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July 15, 2011

To: District Managers and Regional Executive Directors

From: Jim Snetsinger, ADM - Resource Stewardship Division and Chief Forester

**Re: Protection of Ministry Permanent Sample Plots**

The Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations (FLNR) has the responsibility for maintaining the Ministry Permanent Sample Plots (PSPs) and the associated data base for the province. There are approximately 9,000 PSPs located in the province of which approximately 5,000 are owned or managed by FLNR. Some of the sample data has been re-measured several times over many years and have provided the province with priceless information. Some of these PSPs were established in the 1920s. The PSP data base has an estimated replacement value of approximately \$80 million.



Field reconnaissance in the summer of 2010 indicated that some PSPs had been harvested without consultation resulting in the loss of valuable assets.

PSPs are not officially protected from harvesting and about 2300 have a "Map Notation" designation. Most PSPs with the exception of about 230 are identified on the Land and Resource Data Warehouse (LRDW) and are easily locatable through the LRDW or through the web at: <http://geobc.gov.bc.ca/> (instructions are attached).

PSPs matter because they are the only natural stand data set that the province has which have been re-measured over time. PSPs provide valuable information for:

- Post mountain pine beetle recovery dynamics.
- Providing information about the forests in response to climate change.
- Providing knowledge of changes in forest and range resources and non-forest resources (such as biomass and carbon).
- Sustainable forest management applications such as modelling forest health and dynamics.
- Habitat management and biodiversity.
- Ensuring that the policies and practices related to the use and management of forest and range resources result in a sustainable resource.

District Managers and Regional Executive Directors

Harvesting plans should consider if a Ministry managed PSP is in a conflict situation. If a PSP is in conflict with a harvesting plan it is requested that you contact either:

Kevin Hardy at 250-751-7093 or by email to: Kevin.Hardy@gov.bc.ca; or

Ron Planden at 250-387-6867 or by email to: Ron.Planden@gov.bc.ca.

They will review the PSP and work with the interested party to determine its relative overall importance and will make a decision as to whether or not:

1. Final re-measurement is recommended.
2. The PSP requires protection.
3. The PSP can be released.

Attached are a set of instructions on how to locate PSPs on the LRDW.

Thank you for your cooperation in protecting the province's valuable PSP assets.



Attachment: How to Find Permanent Sample Plot location information on the Land and Resource Data Warehouse

pc: James S. Hackett, President  
Interior Lumber Manufacturers Association

Les Kiss, Vice President  
Forestry, Coast Forest Products Association

Doug Routledge, Vice President, Forestry and Northern Operations  
Council of Forest Industries

Kevin Hardy, Growth and Yield Forester  
Forest Analysis and Inventory Branch

Ron Planden, Growth Data Sampling Forester  
Forest Analysis and Inventory Branch