



File: FOR-19720-20/All Licensees

December 12, 2024

Re: SMALL SCALE SALVAGE DM DIRECTION - 2025

Dear DOS Small Scale Salvage Licensee:

Please note that a recent review of Okanagan Shuswap Natural Resource District (DOS) Small Scale Salvage (SSS) operations identified silviculture levies collected are not sufficient to cover the cost of District post-harvest silviculture activities.

Under Section 5.3 of the Interior Appraisal Manual, the silviculture levy is determined by the District Manager.

To address the issues of underfunded silviculture liabilities for the Crown, the following action will be implemented effective January 1, 2025:

- 1) Increase of the base levy from \$6.30/m<sup>3</sup> to \$7.56/m<sup>3</sup> to grades 1, 2, and 4 harvested under a FLTC for all harvest systems.

The Highlights of the SSS Manual for 2025 document is attached to serve as a quick reference for DOS policies and procedures, roles and responsibilities and District Manager expectations.

For more information, please send inquiries to [FLNRDOSTenures@gov.bc.ca](mailto:FLNRDOSTenures@gov.bc.ca).

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ray Crampton".

Ray Crampton  
District Manager  
Okanagan Shuswap Natural Resource District

Attachments(s): Highlights of the SSS Manual for 2025

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## Highlights of the SSS Manual for 2025

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**The following are the key messages to clients regarding the SSS Manual for 2025:**

**Initiative Intent:**

The intent of SSS is to salvage isolated patches of timber that are imperilled and in danger of losing economic value and to collect sufficient revenue to fund reforestation activities. Sound forest management principles must apply and the salvaged timber must be in balanced consideration of economic, environmental and social perspectives.

**Clients must:**

- a) Ensure safety and safe work practices are prioritized over everything else.
- b) Work in co-operation with Work Safe BC
- c) Review regulations and policy from a safety perspective

**Financial:**

- Stumpage will be determined as per the Interior Appraisal Manual.
- The Forestry Licence to Cut (FLTC) will be subject to the monthly stumpage rate in effect at the time of harvest.
- The silviculture levy ('the levy') is set by the District Manager.
- The FLTC will be subject to the levy in effect at the time of issuance.
- The full levy will be applied to any harvested area, whether or not a stocked stand remains post-harvest.
- **The 2025 levy is \$7.56/m<sup>3</sup>.** It applies to all species and to timber grades 1, 2 and 4. The levy applies to all openings regardless of size and silviculture system
- The 2020 levy was \$6.30/m<sup>3</sup>. It applied to all species and to timber grades 1, 2 and 4. The levy applied to all openings regardless of size and silviculture system.
- The 2016 levy was \$5.25/m<sup>3</sup>. It applied to all species and to timber grades 1, 2 and 4. The levy applied to all openings regardless of size and silviculture system.
- Prior to 2016, the levy was \$6.25/m<sup>3</sup> and applied only to grades 1 & 2 and only to 0.5 ha or larger openings, which resulted in significant Not Satisfactorily Restocked (NSR) area and an unfunded liability.
- The levy will be updated from time to time.

**Applicable Sites / General Direction:**

- Target stands must include significant forest health factors, blowdown, fire damaged, or otherwise imperilled timber. The stand must be at least 50% impacted and either dead or dying or in imminent danger of being

destroyed. (Typically, endemic levels of impact do not pose imminent danger of loss.)

- Total volume of any license must not exceed 2000 m<sup>3</sup> total volume of Grades 1 and 2 as described in the FLTC (normally measured using scale stratum (weight to volume conversions).

**Applicable Sites / General Direction: Cont'd**

- Stands must be isolated patches of salvage timber and not contain arbitrary boundaries (as when the forest health issue includes a volume greater than 2000m<sup>3</sup>). Adjoining patches will not be considered.
- Activities must not include areas that would normally be addressed through large-scale salvage operations whether competitively awarded NRFLs or by replaceable tenure holders.
- Partial harvesting (single tree selection) may be an option for the SSS Initiative for some forest health factors such as Douglas-fir beetle. Partial harvesting will only be permitted if the residual stand is to remain healthy (i.e. low incidence of root disease), wind firm and with sufficient ecologically suitable species for the foreseeable future. Non-target species and access wood will be limited to 10% for partial harvesting.
- No roads or bladed trails will be constructed.
- For blow down opportunities, more than 50% of the stand must be blown down. If the blow down is within a spruce or Douglas-fir stand, a lower percentage may be considered if there is a strong beetle presence or likelihood.
- Combinations of forest health factors will be mapped and stratified in order to be considered. Endemic fringe, post- harvest blowdown will not contribute to a salvage opportunity (i.e. 50%). Deeper, stratifiable blow down within a block may be considered as contributing to an opportunity.
- Excessive non-target timber (>10%) will not be considered in proposals. Strong consideration must be given to the state of the watershed and landscape level influences. Salvaging must do more good than harm to watershed recovery in order to be considered in these sites.
- Candidate stands must not include management or reserve zones of sensitive riparian areas (S4, S3, S2, S1, W1-5). Fringe remnants of adjacent salvage harvested stands will not be considered as salvage opportunities and will be retained for other values.
- **Sites within Community Watersheds** - These sites require a heightened level of due diligence and environmental consideration. For mountain pine beetle (MPB) salvage opportunities, the standing component must be comprised of at least 50% red, grey and/or successful green attack. (see MPB probe methodology for definition). Downed timber does not contribute to the 50% since it is not a determining factor of stand longevity. This threshold increases to 80% in lakeshore management zones. Class A Lakes are off limits to SSS with the exceptions identified by the district manager, as per the Lake Classification and Lakeshore Management Guidebook: Kamloops Forest Region.

<https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/HFP/external!/publish/FPC%20archive/old%20web%20site%20contents/fpc/fpcguide/kamlake/kam1.htm>

- Candidate stands adjacent to non-target stands that are likely to blow down post salvage (e.g. spruce in riparian adjacent to pine) will not be considered.
- Candidate stands must be free of secondary structure as per regulation.

#### **Expectations of Prescribing Foresters:**

- Knowledge of and adherence to: FRPA, the Okanagan Shuswap LRMP, DOS Lakeshore Management Zone policy, natural range barrier breach mitigation best practices, OGMA policy, best practices within community watersheds, hydrologic function and impacts, forest health factors and applicable survey methodology.
- Salvage Plans must be complete, accurate and approvable. All referrals must be completed, and the site determined to be unencumbered (e.g. not private land, park, recreation site, etc.).

#### **Professional Salvage Application – Submission Process**

- Client determines a site meets the criteria above and submits a pre-application. (Note: pre-application will only determine if an area is unencumbered)
- If the site is unencumbered, the client will use the services of a prescribing forester to:
  - a. initiate referrals (tenure holders, stakeholders, etc.),
  - b. complete the information sharing process with First Nations: discuss, address concerns raised and complete the information sharing report
  - c. complete layout and develop the salvage plan
  - d. negotiate road use agreements.
  - e. submit the professional application
- Professional Salvage Applications will be submitted electronically to the District office - the signed and sealed salvage plans, georeferenced maps, most recent stumpage rate request form, referral documentation and RPF certification. Spatial data will be submitted via ESF.
- Allow for at least 30 days for review and processing.
- The proponent is required to discuss, address and document any concerns raised by First Nations through information sharing prior to final submission.

#### **Once Issued:**

- The licensee will be required to provide a deposit.
- A Wildlife Tree Retention Area (WTRA) and road permit exemption will be provided by MOF if required.
- The proponent must submit the planned harvest area into the RESULTS (Reporting Silviculture Updates and Land status Tracking System) database to create a RESULTS opening file. All RESULTS data entry must be in accordance with the most current RESULTS Information Submission Specifications (RISS)- Licensee Submissions.

- As per the Workers Compensation Act, operators are required to provide the WCB with a notice of project commencement for forestry activities. A start up notice must also be sent to.
  - Ministry of Forests  
2501 – 14 Avenue Vernon, British Columbia, V1T 8Z1  
Resource Contract Administrator
  - or email: [dosresou@gov.bc.ca](mailto:dosresou@gov.bc.ca)

### **Once Harvesting is Complete**

- Licensees will have a qualified forest professional complete required surveys and fill out the SSS Post-Harvest Assessment Form to ensure all license obligations are complete.
- Licences will only be issued on the understanding that all required RESULTS work is completed by the proponent as follows:
  - The proponent must update the actual harvest area and completion date.
  - An accurate forest cover label (which includes inventory and silviculture labels) must be submitted with the RESULTS spatial update for any harvested area (regardless if harvesting has created an NSR stand).
  - Every opening, regardless of the polygon size and regardless if stocked, must be entered into the RESULTS database by the licensee.
  - For openings with un-mappable retention there is a need to track and prescribe more accurate areas for treatments and planning. There is a capability within RESULTS to determine a total area for a SU, and then deduct a % of reserve from the NAR in order to net the NAR down to a more refined estimate of the actual NAR of the SU. This SU maybe an aggregate of many small openings as per the nature of small scale salvage. The estimate of the deduction must be assessed by a field estimate
- Once all license obligations are complete, the deposit will be refunded.

### **Cash Sales**

- Cash sale FLTC applications for up to 50m<sup>3</sup> will be considered typically for commercial firewood use from dead and/or downed trees. Firewood must not exceed 56cm in length.
- Cash sale operations must:
  - Not construct roads or trails.
  - Not use motorized falling or yarding equipment.
  - Return existing roads to pre-harvest standard immediately after use.
  - Only use hand tools in the bush.
  - Include a scaling exemption
  - Follow all Worksafe BC procedures.