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File: 19400-00

February 19, 2018

BY EMAIL

To: Assistant Deputy Ministers
Chief Forester
Regional Executive Directors
BCTS Executive Director
District Managers
BC Timber Sales Managers

From: Tim Sheldan
Deputy Minister

Re: Policy Regarding the Administration of Unharvested Volume, Uncommitted Volume and Unused BCTS Volume

Please find attached, the updated “Policy Regarding the Administration of Unharvested Volume, Uncommitted Volume and Unused BCTS Volume”. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance on the administration of unharvested volumes for forest licences (FLs), tree farm licences (TFLs) and woodlot licences (WLs) in accordance with Section 75.8 of the *Forest Act*¹. It also provides guidance on the administration of uncommitted volumes, unused BC timber sales (BCTS) volumes, and unused volume accumulations for First Nations woodland licences (FNWLs) and community forest agreements (CFAs). This policy replaces the previous guidance entitled “Guidance on Unused Volume Tracking and Disposition” dated January 31, 2012.

Historically, there has been a surplus of available allowable annual cut (AAC) in most management units, and an overall low risk to long-term timber harvest sustainability of selling unharvested, uncommitted or unused BCTS volume. However, the trend of decreasing management unit AACs, increased land alienations, rapidly changing forest conditions, and high client demand for volume has triggered a need to develop a more comprehensive and

¹ Note that Section 75.8 also mentions timber sale licences with AAC; however, all licences associated with this form of agreement have been surrendered and have expired.

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BCTS Executive Director, District Managers, BC Timber Sales Managers

coordinated approach to the management of unharvested, uncommitted and unused BCTS volumes.

This policy helps address these AAC sustainability concerns by providing a principled and defensible policy and decision making process framework regarding unharvested, uncommitted or unused BCTS volumes. This includes improved alignment of older, historic volume use with existing and pending management unit AAC determinations, and greater coordination and information sharing between various ministry and industry groups and First Nations. In addition, it important that during information gathering and the development of options for the potential disposition of volumes that staff have meaningful discussions with applicable First Nations.

The policy was created through the input and collaboration of various ministry branch, area, region, district and BC timber sales staff. Input was also solicited from client groups and incorporated where applicable. The policy, along with more information on AAC administration is available on the [Forest Tenures Branch website](https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hth/timber-tenures/index.htm) (<https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hth/timber-tenures/index.htm>).

If you have any questions, please contact Doug Stewart, Director, Forest Tenures Branch at (250) 387-8729.



Tim Sheldon
Deputy Minister

Attachment: Policy Regarding the Administration of Unharvested Volumes, Uncommitted Volumes and Unused BCTS Volumes

pc: Doug Stewart, Director, Forest Tenures Branch
Albert Nussbaum, Director, Forest Analysis and Inventory Branch