

Recommended Process for Proposing Alternatives to Section 8.0 of the *Chief Forester's Standards for Seed Use* using the CBST Seedlot Selection Tool

September 2017

Climate Based Seed Transfer (CBST) is a climate change adaptation project led by the Ministry of Forests, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, Forest Improvement and Research Management Branch (previously the Tree Improvement Branch) to provide the science, policy and decision support needed to enable the matching of seeds / seedlings to the future climates of the environments in which they will be planted.

Scope

In accordance with the section 169 of the *Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA)*, section 43 of the *Forest Planning and Practice Regulation*, and section 32 of the *Woodlot Licence Planning and Practices Regulation*, the *Chief Forester's Standards for Seed Use* came into effect on April 1, 2005.

Under the regulations referenced above, a person who uses seed to establish a free growing stand may apply for an alternative to any standard established by the Chief Forester. The Chief Forester's Standards for Seed Use Alternatives Policy (June 1, 2005) guides the proposal of alternatives to all sections of the *Chief Forester's Standards for Seed Use*.

This CBST Proposed Alternatives process applies only to alternatives proposed to Section 8 (Transfer Limits for Registered Lots) of the *Chief Forester's Standards for Seed Use* where they are based on the CBST Seedlot Selection Tool. Section 7 which addresses Selection and Use of Seed (in particular the requirement for use of seed with a Genetic Worth >5 where available) is not affected by this process.

Purpose

The purpose of this process is to:

1. Promote adaption to BC's changing climate by providing forest tenure holders with an opportunity to pursue early implementation of CBST in advance of anticipated amendments to the Standards.
2. Streamline the Chief Forester's review of proposed alternatives to Section 8 of the *Chief Forester's Standards for Seed Use* where they are based on the CBST Seedlot Selection Tool.

Recommended Process

1. Complete training on use of the CBST Seedlot Selection Tool as provided by the Forest Improvement and Research Management Branch. Training dates will be posted at www.gov.bc.ca/climatebasedseedtransfer, or contact Susan Zedel (Susan.Zedel@gov.bc.ca) or Leslie McAuley (Leslie.McAuley@gov.bc.ca).
2. **For Alternatives at the Seedling Request stage:**
 - a) Determine the hectares and quantity of seedlings that you want to request by species and BEC variant.

- b) Using the CBST Seedlot Selection Tool¹, identify seedlots suitable for the BEC variant(s) of your planting site(s).
- c) Use SPAR to check if sufficient quantities for seedlots identified in (b) are available to meet your silviculture (planting) needs. Enter your seedling request(s) into SPAR by selecting **CSTA** (Climate-based Seed Transfer Alternative) in the “Subject To:” field, enter the desired seedlot(s) in the “Additional Criteria” “Lot Number(s)” field, and entering an appropriate comment when prompted for a Transfer Guide Exception Override (e.g. CBST Alternative).
- d) Complete **Sections A and B1** of the “CBST Alternative Form” (Attachment 2).

Note: Alternatives approved at the time of seedling request ordering remain in effect (legally enforceable) and do not require re-submission at time of planting. If changes are made to an approved alternative at planting (e.g. species, BEC variant, seedlot), a new alternative request is required.

3. **For Approval of Alternatives for Planting:** If you have seedlings available that you intend to plant under a CBST alternative, complete **Sections A and B2** of the CBST Alternative Form.
4. Email the completed CBST Alternative Form, with any additional information pertinent to the request, to Margot Spence, Tree Seed Policy Officer ([Mailto:Margot.Spence@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Margot.Spence@gov.bc.ca)) with a copy to Susan Zedel, Seed Resource Specialist ([Mailto:Susan.Zedel@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Susan.Zedel@gov.bc.ca)), Forest Improvement and Research Management Branch, FLNR.
5. Applicants will be notified of the result (approval / approval with conditions / rejection) via the email address provided on the CBST Alternative Form.

Chief Forester’s Review of Proposed Alternatives

- Proposed alternatives using this process will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- This process does not preclude the Chief Forester requesting additional information in support of a proposed alternative.
- Use of this process does not guarantee approval of a proposed alternative.

References

Forest Range and Practices Act, section 169
Forest Planning and Practices Regulation, section 43
Woodlot Licence Planning and Practices Regulation, section 32
Chief Forester’s Standards for Seed Use
Chief Forester’s Alternatives Policy (June 1, 2005)

The CBST Alternative Form and further information on CBST are available at:
www.gov.bc.ca/climatebasedseedtransfer

¹ Available through a link at www.gov.bc.ca/climatebasedseedtransfer. Watch for notice of when the tool will be available directly through SPAR.