



MINISTRY OF FORESTS

MINISTRY POLICY

POLICY SUBJECT		
Reserve Volume Management		
EFFECTIVE	RESPONSIBLE BRANCH	No.
June 8, 2026	BC Timber Sales	19.5
APPROVED		
 Makenzie Leine, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Forests		

Scope

This policy cancels and replaces any policy or procedure pertaining to the management of Reserve, Reserved, or Reservations volume (collectively Reserve Volume or RV) apportioned to BC Timber Sales (BCTS) that existed prior to the effective date of this policy and applies to all BCTS agreements issued under the Forest Act unless specifically exempted by the Deputy Minister.

Policy

It is the policy of the Ministry of Forests (the Ministry) that Reserve Volume apportioned to and sold by BCTS will be managed as follows unless the policy does not align with the terms of the licence or agreement under which the Reserve Volume is established.

Definitions

Apportionment

Apportionment means any volume specified by the Minister pursuant to the Forest Act, as available for granting under a BCTS agreement. This includes BCTS volume within Timber Supply Areas (TSAs), Tree Farm Licences (TFLs), Community Forest Agreements (CFAs), or First Nation Woodlands Licences (FNWLs); and any BCTS volume associated with Reduced Volume Condition (RVC) licences.

BCTS Business Cycle

BCTS business cycles are fixed five-year periods, with the first BCTS business cycle having begun on April 1, 2014, and ending March 31, 2019.

Management Unit

Management unit means a TSA, TFL, CFA, or FNWL.

Reserve Volume

Reserve, Reserved, or Reservations volume (RV) means volume described in the Forest Act for disposition to BCTS. RV is considered secure volume and forms part of BCTS core apportionment.

<i>Unused Volume</i>	Unused volume means the sum of uncommitted volumes within each management unit as determined upon completion of a BCTS five-year business cycle.
Cut Control	BCTS RV in an area-based tenure is independent of the tenure holder's AAC and is not subject to cut control provisions.
Establishment and Amendment	The Forest Act contains provisions for establishment of BCTS RV in area-based tenures - s.35(1)(h) for TFLs, s.43.3(1)(g.2) for CFAs and s.43.55(1)(h.1) for FNWLs. The RV amount can only be changed by the Minister and is independent of AAC Determinations (unless the Minister directs otherwise). The terms of the licence agreement that establishes the RV should be reviewed periodically. Decisions to establish or amend BCTS RV will be informed by engagement with affected First Nations, consistent with current Ministry policy.
Secure Volume	Consistent with Part 3 of the AAC Administration Regulation, RV is sourced from area-based tenure volume but is independent of tenure holder's AAC. RV forms a secure stream of BCTS apportionment from a tenure.
Reserve Volume Tracking	RV and other forms of BCTS apportionment are tracked consistent with the BCTS Apportionment Management Policy and associated procedures.
Unused Reserve Volume Retirement	Uncommitted BCTS RV at the end of a five-year business cycle carries forward as unused RV and remains available for auction in the subsequent business cycle. Unused RV is not automatically retired during the Timber Supply Review (TSR) or upon a new AAC Determination. As a general principle BCTS will retain unused RV where timely disposition of this volume can occur without adverse implications on sustainability. The BCTS Executive Director will affirm unused RV when required and is the decision maker for unused RV retirement. In addition to overarching sustainability considerations, decisions to retire unused RV will be informed by the following:

- Factors contributing to unused RV accumulation (e.g. impeded access, poor markets, lack of viable opportunity, etc.).
- Potential for unused RV to be used to support the Market Pricing System (MPS) or other Ministry objectives.
- Other planning considerations (e.g. intentional aggregation of small annual RV into a larger development opportunity).
- Results from engagement with affected First Nations, consistent with current Ministry policy.

Unused RV is a key consideration for the Chief Forester during the AAC determination process.

In conjunction with the TSR process for area-based tenures with RV, the BCTS Executive Director will complete decision making and ensure outcomes are communicated to the Chief Forester (TFLs) or Regional Executive Director (CFAs and FNWLs) at the appropriate time for the information to be considered.

Area Selection

The selection of BCTS RV harvest areas is best accomplished as a collaborative exercise between BCTS and the tenure holder that is informed by engagement from affected First Nations.

The terms of the licence that establishes the RV may inform the area selection process.

RV harvest areas must be identified sufficiently far in advance to allow adequate time for BCTS planning and associated field activities to be conducted before the associated RV becomes available for harvest. This will minimize the accrual of unused RV.

Where the parties are unable to reach agreement, the matter is referred to the Regional Executive Director to facilitate harvest area selection or specify harvest areas.

BCTS Business Plan Considerations

RV contributes to long-term sales development, business planning and setting annual sales targets. RV is core BCTS apportionment and supports the MPS mandate. The timely execution of RV planning and harvest, subject to market conditions is essential to the business.

Responsibilities

The **BCTS Executive Director** is responsible for:

- Monitoring the effectiveness and administration of this policy.
- Affirmation of unused RV and decision making on RV retirement.
- Leading or supporting First Nations engagement consistent with current Ministry policy.
- Recommending policy changes to Ministry executive, when required.
- Supporting Timber Sales Managers with respect to the implementation of this policy.

Regional Executive Directors are responsible for:

- Providing recommendations to the Minister on establishment or amendment to BCTS RV.
- Leading or supporting First Nations engagement, consistent with current Ministry policy.
- Facilitating the selection of RV harvest areas, or selecting RV harvest areas, when necessary.
- Consideration of BCTS RV volume in CFA and FNWL AAC determinations.

Timber Sales Managers are responsible for:

- Implementing and administering this policy.
- Leading or supporting First Nations engagement consistent with current Ministry policy.
- Recommending changes to this policy to the BCTS Executive Director, in collaboration with Regional Executive Directors.

Tenures Branch is responsible for:

- Furthering the implementation of this policy.
- Embedding links to the policy within area-based tenure documents and communications where appropriate.
- Recommending changes to this policy to the BCTS Executive Director.

Forest Analysis and Inventory Branch is responsible for:

- Providing BCTS unused RV information to the Chief Forester for consideration in AAC determinations.
- Recommending changes to this policy to the BCTS Executive Director.

References

- Forest Act s.35(1)(h), s.43.3(1)(g.2), s.43.55(1)(h.1)
- AAC Administration Regulation, Part 3
- Apportionment Management policy 19.2 – BC Timber Sales