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August 18, 2022

To: Forest Tree Seed Users Distribution List
Regional and District Managers
BCTS Business Area Managers

From: Shane Berg, Assistant Deputy Minister, Chief Forester, Ministry of Forests

Re: Guidance for Preparing Alternatives to the Chief Forester's Standards for Seed Use

On August 1, 2022, the transition to Climate Based Seed Transfer (CBST) will be complete as the recently announced amendments to the Chief Forester's Standards for Seed Use come into effect. On occasion, alternatives to the Standards may be required. Please find attached a guidance document to assist in preparing alternatives to the Standards. This guidance updates and replaces the Alternatives Policy released on June 1, 2005, and specifically addresses the preparation of an alternative in a CBST context.

The intent of the guidance is to provide background on the regulatory framework for seed use and to provide the guiding principles, information, and factors that should be considered and included in preparing an alternative request. The guidance also provides an indication of what considerations may be of note, when reviewing an alternative request and determining if the alternative is consistent with the intent of the Standards.

Questions with regards to the content of this guidance and preparing alternatives to the Standards can be directed to the Policy and Planning Section of the Forest Improvement and Research Management Branch. (forhtip.seedhelp@gov.bc.ca)

Shane Berg RPF
Assistant Deputy Minister, Chief Forester

Attachment(s): Guidance For Preparing Alternative to the Chief Forester's Standards for Seed Use Under Section 43 of the Forest Planning and Practices Regulation and Section 32 of the Woodlot Planning and Practices Regulation