

File: FOR-18900-00

Ref: CLIFF 280997

August 25, 2026

To: Assistant Deputy Ministers
Regional Executive Directors
Timber Sales Managers
District Managers

From: Shane Berg, Assistant Deputy Minister and Chief Forester

Re: Updated Thinning Guidance for British Columbia

On April 1, 2025, we released the Thinning Guidance for British Columbia to provide a consistent, science-based framework for thinning practices across the province. As part of our commitment to adaptive management and continuous improvement, I am releasing an updated version of the guidance, effective September 1, 2026.

This update includes new or expanded guidance in:

- Appendix 1: Commercial thinning for a timber objective, which provides additional direction to support planning and implementation of commercial thinning immature stands; and
- Appendix 5: Thinning to support improved responder safety and effectiveness, stand and landscape resiliency to wildland fire, which provides considerations for incorporating wildfire risk reduction into thinning activities where appropriate. This was developed with the BC Wildfire Service Fuel Management staff.

These additions reflect evolving operational experience, emerging science, and ongoing engagement with Indigenous nations, forest professionals, industry, and government staff. They are intended to support informed decision-making while continuing to promote innovation, reduce administrative complexity, and increase the benefits derived from thinning treatments.

My expectation is that this guidance will be considered, and a professional quality rationale will be produced when developing thinning prescriptions, retention standards, and plans for subsequent harvest entries. Where thinning objectives include timber production, forest health, climate adaptation, or wildfire risk reduction, practitioners should clearly document how the guidance has informed management decisions.

The Ministry of Forests' Commercial Thinning website has been updated to include the updated guidance and appendices. For further information, please contact the Intensive Silviculture Specialist at ThinningSupport@gov.bc.ca.

Please share this information with interested staff and stakeholders.



Shane Berg, R.P.F.
Assistant Deputy Minister and Chief Forester

Attachment: Thinning Guidance for British Columbia version 2.0 (2026)

pc: Mackenzie Leine, Deputy Minister
Ian Meier, Associate Deputy Minister
Pete Laing, Superintendent of Fuel Management, BC Wildfire Service
Tara Bergeson, Director of Practice, Forest Professionals BC
Lennard Joe, BC First Nations Forestry Council
Michael Armstrong, Council of Forest Industries
Joe Nemeth, BC Pulp and Paper Coalition
Jennifer Gunter, BC Community Forest Association
Gord Chipamn, Woodlots BC