



Reference: 277309

Dec 8, 2023

To: FOR District Managers, Statutory Decision makers and Operational Staff
CC: Regional Executive Directors

Re: Chief Forester Expectations Around Utilization of Harvested Fibre

British Columbia's (BC's) forests are largely publicly owned and are managed through rigorous policies and practices to ensure forest ecosystems remain healthy, biodiversity is maintained, and stands are promptly regenerated when harvesting occurs. These practices ensure forests continue to provide all the benefits that the public expects from our forests, including managing forests to minimize carbon emissions to the atmosphere.

Timber harvesting occurred for well over 100 years in BC, in both natural and managed stands. Post harvest wildfire hazard abatement (management of harvest residuals) and reforestation of logged areas are legal obligations. Where planting has occurred, it is done exclusively with species native to BC. Stands on the coast tend to be more productive and less fire prone than those in the interior and therefore where the largest and oldest trees are generally found.

Due to the mountain pine beetle epidemic in early 2000, and more recently wildfires, current timber supply has been reduced and future supply is forecast to decline further. The Ministry of Forest's mandate expresses government's desires to maximize utilization of every stand that is harvested to help sustain the forest-based economy, ensure BC is getting as much value as possible from every tree cut and minimizing carbon emissions from burning residual fibre left on site after logging.

Expectations Around Fibre Utilization

Timber harvesting in BC can only occur when all forest practice requirements are met and harvesting operations are approved. Licensees must meet hazard abatement obligations under the Wildfire Act to address residual material left on site after logging.

It is my expectation that anyone conducting harvesting operations in BC will make every reasonable effort to ensure all fibre, including residual material after logging, will be utilized for the highest and best use possible with the exclusion of that required to meet non-timber objectives such as course woody debris requirements. Improving fibre utilization will reduce carbon emissions from slash pile burning. This is the expectation regardless of the origin, species, age, and location of the stand being harvested.

Page 1 of 2

Questions may be directed to Executive Director, Deputy Chief Forester, Albert Nussbaum, at Albert.Nussbaum@gov.bc.ca.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shane Berg', written in a cursive style.

Shane Berg, R.P.F.
ADM, Chief Forester

pc: Albert Nussbaum, Executive Director, Deputy Chief Forester
Derek Lefler, Director, Forest Science Planning & Practices Branch
Andrew Snetsinger, Manager, Harvesting and Silviculture Practices, FSPPB