

Province of British Columbia

# Small Scale Salvage Program Plan

Sunshine Coast Natural Resource District

Last Updated:2022-02-04

# Table of Contents

- Purpose** ..... 2
- About the Small Scale Salvage Program (SSSP)**..... 3
- Small Scale Salvage Program Guidelines** ..... 3
- Conventional Application FLTC (<50m<sup>3</sup> cash sale)** ..... 4
- Professional Application System (50m<sup>3</sup> to 2000m<sup>3</sup>)** ..... 5
- Professional Application Process Overview** ..... 5
  - STEP 1: Pre-application planning ..... 6
  - STEP 2: Application ..... 6
  - STEP 3: Review and Approval ..... 7
  - STEP 4: Pre Work ..... 7
  - STEP 5: Operations ..... 7
  - STEP 6: Post Harvest Report ..... 7
  - STEP 7: Closure ..... 8
- DSC SSSP procedural guidelines as of March 31, 2015** ..... 8

## **Purpose**

This document outlines the Sunshine Coast Natural Resource District (DSC) strategy for Small Scale Salvage.

This document was developed to share information related to small scale salvage within the DSC. These procedures and guidelines will focus on streamlining the application process with the intent of using professional reliance in more circumstances to allow salvagers to carry on their business.

The following steps were taken in order to complete a successful plan and carry the SSSP forward.

- 1) The review of the current legislation and regulations surrounding the SSSP
- 2) The review of the current DSC SSSP policies and guidelines
- 3) The review of the DSC resources for the SSSP
- 4) Networking with local DSC departments and BCTS
- 5) The networking and research other coastal district Small Scale Salvage programs.
- 6) Reviewing previously issued SSS licences

## About the Small Scale Salvage Program

Small Scale Salvage has been used as a tool to salvage and utilize timber that would otherwise not have been harvested. It is also a tool used to address forest health objectives in some cases. The scope, size and focus of the program has evolved over the years in response to a number of factors including availability of salvage material, log and lumber markets, timber pricing, and number small scale salvage clients. The program has also changed due to the implementation of the professional application process.



In the DSC, there has been a long history of small scale salvage, particularly with western red cedar logs, shakes and shingle blocking. *The District's objective and purpose of Small Scale Salvage program is to allow the harvesting of Crown timber that is:*

1. Dead
2. In the opinion of the regional manager or district manager, is impacted by an insect infestation, fire, disease or wind throw and is at risk of being significantly reduced in value, lost or destroyed;
3. Needed to be harvested for insect management purposes;
4. Interspersed with the timber described above and must be harvested to provide safe access to this timber.

## Small Scale Salvage Program Guidelines

The Small Scale Salvage Program (SSSP) guidelines are based on the application volume. **All Conventional and Lake SSS applications will be limited to a maximum of 50m<sup>3</sup> with the use of the cash sale system. All other sales with >50m<sup>3</sup> and up to a maximum of 2000m<sup>3</sup> are directed to use the professional application system.**

This method of conducting the Small Scale Salvage program is already exists as a successful model in two other Coastal Districts (Campbell River and South Island Natural Resource Districts). Both of these districts present similar issues to the Sunshine Coast Natural Resource District, such as;

- Limited salvage volume
- Limited physical and infrastructure access to salvage areas (ie: boat access only)
- Limited tenure vacancy opportunities
- Limited district staff resources

## **Conventional and Lake Salvage Application FLTC (≤50m<sup>3</sup> cash sale)**

A Conventional or Lake Salvage Application FLTC is a licence to salvage timber that is dead or in danger, as a result of *insect* infestations, *fire*, *disease*, or *windthrow*, and is at risk of being significantly reduced in value, lost or destroyed. The volume must not exceed 50m<sup>3</sup>.

Conventional Application FLTCs are legislated under section 47.6 of the Forest Act. Conventional Application FLTCs may be issued by the District Manager or a Forest Officer authorized by the District Manager.



An FLTC for up to 50m<sup>3</sup> of Crown timber can be directly awarded based on requests made by individuals. Often the individual has selected an area that is close to where they live that contains the type of timber or special forest products (i.e. firewood) that they would like to harvest. These areas are always accessible by road and easy to monitor by the DSC with little environmental and revenue risk. The proposed operation must be able to be completed within 3 months.

An FLTC authorizing up to 50 m<sup>3</sup> may be set up as a cash sale where predetermined amount of stumpage is paid (as specified in the FLTC document), without the requirement for the harvested timber to be scaled.

The Schedule A of the Conventional or Lake Salvage Application FLTC template contains the following possible exemptions that may be warranted given the minor volume of timber to be harvested:

- an exemption may be provided under section 10(5) of the Timber Marking and Transportation Regulation from the requirement to complete and possess a load description slip (FS649);
- an exemption may be provided under section 84(5) of the Forest Act from the marking requirements of sections 84 (1) and (3) of the Forest Act on the condition that the correct timber mark must be legibly and conspicuously applied to the timber removed or transported on at least two log ends at the front, two log ends at the back, and on each side of the load using paint or crayon;
- an exemption may be provided under section 94 (5) of the Forest Act, from the requirements of scaling timber subject to the following conditions:
  - (i) the timber must be accounted for by another method, including an estimate for the purposes of section 3 (1) of the Scaling Regulation approved by the Scaling Officer; and
  - (ii) the timber must be delivered to an approved location.

**Form:**

[https://www2.qa.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/forestry/timber-tenures/small-scale-salvage/sunshinecoast-sss/conventional\\_sss\\_application\\_package\\_0-50m3.pdf](https://www2.qa.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/forestry/timber-tenures/small-scale-salvage/sunshinecoast-sss/conventional_sss_application_package_0-50m3.pdf)

## **Professional Application System ( $\geq 50\text{m}^3$ to $2000\text{m}^3$ )**

All salvage applications that propose salvage of  $>50\text{m}^3$  will need to be submitted via a Professional Salvage Application unless otherwise approved by the Sunshine Coast District Salvage Coordinator. A Professional Application for a Forestry Licence to Cut (FLTC) is issued to salvage timber that is dead or in danger as a result of insect infestations, fire, disease, or windthrow and is at risk of being significantly reduced in value, lost or destroyed.

Professional reliance is an important component of the Small Scale Salvage (SSS) application process. The District Manager, prior to approving a professional application, must be satisfied the signing Forest Professional has proposed a professional quality plan that meets the District's salvage guidelines.

Generally there are no restrictions on who can hold a FLTC as long as the person meets the eligibility requirements of Sec. 81 of the Forest Act. The FLTC volume cannot exceed  $2000\text{m}^3$  and cannot be longer than 5 years, as outlined in the LTC Regulation. These FLTC's will mainly be issued to a person who submits a professional application and wishes to harvest;

- Volumes greater than  $50\text{m}^3$  up to a maximum of  $2000\text{m}^3$
- In isolated areas that require boating or flying access with limited monitoring opportunities
- In proximity of sensitive natural resource values (ie: Streams, OGMA's, etc.)
- Harvest operations require specialized equipment (ie: Skidders)
- Areas that may require an opening of greater than 0.1ha being created

## **Professional Application System Process Overview**

The core process for salvage applications that propose salvage volumes greater than  $50\text{m}^3$  requires six basic steps. Each of these steps may have a number of components that may be unique to the particular salvage area or circumstances.

- STEP 1** (Pre-application) – Applicant or Professional
- STEP 2** (Application) – Professional
- STEP 3** (Review and approval) – District Manager
- STEP 4** (Pework) – Forest Officer and Applicant/Professional
- STEP 5** (Operations) – Licensee
- STEP 6** (Post Harvest Report) – Professional

## STEP 7 (Closure) –Forest Officer

### **STEP 1: Pre-application planning**

To prepare an application for submission, the applicant, or professional acting for the applicant must take the necessary steps to assess the area and gather information needed for an application. These steps include, but are not limited to:

1. Confirming that the proposed application area will not be in conflict with an existing tenure or property application.
2. Carrying out a referral process to major licensee(s) and/or BC Timber Sales and obtain a written confirmation that they do not dispute the proposed application.
3. Consulting with other tenure holders or agencies where appropriate.
4. Verifying the land status (WHA, OGMAs, etc).
5. Identifying potential impacts with First Nations via info sharing.

### **STEP 2: Application**

The professional application must be submitted via the FTA INBOX ([fta.dsc@gov.bc.ca](mailto:fta.dsc@gov.bc.ca)). The application must contain the information set out below, in the “Professional Salvage Application,” and any additional information required by the District Manager.

#### **Form:**

[https://www2.qa.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/forestry/timber-tenures/small-scale-salvage/sunshinecoast-sss/professional\\_sss\\_application\\_package\\_50-2000m3.pdf](https://www2.qa.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/forestry/timber-tenures/small-scale-salvage/sunshinecoast-sss/professional_sss_application_package_50-2000m3.pdf)

1. The location of the timber proposed for harvest and confirmation of land status.
2. The cause of the timber mortality (e.g. windthrow, disease, insects, fire, etc.)
3. The volume and species of the timber proposed for harvest, including and described separately: dead or down, endangered (timber that is damaged or attacked by insects and can reasonably be expected to die within one year), live interspersed, and live for access.
4. The method of harvest.
5. The proposed term of the licence.
6. Documentation of referrals to First Nations. Including how concerns/comments have been addressed.
7. Documentation of referrals to major licensees and BCTS, including how concerns/comments have been addressed.
8. Information required by the District Manager for establishment of a stumpage rate via a Miscellaneous Appraisal Data Submission.

**Form:** [Professional Document - Misc. Appraisal Data Submission \(MADS\)](#)

9. A map showing the boundaries of each harvest area, prepared to quality suitable for use as Exhibit A in the licence (following the updated mapping standards).
10. Information describing any road use agreements or requirements pertinent to the application.
11. A declaration signed by a qualified professional, that the application has been professionally prepared.
12. Signature of the applicant or a person authorized in writing by the applicant.

### ***STEP 3: Review and Approval***

FLNRORD may approve an application made under this program and issue a licence if the following criteria are satisfied:

1. The application volume applied for does not exceed 2000m<sup>3</sup>.
2. The application is consistent with the applicable statutes, including but not limited to the Forest Act, the Forest and Range Practices Act, and the Forest Planning and Practices Regulation.
3. The application is consistent with the Small Scale Salvage Program – Sunshine Coast Natural Resource District Guidelines.
4. In the opinion of the District Manager, the applicant is capable of carrying out the salvage in a manner consistent with the objectives and guidelines for the area.
5. The applicant is not in default of another agreement with the Crown (This includes BCTS).
6. The District Manager is satisfied that a licence issued according to the application will not be in conflict with the Ministry Small Scale Salvage Strategy or associated policies.
7. District has carried out consultation with First Nations.
8. The FLTC must be consistent with Section 47.7 of the Forest Act and use a licence document format approved by the Director, Resource Tenures and Engineering Branch. Licences may include additional conditions as deemed necessary by the District Manager to achieve the purpose of these guidelines.

### ***STEP 4: Prework***

Prior to operations, a face to face meeting will be conducted between the Forest Officer and Applicant/Professional in order to review all FLTC obligations.



### ***STEP 5: Operations***

Once the licence is issued, the licensee is required to comply with the obligations set out in the licence document as well as the DSC Guidelines discussed here. If the 2000m<sup>3</sup> limit is exceeded it will result in a penalty as per Section 2 of the Cut Control Regulation.

### ***STEP 6: Post Harvest Report***

Within 60 days of completion of harvesting, a qualified forest professional may conduct a site inspection and must complete a SSS Post Harvesting Report. This report attests to the completion of obligations as set out in the licence document and affirm all legislation has been adhered to.

### ***STEP 7: Closure***

Ministry FLNRORD staff will prepare the licence for closing by reviewing any outstanding compliance or enforcement issues and any outstanding licence obligations. Once closed, FLNRORD will releasing the appropriate deposit amount. **(The deposit cannot be returned to the licensee until the obligations within the licence document have been met, and reported as such in the Post-Harvest Report.)**

## **DSC SSSP Procedural Guidelines 2021/2022**

The SSSP procedural changes laid out below are a collection of input from the various departments of the Sunshine Coast Natural Resource District, as well as a direct result of past SSS FLTC files that have caused issues for the District.

- **Shorter term FLTC without the option of extension:** This is a means to encourage prompt harvesting of issued licenses. This will remove the opportunity for licensees to tie up areas with the speculation of waiting for a good market situations.  
Extensions *may be* granted, but only in circumstances that were beyond the control on the SSS license and unrelated to the licensee's business circumstances.
- **Quarterly scale monitoring:** Salvage activity can be further monitored by using quarterly scale reviews via the Harvest Billing System (HBS). Training has been provided and staff have the ability to conduct checks. Quarterly scale reviews will be implemented into the program to insure scale is being inputted in a timely manner and as a means to monitor salvage activity.
- **Requirement of dead and down material only (No dead standing):** The DSC will no longer allow the harvesting of dead standing trees. This will preclude any live trees requiring removal or damage as a result of SSS. The harvesting of standing dead trees poses a significant safety risk to SSS operators and the public, as operators often do not possess the necessary qualifications to conduct this work safely.

The exception to this would be the need to salvage due to forest health concerns (i.e. Harvesting Douglas-fir Bark beetle attack areas to prevent further spread).

- Professional harvest plans will require a data inventory collection of salvage area: As part of the pre-harvest plan, a requirement to conduct a basic data inventory collection of salvage harvestable material will be required. The inventory should identify the following basic information;
  - 1) GPS location
  - 2) Species
  - 3) Product (logs, shingle, bolts, etc)
  - 4) Volume

The inventory maybe done in the form of a line transect survey, where information is gathered as the salvager intercepts harvestable volume. This information will be required when salvagers request larger or isolated areas where quality control over an FLTC can be a challenge for DSC recourses.

- First Nations, Major licensees and BCTS Referrals: Documentation of referrals to First Nations, major licensees and BCTS will now be a regular requirement of the SSS FLTC application process. The DSC will no longer process referrals on behalf of the SSS applicants. The referrals must include how the SSS concerns/comments have been addressed and show that open communication in regards to the SSS project has been completed.
- Updated minimum mapping standards: The following describes the minimum standards for a map that must accompany a Small Scale Salvage Application (Forestry License to Cut). Applications that fail to meet this standard will not be accepted and sent back for clarification.
  1. Scale 1:10000
  2. Reference to appropriate 1:20000 forest cover map sheet number
  3. Geographic description (name of nearest known feature)
  4. Description of access from nearest town or well-known point
  5. GPS Information: UTM coordinates or latitude and longitude
  6. Legend
  7. Boundaries of private land, Indian reserve, parks, woodlot license, or other tenures
  8. Boundary of the area proposed for harvesting under the Forestry License to Cut
  9. Significant topographic features within the application area, including streams, wetlands and lakes
  10. Resource features, as defined by legislation, in the vicinity of the salvage area
  11. Clear cut areas, including plantations adjacent to the areas proposed for salvage
  12. Access roads and trails to or between harvest sites (not including dispersed skid routes to conduct single tree removal within the area)
  13. Landings to be utilized on or off the proposed salvage area
  14. Stream crossings and machine free zones
  15. Domestic water supply intakes and water supply infrastructure
  16. Government approved experimental projects, growth and yield plots, operational trials and research installations
  17. Range improvements, including structures, excavations or constructed livestock trails
  18. Trapping cabins, identified trapping sites and access trails
  19. Recreation sites and known features

20. Cultural heritage resource features

21. Critical wildlife habitat and Old growth management areas