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May 17, 2022

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

From: Shane Berg, RPF A/Chief Forester – ADM Ministry of Forests

Re: Amendment to the Chief Forester’s Standards for Seed Use Completes the Transition to Climate Based Seed Transfer

I am pleased to announce that the Chief Forester’s Standards for Seed Use (Standards) have been amended to complete the transition to Climate Based Seed Transfer (CBST). Notice of the amended Standards was published in the *Gazette* on March 31, 2022, and the Standards will come into effect on August 1, 2022. Forest licence and silviculture agreement holders may waive the notice period and begin using the amended standards immediately.

The standards now include a transition provision allowing the standards that were in place, when seedling sowing requests were submitted, to be used at time of planting. This will allow Geographic Based Seed Transfer (GBST) standards to be used for planting seedlings that were requested prior to August 1, 2022. I encourage practitioners to use CBST at time of planting wherever possible.

As part of the ongoing refinement of CBST areas of use, updates have been made for BEC variants with no eligible seed procurement options, or where seed procurement options are limited by the range of tree species (i.e., for BEC variant plantation “orphans”). This will result in minor area increases of eligible use for some species. These updates are expected to result in greater deployment of seed under CBST. The Seed Planning and Registry Application (SPAR) has been updated to reflect the changes to the Standards and updates to the areas of use.

A new consolidated version of the Standards (PDF) and an updated area of use file (EXCEL) are available on the Chief Forester’s Standards for Seed Use website:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/managing-our-forest-resources/tree-seed/legislation-standards/chief-forester-s-standards-for-seed-use>

Several tools have been developed to assist in the transition to CBST including:

- CBST Seedlot Selection Tool to assist practitioners to identify potential seed sources for reforestation
- Climate Comparison Tool which allows users to compare the climate space of a plantation, or a seed source under CBST, with a climate space of interest
- Species Planning Dashboard which provides historic information and projected forecasts of seed demand/use and seed orchard production by BEC, as well as seed orchard specific information for each commercial species in the province.

These tools can be accessed on our seed planning webpage:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/managing-our-forest-resources/tree-seed/seed-planning-use>

My office has established a Climate Based Seed Transfer Gaps Survey to allow practitioners to continually report any issues they encounter with CBST. This survey will be regularly monitored, and the information used to assist identifying future refinements and/or assist practitioners with issues they may encounter. The survey is available here:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/managing-our-forest-resources/tree-seed/seed-planning-use/seed-planning-use-cbst-gaps>

The completion of the transition to CBST represents the culmination of many years of effort by government and our many external partners. I am proud that British Columbia continues to be a leader in addressing climate change through our science-based reforestation decisions as we work to ensure sustainable, healthy, and productive forests for generations to come.

Shane Berg, RPF

A/Chief Forester – Assistant Deputy Minister