

Prince George Natural Resource District Small Scale Salvage Program



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Notices/Changes

Effective immediately, the delivery of the Small Scale Salvage Program in the Prince George Natural Resource District (District) will follow the new process as outlined in this guidance document. As such, the District will no longer accept any salvage proposals from clients. The rationale for this change and an outline of the new process for the Small Scale Salvage Program is summarized below.

BACKGROUND

In 2004 the ministry responsible for forests created the Small Scale Salvage Program to assist the salvage harvest efforts during the mountain pine beetle epidemic. Forest Districts throughout the province used this tool as means to address salvaging opportunities not suited for larger forest tenure holders.

The Prince George Natural Resource District (District) Small Scale Salvage Program continued to operate as a client driven program in the wake of mountain pine beetle by providing guidance for the fewer salvage opportunities available. However, with increasing stewardship concerns on the land base the District can no longer accommodate the client driven model of it's Small Scale Salvage Program and is therefor changing the way the Small Scale Salvage Program will be delivered.

NEW MODEL

The District will identify salvage opportunities to clients of the Small Scale Salvage Program as they arise. To be considered for salvage opportunities, clients must register with the District. In turn, the District will contact clients as opportunities are identified at which time if the client is interested can proceed to develop and apply for the opportunity. Salvage opportunities under the Small Scale Salvage Program will still follow the process of professional applications as before. There will be two registration categories, small and medium. The small category will be for a single licence salvage opportunity up to 2000 m³. The medium category will be for multiple licence salvage opportunity to a maximum of 3 licences, up to 2000 m³ each. A client may register in both registration categories but cannot register under multiple names.

REGISTRATION PROCESS

Potential clients will fill out and submit the District Small Scale Salvage Registration Form. Client's registration information will then be entered into the District Small Scale Salvage Program client registry and will be assigned a number in sequence to the order in which registrations are received. Clients who register will be notified by email of their client registration number once their information has been entered into the registry.

For further details regarding the Small Scale Salvage Program in the Prince George Natural Resource District, please refer to the contents of this document.

Provincial Guidelines

Purpose

To establish an application and approval process for small scale timber salvage that is efficient, effective and transparent. Further information regarding small scale salvage can be found on the provincial website: <https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hth/timber-tenures/small-scale-salvage/index.htm>

Professional Applications

Professional reliance is one of the pillars of the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA) and an important component of the Small Scale Salvage (SSS) application process. The District Manager, prior to approving an application must be satisfied the signing professional has proposed a professional quality plan that meets the District Guidelines.

A Regional Manager or District Manager may establish local guidelines or procedures provided that they are consistent with the purpose of this policy and do not contradict the procedures and standards herein.

- Guidelines may be established to set out small scale salvage priorities based on local forest management objectives and circumstances.
- Local procedures may be established where they are needed to achieve the purpose of this policy.
- Local guidelines or procedures must be made known to potential applicants in an appropriate manner and time.

Scope of Application

1. Province wide
2. Forestry Licence to Cut is issued without advertising for the purpose of salvaging timber volume between 50 m³ and 2000 m³.

Definitions

1. "Applicant" means the person or company who is the intended licensee for the Forestry Licence to Cut.
2. "Application" means a written request, submitted to the Ministry in a manner consistent with the procedures and standards outlined below.
3. "Post-Harvest Report" means a written report, submitted to the Ministry in a manner consistent with the procedures and standards outlined below.
4. "Professional" means a member of a professional regulatory body, who is registered to practice in BC, is qualified for the work and can be held accountable by the professional regulatory body.
5. "Small Scale Salvage Plan" means a part of a District Forest Health Strategy that sets out objectives and priorities for Small Scale Salvage, or a plan designated by the District Manager.

Prince George Natural Resource District Guidelines

Program Focus

The program focus in the Prince George Natural Resource District (District) is to harvest and utilize small, isolated patches of timber that are dead and/or are in danger of being significantly reduced in value, lost or destroyed and would otherwise not be harvested, for the purpose of the criteria listed below.

Program Criteria

The following criteria may be used to by the District, as directed by the District Manager, to determine areas that are suitable to offer to clients of the Small Scale Salvage Program.

- To lessen forest fuel buildup at the stand and landscape level in areas both within and outside of the Wildland Urban Interface when appropriate to do so;
- To reduce the spread of insects and disease when appropriate to do so; and,
- To enhance stand level attributes and/or facilitate ecological restoration when appropriate to do so.

Client Registration

To participate in the District's Small Scale Salvage Program, clients **must register** with the District to be eligible for salvage opportunities.

- Clients can register in one or both salvage categories. The salvage categories are, small (one licence up to 2000 m³ volume) and medium (up to three licences up to 2000 m³ each).
- Clients submit their registration form to the District by email at: Forests.PrinceGeorgeDistrictOffice@gov.bc.ca
- The District registers clients in order of their application receipt date

Registration forms can be found on the District website, located here: <https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/dpg/SSS/SSSIndex.htm>

Salvage Opportunities

Salvage opportunities will be offered to clients in a fair and equitable manner. As salvage opportunities arise, they will be offered to clients in the appropriate category and in sequential order. Clients have 5 days to respond to the offer or it will be offered to the next client in line.

Examples of District Selection and Offer Process for Salvage Opportunities

As small and medium salvage opportunities become available the District will contact registrants individually by email in numerical order from the registration list with the specifics of the opportunity, at which time they will have 5 days to respond. If they decline the opportunity or do not respond, the next client in order down the list will be contacted and so on until interest in the opportunity is expressed. Opportunities will be tracked to ensure that they are offered in a fair process. The following scenarios demonstrate the selection process and tracking of both small and medium opportunities.

Scenario 1 – First Small Opportunity: A small opportunity for salvage of dead and down lodgepole pine, spruce, and balsam in the vicinity of Chief Lake.

The objective of this opportunity is to reduce the forest fuel loads in an area of approximately 10 hectares. The approximate volume is 1,800 m³. The harvest will be a partial harvest with the requirement to leave substantial residual green timber untouched.

The opportunity is offered to Dave Smith, who declines. The offer is then made to John Doe, who also declines. The offer is made to Ruby Apple, who accepts the offer and proceeds to develop the area. The next opportunity will be offered to Stan Sparks.

Client #	Client	Registration Date	Opportunity 1S	Opportunity 2S
1	Dave Smith	May 1, 2021	Offer Declined	
2	John Doe	May 5, 2021	Offer Declined	
4	Ruby Apple	May 15, 2021	Offer Accepted	
5	Stan Sparks	May 18, 2021		
6	Garth River	June 5, 2021		
7	Phil Buckle	June 8, 2021		

Scenario 2 – Second Small Opportunity: A small opportunity for salvage of lodgepole pine in the vicinity of West Lake.

The objective of this opportunity is to reduce the forest fuel loads in an area of approximately 3 hectares. The volume is approximately 600 m³ and the harvest will be a clearcut.

The opportunity is offered to Stan Sparks, who accepts the offer and proceeds to develop the area. The next opportunity will be offered to Garth River.

Client #	Client	Registration Date	Opportunity 1S	Opportunity 2S
1	Dave Smith	May 1, 2021	Offer Declined	
2	John Doe	May 5, 2021	Offer Declined	
4	Ruby Apple	May 15, 2021	Offer Accepted	
5	Stan Sparks	May 18, 2021		Offer Accepted
6	Garth River	June 5, 2021		
7	Phil Buckle	June 8, 2021		

Scenario 3 – First Medium Opportunity: A medium opportunity for salvage of dead and down lodgepole pine, spruce, and balsam in the vicinity of McLeod Lake.

The objective of this opportunity is to reduce the forest fuel loads in three areas of approximately 10, 15 and 18 hectares in size. The total approximate volume of this opportunity is 4,680 m³. The harvest will be a partial harvest leaving substantial residual green timber untouched and the licensee will be required to remove and dispose of post-harvest fine fuels.

The opportunity is offered to Salvage Logging Inc, who accepts the offer and proceeds to develop the area. The next opportunity will be offered to Ruby Apple.

Client #	Client	Registration Date	Opportunity 1M	Opportunity 2M
3	Salvage Logging Inc.	May 11, 2021	Offer Accepted	
4	Ruby Apple	May 15, 2021		
7	Phil Buckle	June 8, 2021		
8	Woodmiser Resources Ltd.	June 10, 2021		

Salvage Opportunity Process Lifecycle Overview

1. Pre-planning phase – District
 - Ensure area of interest is vacant Crown land
 - Obtain all necessary referrals, including major licensee/BCTS

- Risk assessment of archaeological potential
 - Evaluate the suitability of an area for the Small Scale Salvage Program
2. Offer Small Scale Salvage opportunity to appropriate registered client - District
 - Offer client full description of the salvage opportunity, including the salvage objective and any additional treatment required
 - Client has 5 days to respond to the offer, otherwise offer will be rescinded and offered to the client next in line for an offer.
 3. Professional application package - Client
 - Professional application
 - Stumpage Rate Request form
 - Any other required documentation
 - 1:10,000 and 1:50,000 georeferenced pdf maps
 4. Application review and consultation – District
 - Application reviewed for completeness and/or conflicts
 - Initiate consultation process with First Nations
 5. Approval and award – District and Client
 - Approval pending successful conclusion of consultation period
 - Licence deposit prepared for client
 - Client pays deposit
 - Pre-work carried out with the client as to specifics of the licence
 - Licence documents offered to client for signing
 - District Manager countersigns documents
 - Licence issued
 6. Post-Harvest – Client (within 60 days of completion of harvest)
 - Inspection of the opening(s) by qualified forest professional
 - RESULTS submission completed
 - WASTE submission completed
 - Post-Harvest Report submitted to the District
 7. Licence closure - District
 - Review of Post-Harvest Report completeness
 - Review of WASTE submission
 - Review of RESULTS submission
 - Review licence obligations and licence term
 - Return/Forfeit of deposit
 - Closure of licence

Professional Application

Although the professional application is in a template format, professionals are reminded of their obligation to take the necessary steps to adequately collect data and describe the conditions for each opening within a licence. Where a signing professional is unsure of any requirements in the application, they are encouraged to contact the District for clarification.

In addition to the requirements of the professional application package, the objectives and guidelines of the specific salvage harvest opportunity provided by the District must also be followed when preparing your application.

The District Small Scale Salvage Program forms and documents can be found on the District website: <https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/dpg/SSS/SSSIndex.htm>

Clearances and Referrals

The District will conduct land status clearances and referrals with major licensees/BCTS, as well as notify other stakeholders of intended Small Scale Salvage operations. These clearances and referrals will be completed on Small Scale Salvage opportunities prior to them being offered to clients.

Archaeological Potential

The archaeological potential of Small Scale Salvage opportunities will be evaluated by the District and the status provided to the client at the time of the offer of each opportunity. This evaluation will identify whether or not the client needs to get an archaeological impact assessment done by an Archaeologist prior to submitting their application.

Consultation with First Nations

All applications must undergo consultation with First Nations that will be carried out by the District. The consultation period will not commence until the application has been reviewed and is considered complete.

Submissions

1. ESF submission to FTA:
 - Submit client and proposed licence information with spatial data
 - Ensure that each opening is assigned a unique block number beginning with the number 1

2. Application submission to District:
 - Electronic submission of documents by email to:
Forest.PrinceGeorgeDistrictOffice@gov.bc.ca

3. ESF submission to WASTE:
 - Waste survey to be conducted by the appropriate professional and resultant data submitted into the WASTE database.

4. ESF submission to RESULTS:
 - Opening definition submission – following the submission standards outlined for Small Scale Salvage in the RESULTS data requirements document that can be located here: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/managing-our-forest-resources/silviculture/silviculture-reporting-results/business-and-policy-documentation>
 - Ensure that the post-harvest opening shape file is accurate and not just a copy of the application shape file.

5. Post-Harvest Report submission to District:
 - Electronic submission of documents by email to:
Forest.PrinceGeorgeDistrictOffice@gov.bc.ca

A list of Service Providers for ESF Submissions can be found at the following link:
<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/his/results/serviceproviders.htm>

For More information regarding ESF submissions, or how to become an ESF submitter, visit the web site at: <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/his/esf/>

Stumpage Rates and Silviculture Levies

Currently, stumpage rates for Small Scale Salvage Forestry Licences to Cut are determined using various Table Rates that can be found in Section 6 of the Interior Appraisal Manual. These Section 6 Table Rates are adjusted periodically (typically in May and November of every year). Stumpage rates are determined based on the day the licence is issued and are fixed for the term of the licence.

A silviculture levy will be applied to all licences that have any cut blocks greater than one hectare in size. This silviculture levy will be calculated so as to recover the costs to bring the cut block(s) to a free growing state. The silviculture levy will be a rate of \$/m³ that will be added to the stumpage rates. The calculation may be adjusted at the discretion of the District Manager to ensure the levy reasonably reflects the expected costs associated with the actual hectares proposed for harvest. A possible adjustment may include using a district average volume per hectare or the licence application volume per hectare to pro-rate the conversion from \$/hectares to \$/m³.

Licence Deposits

Prior to offering the licence to the client, the District will request a licence deposit that is equal to 10 % of the estimated stumpage, or \$500, whichever is greater. The licence deposit may also include other safeguarding deposits, such as silviculture deposits, which will be specified in the licence deposit document.

This deposit must in one of the following forms: certified bank draft, cash, safe keeping agreements, or a letter of credit. Deposits are to be made payable to the Minister of Finance.

If the licence obligations are not satisfactorily completed, or a client fails to enter into the licence, the deposit or a portion thereof may be forfeit to the province as per the Advertising, Deposits, Disposition and Extension Regulation of the *Forest Act*.

In the case of outstanding hazard abatement obligations, a portion or all of the deposit may be retained until such time as the obligations are deemed by the District Manager to have been completed.

Stumpage Rate Request Form

A Stumpage Rate Request Form must be completed, signed, and sealed by a forest professional and included with the application package. All salvage opportunities may have a silviculture levy attached to them, as it is the District Manager's discretion to do so.

Ministry Review

Only complete application packages and post-harvest reporting will be reviewed and processed. Incomplete documents or reporting will be returned or reported to the client to address any deficiencies.

Post Harvesting Report

Within 60 days of completion of harvesting, a qualified forest professional must conduct a site inspection and complete post Harvesting Report attesting to the following:

1. The timber targeted for salvage has been removed in accordance with the approved plan. Forest professionals will need to have a copy of the licence document to do this task.
2. Waste has been assessed and the primary species by volume per hectare have been recorded and reported.

3. The stocking status of the stand has been assessed and is in accordance with the approved plan (see licence document). Assessing stocking status includes collecting measurements of the stand, including measurements of mature residual. Stocking status must be assessed in each opening independently.
4. Measures undertaken to protect soil, water, archaeological features and wildlife habitat have achieved the required results.
5. Access trails, roads and landings have been deactivated to an acceptable standard or restored to their original condition (including unobstructed ditch lines).
6. In the opinion of the professional, the licensee has completed all on-site obligations under the Licence.
7. Opening configuration(s) must be assessed and the actual harvested shape recorded and reported.

Licence Closures

Once the licence obligations are complete and the licence has expired, or the licence documents have been surrendered, the District will process the closure of the licence. At this time, the deposit will be assessed for release to the client.

Road Use

No new roads may be constructed under the Small Scale Salvage Program. However, if a road needs to be used to access the salvage area, the following applies:

- Safe use of forest roads is imperative. Therefore, all applicants are encouraged to obtain a safety orientation from all primary users of the roads they are planning to use. Applicants are also encouraged to thoroughly review the Forest Road Procedures and Management System Documents that are attached to these guidelines.
- With a few exceptions, "minor salvage operations" do not have to apply for Road Use Permits, or Road Permit Exemptions. Some examples of exceptions include: (1) use of a non-status road where a minor upgrade is required to facilitate a stream crossing; (2) use of a non-status road that requires maintenance to a stream bank to use the road; (3) the use of the road will materially affect the use of the road by others; and (4) the use of the road will materially impact forest resources. Refer to s 22.1 of the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) and s. 79.1 of the Forest Planning and Practices Regulation (FPPR) for more information.
- For Permit Roads or Forest Service Roads, proper notification to the Road Permit holder or the person(s) responsible for maintaining the road (e.g. Road User Committee) is required. Refer to s. 80.1 of the FPPR. Applicants are encouraged to enter into a Road Use Agreement as it will assist them in fulfilling their legislative requirements.
- All roads that will be utilized for hauling, including, road kilometres **must** be indicated on the application in the "Transportation Information" section. (e.g. 15-25 km on the 100 Road) and road status (i.e., FSR, road permit, Ministry of Transportation and Highways).
- Ministry of Transportation and Highways has specific requirements where joining a public road or highway. These can be checked at:

http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/publications/eng_publications/TCM/Traffic_Control_Manual.htm

Landings

Existing landings should be utilized wherever possible. However, if a landing must be constructed, it must not exceed 0.2 ha in size. Landing area and volume must be accounted for

in the application if trees are to be removed from the site. Landings must also be indicated on the map where outside the harvest area.

Skid Trails

The maximum skid trail width allowed is 5.0 metres. When choosing skid trail use natural or other existing openings to the greatest extent possible. There shall be no excavated or bladed trails. Skidding through plantations should be avoided wherever possible.

Incidental Harvest

For salvage operations the maximum total allowable harvest of non-target trees is 10% and should be minimized wherever possible. Therefore, the applicant and professional must consider the operational constraints of their logging equipment and expertise prior to completing the layout for harvest.

Blowdown/Windthrow

Harvesting operations must not increase the potential for blowdown/windthrow. Professionals must evaluate potential retention levels for blowdown/windthrow and take this into consideration when designing the layout of the harvest.

Mapping

Georeferenced pdf colour maps at a 1:10,000 and 1:50,000 scale must be submitted with the application. Please follow the attached *Mapping Standards* included in this package. Applications that do not meet this standard will be returned for the appropriate edits to be made.

Ecological Classification and Stocking Standards ID

The Professional must determine the appropriate Biological Ecosystem Classification (BEC) and determine the associated Even Aged Standards ID found in the "Reference Guide for FDP Stocking Standards", which can be found here:

http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/silviculture/stocking_stds.htm

Mapping Standards

The following describe minimum standards for map that must accompany a Small Scale Salvage Application (Forestry Licence to Cut). Applicants should also check the District Guidelines to for any additional standards. All maps must be georeferenced pdf format, be submitted digitally and must be in colour.

1. **Scale** 1:10,000 and 1:50,000
2. **Reference** to appropriate 1:20000 forest cover map sheet number (e.g. 93 G064)
3. **Access** locations, including skid trails
4. **Map Legend**
5. **Jurisdictional boundaries** of private land, Indian reserve, parks, woodlot licence, or other active forest tenures must be included
6. **GPS digital information** includes the traverse of harvest boundaries, access skid trails and any landing areas that will be constructed
7. **Riparian features** within the application area, including non-classifiable drainages, streams, wetlands and lakes
8. **Stream crossings and machine free zones**
9. **Timber type / forest cover** as per TRIM standard of equivalent (label and polygons)
10. **Range** structures, including fences, excavations or constructed livestock trails
11. **Recreation** sites and **Known** features
12. **WHAs, UWRs, OGMAs**

13. **Trapping** cabins, identified trapping sites, access trails or trap line routes
14. **Water supply** for domestic intakes and water supply infrastructure
15. **Resource features**, as defined by legislation, in the vicinity of the harvest area
16. **Government approved** experimental projects, growth and yield plots, stream stations, operational trials and research installations