



File: 200-20/NICC FMLT

December 13, 2013

All Licensees except Woodlots

Dear Licensee,

This letter is being sent to you in response to a recommendation from our local Forest Management Leadership Team (FMLT) comprised of representatives from licensees, BCTS, consultants, and ministry staff, who work together to resolve local forest sector issues and communicate direction and guidance. The FMLT requested that further clarification on forest cover reporting requirements be provided by the District Manager to licence holders operating within the North Island – Central Coast Natural Resource District (NICC).

The legislative authority of the Province to specify annual reporting requirements for forest cover is found in section 86 (6) of the *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation* (FPPR) which states “*Information required under this section must be reported in a form and manner that is satisfactory to the minister.*”

I would like to provide key expectations summarised from the Minister’s standards¹ and associated publications² for forest cover reporting, and emphasize the Coast Regional Implementation Team (CRIT) publications³ that address situations where there is greater than 5 m²/ha of planned or unplanned residual basal area per hectare post harvest. Unplanned residual basal area includes any openings with a component of standing waste.

- a) Annual reporting of denudation will occur.
- b) Dispersed retention, trees that are retained individually or in small unmapped groups (≤ 0.25 ha), planned or unplanned, with a basal area greater than 5 m²/ha across a standard unit will be reported as part of the forest cover inventory.
- c) Dispersed retention (prescribed or standing waste) will be measured and reported as part of the forest cover inventory when the requirements of regeneration date have been met,

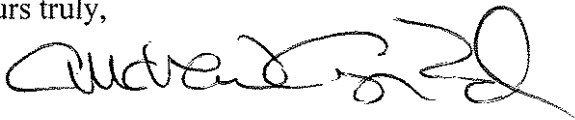
¹ **RESULTS INFORMATION SUBMISSION SPECIFICATIONS Form and Manner of Reporting (Licensee Submissions):** http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/his/results/RISS_ls_3b_ed_Jan1.pdf

and when a free growing stand has been established, or when a free growing stand has not been established but the free growing date has passed.

- d) Regardless of the stocking standards applied to a standards unit (e.g., even-aged) it is my expectation that forest professionals, will as per section 4.2.5 of the Ministry publication *"SUBMITTING FOREST COVER TO RESULTS FOR OPENINGS WITH TREED RETENTION"*² confirm, measure, and report the forest cover with the amount of treed retention (including standing waste). The CRIT survey methodology designed for SEDRSS will be used to consistently assess whether the regeneration date has been met, and whether a free growing stand has been established.
- e) Post harvest, stratification will be consistently applied according to definitions for retention areas with regeneration obligations and intermediate cuts (no regeneration obligations >1 ha, >40 m²/ha) as described in the latest version of the CRIT *"SEDRSS Implementation Guide"*⁴.

Current management practices employed by licensees in the district apply varying levels of retention. It has become increasingly important to accurately and consistently report the resulting forest cover into the Provincial RESULTS database. I view undertaking forest cover inventory reporting in the manner described above as necessary to address the retention level practices observed for cutblocks with residual basal area.

Yours truly,



Andrew Ashford, RPF
District Manager, North Island – Central Coast Natural Resource District

Enclosure(s): Stocking Standards and Forest Cover Reporting, FMLT presentation (May 2013)

pc: Chuck Rowan, CRIT Co-Chair
Dave Weaver, Silviculture Surveys Specialist
Matt LeRoy, Forest Management Analyst
FMLTMembers

² **SUBMITTING FOREST COVER TO RESULTS FOR OPENINGS WITH TREED RETENTION**
Edition 1.2 July 28, 2009 http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/his/results/Forest_Cover_Retention_Submissions.pdf

³ **CRIT GUIDANCE MEMORANDUM**
<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/rco/stewardship/CRIT/docs/RESULTS%20Retention%20Reporting%20Memo.pdf>

⁴ **SEDRSS IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE**
http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/rco/stewardship/CRIT/silviculture_working_group.htm