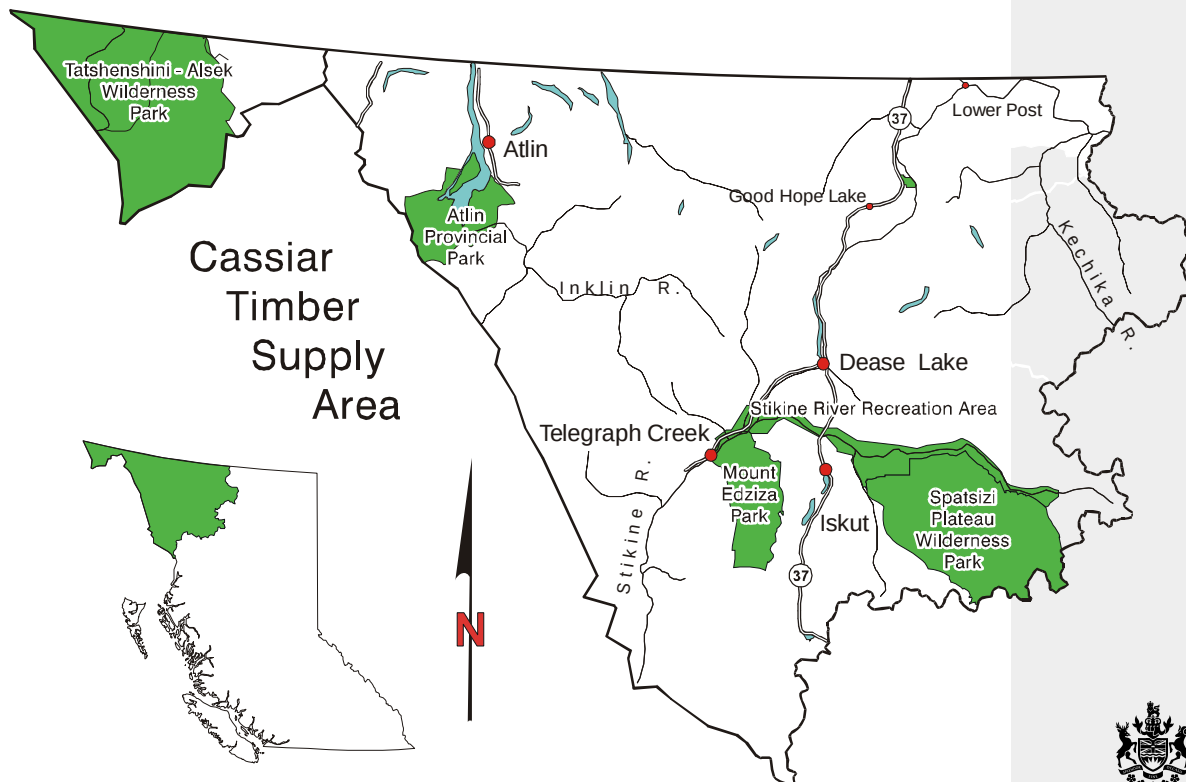


Cassiar Timber Supply Area

Information Report
November 1999



Introduction

The British Columbia Forest Service is required by law to formally review the timber supply* in all timber supply areas* and tree farm license areas* in the province. A review of each of the areas is completed at least once every five years. The main objectives of the reviews are:

- to identify the economic, environmental and social information that reflects the current forest management practices—including their effects on the short- and long-term timber supply
- to identify where improved information is required for future timber supply forecasts
- to provide the chief forester with information to make any necessary adjustments to the allowable annual cuts* for the next five years

** Throughout this document, an asterisk at the end of a phrase or word indicates that a definition can be found in the margin.*

Objective of this document

The objective of this document is to provide an opportunity for the public to review the draft data and management assumptions that will be applied in the timber supply analysis for the Cassiar timber supply area. This document represents the early stages of the timber supply review process and is intended to provide a non-technical overview of the draft data and management assumptions that will be used in the upcoming *Cassiar Timber Supply Area Analysis Report*.

The *Cassiar Timber Supply Area Analysis Report* will be one of the documents that the chief forester will consider in making the allowable annual cut determination under Section 8 of the *Forest Act*. Public input is encouraged in order to ensure the best information is used in determining allowable annual cuts.

This report contains a general description of the data assumptions and current forest management practices related to timber supply for the Cassiar timber supply area. For the purpose of this timber supply review, management requirements applicable in the Cassiar timber supply area are accounted for in the timber supply analysis. Future forest management objectives that may be established but are not currently implemented and enforced are excluded.

The draft data and management assumptions are summarized on pages seven through ten. For a more detailed description of the information or a copy of the data package, please contact the Bulkley/Cassiar Forest District office in Smithers, the Field office in Dease Lake, or the Prince Rupert Forest Region office also located in Smithers. The public will have an opportunity to review and comment on the information report and data package. A response form at the end of this document is provided for written comments which will be accepted until December 31, 1999.

Timber Supply Review process

In British Columbia, a process of determining allowable annual cuts* has been in place since the late 1940s. However, the process has changed significantly since then. More recently, the process has undergone some minor revisions designed to improve efficiency and encourage earlier public review including the release of this report.

Figure 1 (next page) illustrates the five-step process that has been developed for the Timber Supply Review for timber supply areas. The diagram indicates the current status of the Timber Supply Review for the Cassiar timber supply area, and the estimated time required for each step.

Timber Supply Review

in the Cassiar TSA

Timber supply

A harvest level that is forecasted to be available over time, under a particular management regime.

Timber supply area

An integrated resource management unit established in accordance with Section 7 of the *Forest Act*.

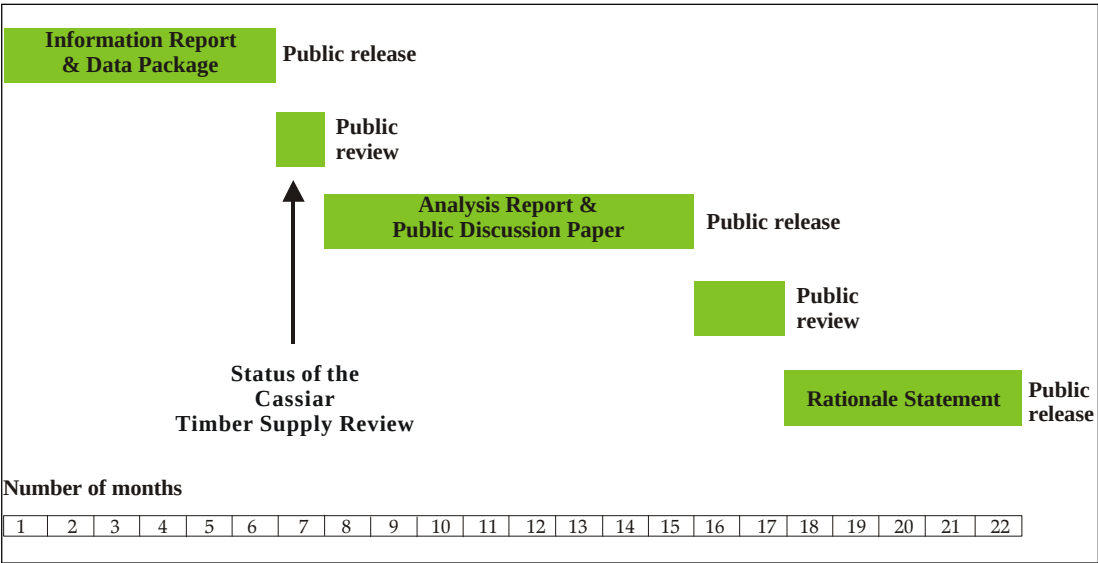
Tree farm licence (TFL)

Provides rights to harvest timber, and outlines responsibilities for forest management, in a particular area.

Allowable annual cut (AAC)

The rate of timber harvest permitted each year from a specified area of land, usually expressed as cubic metres of wood per year.

Figure 1.
Review process for
the Cassiar timber
supply area.



The process for reviewing the timber supply and establishing the allowable annual cut for tree farm license areas is based on similar principles; however, the process takes 30 months from start to completion.

The chief forester's responsibility

Determining the allowable annual cuts for Crown forest lands in British Columbia is the responsibility of the province's chief forester. It is one of the chief forester's most important responsibilities since it affects the local and provincial economies and environment—now and in the future. Section 8 of the *Forest Act* requires the chief forester to consider the following factors to determine allowable annual cuts for timber supply areas and tree farm license areas:

- a) the rate of timber production that may be sustained from the area, taking into account:
 - the composition of the forest and its expected rate of growth
 - the time in which the forest will become re-established
 - silvicultural treatments, including reforestation
 - standards of timber utilization
 - constraints on the amount of timber produced from the area due to use of the forest for purposes other than

timber production

- any other information which relates to the capability of the area to produce timber
- b) the short- and long-term implications to the province of alternative rates of timber harvesting from the area
 - c) the nature, production capabilities and timber requirements of established and proposed processing facilities
 - d) the economic and social objectives of the Crown for the area, the region and the province, as expressed by the minister of forests
 - e) abnormal insect or disease infestations and major salvage programs planned for the timber on the area.

Some of these factors can be measured and analyzed—others cannot. Ultimately, the chief forester's determination is an independent, professional judgment based on the best available information. Information that is relevant to the factors listed above is provided to the chief forester by government agencies, the minister of forests and the public.

One of the objectives of the Timber Supply Review is to incorporate changes arising from new information, new practices and new government initiatives that may have an impact on timber supply. In the event of significant change, the allowable annual cut may be reviewed in less than the required five years.

Following the release of the allowable annual cut determination by the chief forester, the minister of forests apportions the cut to the various licenses and programs.

Principles of the Timber Supply Review

In determining allowable annual cuts—in addition to the requirements outlined in Section 8 of the *Forest Act*—the following principles have been developed.

The Timber Supply Review:

- is a decision-making process for establishing the allowable annual cut for timber supply areas and tree farm license areas by the chief forester on a maximum five-year cycle, as required under Section 8 of the *Forest Act*; **it is not a process for making land-use or management decisions**
- incorporates the best information available including all relevant current practices, and identifies where new information is needed
- reflects the results of implemented plans and land-use decisions, and provides a benchmark for future planning processes
- involves other agencies, affected groups, and the public.

Cassiar Iskut-Stikine Land and Resource Management Plan

The Cassiar Iskut-Stikine Land and Resource Management Plan was initiated in spring 1997. The plan area covers approximately 5 million hectares in the Cassiar timber supply area with the boundary corresponding roughly to the watershed of the Stikine River. This includes the Iskut, Tahltan, Spatsizi, Klappan and Tuya rivers, and part of the Unuk watershed.

The planning process provides an opportunity for the public, interest groups

and government to make recommendations regarding proposed protected areas and future management of public forest lands in the planning area. The planning table has also been negotiating candidate protected areas, with interim agreement reached on several of the protected areas. Negotiations will continue on the remaining protected areas, with resolution expected early in 2000.

Once the plan is completed, approved by government, and implemented it will be reflected in future timber supply reviews.

Description of the timber supply area

The Cassiar timber supply area is situated in the northwest corner of the province in the Prince Rupert Forest Region. The timber supply area is the largest in British Columbia at over 13.4 million hectares and covers approximately one-sixth of the province. The timber supply area is bounded to the west by Alaska, to the north by the Yukon Territory, to the east by the Fort Nelson and Mackenzie timber supply areas, and to the south by the Prince George and Nass timber supply areas, and a very small portion of the North Coast timber supply area. It is administered from the Bulkley/Cassiar Forest District office located in Smithers, with a field office located in Dease Lake.

The communities

The Cassiar timber supply area is the least populated timber supply area in the province. The communities located in the timber supply area are Dease Lake, Atlin, Iskut, Telegraph Creek, Good Hope Lake and Lower Post.

From 1991 to 1996, the population of the Cassiar TSA decreased significantly from 2,964 to 1,996, due largely to the closing of the Cassiar asbestos mine in early 1992, which employed a large part of the area's labour force.

**Biogeoclimatic
zones**

A large geographic area with broadly homogeneous climate and similar dominant tree species.

The economy

Limited economic opportunities exist in the timber supply area due to the lack of transportation networks and hydro-electrical power, distance to markets, inclement climate and a small and scattered population. Highway 37 traverses the central and eastern portions of the timber supply area, with secondary roads providing access outside of the immediate travel corridor. Air transport is an alternate means of travel for people, products and supplies.

Mining is the predominant industrial activity in much of the timber supply area and is a major component of the local economy. The area contains numerous known mineral deposits with potential for more discoveries, although development is limited due to the isolation and remoteness. Previous forestry employment was supported by harvesting and silviculture activities.

The TSA is one of the finest big-game trophy hunting areas in North America with the majority of tourist revenues coming from guiding and hunting, and camp accommodation services. Recreation activities include canoeing, rafting, fishing, and nature viewing. Several provincial wilderness parks—Atlin Park, Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness Park, Mount Edziza Park and Tatshenshini-Alsek Park—complement existing tourism activities and draw international recognition to the area's wilderness values.

First Nations

First Nations people comprise approximately 55 to 65 per cent of the timber supply area population. The bands which have traditional territory within the Cassiar timber supply area are the Tahltan Indian Band, Dease River Band Council of British Columbia, Kwadacha Band (formerly Fort Ware Indian Band), Lower Post First Nation, Taku River Tlingit First Nation, and Champagne-Aishihik First Nations. Most bands are participating in provincial treaty negotiations.

The forest land resources

Numerous natural resources are associated with the forest land base, many of which are undeveloped and located in inaccessible areas of the timber supply area. Minerals, recreation, tourism, and wildlife habitat highlight the wide range of resources and values found in the Cassiar timber supply area. The topography of the area is characterized by a series of rugged mountains and plateaus separated by wide valleys and lowlands. Approximately 70 per cent of the area is tundra, rock and alpine, while 27 per cent of the area is forested.

Parks, recreation sites and trails, and roaded and non-roaded areas provide opportunities for numerous outdoor activities. The range of recreational activities include hunting, trapping, and fishing which have also been traditional activities of the First Nations for many years and have cultural significance.

The environment

There are eight forested biogeoclimatic zones* in the Cassiar timber supply area. The vast pristine wilderness and unique nature of the area contribute to high biodiversity values.

The dominant tree species are lodgepole pine, white and black spruce, western hemlock and subalpine fir. Lodgepole pine forests are located mostly in the northern portion of the timber supply area. As a result of the high frequency of wild fires, lodgepole pine forests tend to be less than 100 years old. Hemlock, spruce and subalpine fir forests dominate the southern portion, with the majority of the trees greater than 150 years old.

The diverse forests host a range of wildlife species, of which some are considered to be potentially threatened by human activities or natural events. These include bull trout, trumpeter swan, fisher, grizzly bear, and mountain goat. Other species of regional significance found throughout the valleys at lower elevations are moose, Thinhorn sheep (Dall and Stone), black bear, wolverine, lynx and

wolf. Small mammals include collared pika, Arctic ground squirrel, tundra vole and the brown lemming. Bird species unique to the area include Pacific loon, gyrfalcon, lesser golden-plover, wandering tattler, Hudsonian godwit, red-necked phalarope, Arctic tern, northern shrike, Smith's longspur, snow bunting, and common redpoll.

Salmon are restricted to the Stikine, Taku and Tatshenshini watersheds. Freshwater fish include rainbow trout, Arctic grayling, Dolly Varden, lake trout and Whitefish and northern pike. White Sucker are found in the Liard River watershed.

History of the allowable annual cut

In October 1995, the chief forester set the allowable annual cut at 400,000 cubic metres, an increase from the previous level of 140,000 cubic metres per year. Of the 400,000 cubic metres, partitions were established by timber supply blocks, with the result that 240,000 cubic metres were specified to the Iskut/Boundary blocks, 120,000 cubic metres to the Dease-Liard block, and 40,000 cubic metres to the Atlin timber supply block.

As part of the 1995 determination, the chief forester gave direction to resolve uncertainties with respect to the timber supply in the Cassiar timber supply area. In preparation for the next allowable annual cut determination, the following issues were examined:

- **estimate of timber harvesting land base** - in the last determination, areas identified as available for harvesting by ground-based, cable or helicopter harvesting systems contributed to the timber harvesting land base. Concern was noted that not all of the area harvestable by cable or helicopter systems should contribute to the timber harvesting land base.

The district staff reviewed the areas by harvesting systems and confirmed that for this timber supply analysis, only those areas harvestable by ground-based systems will contribute to the timber harvesting land base.

- **estimates of projected volumes** - in the last determination it was noted that there was a discrepancy between the actual harvested volumes per hectare and the projected volumes per hectare.

Since the determination, Forest Service staff have completed an inventory audit. The audit indicated that projected volumes per hectare were acceptable for the Cassiar timber supply area as a whole, but less accurate for the Dease Liard and Atlin timber supply blocks. The results of the audit will be examined in a critical issue analysis to evaluate the potential effects of uncertainties in stand volumes.

- **site productivity** - in the last determination, there was concern that the estimates of site productivity were overestimated on the immature poor and medium sites for spruce, subalpine fir and hemlock.

Provincial forest service staff and regional inventory and research staff have developed an alternative approach using an ecosystem-based process for estimating site indices that more closely reflect site productivity. The potential timber supply implications of this alternative approach to site index assignments will be assessed in a critical issue analysis.

- **operability** - operability mapping was identified as requiring further study before the next timber supply analysis.

In preparation for the timber supply analysis, forest service staff mapped operable corridors based on economic information, timber characteristics (age, species, height), and physical accessibility. Only those areas identified in the operable corridors will contribute to the timber harvesting land base.

Timber Supply Review

in the Cassiar TSA

Integrated resource management

The identification and consideration of all resource values, including social, economic and environmental needs, in resource planning and decision-making.

Forest Practices Code

Legislation, standards and guidebooks that govern forest practices and standards, with heavy penalties for violators.

- **unsalvaged losses** - in the previous allowable annual cut determination, the chief forester requested a review of the unsalvaged losses due to forest pests, disease, blowdown and fire.

Since then, studies assessing balsam bark beetle losses in balsam-leading stands have been completed. The results of these studies will be applied to the estimated volume of balsam-leading stands. Those stands damaged by the balsam bark beetle are assumed to be unsalvageable and will not contribute to timber supply. Losses to other forest pests and disease are concentrated in isolated inoperable patches, or are already removed from the timber harvesting land base.

Also, district staff tracked areas impacted by forest fires occurring over the past several years. To determine an average area and the total volume lost to fire each year, the size of each fire was tallied and the mature volume burned was averaged over a 19-year time frame. These estimated losses due to fire will be deducted from the timber supply.

Note: For more information on these points, please refer to the Cassiar Timber Supply Area Rationale for Allowable Annual Cut Determination, October 1995.

Current Timber Supply Review

Public forest lands in British Columbia provide recreational enjoyment, fish and wildlife habitats, water supplies, timber resources and many other benefits. The Ministry of Forests manages the timber, range and recreation resources on public lands, while the Ministry of Environment, Lands, and Parks is responsible for the management of fish, wildlife, water resources and parks. Both agencies subscribe to the principle of integrated resource management*, whereby all resources are considered when making forest management decisions.

The Forest Practices Code* is now law and has been implemented in the timber supply area since June 15, 1997. The new practices may influence both the short- and long-term timber supply.

The data and management assumptions that will be used in the timber supply analysis will be based on the existing land-use designations and current management requirements applicable in the Cassiar timber supply area. Uncertainties about some of the data regarding inventories and management practices, and their potential effects on timber supply will be examined through sensitivity and critical issue analyses. The chief forester will also consider any new information at the time of the allowable annual cut determination.

Draft data and management assumptions for public review

The public is encouraged to review the data and management assumptions for completeness and accuracy. In determining an allowable annual cut, the chief forester will be considering these assumptions as required by Section 8 of the *Forest Act*. The following general outline contains a brief description of the more pertinent information that will be used in the timber supply analysis and subsequently, in the chief forester's allowable annual cut determination for the Cassiar timber supply area. More detailed information can be found in *Appendix A: Data Package*. This appendix is available upon request from the Forest Service offices listed at the end of this report.

Land base factors

- **environmentally sensitive areas*** - for the Cassiar timber supply area, environmentally sensitive classifications include sensitive soils, potential regeneration problems,

wildlife habitats, recreation values, and areas of high avalanche risk.

Areas identified as having very sensitive soils, high to moderate avalanche risk, or very sensitive recreation values will be deducted fully from the timber harvesting land base. Areas with high regeneration problems will have their contributions to the timber harvesting land base reduced by 80 per cent, and areas with moderate regeneration problems and sensitive soils will be reduced by 25 per cent.

- **forest roads** - for the purposes of the timber supply analysis an estimate was made of the productive forest land occupied by roads, trails and landings. To account for existing roads, trails, and landings, 6.9 per cent of the productive forest 15 years and younger will not contribute to the timber harvesting land base. To account for future road building, 6.9 per cent of the forest currently older than 15 years will be deducted from the timber harvesting land base after the first projected harvest.
- **low productivity sites** - forest types that are not considered fully available for harvesting due to characteristics such as low timber volumes or low growth productivity will not contribute to the timber harvesting land base.

Inventory factors

- **forest inventory** - the forest inventory has been updated to 1993 to take into account harvesting, silviculture activities and major wildfires. The inventory data for tree ages and heights will be projected to 1999.

In the Cassiar timber supply area the major commercial tree species are lodgepole pine, white spruce, and subalpine fir. Common broadleaf deciduous species include paper birch, balsam poplar and trembling aspen.

- **minimum harvestable ages** - for the purposes of the timber supply analysis, the minimum harvestable age is defined as the earliest age at which a forest stand is estimated to reach a merchantable condition. For the timber supply analysis, the ages are based on achieving a minimum height of 19.5 metres and a minimum stand volume of 220 cubic metres per hectare for forests in the coastal/transitional area, or 150 cubic metres per hectare for stands in the interior.

Forest re-establishment factors

- **basic silviculture** - British Columbia laws require that areas harvested and expected to produce timber in the future must be reforested with ecologically acceptable species within a specified time frame. The most common silvicultural practice is to harvest; then if necessary, prepare the site for reforestation; reforest by planting a mix of species or by relying on natural regeneration; and finally if necessary, control competing vegetation.

In the Cassiar timber supply area, reforestation is achieved predominantly by planting acceptable coniferous species. In the timber supply analysis, it is assumed that harvested areas will mostly be reforested by planting within two years following harvesting.

Timber utilization factors

- **timber utilization** - volume estimates will be based on the utilization of trees which meet or exceed the following standards: a minimum 10-centimetre top diameter (inside bark) and a minimum diameter of 12.5 centimetres at 1.3 metres above the ground for lodgepole pine stands. For all other species a minimum diameter of 17.5 centimetres at 1.3 metres above ground is used. All species must be utilized to a maximum 30-centimetre high stump.

Timber Supply Review

in the Cassiar TSA

Environmentally sensitive areas

Areas identified as requiring special management to protect important recreation and scenic values, fisheries resources, sensitive soils and unstable slopes.

Timber Supply Review

in the Cassiar TSA

Cutblock

A specific area, with defined boundaries, authorized for harvest.

Green-up

The time needed after harvesting for a stand of trees to reach a desired condition (usually a specific height) — to ensure maintenance of water quality, wildlife habitat, soil stability or aesthetics — before harvesting is permitted in adjacent areas.

Riparian habitat

The stream bank and flood plain area adjacent to streams or water bodies.

Infestations, devastations, and salvage of timber

Each year, natural agents such as forest pests, fire, and wind damage portions of the forests in the Cassiar timber supply area. It is anticipated that none of the damaged timber will be salvaged due to road access and economic limitations, or other environmental considerations. The annual unsalvaged volume for the Cassiar timber supply area will be a combination of annual volume lost to balsam bark beetle and a 19 year average of annual volume lost to wildfire.

Factors to be considered for purposes other than timber production

Forest management guidelines used to manage forest resources for biodiversity, scenic values, wildlife habitat and water quality will be included in the timber supply analysis through the use of forest cover requirements, and volume and land base reductions.

- **general forest cover requirements** - under current forest management practices, cutblocks* must achieve green-up* before adjacent areas are permitted to be harvested. Green-up is described as a maximum allowable disturbance (per cent area) and minimum tree height (metres). To account for forest cover adjacency requirements in the integrated resource management areas, a maximum of 33 per cent of the timber harvesting land base will be allowed to have trees less than three metres tall at any time.
- **riparian habitat*** - to meet the requirements of the Forest Practices Code, a portion of the forest land base will be considered unavailable for timber harvesting to account for riparian habitat areas along streamsides, and around lakes and wetlands.
- **community watershed** - the forest management guidelines for the community watershed at Telegraph Creek will be accounted for in the

timber supply analysis by limiting the rate of harvest, so that no more than five per cent of the forested area is less than five years of age at any time.

- **visually sensitive area** - these are areas where the maintenance of scenic landscapes is a priority for recreation and tourism management. To account for protection of visually sensitive areas, a 500-metre buffer along each side of Highway 37 will not contribute to the timber harvesting land base.
- **wildlife habitat areas** - a number of areas have been identified as important for wildlife habitat in the timber supply area. High-value caribou habitat will be accounted for in the timber supply analysis by forest cover requirements which specify that a maximum of 25 per cent of the area may be in stands less than three metres tall, and a minimum must be in stands at least 140 years old. Requirements for moose habitat will vary depending on the area. In some areas, a maximum allowable disturbance of 33 per cent and a minimum green-up height of three metres will be applied. In the interior cedar-hemlock area, a maximum of 25 per cent may be less than three metres tall, while at least 30 per cent must be at least 250 years old. Guidelines for grizzly bear and goat habitat will limit allowable area less than a minimum green-up height of three metres to between 20 and 25 per cent, and require at least 30 per cent of the area to be in stands at least 250 years old.
- **biological diversity** - or biodiversity, is the full range of living organisms, in all their forms and levels of organization, and includes the diversity of genes, species and ecosystems, and the evolutionary and functional processes that link them. The Forest Practices Code requires that biodiversity be considered at both the stand and landscape level.

For stand level biodiversity, leaving coarse woody debris* and wildlife trees* patches is the current practice in

the Cassiar timber supply area. Generally, coarse woody debris objectives can be met by the contributions of non-merchantable timber left on the ground following harvesting. The current practice for leaving wildlife tree patches requires that a percentage of each cutblock be retained. This requirement is partially met by riparian habitat areas and other area outside of the timber harvesting land base.

Landscape-level biodiversity will be addressed in the timber supply analysis by using higher wildlife tree patch requirements. Since the timber harvesting land base is relatively small in comparison to the total forested area, it is believed that landscape-level biodiversity can be achieved within the area not contributing to the timber harvesting land base.

Implications of alternative rates of harvesting

- **alternative rates of harvesting** - there are many alternative harvest forecasts that can be produced for a given set of forest conditions and management assumptions. Each alternative usually represents a trade-off between the harvest level in the short term and the subsequent transition to the long-term harvest level. For the projected base case forecast*, the initial harvest forecast will focus on achieving the current rate of harvest in the short term without compromising the long-term harvest level. The implications of alternative short-term rates of harvest will be tested in sensitivity analyses.
- **implications related to community dependence** - the impact of timber supply adjustments on local communities and the provincial economy is an important consideration in the timber supply review. If harvesting of the full allowable annual cut were to occur—based on the *1994 Cassiar Timber Supply Area Socio-Economic Analysis*—direct employment

from harvesting, silviculture and processing could employ up to 310 people per year.

The socio-economic section of the upcoming timber supply analysis report will review the role of the forest sector in the Cassiar timber supply area. To provide this update, current information on employment and fiber flows will be gathered from licensees, the Forest Service and other stakeholders. The Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations will also provide indirect and other related employment at both the local and provincial levels.

To examine the implications of alternative rates of harvest, employment coefficients, reported in person-years per 1,000 cubic metres, will be developed and used to estimate changes to employment levels now and in the future from any potential harvest level changes.

Timber processing facilities

The socio-economic analysis will examine the implications of potential changes of timber supply for the area's contractors, as there are no major processing facilities within the Cassiar timber supply area. Given that the wood continues to be processed outside the timber supply area, any change in harvest level would have a limited effect in terms of employment and income for local communities.

Economic and social objectives of the Crown

In a letter and a memo to the chief forester, the minister of forests has expressed the Crown's economic and social objectives for the province. The harvest flow objectives to be used in the timber supply analysis (see previous section, "*Alternative rates of harvesting*") are consistent with the minister's stated objectives.

In addition, economic and social objectives for the area and the general region are derived from public input.

Timber Supply Review

in the Cassiar TSA

Coarse woody debris

Logs and stumps that provide habitat for plants, animals and insects, and a source of nutrients for soil development.

Wildlife tree

A standing live or dead tree with special characteristics that provide valuable habitat for conservation or enhancement of wildlife.

Base case forecast

The timber supply forecast which illustrates the effect of current forest management practices on the timber supply using the best available information, and which forms the reference point for sensitivity analysis.

Your input is needed

Establishing the allowable annual cut is an important decision that requires well-informed and thoughtful public input. Feedback is welcomed on any aspect of this *Information Report, the Data Package Appendix* and other topics related to the timber supply in the Cassiar timber supply area. The response form at the end of this document will assist you in preparing your comments. As well, Forest Service staff would be pleased to discuss questions or concerns that may help you prepare your response.

Please mail the completed response form and your comments to the regional manager or the forest district manager at one of the addresses listed below. Your comments will be accepted until December 31, 1999.

After receiving public input, the Forest Service will finalize the data and management assumptions that will be applied in the timber supply analysis. The timber supply analysis will be complete and available for public review in spring 2000. You may also wish to participate in the second public review period, which will follow the release of the *Cassiar Timber Supply Area Analysis Report*.

Following the second public review period, the chief forester will examine all the information available in order to review the timber supply for the Cassiar timber supply area. The chief forester will then establish the allowable annual cut based on his consideration of the factors as required under Section 8 of the *Forest Act*.

You may identify yourself on your response if you wish. If you do, you are reminded that responses will be subject to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and may be made public. If copies of the responses are requested, personal identifiers will be removed before the responses are released.

For more information contact:

District Manager
B.C. Forest Service
Bulkley/Cassiar Forest District
Bag 6000, 3333 Tatlow Road,
Smithers, B.C. V0J 2N0

Phone: (250) 847-6300
Fax: (250) 847-6353

Dease Lake Field Office
B.C. Forest Service
Bulkley/Cassiar Forest District
Bag 2000,
Stikine & Commercial Streets,
Dease Lake, B.C. V0C 1L0

Phone: (250) 771-8100

Regional Manager
B.C. Forest Service
Prince Rupert Forest Region
Bag 5000,
3726 Alfred Avenue,
Smithers, B.C. V0J 2N0

Phone: (250) 847-7500

or electronically to:

Fred.Oliemans@gems7.gov.bc.ca

Information Report Response Form

- the rate of timber production that can be sustained from the area;
- the short- and long-term implications to the province of alternative rates of timber harvesting from the area;
- the nature, production capabilities and timber requirements of established and proposed timber processing facilities;
- the economic and social objectives of the Crown for the area, the general region, and the province, as expressed by the minister of forests, and;
- abnormal insect or disease infestations and major salvage programs planned for the area.

A. Economic and social objectives

Please use the space below to provide your comments regarding the economic and social information contained in this report or other information that you believe should be considered in completing the social and economic analysis for the Cassiar timber supply area.

[illegible]

Please use the space below to provide your comments regarding the draft data and management assumptions contained in this report or other information that you believe should be considered in the timber supply analysis for the Cassiar timber supply area.

[illegible]

Address (optional):_____

District Manager
B.C. Forest Service
Bulkley/Cassiar Forest District
Bag 6000, 3333 Tatlow Road,
Smithers, B.C. V0J 2N0

Fax: (250) 847-6353

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APPENDIX A

Data Package

Description of Data Inputs and Management Assumptions

This appendix is available upon request from the
Ministry of Forests.

Offices are located at:

Bulkley/Cassiar Forest District
3333 Tatlow Road,
Smithers, B.C. V0J 2N0
Phone: (250) 847-6300

Dease Lake Field Office
Stikine & Commercial Streets,
Dease Lake, B.C. V0C 1L0
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Timber Supply Branch
3rd Floor - 595 Pandora Avenue
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9C3
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