

File: 280-30
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July 16, 2021

To: Regional ADMs
Regional Executive Directors
District Managers

From: Diane Nicholls, Chief Forester

Re: Interim Guidance for Commercial Thinning – Interior British Columbia

I'm pleased to release the attached Interim Guidance for Commercial Thinning – Interior British Columbia. This guidance builds on the 1999 *Guidelines for Commercial Thinning* (Ministry of Forests, 1999). The objective of this guidance is to support professionals in the planning and implementation of commercial thinning (CT) operations for timber volume and value objectives in the BC interior. The guidance describes:

- Key principles to guide the use of commercial thinning in the interior,
- Examples of where and how commercial thinning should be applied,
- Examples of how commercial thinning can be incorporated into timber supply review and forest landscape planning, and
- Example stocking standards that maintain an economically valuable supply of commercial timber.

Guidance is a fundamental part of the Forest and Range Practices Act framework and is intended to support both operational and statutory decision-making for stands proposed for a commercial thinning treatment. It provides clarity on government expectations for the use of Crown resources, and enables professionals to plan, design and implement commercial thinning across the landscape.

This is the culmination of a significant effort by government, industry, and consulting professionals involved with this phase of the Provincial Commercial Thinning Project. I appreciate the work they continue to undertake on behalf of the people of British Columbia.

The Ministry's Stand Tending website has been updated to include this guidance and all supporting documentation, such as field forms, and the information required to complete growth and yield modelling on a specific stand. The guidance and companion documents can be found at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/managing-our-forest-resources/silviculture/stand-tending>.

The Interior Appraisal Manual will be updated in July 2021 to reflect this guidance in the criteria for the tabular stumpage rate. Stands that do not meet the criteria will be appraised as a partial cut. The Interior Appraisal Manual can be found at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/competitive-forest-industry/timber-pricing/interior-timber-pricing/interior-appraisal-manual>

Further information and questions on the guidance can be directed to Lee-ann Puhallo, Intensive Silviculture Specialist, at 236-713-2281 or via email to Leeann.Puhallo@gov.bc.ca.

Please share this information with interested staff and stakeholders.

Julie MacDougall, RPF
A/Executive Director

On behalf of:

Diane Nicholls, RPF
ADM, Chief Forester

Attachments: Interim Guidance for Commercial Thinning – Interior BC
Frequently Asked Questions – Provincial Commercial Thinning Project

cc BC Timber Sales Managers
Mike Larock, Director of Professional Practice and Forest Stewardship, Association of BC Forest Professionals
Michael Armstrong, Vice President, Forestry, BC Council of Forest Industries
Jeff Mycock, Chief Forester BC, West Fraser Mills Ltd.
Mark Tamas, Chief Forester, Tolko Industries Ltd.
Brian McNaughton, General Manager, The Federation of BC Woodlot Associations
Jennifer Gunter, Executive Director, BC Community Forest Association
Shane Berg, Deputy Chief Forester
Vera Sit, Executive Director
Albert Nussbaum, Director, Forest Analysis and Inventory Branch -
Rachael Pollard, A/Director, Resource Practices Branch
Lee-ann Puhallo, Intensive Silviculture Specialist
Allan Bennett, Director, Timber Pricing Branch