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April 15, 2019

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

From: Diane Nicholls, ADM, Chief Forester

Re: Amendment to the *Chief Forester's Standards for Seed Use*

I am pleased to announce that the *Chief Forester's Standards for Seed Use* (Standards) have been amended to update Climate Based Seed Transfer (CBST) Areas of Use for British Columbia (referenced in Section 8.4.1). The amended Standards come into effect after a four month notice period, on August 12, 2019; however, forest licence and silviculture agreement holders may waive the notice period and begin using the amended Standards immediately.

Changes to the CBST Areas of Use are part of ongoing refinement in British Columbia's transition to Climate Based Seed Transfer. The following changes are included in this amendment:

- more accurate areas of use for Grand fir seed, based on updated provenance data;
- for BEC variants with no eligible seed procurement options (i.e., for BEC variant plantation "orphans"), at least one BEC variant has been made available from which to procure tree seed. This results in minor increases in the areas of use for the following species: At, Ba, Bl, Cw, Dr, Ep, Fdc, Fdi, Hm Lt, Pj, Plc, Pli, Sb, and Sxs;
- previous latitude and elevation restrictions for Western Red cedar have been removed and replaced by a recommendation related to site specific 'precipitation as snow' levels; and,
- minor adjustments to Whitebark pine, Lodgepole pine and Western White pine Areas of Use, based on review by the geneticists.

All of the above changes result in greater deployment and procurement of seed under the CBST transfer standards (Section 8.4 of Standards).

The option to use both CBST and Geographically based transfer standards (GBST) continues under the Standards. In my letter of April 2018, I identified a two year target for removal of the option to use GBST. I now anticipate that the GBST standards will not be removed before April 2021, given that mitigation options are still under development and more changes to areas of use are anticipated in April 2020.

Since only the "CBST Areas of Use in British Columbia" file posted on the *Chief Foresters Standards for Seed Use* website has been amended, I will not be releasing a new consolidated version of the *Chief Foresters Standards for Seed Use* at this time. Please refer to the [Chief Foresters Standards for Seed Use website](#) for both the [current Standards](#) (PDF) and the [amended CBST Areas of Use file](#) (Excel).

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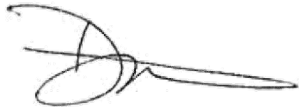
The revised CBST Areas of Use have been incorporated into SPAR and the CBST Tool. Impact assessment and gap analysis tools developed by the Forest Improvement and Research Management Branch (FIRM) will also be updated over the next few months to assist with 2020 sowing requests and forward planning. FIRM is developing webinars on use of these tools and they will be added to the [CBST web-site](#) shortly.

CBST development and transition work continues. Replacement of current seed planning zones / breeding zones with new CBST seed planning / breeding zones is expected in 2 to 5 years' time. New orchards are also in various stages of planning. Collaboration between the CBST and the climate change informed species selection (CCISS) project also continues¹.

During this time of change, I encourage seed owners and users to collaborate on seed use planning, and to see this as a necessary response to climate change, promoting healthy, resilient, and productive forests and ecosystems in support of all British Columbians.

FLNRORD 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 CBST or the amended *Chief Foresters Standards for Seed Use* please contact Margot Spence, Tree Seed Policy Officer and CBST project lead (Margot.Spence@gov.bc.ca) at FIRM.



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

cc: John Allan, Deputy Minister
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Steve Kozuki, Executive Director, Forest Enhancement Society of BC
Christine Gelowitz, Megan Hanacek, Association of BC Forest Professionals
Susan Yurkovich, CEO, Council of Forest Industries
Jennifer Gunter, BC Community Forestry Association
Brian McNaughton, Federation of BC Woodlot Associations

¹ 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 (https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/silviculture/stocking_stds.htm).