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June 18, 2021

To: Forest Tree Seed Users Distribution List
Regional and District Managers, FLNRORD
BCTS Business Area Managers, FLNRORD

From: Diane Nicholls, ADM, Chief Forester

**Re: Next Phase of Transition to Climate Based Seed Transfer
Fall 2022 (2023 Sowing Season)**

This memo is to inform seed users and producers of my intent to amend the Chief Forester's Standards for Seed Use (Standards) to complete the transition to Climate Based Seed Transfer (CBST) and remove the Geographic Based Seed Transfer (GBST) option as of August 2022 (prior to the beginning of the 2023 sowing season).

The option to use either CBST or GBST will continue for the upcoming sowing season, to provide a transition period where seedlings sown prior to the removal of GBST can still be planted using that standard where necessary. I do however encourage seed users to use CBST wherever possible in the upcoming sowing and planting seasons. CBST is a necessary response to climate change, promoting healthy, resilient, and productive forests and ecosystems in support of all British Columbians.

In preparation for the next phase of the transition I encourage seed owners and users to collaborate on both seed use planning and management of their existing seed inventories. I suggest that seed owners only reserve seedlots in SPAR that they anticipate using in the future and move any excess seed to surplus. Moving excess seed to surplus makes it more readily available for purchase by other users and helps ensure efficient use of the current seed inventory. A [short training video](#) on updating seed allocations is available on the SPAR tutorial demonstration page. Impact assessment and gap analysis tools, developed by the Forest Improvement and Research Management Branch (FIRM), will continue to be updated to assist with the transition. As always, we will continue to engage with stakeholders as we move through the transition, regarding updates to the Standards and our supporting systems, and on future refinements to the CBST framework.

I request that FLNRORD District Managers forward copies of this letter to local forest licensees and silviculture agreement holders who may not be on the Forest Tree Seed Users Distribution List.

For questions pertaining to CBST or the Chief Forester's Standards for Seed Use, please contact Kevin Astridge RPF, Tree Seed Policy Officer (Kevin.Astridge@gov.bc.ca) at FIRM Branch.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'DN', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Diane Nicholls, R.P.F.
ADM, Chief Forester

cc. Patrick Martin, Director, FIRM Branch
Kevin Astridge, Seed Policy Officer, FIRM Branch