



File: 19400-01
Reference: 284458

April 07, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Re: Guidelines for the Use of *Forest Act*, Sections 61 and 62

Dear Licensees:

Please find attached updated Guidelines for the use of Sections 61 and 62 of the *Forest Act*. This document cancels and replaces *Forest Act*, Bulletin #3 [Temporary Reduction and Disposition of a Licence's Allowable Annual Cut (Section 61) and the Restoration of that Allowable Annual Cut (Section 62)] dated October 30, 2015, and the (Guidelines for the Interpretation and Use of *Forest Act*, Section 61 and 62) dated October 27, 2015.

Section 61 allows the Minister, with the consent of the licence or agreement holder, to temporarily reduce the allowable annual cut (AAC) of eligible licences or agreements for a specified period. The Minister may then redeploy these volumes. The licence or agreement AAC is fully restored once the reduction period expires.

The updates to the Guidelines reflect the need for more flexibility with the statutory tool to access currently tenured but idled timber supplies that have grown over several years and are intended to encourage both ministry staff and licence or agreement holders to further explore the use of Section 61 in situations where harvesting is constrained by external conditions (e.g., poor markets, tariffs, legal issues, etc.) or by any other circumstances beyond their control.

Full utilization of the AAC is important to maintain predictable fibre supply and economic stability, but not all licence or agreement holders are harvesting the full AAC allocated to them. This results in unused AACs that could otherwise be redeployed. The decrease in timber harvest can lead to the curtailment or closure of important processing facilities, reduce local employment and decrease overall economic activity even though there often remains a strong demand for timber.

I encourage all eligible licence and agreement holders to consider using Section 61 in situations where harvesting is constrained by external conditions or other circumstances

beyond their control. The updated guidelines can be found on the Forest Tenures Branch website at: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/forest-tenures/timber-tenure-bulletins-policies-and-procedures>.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Patrick Russell, Director of Forest Tenures, by email at Patrick.Russell@gov.bc.ca or by phone at (778) 974-2483.

Sincerely,



Jillian Rousselle
Assistant Deputy Minister

Attachment: Guidelines for the Use of *Forest Act*, Sections 61 and 62

pc: Makenzie Leine, Deputy Minister
Ian Meier, Associate Deputy Minister of Forests
Shane Berg, Assistant Deputy Minister and Chief Forester
Jessica Coster, Assistant Deputy Minister, Provincial Operations Division
Mike Hykaway, Assistant Deputy Minister, North Area
Jamie Jeffreys, Assistant Deputy Minister, South Area
Melissa Sanderson, Assistant Deputy Minister, Coast Area
Lennard Joe, Chief Executive Officer, BC First Nations Forestry Council
len@forestrycouncil.ca
Kim Haakstad, President and CEO, Council of Forest Industries
haakstad@cofi.org
Ted Dergousoff, President, Interior Lumber Manufacturers' Association
ted.dergousoff@ilma.com
Gordon Chipman, Executive Director, Woodlots BC
gord@woodlotsbc.ca
Jennifer Gunter, Executive Director, BC Community Forests Association
jgunter@bccfa.ca
Joe Nemeth, Project Manager, BC Pulp and Paper Coalition
joe.nemeth48@gmail.com
Gord Murray, Executive Director, Wood Pellet Association of Canada
gord@pellet.org
John Nester, President, Northwest Loggers Association
jnester@telus.net
Peter Lister, Executive Director, Truck Loggers Association
peter@tla.ca

Todd Chamberlain, General Manager, Interior Logging Association
todd@interiorlogging.org