Importance of Douglas-fir:

- Recognized as an important element of biodiversity including structural and species diversity
  - important for snow interception
  - mule deer ungulate winter range
- Recognized as a regionally significant species that is rarely abundant with a wide distribution
- Within the Prince George TSA Douglas-fir is near the northern extent of its range
- Douglas fir in the Sub-boreal Pine Spruce BEC is considered a notable conservation gap
- Provides:
  - forest and structural diversity
  - distinctive timber products
  - Heritage values
  - Aesthetics

Douglas-fir in the Prince George Forest District Facts:

- ~ 40,500\(^1\) Ha of forested land base in the PG Forest District is Douglas-fir leading
- ~ 1,000\(^1\) Ha is age class 9 (>250 years)
- ~ 11,000\(^1\) Ha is age class 8 (> 200 years)
- ~ 4,500 Ha or 10% of Douglas-fir leading is in UWR (not precluded from harvest)
- Douglas fir is leading species on 1.5% of the land base in Prince George and comprises an average of 5% of the harvested volume\(^2\)

Guidance for the Management of Douglas-fir:

- The Prince George LRMP (1999) provides management objectives and affirms the regional significance of this species
- “Licensee Operating Procedures - Harvesting Douglas-Fir Stands” a District Manager Policy issued in 1995 under the Forest Practices Code (FPC)
- “Douglas-fir Management Guidelines for the Prince George Forest Region” developed under FPC in 1999
- Under the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) these documents are considered policy and are not legally binding
- The FRPA and professional reliance places the onus on licensees to utilize “best available information” or guidance documents in forest planning
- Only Objectives\(^3\) must be addressed with results and strategies in a Forest Stewardship Plan

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\(^1\) Calculated using 2006 VRI data
\(^2\) As determined through review of Harvest Billing Information (MoFR) from 1999 – 2005
\(^3\) As reported in “Current Results” BC’s Natural Resources Research Digest www.currentresults.com
Policy Objectives for Douglas-fir Management:

1. Reserve adequate levels of large old Douglas-fir trees, either individual-tree or group reserves.
   - stand structure and variability may be the guiding factors in the selection of appropriate retention trees
   - encourage partial cutting where stand attributes allow
   - retain some mature Douglas-fir where they constitute a minor component of the stands where stand attributes allow

2. Maintain adequate levels of a representative range of younger and older age-classes of residual Douglas-fir in a windfirm and undamaged condition within areas under the operational plan.
   - targeted post-harvest levels of Douglas-fir retention should consider expectations for post-harvest mortality of reserved leave-trees
   - encourage a component of the regenerated stand to be Douglas-fir where Douglas-fir was a component of the harvested areas

As consolidated from information from the Prince George LRMP, Douglas-fir Management Guidelines for the Prince George Forest Region and other “best available information”

Douglas-fir:
Ecologically, Biologically and Regionally Significant in the Prince George Forest District

May, 2006