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April 29, 2024

To: Regional Executive Directors, District Managers and District Geo-technicians of the Ministry of Forests

From: Shane Berg, Assistant Deputy Minister and Chief Forester, Ministry of Forests

Re: Consultation on Ministry of Forests Permanent Sample Plots

I am writing to underscore the importance of safeguarding Active Status Growth and Yield Plots, also known as Permanent Sample Plots, which serve as critical tools for developing growth-and-yield models vital for timber supply analysis and informed forest management decisions. These plots provide long-term re-measurement data crucial for the sustainable management of our forests.

It is imperative that Active Status Growth and Yield Plots remain in their natural state, untouched by any form of harvesting or treatment. These plots, along with their designated buffers, require careful consideration and protection during planning activities including harvesting, salvage logging, and the development of roads and pipelines.

In response to the growing interest in modelling forest recovery after natural disturbances, it is crucial to emphasize that Active Status Growth and Yield Plots with mortality due to defoliating insects, bark beetles, disease, or wildfire must be protected and re-measured to ensure accurate data representation.

I would like to draw your attention to the updated BC Data Catalogue layer titled [Growth and Yield Plots - Active Status](#), which serves as the authoritative source for plot locations. This resource should be consulted for accurate information regarding plot location.

If a mapped Active Status Growth and Yield Plot is in your operating area, or you discover a plot on the ground near your development area, please contact Anya Reid, Vegetation Resources Inventory Specialist, Forest Analysis and Inventory Branch, via email to Anya.Reid@gov.bc.ca, and provide the Sample ID number, a map, and GPS coordinates. The plot will be reviewed, and in some cases released for harvest or considered for a last measurement.

Your cooperation in preserving these invaluable Permanent Sample Plot assets is deeply appreciated and significantly contributes to the sustainable management of our province's forest resources.

Thank you for your commitment to this important cause.

Sincerely,

Shane Berg, RPF
Assistant Deputy Minister, Chief Forester

pc: Anya Reid, VRI Specialist, Forest Analysis and Inventory Branch