



File: 280-30

December 28, 2007

To: Regional Executive Directors
District Managers

From: Tim Sheldon
Assistant Deputy Minister
Operations Division

Re: Blanket Salvage Permits for Woodlot Licensees (WLs)

Similar to last year, the ministry has made a decision to implement a few key measures for woodlot licensees to address the salvage of rapidly deteriorating insect damaged timber for the winter 2007/2008 logging season. Therefore, further to my memo of December 21, 2006 and guidelines dated December 20, 2006 (the Guidelines), I wish to provide some subsequent guidance regarding Blanket Salvage Permits (BSPs) for woodlot licensees.



It should be noted that any issues not addressed below will remain unchanged as in my December 21st memo (and December 20th guidelines) and the changes referred to below will expire after April 15, 2008 at which time guidance reverts back to my December 21, 2006 direction.

Adjacency

Given the unique short term salvage imperative, I would ask that you relax any adjacency considerations referred to in the Guidelines under Criteria 2 - Logical Harvesting Opportunity, as long as this does not pose an environmental risk.

Volume/Area

I direct that the volume and area limits described in Criteria 4 - Size/Timber Type of the Guidelines, be changed from 2,000 m³ to 5,000 m³ and from 5 ha to 15 ha respectively.

Timber Type

The increased volume and area limits referred to above only apply to the harvest of stands that are 70% or greater pine and are 70% or more dead or damaged, and/or other stands with other species that are 70% or more dead or damaged.

Regional Executive Directors
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Take or Pay

The ministry will maintain our “take or pay” policy (approved by the Deputy on May 1, 2006) that requires all merchantable timber whether standing or felled that remains on site after primary logging of each cut block or at expiry of the woodlot BSP, is waste and is billable. Staff should refer to this policy for direction.

Amending BSPs (Deleting Blocks)

By way of policy (Oct 2002 Langridge/Howard memo) we would normally only allow minor amendments to woodlot BSPs due to circumstances beyond the licensee’s control usually for forest management reasons.

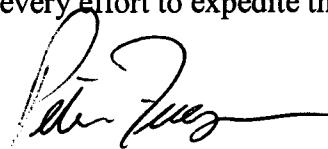
Under this short term salvage opportunity, we will allow District Managers (DMs) to remove unlogged blocks from woodlot BSPs up until April 15, 2008. If licensees so choose, rather than allowing this short term salvage opportunity to expire with approved blocks under permit, we encourage WLs to be proactive and approach DMs to request that unlogged blocks be removed from BSPs by April 15, 2008.

Decked Wood

As per the Scaling Regulation (Section 3) and the *Forest Act* (Section 95), the ministry does not intend to perform field scales of decked wood resulting from this salvage opportunity. Therefore, we must be clear with licensees that they manage to the April 15, 2008 deadline. Licensees should only apply for blocks that they can harvest and have scaled before the deadline. Licensees need to account for the risk of circumstances beyond their control in their harvest plan.

Please refer to Amendment No. 3 to the Interior Appraisal Manual for the pricing of BSPs during the period January 1 to April 15, 2008.

Recognizing the short term nature of this salvage opportunity I would ask that staff make every effort to expedite the review and potential approval of BSPs from woodlot licensees.


For Tim Sheldan
Assistant Deputy Minister
Operations Division

Attachment(s): December 21, 2006 Tim Sheldan memo
December 20, 2006 Guidelines

pc: Bob Friesen, Assistant Deputy Minister, Tenure and Revenue Branch
Murray Stech, Director, Revenue Branch
Jim Langridge, Director, Resource Tenures and Engineering Branch

File: 280-30

December 21, 2006

To: Regional Executive Directors
District Managers

From: Tim Sheldan
Assistant Deputy Minister
Operations Division

Re: **Blanket Salvage Permits for Woodlot Licensees**

In a March 22, 2005 memo I directed that Blanket Salvage Permits (BSPs) should not be used in the salvage emergency management unit (EMU) designation. This memo modifies my previous guidance around the utilization of Blanket Salvage Permits (BSPs) for woodlot licensees. While the link between EMUs and BSP usage has been made to establish reasonable consistency in administration between major licensees and woodlot licensees, woodlots are not explicitly identified under the bark beetle regulation and therefore have no direct linkages to emergency designations.



After careful consideration, there appears to be unique circumstances both within and outside of the salvage zone where BSPs may still be a useful tool for woodlots. The key forest management criteria that District Managers should consider in assessing BSP applications are:

- Timber is Damaged
- Logical Harvesting Opportunity
- Timber Opportunity is Isolated
- Size/Timber Type

Staff should refer to the attached guidelines dated December 20, 2006 for further clarification around the approval criteria. Under this new policy the District Manager would still decide if the operational planning requirements or exemptions and First Nations consultations have been dealt with appropriately. Despite the discretion at the district level, I will be holding Regional Executive Directors accountable for a reasonable level of consistency between districts and across regions.

At this time, all BSPs should be appraised as per the Interior Appraisal Manual.

Regional Executive Directors

I trust this policy direction will provide guidance for District Managers in utilizing BSPs in certain unique circumstances that warrants their use.



for

**Tim Sheldon
Assistant Deputy Minister
Operations Division**

**Attachment(s): March 22, 2005 Tim Sheldon memo
October 5, 2005 Bill Warner memo**

**pc: Bob Friesen, Assistant Deputy Minister, Tenure and Revenue Branch
Dave Petersen, Assistant Deputy Minister, BC Timber Sales**

December 20, 2006

Guidelines for District Managers Regarding Blanket Salvage Permits for Woodlot Licensees

The following guidelines provide clarification around the circumstances when a District Manager may apply discretion around utilizing a Blanket Salvage Permit for a woodlot.

For this purpose, a "Blanket Salvage Permit" (BSP) is defined as **"a unique cutting permit (CP), which is different from standard CPs because they can be amended by the District Manager on a regular basis for approved circumstances."** A BSP Exhibit "A" map should only identify the small patches of timber that have been approved for harvest under the BSP and cannot overlap any other issued cutting authorities. As such, existing BSPs that identify the entire woodlot as the Exhibit "A" area authorized for harvest, should not be used in the future. Where these exist, they should be allowed to expire without any additional amendments and a new BSP should be issued in conjunction with the first new patch of salvage timber approved for harvest under the BSP. Any subsequent requests for small areas must be approved by the DM and amended into the CP before harvesting can commence.

The District Manager should assess how each Blanket Salvage opportunity, including subsequent amendments, meet the following guidelines. It should be noted that each district could have its own more restrictive requirements for accepting BSP applications, as long as they fit within these Provincial guidelines. However the administration of BSPs should be guided by the qualifying criteria below.

In most circumstances the timber in question (being applied for) must meet all of the following 4 criteria to be eligible for application to be amended into a BSP.

Qualifying Criteria

1. Damaged Timber

- Timber is characterized as green, red or grey mountain pine beetle attacked
- Timber will significantly reduce in value (e.g. change in grade) in one year (insect or disease infested, fire damaged, blowdown, etc), or
- Timber is required to be removed within one year to address other resource concerns or safety issues

2. Logical Harvesting Opportunity

- Must encompass the susceptible area, and
- Provides for a logical harvesting system to address timber opportunity, and
- Application must address adjacency considerations to other planned or potential harvesting operations (within the woodlot licence boundary), and
- Recognizes barriers to operability, as well as
- Addresses licence as well as licensee constraints

3. Isolated

- Requirement for mobilization/demobilization affects economics, and
- Harvesting area cannot logically be added to an approved or potential planned harvest opportunity

4. Size/Timber Type

- Cutblocks proposed for clearcut may be up to a maximum of 5 ha.
- For selective harvesting of small patches in mixed timber type stands, or small patches of dead or dying timber within otherwise healthy timber, stands can be greater than 5 ha as long as the volume harvested is no more than 2,000m³.
- 2,000 m³ volume limit excludes the volume harvested from any road or trail clearing width if a road/trail is required to facilitate the removal of the damaged timber.
- Timber that has been wind thrown, fire killed, insect killed or affected by other natural events.
- Natural regeneration, understory trees or standing green timber to be protected for future crop purposes wherever practicable.