

Amendments to the spatial data for western larch seed planning zones Lw1, Lw2 and Lw3 – May 2014

Assisted Range and Population Expansion of Western Larch for Use as a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in British Columbia

On May 26, 2014, Tree Improvement Branch amended the spatial dataset for western larch (*Larix occidentalis*) areas of use for seed planning zones Lw1, Lw2 and Lw3. The changes reflect “best available scientific information” and can be implemented immediately since the spatial data (geometry and map products) of tested parent tree areas of use do not require a formal amendment to the *Chief Forester’s Standards for Seed Use*. Notification under the Forest Planning and Practices Regulation, and Woodlot Planning and Practices Regulation of the Forest and Range Practices Act is also not required in this instance.

This amendment follows a review of the June 2010 interim measures that established western larch (climate change) seed planning zones, Lw1, Lw2 and Lw3. The purpose of the review was to evaluate the effectiveness of the interim measures and to investigate options for improvement.

This amendment continues to align with the original goal of the interim measures: the BC Climate Action Secretariat's vision to "make adaptation apart of the BC Government's business, ensuring that climate change impacts are considered in planning and decision-making across government". The scientific information contributing to these changes is based upon the research and analysis conducted by Dr. Gerald E. Rehfeldt (USDA Forest Service, retired) and Dr. Barry Jaquish (MFLNRO, Tree Improvement Branch), as reported in their publication, "Ecological impacts and management strategies for western larch in the face of climate change" (March, 2010, Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies for Global Change; ISSN 1381-2386, Volume 15, Number 3). For the review, Tree Improvement Branch staff solicited operational feedback through client and stakeholder consultation.

The amendment includes the following changes:

- Combining seed planning zones Lw1 and Lw3 as they are represented by one seed orchard population,
- Expanding the seed planning zone boundaries of Lw1 and Lw2, and
- Smoothing the raster data of seed planning zone boundaries of Lw 1 and Lw2 (to remove the ‘blocky’ pixel-based shapes).

This amendment will continue to serve as "interim measures" for western larch until replacement with the new Climate-Based Seed Transfer system. Spatial data (i.e. shape files and geodatabase) and a provincial scale PDF map are available on Tree Improvement Branch’s FTP site at

http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/HTI/external/!publish/Western_Larch_Interim_Measures/.

Questions regarding this amendment can be directed to staff in Tree Improvement Branch, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations:

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