



File:19400-00

Advisory Bulletin No. 2017-12-18 – Cruising Standards Applicable to Burnt Stands in the Interior of BC

PURPOSE

This bulletin provides guidance to BC Timber Sales (BCTS) staff in the Interior regarding cruising standards applicable to fire damaged stands.

BACKGROUND

BCTS plays an important role in the government's wildfire recovery program by salvaging and marketing wildfire damaged timber. BC Timber Sales is also strongly committed to improving forest worker safety by fostering a positive safety culture. In the development of wildfire damaged timber, safety of staff, contractors, and licensees is paramount. As such, the generation of cruise information to support an efficient salvage program has to be conducted in a safe manner.

There are two options available to BCTS staff in the generation of cruise information for fire damaged areas. Those options are:

1. As default, completing a full cruise that meets the Cruise Manual standards, subject to the area being deemed safe for the collection of cruise data;
2. Using comparative cruise data, if the area is not deemed safe for a full cruise

CONSIDERATIONS ON OBTAINING SPECIFIC CRUISE INFORMATION

1. Full Appraisal Cruising

A site specific full cruise, as per the Cruise Manual standards, should be undertaken providing that the area is deemed safe for crews to work within. A full site specific cruise allows BCTS to achieve our corporate goal of

Safety consideration

The following are some safety factors that should be considered when determining if the area is safe¹ to obtain site specific cruise information:

- Current and anticipated weather condition at time of collection of field cruise data;
- Degree of fire damage (light, medium, and heavy);
- Wind firmness of the damaged timber;
- The area of fire damaged timber being assessed;
- Any other factor that could create an unsafe work environment.

providing credible representative price and cost bench mark data for the Market Pricing System (MPS).

2. Comparative Cruise Data

Areas deemed unsafe for cruising crews may use a comparative cruise as per section 1.5.1.1 of the Interior Appraisal Manual. When using a comparative cruise to derive stand conditions, one or more of the following information sources can be utilized:

- i) A timber cruise from an adjacent harvest authority that has similar stand characteristics;
- ii) Establishing cruise plots in timber deemed safe adjacent to the fire damaged timber.
- iii) A professional estimate of stand characteristics. The minimum standard for deriving the species and volumes estimates must be based on the Ministry Vegetative Resource Inventory (VRI). Fire damage to the stand will be assessed and rationalized by a forest professional. This is governed by the Memorandum of Understanding between Timber Pricing Branch (referenced as Revenue Branch) and BCTS dated 2010-01-06 (RB-BCTS MOU).

BCTS must ensure the data used in any comparative cruise is defensible. It will be mandatory for a forest professional to sign off on all documents, rationales, and adjacent cruise data used to derive comparative cruise information.