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CLIFF: 231294

To: Forest Tree Seed Users Distribution List
Regional Executive Directors and District Managers, FLNR
Forest Licensees and Silviculture Agreement Holders
BCTS Managers, FLNR

Dear colleagues:

The Climate Change Strategy¹ developed by the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development includes a commitment to advance science and tools to address climate change as a core part of FLNR's business.

Work continues to progress on key forest management adaptation strategies, including the use of climatically suitable tree species and genotypes in reforestation. While the climate informed tree species selection project is still in the developmental stage, I am pleased to advise that the Climate Based Seed Transfer (CBST) project has advanced sufficiently to provide a new opportunity for adaptation to climate change at this time.

CBST promotes healthy, resilient and productive forests and ecosystems through the matching of seedlings/seedlots to future (projected) planting site climates. It is anticipated that amendments to Section 8.0 (transfer limits) of the [Chief Foresters Standards for Seed Use](#) (Standards) to incorporate CBST will be made in late Spring 2018. In the interim, a process has been developed for voluntary uptake of CBST by those interested in early implementation.

Forest license and silviculture agreement holders, who wish to pursue CBST for seedling requests for the 2018 Sowing Year or planting starting in 2017, can apply for a CBST alternative to the current Standards using the streamlined request process and CBST Seedlot Selection Tool described in Attachments 1 and 2. Ministry staff may also use the CBST Seedlot Selection Tool for planning and reforestation under the Forests for Tomorrow, Forest Enhancement Society and Forest Carbon Initiatives programs.

Information sessions on early implementation of CBST and use of the CBST Seedlot Selection Tool will be offered by the Forest Improvement and Research Management Branch (FIRM) staff over the coming months. More information on CBST and the information sessions is available at www.gov.bc.ca/climatebasedseedtransfer.

¹ See [FLNR, Climate Change Strategy \(2015-2020\)](#)

CBST policy development and stakeholder engagement is ongoing and formal policy changes are expected to be implemented in stages. It should be noted that the full extent of climate change adaptation through CBST will be realized at a later date when the climate informed tree species selection project advances to implementation.²

It is intended that in due time the CBST project and the climate informed tree species selection project will come together into a set of integrated forest management policies and climate change adaptation tools.

FLNR District Managers are requested to 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 the CBST Project or use of a CBST alternative please contact Margot Spence, Tree Seed Policy Officer and CBST project lead (Margot.Spence@gov.bc.ca), at FIRM.



Diane Nicholls
Chief Forester

Copy to: Tim Sheldan, Deputy Minister
FLNR Executive Team
Shane Berg, Executive Director, CFO
Meggin Messenger, Executive Director, CFO
Pat Martin, Director, FIRM
Jennifer Davis, Executive Director, RPB
Albert Nussbaum, Director, FAIB
Margot Spence, CBST Project Lead, FIRM
Forest Genetics Council of BC
CBST Stakeholders Advisory Group members
CBST Policy Working Group members
Greg Anderson, Executive Director, Forest Enhancement Society of BC
Christine Gelowitz, Megan Hanacek, ABCFP
Susan Yurkovich, CEO, COFI
Rick Jeffrey, CEO, CFPA

- Attachments (2): (1) Recommended Process for Proposing Climate Based Seed Transfer (CBST) Alternatives to Section 8.0 of the *Chief Foresters Standards for Seed Use* using the CBST Seedlot Selection Tool.
- (2) CBST Proposed Alternative Form.

² Until the climate informed tree species selection project advances, the current Reference Guide for FDP Stocking Standards (including the 2014 Update: Climate-change Related Stocking Standards) applies to integrated silviculture strategies and forest stewardship planning (<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/managing-our-forest-resources/silviculture/stocking-standards>). The use of the 2014 Climate-change Related Stocking Standards is recommended where applicable.