

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:

- ~ 40,500¹ Ha of forested land base in the PG Forest District is Douglas-fir leading
- ~ 1,000¹ Ha is age class 9 (>250 years)
- ~ 11,000¹ Ha is age class 8 (> 140 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**^{*}

¹ Calculated using 2006 VRI data

^{*} As determined through review of Harvest Billing Information (MoFR) from 1999 – 2005

[^]As reported in "Current Results" BC's Natural Resources Research Digest www.currentresults.com

Guidance for the Management of Douglas-fir:

- The **Prince George LRMP** (1999) provides management objectives and affirms the **regional significance** of this species



- "Correlated Guidelines for Management of Uneven-aged Drybelt Douglas-fir Stands in (BC)" MoF publication, May 1992
- "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[#] must be addressed** with results and strategies in a Forest Stewardship Plan

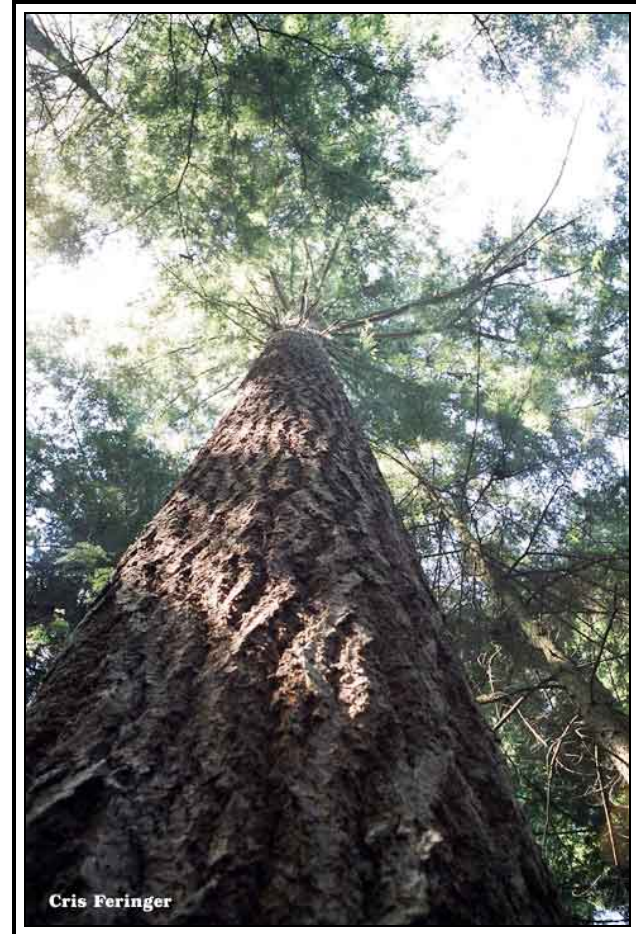
[#]"Objectives" include: Objectives Set by Government, Objectives in Regulation and Objectives enabled by Regulation

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