



Mid-Term Timber Supply

June 11, 2012

Resource Values Assessment: Secondary Stand Structure

State of Knowledge

- Suitable secondary structure includes saplings, and other trees that have survived the mountain pine beetle infestation and include species that would represent a free-growing stand.
- It includes mature lodgepole pine that survived a beetle attack. There are some who believe that all pine, including trees that survived a beetle attack, should be harvested now as they are susceptible to further attack. Government forest professionals prefer to wait until dead pine salvaging is complete so these trees can contribute to the mid-term timber supply.

Current Condition

- Recent timber supply analysis indicates it will not be possible to harvest all lodgepole pine-leading stands killed by the beetles before the dead trees deteriorate beyond the point where they can be harvested economically.
- To protect stands that will contribute to the mid-term timber supply, the Forest Planning and Practices Regulation was amended to require that the forest sector delay harvesting stands with an adequate stocking density of suitable secondary structure, and instead harvest stands with limited secondary structure.
 - Adequate stocking density means that, based on growth and yield analysis, there is a minimum number of suitable secondary structure trees per hectare, of a specified size, necessary to produce a merchantable stand.
 - Harvesting can still occur in targeted pine-leading stands, but the secondary structure must, by law, be protected as part of the mid-term timber supply.
- The following timber supply areas and tree farm licences with allowable annual cut uplifts in response to the infestation have regulation amendments to protect secondary structure in lodgepole pine stands:
 - Timber Supply Areas – 100 Mile House, Kamloops, Lakes, Merritt, Prince George, Quesnel, Williams Lake, Okanagan
 - Tree Farm Licences - 18, 35, 42, 48, 49
- The chief forester may add new management units to the list, or remove existing ones.
- The requirements to protect secondary structure do not apply to woodlot licences, community forest agreements, road permits, forestry licences to cut issued by a timber sales manager and occupant or master licences to cut.

Sustainability Risk

- Harvesting stands that contain suitable secondary structure now could negatively impact the mid-term timber supply, and reduce the area of the land base that could be stocked to improve future timber supplies.

Reference:

- Explanation of the Forest Planning and Practices Regulation Amendments to Protect Secondary Structure: http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/silviculture/secondary_structure/secondary_structure_reg.pdf