



File: 312-20/TSST
Ref. 191817

October 17, 2012

To: Regional Executive Directors
District Managers
Timber Sales Managers

From: Dave Peterson, RPF
Chief Forester

Tom Ethier
Assistant Deputy Minister
Resource Stewardship Division

Re: Tree Species Selection Tool Release

On October 1, 2012, the Ministry of Forest, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations released the web based Tree Species Selection Tool (TSST) <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/silviculture/TSS/TSS.htm>. The TSST was developed as part of the Tree Species Selection component of the Future Forest Ecosystems Initiative by a cross-ministry and industry working group. The TSST is intended to assist practitioners in adapting their practices and developing strategies to maintain and enhance the resilience, adaptability, and productivity of British Columbia's ecosystems as our climate changes. Further details on the Tree Species Selection Project are available on their homepage: <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/silviculture/TSS.htm>.

Tree species selection is one of the most important decisions that forest professionals make in preparing and implementing operational plans in terms of both reforestation and retention. The goal of the Tree Species Selection Tool is to provide the best available information in support of tree species selection decision-making at the stand- and landscape-levels in the context of a changing climate. The tool provides:

- New content including landscape-level species descriptions and ecologically suitable tree species that are characteristic of each BEC subzone/variant and its site (Northern Interior information currently available)
- Information on the range of ecological risk factors (forest health, environmental) associated with tree species
- Tree species information associated with management objectives and values

Regional Executive Directors
District Managers
Timber Sales Managers

Content in the TSST will continue to be updated as it becomes available to provide the latest information related to tree species selection. This will become increasingly important as new information on the vulnerability of our forests to climate change becomes available and we continue to adapt British Columbia's forest management practices in response to these anticipated changes. We would like to encourage users of the site to take an active role in cooperatively building the information contained on the site by providing suggestions for additional content that they feel should be included. An online forum has been set up to facilitate user input and discussion. The details for this forum are available on the TSST website.

In closing, we would like to thank the members of the Tree Species Selection Working Group for their work in developing the tool and we look forward to its future use and development. Any questions with regards to the tool can be directed to: Shirley.Mah@gov.bc.ca and Kevin.Astridge@gov.bc.ca.



Dave Peterson, RPF
Chief Forester



Tom Ethier
Assistant Deputy Minister
Resource Stewardship Division