BRITISH COLUMBIA

Ministry of Forests and Range

Operations Division

MEMORANDUM

File: 280-30

December 21, 2006

To: Regional Executive Directors
District Managers

From: Tim Sheldan
Assistant Deputy Minister
Operations Division

Re: Blanket Salvage Permits for Woodlot Licensees

In a March 22, 2005 memo I directed that Blanket Salvage Permits (BSPs) should not be used in the salvage emergency management unit (EMU) designation. This memo modifies my previous guidance around the utilization of Blanket Salvage Permits (BSPs) for woodlot licensees. While the link between EMUs and BSP usage has been made to establish reasonable consistency in administration between major licensees and woodlot licensees, woodlots are not explicitly identified under the bark beetle regulation and therefore have no direct linkages to emergency designations.

After careful consideration, there appears to be unique circumstances both within and outside of the salvage zone where BSPs may still be a useful tool for woodlots. The key forest management criteria that District Managers should consider in assessing BSP applications are:

- Timber is Damaged
- Logical Harvesting Opportunity
- Timber Opportunity is Isolated
- Size/Timber Type

Staff should refer to the attached guidelines dated December 20, 2006 for further clarification around the approval criteria. Under this new policy the District Manager would still decide if the operational planning requirements or exemptions and First Nations consultations have been dealt with appropriately. Despite the discretion at the district level, I will be holding Regional Executive Directors accountable for a reasonable level of consistency between districts and across regions.

At this time, all BSPs should be appraised as per the Interior Appraisal Manual.

I trust this policy direction will provide guidance for District Managers in utilizing BSPs in certain unique circumstances that warrants their use.

for Tim Sheldan
Assistant Deputy Minister
Operations Division

Attachment(s): March 22, 2005 Tim Sheldan memo
October 5, 2005 Bill Warner memo

pc: Bob Friesen, Assistant Deputy Minister, Tenure and Revenue Branch

Dave Petersen, Assistant Deputy Minister, BC Timber Sales

December 20, 2006

Guidelines for District Managers Regarding Blanket Salvage Permits for Woodlot Licensees

The following guidelines provide clarification around the circumstances when a District Manager may apply discretion around utilizing a Blanket Salvage Permit for a woodlot.

For this purpose, a "Blanket Salvage Permit" (BSP) is defined as "**a unique cutting permit (CP), which is different from standard CPs because they can be amended by the District Manager on a regular basis for approved circumstances.**" A BSP Exhibit "A" map should only identify the small patches of timber that have been approved for harvest under the BSP and cannot overlap any other issued cutting authorities. As such, existing BSPs that identify the entire woodlot as the Exhibit "A" area authorized for harvest, should not be used in the future. Where these exist, they should be allowed to expire without any additional amendments and a new BSP should be issued in conjunction with the first new patch of salvage timber approved for harvest under the BSP. Any subsequent requests for small areas must be approved by the DM and amended into the CP before harvesting can commence.

The District Manager should assess how each Blanket Salvage opportunity, including subsequent amendments, meet the following guidelines. It should be noted that each district could have its own more restrictive requirements for accepting BSP applications, as long as they fit within these Provincial guidelines. However the administration of BSPs should be guided by the qualifying criteria below.

In most circumstances the timber in question (being applied for) must meet all of the following 4 criteria to be eligible for application to be amended into a BSP.

Qualifying Criteria

1. Damaged Timber
   - Timber is characterized as green, red or grey mountain pine beetle attacked
   - Timber will significantly reduce in value (e.g. change in grade) in one year (insect or disease infested, fire damaged, blowdown, etc), or
   - Timber is required to be removed within one year to address other resource concerns or safety issues

2. Logical Harvesting Opportunity
   - Must encompass the susceptible area, and
   - Provides for a logical harvesting system to address timber opportunity, and
   - Application must address adjacency considerations to other planned or potential harvesting operations (within the woodlot licence boundary), and
   - Recognizes barriers to operability, as well as
   - Addresses licence as well as licensee constraints

3. Isolated
   - Requirement for mobilization/demobilization affects economics, and
   - Harvesting area cannot logically be added to an approved or potential planned harvest opportunity

4. Size/Timber Type
   - Cutblocks proposed for clearcut may be up to a maximum of 5 ha.
   - For selective harvesting of small patches in mixed timber type stands, or small patches of dead or dying timber within otherwise healthy timber, stands can be greater than 5 ha as long as the volume harvested is no more than 2,000m^3.
   - 2,000 m3 volume limit excludes the volume harvested from any road or trail clearing width if a road/trail is required to facilitate the removal of the damaged timber.
   - Timber that has been wind thrown, fire killed, insect killed or affected by other natural events.
   - Natural regeneration, understory trees or standing green timber to be protected for future crop purposes wherever practicable.

BRITISH COLUMBIA Ministry of Forests Operations Division

MEMORANDUM

File: 280-30

MAR 2 2 2005

BY EMAIL

To: Regional Executive Directors
District Managers

From: Tim Sheldan
Assistant Deputy Minister
Operations Division

Re: Bark Beetle Salvage Cutting Permits

The purpose of this memo is to provide direction on the issuance of "blanket salvage" permits to harvest bark beetle infested timber.

This type of cutting permit should only be used in the following circumstances.

For the purposes of emergency bark beetle harvesting, district managers may approve the use of blanket salvage permits only in areas designated as aggressive or sanitation pursuant to Section 109(2) of the *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation*, and as re-designated from time to time by the Provincial Bark Beetle Co-ordinator.

Cut blocks harvested under a blanket salvage permit for the purposes of bark beetle management are limited to:

1. trees that are infested with bark beetles, as determined by an on-the-ground survey; and,

2. those trees that must be removed incidentally to facilitate the removal of the infested trees.

No more than 5,000 cubic metres may be harvested under an individual opening, excluding the volume harvested from any road clearing width, if the road is required to facilitate the removal of timber from the area. An opening harvested under a blanket salvage permit cannot be clear cut unless the opening, together with any adjoining opening that has been clear cut and is subject to the exemptions pursuant to the *Bark Beetle Regulation*, will result in a contiguous clear cut not exceeding 15 hectares.

Furthermore, the district manager must ensure that these permits do not overlap other existing cutting authorities, and that compliance and enforcement monitoring is in place to ensure this, correct timber marking and to verify that only approved cut blocks are harvested.

The calculation of stumpage rates for these cutting permits will be discussed and resolved through the Interior Appraisal Advisory Committee.

I trust this clarifies the issue.

for Tim Sheldan
Assistant Deputy Minister
Operations Division

pc: Doug Routledge, Vice President, Northern Operations, Council of Forest Industries

Archie MacDonald, General Manager, Forestry, Southern Operations
Council of Forest Industries

Steve Kozuki, General Manager, Forestry, Northern Operations
Council of Forest Industries

Bob Friesen, Assistant Deputy Minister, Tenure and Revenue

Larry Pedersen, Assistant Deputy Minister, BC Timber Sales

Bill Howard, Director, Revenue Branch

Jim Langridge, Director, Resource Tenures and Engineering Branch

Bob Clark, Provincial Bark Beetle Co-odinator, Vanderhoof Forest District

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Ministry of Forests and Range and Ministry Responsible for Housing

Northern Interior Forest Region

MEMORANDUM

File: 102-20/RMT
19720-01

OCT 0 5 2005

To: District Managers
Northern Interior Forest Region

From: W.J. (Bill) Warner, R.P.F.
Regional Executive Director

Re: Blanket Salvage Permit Interim Guidelines

There is a need to ensure current and future administration of bark beetle "Blanket Salvage Permits" (BSP's) are consistent between major and woodlot licensees and between districts in the Northern Interior Forest Region (NIFR). Currently there is great variation in the restrictions included with BSP's. At one end of the spectrum, many permits are set up for each individual area to be amended into the cutting permit prior to harvest. At the other end of the spectrum, many BSP's allow for the harvesting of openings up to 5,000 m^3 in volume or 15 hectares, if clear-cut, anywhere in a district without further approval.

There are literally hundreds of BSP's in existence many of which have been extended to 2007. New clauses cannot be unilaterally inserted into these BSP's and there is no ability to cancel them. To achieve consistency and ensure good forest stewardship, both a short and long term approach must be implemented. In the longer term there is a need to define guidance and principles around the use of BSP's. These principles are currently being developed. Meanwhile, the existing situation requires a shorter-term approach that finds commonalties between the major licensees and woodlots.

Current direction is found in the March 22, 2005 memo from the Assistant Deputy Minister, Tim Sheldan, new BSP's should only be issued in aggressive or sanitation emergency management units. The small cut block design (less than 5000m^3 volume or 15 hectares if clear-cut) of openings harvested under the BSP's are considered appropriate in areas where bark beetle control objectives are to be met.

The March 22, 2005 memo clearly identifies linkages to the emergency management unit designations of aggressive or sanitation for major licensees. Woodlots are not specifically identified under the bark beetle regulation and hence have no direct linkages to these emergency designations. However, the overall intent has to be a reasonably consistent administration between the major licensees and woodlots to ensure appropriate forest stewardship object are met.

In the short term, given the large number of BSP's currently in existence, and in consideration of the March 22, 2005 memo, consistency in administration may best be achieved as follows:

Majors:

- only issue new BSP's in aggressive and sanitation emergency management units;
- new BSP's will have a term of one year maximum;
- rescind planning exemptions granted under the *Bark Beetle Regulation* within areas designated as salvage (A sample letter is attached for your consideration); and
- existing BSP's continue.

Woodlots:

- only issue new BSP's in aggressive and sanitation emergency management units;
- new BSP's will have a term of one year maximum;
- allow site plan exemptions under Section 22.01(2) of the *Woodlot Forest Management Regulation* to only be granted if the operations are limiting the spread of beetles, as per that section; and
- existing BSP's will continue.

Following these short and longer term approaches should foster administrative consistency between woodlots and majors licensees with regard to tenure administration and operational planning. The focus of this direction is to find a workable solution to the tenures aspects of BSP operations. It needs to be understood that this solution is only part of the overall situation, which includes timber pricing. Headquarters and regional staff are examining pricing concerns.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Ralph Wood, Manager Operations, Northern Interior Forest Region at (250) 565-6100.

W.J. (Bill) Warner, R.P.F.
Regional Executive Director
Northern Interior Forest Region

Pc: Jim Langridge Director Resource Tenures and Engineering Branch
Phil Zacharatos, Regional Executive Director, Southern Interior Forest Region
Ron Greschner, Senior Woodlot Forester, Resource Tenures and Engineering Branch

Attachment(s): Sample Letter to Major Licensees