

# *Forest Act, Bulletin #17*

## Damaged Timber Blanket Salvage Cutting Permit Issuance

BULLETIN #17

DATE: May 1, 2025

*Information contained in this bulletin does not constitute legal advice. Where appropriate, users within government should seek legal advice from the Ministry of Attorney General and users outside government should seek independent legal advice. All users should refer to the relevant section(s) of current legislation or other regulatory requirements referred to in this bulletin for the exact legal wording of any authorizations, requirements, restrictions, or obligations.*

### 1.0 LEGISLATION, POLICY, GUIDANCE AND DEFINITIONS

[Forest Act, Part 3.1](#)

[Forest and Range Practices Act, Sections 15.1, 15.2, 15.3](#)

[Cutting Permit and Road Tenure Administration Manual, v 6.0](#)

[Forest Act Bulletin #15 Cutting Permit and Road Permit Administration,  
Updated Procedures for Meeting Obligations When Consulting First Nations,  
May 7, 2010](#)

[Interior Appraisal Manual and Coast Appraisal Manual](#)

### 2.0 PURPOSE

This bulletin provides guidance on the issuance of Blanket Salvage Cutting Permits (BSCPs) to facilitate salvage of damaged or dead timber for major licences as defined under the *Forest Act, Section 52.02*.

This bulletin cancels and replaces the Deputy Minister memo titled, Harvesting Under a Blanket Salvage Permit (for Interior Regions) signed January 29, 2016.

### 3.0 BACKGROUND

Salvaging timber under the BSCPs may improve the preservation of mid-term and long-term timber supply. The main objectives of applying for and issuing a BSCP are:

- Facilitate timely harvest and utilization of timber that has been damaged or is at risk of being damaged or reduced in value following a wildfire, blowdown, insect or disease event.
- Expedite the issuance of the cutting authority to:
  - capture the value of the damaged timber before the quality deteriorates; and
  - capture timber cut in the process of wildfire control or containment activities (fireguards construction timber).

#### 4.0 TIMBER CRITERIA TO QUALIFY FOR BLANKET SALVAGE CUTTING PERMIT

All BSCP authorizations/amendments are subject to Statutory Decision Maker (SDM) discretion.

An area/cut block may only be authorized under a BSCP if the timber within the area:

- is dead or damaged due to wind, fire, snow press, drought, landslides, or flooding;
- is dead as a result of forest pests or disease;
- requires removal to manage and control an insect infestation;
- is expected to die within one year due to insect infestation;
- consists of trap trees requiring salvage after incidental cutting under the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA), Section 52 (1)(b).

Additionally, an area/cut block of dead or damaged timber as defined above must also be “isolated” from other CP developments or amendments. For context, “isolated” means the BSCP area/cut block:

1) is not adjacent or contiguous to another existing active CP (i.e., cannot be amended into a nearby CP), unless the related harvesting equipment has been demobilized, and its harvest completion has been declared.

2) is not in the vicinity of or adjacent to an area where a current or future CP development activity or submission is planned or conducted (e.g. within a fire boundary where an expected CP development will occur to address salvage, adjacent to another BSCP submission).

Timber that does not qualify under the BSCP:

- Post harvest logging residue or post harvest dispersed felled timber; and
- Wildfire risk reduction.

## 5.0 INTERIOR CRITERIA TO QUALIFY FOR BLANKET SALVAGE CUTTING PERMIT

To apply for the BSCP in the Interior, all of the following is required:

- The area consists of damaged timber as defined in the Interior Appraisal Manual (IAM)
- Volume/cut block is less than 5,000 m<sup>3</sup> AND area/cut block is equal or less than 15 hectares.
- Cut block areas greater than 15 hectares may be accepted if the silviculture system is partial retention or a retention system and meets an intermediate cut stocking standard<sup>1</sup> approved under the Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) or Forest Operations Plan (FOP) for the associated BEC unit.
- A forest tenure holder may have more than one BSCP based on the IAM table rate that applies to the BSCP. (i.e., burned timber BSCP vs. salvage BSCP). At application, licensees must demonstrate that the timber under the new areas meet the appropriate table rate for that specific BSCP.
- Reporting, silviculture, wastes assessment, and fire hazard abatement apply for each cut block at harvest completion.

## 6.0 COAST CRITERIA TO QUALIFY FOR BLANKET SALVAGE CUTTING PERMIT

To apply for the BSCP in the Coast area, all of the following is required:

- The area consists of damaged timber as defined in the Coastal Appraisal Manual (CAM).

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<sup>1</sup> Intermediate stocking standards require that the level of harvest leaves the stand fully stocked with mature timber and therefore no reforestation requirements are required.

- Volume/cut block is less than 5 000 m<sup>3</sup> AND area/cut block is equal or less than 15 hectares.
- Cut block areas greater than 15 hectares may be accepted if the silviculture system is partial retention or a retention system and meets an intermediate cut stocking standard approved under the FSP or FOP for the associated BEC unit.
- Reporting, silviculture, waste assessment, and fire hazard abatement apply for each cut block at harvest completion.

## 7.0 APPLICATIONS AND ISSUANCE

To apply and amend a BSCP (i.e., add a cut block), all of the following is required:

- A CP application form and an electronic submission (ESF) of at least one cut block submitted into Status and Clearance (SNCS) for clearance and issuance.
- Rate determination form (Interior short form or Coast miscellaneous stumpage rate form) signed off by a forest professional.
- If new areas are added to this harvest authority, the CP application form and ESF spatial must be re-submitted as an amendment to the CP, provided the criteria and pricing rate related to the BSCP is appropriate. The SDM has discretion to accept these new areas and issue an amendment.

### 7.1 FIRST NATIONS CONSULTATION

Consultation is a mandatory requirement for most statutory decisions under the *Forest Act* and the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA). All impacted First Nations must be consulted prior to issuing a CP/RP in all circumstances, including amendments and BSCPs.

### 7.2 FOREST OPERATIONS MAP (FOM)

Upon request and in accordance with FRPA, Section 15.3, the SDM may exempt the requirement for an advertisement of a FOM if the planned activities (initial application and any new areas) include the harvest of Crown timber that is at risk of being:

- Damaged;
- Significantly reduced in value; or
- Lost or destroyed.



### 7.3 CP ISSUANCE

*Forest Act*, Section 52.03 requires the SDM to consider the impact harvesting of Crown timber would have on the following:

- Management and conservation of forest resources;
- Cultural heritage resources; and
- Public health and safety.

In addition, the SDM may request additional information in accordance with Section 52.04 of the *Forest Act* and/or add conditions in accordance with Section 52.08 of the *Forest Act*. [Bulletin 15 – Cutting Permit and Road Permit Administration](#) provides more detailed information on exercising discretion.

### 8.0 CONCLUSION

In the event of a catastrophic wildfire, flood, or pest infestation, an agreement holder is required to submit a CP/RP application in the form and manner specified by the Director of Forest Tenures Branch. The BSCP creates an alternative for harvesting of isolated damaged timber to facilitate removal of timber at risk, damage or dead without the need for an appraisal process.