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Forestry and Logging Group



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TFL 38  
OPERABILITY MAPPING  
TERMS OF REFERENCE

June 14, 1996

Ministry of Forests  
Squamish Forest District  
42000 Loggers Lane  
Squamish, B.C.  
V0N 3G0

Attention: Shane Berg, Operations Manager - Land Information Management

Dear Sir:

Re: Tree Farm Licence 38

In preparation of the new Management Plan No. 8 for Tree Farm Licence (TFL) 38 we recently submitted the Draft Statement of Management Objectives, Options and Procedures (SMOOP). The SMOOP contains the proposed timeline of activities for the project. Currently we are updating resource inventories and plan to conduct an operability review as stated in the SMOOP.

Attached is the Terms of Reference (ToR) for conducting a review of the current operability classifications on TFL 38. The attached ToR is consistent with the ToR used in the assessment of TFL 54 (Clayoquot Sound), TFL 45 (Knight Inlet) and TFL 10 (Toba Inlet).

Due to personnel scheduling constraints field work is planned for the week of July 2 - 5.

Following the field work updated operability lines will be loaded into a Geographical Information System (GIS). 1:20 000 forest cover maps with the operability lines will be submitted for approval prior to the submission of the timber supply analysis information package.

Yours sincerely,  
INTERNATIONAL FOREST PRODUCTS LIMITED

Laszlo Kardos, R.P.F., P.Eng.  
Resource Forester

Enclosure

International Forest Products Limited

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One of the most critical components of a yield analysis is the determination of the net productive operable land base. This determination will provide a benchmark for a number of calculations leading to a variety of possible cut levels. The net operable land base for TFL 38 will be determined in respect of conventional, aerial and marginal classifications. Specific areas for each classification will be identified and highlighted on forest cover maps. The details of this exercise are as follows:

#### BACKGROUND

The operability review of TFL 38 is being conducted in preparation of Management Plan No. 8. In addition to this contractual requirement, Interfor wants to ensure that the land base is defined in terms of logging method and economic constraints in order to provide harvesting opportunities. The basis for our review will be the most recent operability mapping conducted by Weldwood of Canada Limited. The established lines will be subject to extensive aerial reconnaissance and ground truthing, and will be modified according to our stated classification system.

#### 1. Conventional Areas

This classification will form the basis of operability definition for TFL 38. The majority of the TFL will be encompassed within this designation. Conventional areas are both physically and economically accessible to ground based harvesting systems. Ground based harvesting systems will include; high lead towers, grapple yarders, hoe chucking and where applicable rubber tired skidders. The vast majority of the area will utilize cable yarding. Yarding distances will not exceed 350 meters (1200 feet) and will usually average 300 meters maximum distance.

Evaluation will first determine what areas are physically accessible to current ground based systems. This will involve an aerial reconnaissance of existing operability lines to ensure they are established at rock bluffs, overly steep slopes and maximum yarding distances. Physical accessibility will generally be limited to slopes of 100% or less. Steep slope areas will have to have suitable ground and soil conditions to allow logging to proceed. Areas shown as operable may be netted out from the AAC calculation because of a sensitive soil classification in the ESA mapping. The netting out process will include a review of the terrain classification and will follow Vancouver Regional Guidelines and Forest Practices Code requirements. The minimum harvestable volume will be

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approximately 350-400 m<sup>3</sup>/ha. There may be the occasional polygon below this volume that is included because of its proximity to better quality timber. Any questionable areas of operability will be ground checked and adjusted accordingly.

### 2. Helicopter Logging

The next step will involve assessing the timber above the physical accessibility line for inclusion as heli-wood. The guidelines adopted by the Vancouver Region for identification of heli-wood will form the basis of assessment. We will use the following guidelines.

- Minimum volume 400 m<sup>3</sup>/ha
  - occasionally lower for cypress types.
  - areas with lower volumes will be ground sampled to ensure their viability.
- Steep corridors along major stream channels will be removed

### 3. Marginal Economic Areas

This classification will be fully partitioned and will drive a performance based AAC. It will primarily include areas that were previously excluded. Interfor believes this is one method of maintaining or enhancing existing AAC's. All of the areas will be clearly physically accessible. We will include stands that will average 250-400 m<sup>3</sup>/ha net volume. This classification is essentially opportunity wood and the onus will be on Interfor to be innovative in developing methods to maintain a profitable business.

### 4. Inoperable Areas

The remaining land base will be classified as inoperable. This classification will include areas that are:

1. Physically inaccessible to either conventional or helicopter logging methods; and
2. Economically inaccessible timber which does not meet the marginal economic classification.

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### 5. Mapping

A final map will be produced at a scale of 1:20,000 delineating the conventional, heli, and marginal operating areas.

### 6. Public Involvement

Interfor is committed to public involvement at the community level. The company has a divisional office in Squamish, providing direct access for the local communities to company representatives. Public involvement will be directed at fostering these community relationships. Interfor will:

1. Make a public presentation of the final version of the operability classes in TFL 38 during the Management Plan Public Review Period scheduled for June/July 1997.