



April 6, 2018

Reference: 18157-02
Cliff ID: 238018

To: Forest Tree Seed Users Distribution List
Regional and District Managers, FLNR
Forest Licensees and Silviculture Agreement holders
BCTS Business Area Managers, FLNR

Dear colleagues:

I am pleased to announce that the *Chief Forester's Standards for Seed Use* (Standards) have been amended to enable the option to use Climate Based Seed Transfer (CBST) from this point forward. The amended Standards come into effect after a four month notice period, on August 6, 2018; however, forest licence and silviculture agreement holders may waive the notice period and begin using the amended Standards immediately.

CBST promotes healthy, resilient and productive forests and ecosystems through the matching of seed sources (seedlots) to climatically suitable planting sites. Introduction of CBST is one of the ministry's first climate change adaptation policies to mitigate the impacts of climate change. The attached Information Bulletin, "Transitioning to Climate Based Seed Transfer" (Attachment 1) contains more details on CBST. I encourage all seed users to become familiar with CBST, the revised cone collection standards and the option to use climatically suitable seed sources (seedlots) for planting.

In brief, amendments to the Standards (Attachment 2) include:

- The addition of the option to use CBST transfer standards, continue with the current transfer standards ("geographically-based transfer standards"), or use a mix of both;
- New cone collection requirements that align with CBST; and
- Other minor amendments to update references and administrative provisions.

A consolidated version of the *Chief Foresters Standards for Seed Use*, updated to April 6, 2018, is available at: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/forestry/tree-seed/legislation-standards/chief_forester_standards.pdf

The introduction of the amended Standards brings an end to the streamlined process for requesting a CBST Alternative, which I introduced in September 2017.

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Information sessions on the amended Standards and related changes to SPAR will be offered by the Forest Improvement and Research Management Branch (FIRMB) staff. FIRMB is also sponsoring updated cone collection workshops over summer 2018. Dates for all sessions will be listed at: www.gov.bc.ca/climatebasedseedtransfer

CBST policy development and stakeholder engagement is ongoing and additional changes to the Standards are expected to be implemented in stages. Future changes that are currently planned will address:

- Removal of the option to use the “Geographically based transfer standards.” This is targeted to be in two years; however, timing will be subject to the results of CBST impact and gap analyses (currently underway); and, additional consultation with stakeholders.;
- Replacement of current seed planning zones / breeding zones with new CBST seed planning /breeding zones. This is expected in 2 to 5 years’ time.
- Implementation, administration and streamlining of the Standards.

Please note that the full extent of climate change adaptation through CBST will be realized at a later date when the climate change informed species selection (CCISS) project advances to implementation.¹ Collaboration efforts between the CBST and CCISS projects will continue to ensure integration and consistency between decision tools and policy realms.

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 the CBST Project 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 Forest Improvement and Research Management Branch.

Diane Nicholls
Chief Forester

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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).

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
Leith MacKenzie, Greg Anderson, Forest Enhancement Society of BC
Christine Gelowitz, Megan Hanacek, ABCFP
Susan Yurkovich, CEO, COFI
Rick Jeffrey, CEO, CFPA

Attachments: 1 - Information Bulletin: Transitioning to Climate Based Seed Transfer
(April 2018)

2 - Amendments to the *Chief Foresters Standards for Seed Use* (April 6,
2018)