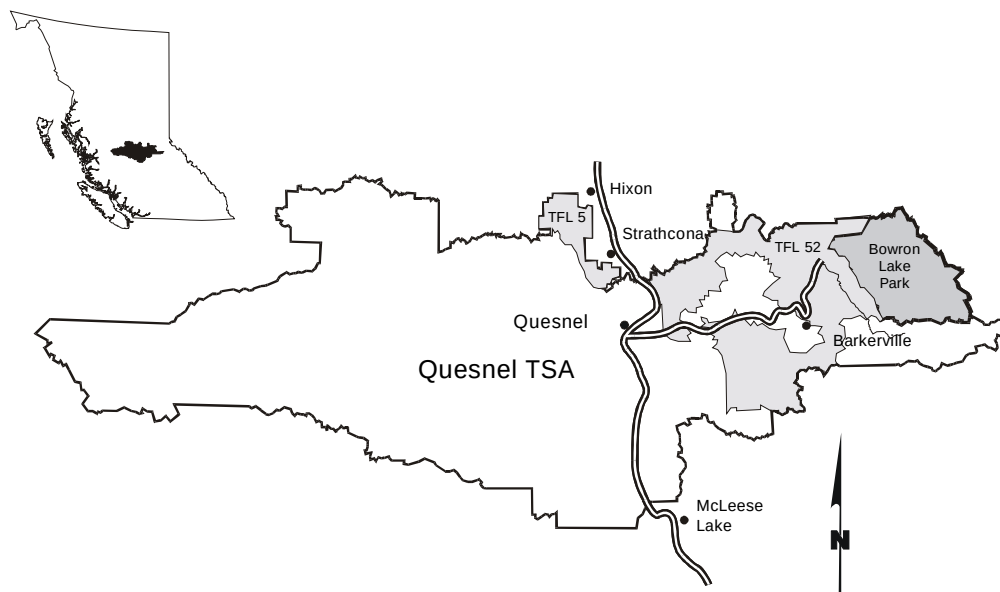


Quesnel Timber Supply Area

Information Report
June 1999



**BRITISH
COLUMBIA**

Ministry of Forests

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 reviewing the timber supply for the Quesnel 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 *Quesnel Timber Supply Area Analysis Report*.

The *Quesnel 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 Quesnel timber supply area. For the purpose of this timber supply review, current practice can be defined as the set of land-use decisions and forest management practices that are implemented and enforced.

The draft data and management assumptions are summarized on pages six through ten. For a more detailed description of the information or a copy of the data package, please contact the Cariboo Forest Region office in Williams Lake, or the Quesnel Forest District office located in Quesnel. The public will have 30 days to review and comment on the information report and data package. A response form at the end of this document will assist you in providing your comments. Written comments will be accepted until July 30, 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 had some minor revisions designed to improve efficiency and encourage earlier public review through 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 Quesnel timber supply area, and the estimated time required for each step.

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.

Timber Supply Review

in the Quesnel 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*.

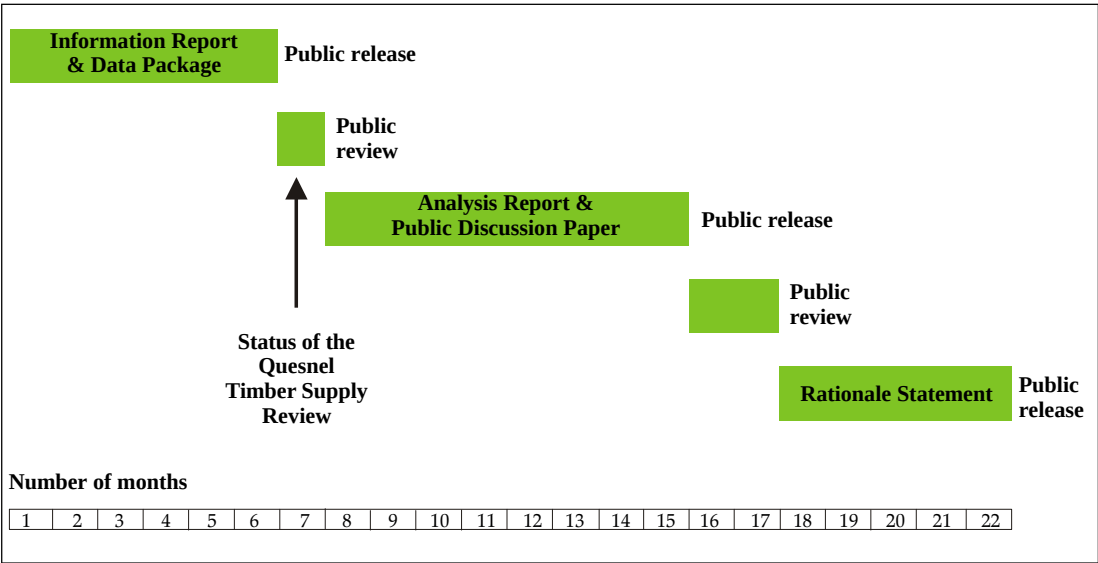
Tree farm licence (TFL)

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 Quesnel timber
supply area.



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.

Cariboo-Chilcotin Land-Use Plan

The Cariboo-Chilcotin Land-Use Plan was approved by government in October 1994 and subsequently declared a higher-level plan under the *Forest Practices Code of BC Act**. Working with government, the regional resource board has endorsed the *Cariboo-Chilcotin Land-Use Plan 90-Day Implementation Report* released March 3, 1995. In the Quesnel timber supply area, four new protected areas* were established with the approval of the Cariboo-Chilcotin Land-Use Plan. The timber supply review will reflect land-use planning decisions regarding those practices which are implemented.

Description of the timber supply area

The Quesnel timber supply area is situated in the central portion of the Fraser Basin and Interior Plateau. West of the Fraser River and continuing to the Coast Mountains, the area is flat with gently rolling plateaus and is bisected by the Blackwater River system. East of the Fraser River the Quesnel Highlands gradually rises in elevation to meet the Cariboo Mountains. In total, the timber supply area covers 1.6 million hectares, of which approximately 80 per cent is productive Crown forest. This timber supply area is administered by the Quesnel Forest District, located in Quesnel.

The communities

The major population centre in the timber supply area is the City of Quesnel. Other communities include Wells and Barkerville in the east, and Nazko and Bouchie Lake in the west.

According to the 1996 Census, the population of the timber supply area was 24,993. The City of Quesnel and adjacent communities of Red Bluff, Barlow Creek and Bouchie Lake form the largest populated area with 8,468 people. By the year 2001, the population is expected to grow to 27,075, an increase of eight per cent.

The economy

The economy of the Quesnel timber supply area is not well diversified. Figure 2 illustrates total employment by industry sector for the timber supply area, where forestry accounts for more than 40 per cent of the timber supply area's total employment. Other major sectors in the area are the public sector, tourism, agriculture and mining. In 1998, revenues from cattle sales and hay production exceeded five million dollars.

Timber Supply Review

in the Quesnel TSA

Forest Practices Code of BC Act

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

Protected Area

A designation for areas of land and water set aside to protect natural heritage, cultural heritage or recreational values (may include national park, provincial park, or ecological reserve designations).

Forestry employment is supported by harvesting, silviculture activity, and the processing of wood at the major sawmills. These include six major sawmills, two panel mills, two pulp mills and a number of small independent sawmills. In addition, several value-added manufacturing plants are operated, either by the major mills as joint ventures with First Nations companies, or as independent companies.

The forestry sector supports other jobs in the region through companies and employees purchasing goods and services from local businesses. This spending is another indicator of the role of forestry in the economy. For every 100 direct forestry jobs in the Quesnel timber supply area, another 22 to 84 indirect and induced jobs are supported, depending on the type of forest activity (logging or manufacturing) and the associated level of income. In comparison, every 100 jobs in the public sector or tourism industry supports another 6 to 25 positions.

First Nations

The Kluskus Band, the Lhtako-Dene First Nation (Red Bluff Band), Alexandria Band, and the Nazko Band have traditional

territories within the timber supply area. There are also ten other First Nations communities located outside the timber supply area that share traditional interest within the timber supply area.

The forest land resources

Numerous natural resources are associated with the forest land base. Forest products, recreation and tourism, ranching, and wildlife habitat highlight the wide range of resources and values found in the Quesnel timber supply area. West of the Fraser River, the dry climate yields predominately lodgepole pine forests. East of the Fraser River, where rain and snow accumulates in higher amounts, the forests include spruce and balsam.

Rangeland areas provide forage vegetation for both livestock and wildlife. There are two types of rangelands, permanent rangeland where substantial amount of forage can be found in the same area over time, and transitory rangeland, where forage is temporarily available a few years following harvesting or fire.

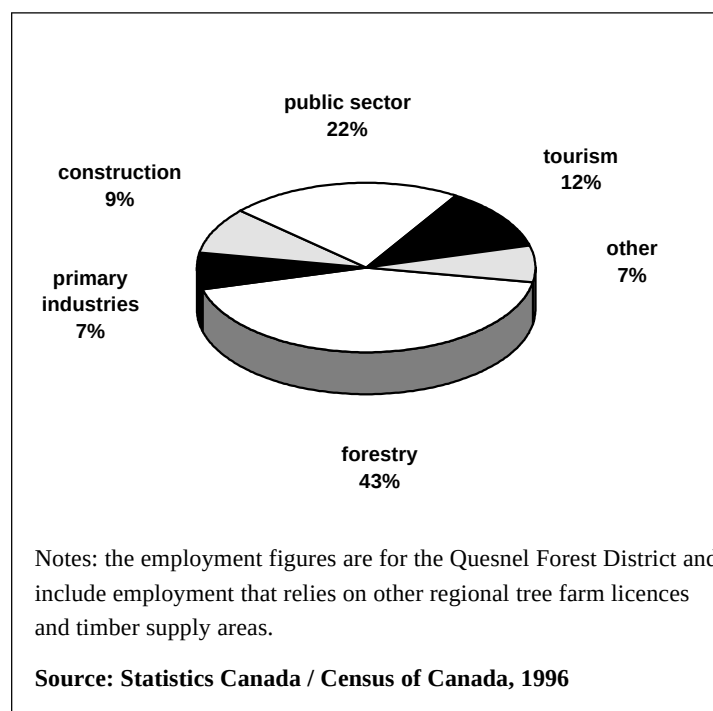
Parks, recreation sites and trails, and roaded and non-roaded areas provide opportunities for numerous outdoor

activities. There are two large provincial parks (Tweedsmuir Park and Bowron Lake Park), several smaller parks, as well as 32 Ministry of Forests recreation sites and 21 recreation trails in the area. There are a range of recreational activities such as hiking, canoeing, camping, guided horse tours, fishing, snowmobiling, dog-sledding, and downhill and cross-country skiing.

The environment

There are seven forested biogeoclimatic zones* in the Quesnel timber supply area.

Figure 2.
Major employment by
sector for the Quesnel
timber supply area,
1996.



The distinct ecological features contribute to high biodiversity values. The western portion of the timber supply area is characterized by higher elevation lodgepole pine and sub-boreal spruce stands. In areas exposed to frequent wildfires, the resulting lodgepole pine forests are generally young, of the same age, and are spaced closely together. Where dominant old forests exist, white spruce, Englemann spruce and subalpine fir are the main species. Minor components of Douglas-fir, black spruce, trembling aspen and black cottonwood can also be found.

The eastern portion of the timber supply area is characterized by forests ranging from lodgepole pine and sub-boreal spruce near the Fraser River, to Englemann spruce and subalpine fir in the Cariboo Mountains. The high elevation areas of the Cariboo Mountains are blanketed with alpine shrubs, herbs and lichens.

The diverse forests host a range of wildlife species, of which some are considered to be endangered or threatened. Examples in the Quesnel timber supply area include the American white pelican and northern goshawk. Species considered to be potentially threatened by human activities or natural events include bull trout, sandhill crane, grizzly bear, and fisher. The Blackwater River has a unique, subspecies of rainbow trout.

History of the allowable annual cut

On November 9, 1995 the chief forester set the allowable annual cut at 2,340,000 cubic metres, a decrease of 10,000 cubic metres from the previous determination.

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

- **problem forest types** - the previous determination noted uncertainty around the extent and location of problem forest types which are characterized by sparse stocking and small trees. For the Quesnel timber supply area, problem forest types are defined as lodgepole pine stands with fewer than 76 trees per hectare, half of the area has trees smaller than 7.5 centimetres diameter at 1.3 metres above the ground, and individual tree volumes are between 0.1 and 0.2 cubic metres.

A 1997 study was completed on the problem forest types west of the Fraser River. The result of the study provided a refinement of the problem forest type definition. The new information was captured during a recent re-inventory and resulted in the reclassification of many of the existing timber stands. The updated information results in a decrease in the amount of problem forest type area from 396,000 hectares as reported in the 1994 timber supply analysis, to 281,500 hectares. This updated information will be reflected in the upcoming timber supply analysis.

- **deciduous trees** - in the previous allowable annual cut determination, the chief forester requested a review of the availability of deciduous timber and the amount of volume from deciduous trees within coniferous leading stands.

In 1997, a partial re-inventory of the timber supply area resulted in the update of the deciduous tree information. To reflect current practices, the updated deciduous volume information will be included in the timber supply analysis.

- **not-satisfactorily-restocked areas** - during the previous determination, the chief forester requested a more accurate accounting of areas classified as not-satisfactorily-restocked.

Since then, Forest Service district staff have determined that the amount of not-satisfactorily-restocked areas is approximately 23,000 hectares, a decrease from 70,000 hectares. The

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in the Quesnel TSA

Biogeoclimatic zones

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

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Sensitivity analysis

Examines how uncertainty in data and management assumptions affect timber supply.

Integrated resource management

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

timber supply analysis will include the updated information.

- **site productivity study** - in the last determination, the chief forester requested an assessment of the implications of recent province-wide research on site productivity as it relates to timber growth projections in the Quesnel timber supply area.

The provincial study provided site index adjustments for lodgepole pine and spruce that apply to the Quesnel timber supply area. The impacts of the recommended adjustments on timber supply will be examined through a sensitivity analysis*.

- **Kluskus Supply Block** - at the time of the last determination there were no harvesting operations within the Kluskus Supply Block. Fire salvage has been undertaken in the Kluskus Supply Block since the previous Timber Supply Review. Approved forest development plans contain areas within the Kluskus Supply Block, however, licencees are not proceeding with development at this time. The timber supply contribution in the area will be examined a sensitivity analysis.

Note: For more information on these points, please refer to the Quesnel Timber Supply Area Rationale for Allowable Annual Cut Determination, November 9, 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 resource management practices that are approved and implemented in the Quesnel timber supply area. Uncertainties about some of the data regarding current practices, and their potential effects on timber supply will be examined through sensitivity analyses. The chief forester will also consider any new information, or changes in practices, 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 Quesnel 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

- **operable area** - areas assessed for operability consider the economic, ecological and physical attributes. For the Quesnel Timber Supply Review, all

forested areas are considered operable and contribute to the timber harvesting land base.

- **environmentally sensitive areas*** - for the Quesnel timber supply area, environmental sensitivity areas include sensitive soils and high avalanche areas. Areas identified as having high sensitive soils or high avalanche areas will be reduced by 90 per cent, and areas with moderate sensitive soils will have contributions to the timber harvesting land base reduced by 50 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 current roads, trails, and landings, 2.5 per cent of the total forest is considered occupied and will not contribute to the timber harvesting land base. To account for future road access, an additional 0.83 per cent reduction will be applied to the timber harvesting land base.
- **cultural heritage resources** - an Archaeological Overview Assessment was completed in 1998. The assessment identifies areas where archaeological resources may potentially occur, as well as existing archaeological sites.

Known archaeological sites are recorded with Archaeological Branch of Ministry of Small Business, Tourism and Culture, and will be excluded from the timber harvesting land base*. As new information on archaeological sites are recorded, the areas will be excluded from the timber harvesting land base in future timber supply analyses.

Inventory factors

- **forest inventory** - the forest inventory has been updated to December 1996 to take into account the recent re-inventory, harvesting, silviculture activities, and newly awarded woodlot license areas.

In the Quesnel timber supply area lodgepole pine, spruce and Douglas-fir account for 98 per cent of the harvest volume and most of the forested land base. Hemlock and subalpine fir account for the remaining two per cent.

- **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 volume of 150 cubic metres per hectare.

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 Quesnel timber supply area, reforestation is achieved either by natural regeneration, or planting a mixture of acceptable coniferous species. In the timber supply analysis, it is assumed that planted areas will generally be reforested within two to four years after harvesting, and naturally regenerated areas will be reforested within seven years.

Timber utilization factors

- **timber utilization** - volume estimates will be based on the utilization of trees (with some exceptions as noted below) which meet or exceed the following standards: a minimum 10-centimetre top diameter (inside bark) and a minimum diameter of 17.5 centimetres at 1.3 metres above the ground. For lodgepole pine stands, a minimum diameter of

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Environmentally sensitive areas

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

Timber harvesting land base

Crown forest land within the timber supply area that is currently considered feasible and economical for timber harvesting.

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.

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Riparian habitat

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

Visual quality objective (VQO)

Defines a level of acceptable landscape alteration resulting from timber harvesting and other activities. A number of visual quality classes have been defined on the basis of the maximum amount of alteration permitted.

Biodiversity (biological diversity)

The diversity of plants, animals and other living organisms in all their forms and levels of organization, and includes the diversity of genes, species and ecosystems, as well as the evolutionary and functional processes that link them.

Coarse woody debris

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

12.5 centimetres at 1.3 metres above ground is used. All species must be utilized to a maximum 30-centimetre high stump.

For problem forest types, the utilization standard is a minimum 5- to 7-centimetre top diameter (inside the bark), and a minimum diameter of 7.5 centimetres at 1.3 metres above the ground for lodgepole pine, and 12.5 centimetres for other species. The maximum stump height for all problem forest types is 20 centimetres.

Infestations, devastations, and salvage of timber

Each year, portions of the forests in the Quesnel timber supply area are damaged by natural agents such as fire, wind, diseases, insects and landslides. It is anticipated that some of the damaged timber will not be salvaged due to road access and economic limitations, or other environmental considerations. The annual unsalvaged volume for the Quesnel timber supply area is estimated to be 24,600 cubic metres.

Factors to be considered for purposes other than timber production

Forest management guidelines used to manage forest resources such as 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. To account for this in the timber supply analysis in multiple resource use areas, a maximum of 35 per cent of the timber harvesting land base will be allowed to have trees less than three metres tall at any time.
- **wildlife habitat areas** - high-value mule deer winter range and caribou

deferral areas established by the Cariboo-Chilcotin Land-Use Plan will contribute to the timber supply on a limited basis.

For mule deer winter range, 20 to 50 per cent of Douglas-fir stands will contribute to the timber supply with a minimum of 30 to 50 years between harvesting.

Caribou deferral areas will have 65 per cent of the area considered as a no harvest area. Areas with terrestrial lichen are managed on a 140-year cycle with 50 per cent retention, and areas with arboreal lichen will have a 240 year cycle with 33 per cent retention.

- **riparian habitat*** - to meet the requirements of the Forest Practices Code, a portion of the timber harvesting land base will be considered unavailable for timber harvesting to account for riparian habitat areas along streamsides, or around lakes and wetlands.
- **visually sensitive areas** - these are areas where the maintenance of scenic landscapes is a priority for recreation and tourism management, particularly in areas that are adjacent to major travel corridors and waterways. Road construction and logging within these areas are planned and implemented to minimize visual impacts.

Visual quality objectives* have been established for scenic areas identified in the Quesnel timber supply area. In the analysis for visually sensitive areas 5 and 15 per cent of the forested areas can have trees that are less than three metres tall at any time before adjacent areas can be harvested.

- **wildfowl habitat** - Pantage Lake and the three lakes in the Kluskus area listed in the Cariboo-Chilcotin Land-Use Plan are identified as important American white pelican feeding lakes. Management around the lakes consists of a 200-metre buffer area which will be removed from the timber harvesting land base for the analysis.

- **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.

Leaving coarse woody debris* and wildlife trees* patches for stand-level biodiversity is the current practice in the Quesnel 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 is for about nine per cent of each cutblock to be retained. One per cent of the wildlife tree patch area in the cutblock will overlap with riparian reserves zones. Of the remaining eight per cent, four per cent is projected to come from the timber harvesting land base, and therefore does not contribute to timber supply.

Landscape-level biodiversity will be addressed in the timber supply analysis by applying seral stage* objectives to the draft landscape units* identified in the Cariboo Region Landscape Unit Planning Strategy. As part of the timber supply analysis, several sensitivity analyses will be used to examine the potential impacts on timber supply from varying the assumptions for biodiversity.

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 rate of decline to the long-

term harvest level. For the projected base case forecast*, the initial harvest forecast will be based on trying to achieve 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. The March 1995 *Quesnel Timber Supply Area Socio-Economic Analysis* reported that harvesting, silviculture and processing, provided direct employment in the Quesnel timber supply area of approximately 2000 person-years*.

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

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 timber processing facilities. In 1998, the primary timber processing facilities included six lumber mills, two pulp mills and two panel mills. The two pulp mills, Cariboo Pulp and Paper Company Limited, and Quesnel River Pulp Company have a capacity of producing 650,000 metric tonnes of pulp per year.

Timber Supply Review

in the Quesnel TSA

Wildlife tree

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

Seral stages

Sequential stages in the development of plant communities that successively occupy a site and replace each other over time.

Landscape unit

A planning area based on topographic or geographic features, that is appropriately sized (up to 100 000 hectares), and designed for application of landscape-level biodiversity objectives.

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.

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in the Quesnel TSA

Person-year(s)

One person working the equivalent of one full year, defined as at least 180 days of work. If someone works full-time for 90 days, he or she accounts for 0.5 person years.

The WestPine Medium Density Fibre plant opened in Quesnel in July 1996. The plant is designed to produce 100 million square feet of Western Softwood medium density fibre annually. Products from the WestPine plant include traditional sheet lumber, painted thinboard and laminated flooring substrate. There are also ten secondary wood processing plants operating in the Quesnel timber supply area.

The combined primary processing facilities use an estimated three million cubic metres of logs annually.

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.

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 Quesnel 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 forest district manager at the address below. Your comments will be accepted until July 30, 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 *Quesnel 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 Quesnel 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 and/or
mail your comments to:**

District Manager
B.C. Forest Service
Quesnel Forest District
322 Johnston Ave.
Quesnel, B.C.
V2J 3M5

Phone: (250) 992-4400
Fax: (250) 992-4403

Regional Manager
B.C. Forest Service
Cariboo Forest Region
640 Borland Street
Williams Lake, B.C.
V2G 4T1

Phone: (250) 398-4345
Fax: (250) 398-4759

or electronically to:
Chris.Bauditz@gems8.gov.bc.ca

**Timber
Supply
Review**
in the Quesnel TSA

Information Report Response Form

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 Quesnel timber supply area.

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 Quesnel timber supply area.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Address (optional): _____

District Manager
B.C. Forest Service
Quesnel Forest District
322 Johnston Ave.
Quesnel, B.C.
V2J 3M5

Regional Manager
B.C. Forest Service
Cariboo Forest Region
640 Borland Street
Williams Lake, B.C.
V2G 4T1

Phone: (250) 398-4345
Fax: (250) 398-4759
or electronically-mail to:
Chris.Bauditz@gems8.gov.bc.ca

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:

Quesnel Forest District
322 Johnston Ave.
Quesnel, BC
V2J 3M5

Phone: (250) 992-4400

Cariboo Forest Region
640 Borland Street
Williams Lake, B.C.
V2G 4T1

Phone: (250) 398-4345

Timber Supply Branch
3rd Floor - 595 Pandora Avenue
Victoria, B.C.
V8W 9C3

Phone: (250) 356-5947