

Cascades Forest District, Small Scale Salvage Program (SSSP): January 29, 2006

2007/08 Strategic Plan:

A. Purpose

- To clearly identify targeted Small Scale Salvage (SSS) activities to address district Forest Health impacts.
- To demonstrate where various activities will be deemed appropriate in the district.
- Make sure the district strategic plan will closely complement the Provincial and Regional Strategic Plans.
- Demonstrate the district strategic plan direction is consistent with the 2006/07 Action Plan by re-focusing SSSP back into its original intent – recovering small patches of damaged trees (less than 2,000 m³ and less than 1 hectare). The 2006/07 SSS Action Plan is on the Resource Tenures and Engineering Branch public website <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hth/timten/documents/sss-2006-07-action-plan-jun-8-2006.doc>
- Ensure the role of the SSSP within the district is to provide business and business opportunities for small independent operators and communities while ensuring the effective forest management by salvage of minor volumes of timber.

B. Application and Scope

- The program will be reviewed at the end of the fiscal year and will be tied to our District Service Plan
- The SSS activities within the District will be delivered primarily through Forestry Licences To Cut (FLTC), competitive Intermediate Salvage Licences (ISL) and Salvage Non-replaceable Forest Licences (SNRFL). There is an existing SNRFL (100, 000m³) in the Merritt TSA and another two are proposed (60,000 & 80,000m³) for 2007.
- Small scale salvage can be used in special MPB circumstances, such as isolated patches of leading edge, green attack and infested mixed wood stands in the BMU areas mentioned below. Blowdown, fire kill, and spruce-douglas fir bark beetles will be the main focus throughout the Merritt and Lillooet TSA.
- In MPB epidemic locations (with the exceptions of other ministries and agencies), Siwash (south of Shinish and Finagan Creek), Placer, Coquihalla and Otter BMUs in the Merritt TSA should be the only areas utilized by the small scale salvage licensees. All these BMUs are mainly mixed wood-holding areas. See the attached BMU map for the Merritt TSA.
- SSS applications will only be accepted for unencumbered Crown land. Proposals will not be acceptable on woodlots, and Agriculture leases, Extensions of Holding, Deeded land with Crown timber reserves or Grazing Leases.
- The program is focused on stands less than one (1) hectare clearcuts with the exception of areas such as partial cuts (> 1 ha) in mixed wood stands in which the residual stocking must be consistent with the requirements of section 46(3)(b)(ii) of the Forest Planning and Practises Regulations (FPPR).
- Blocks larger than one hectare (other than stocked partial cuts) should be limited to blowdown, firekill, and spruce-fir bark beetle. Prior approval must be granted by the

district for any exceptions.

- Wherever possible, areas > one hectare should be covered off by an ISL or a SNRFL.
- As per the Tim Sheldon's January 3, 2007 memo, all new FLTC approved after April 1, 2007 harvested under the SSSP that are less than or equal to one (1) hectare will require a silviculture deposit. This is to ensure sufficient funds to cover the costs of reforestation. All new harvested blocks which have residual stocking which meet the *Reference Guide for FDP stocking standards* would be an exception.

C. General Forest Conditions

- In 2005, a total of 75,768 infested hectares of MPB was observed which increased dramatically over 2004. This is also a 10-fold increase over that observed in 2003. Western balsam bark beetle infested area increased 3-fold to 8,564 hectares, and spruce and Douglas-fir infested hectares remained low. Previously, the Siwash BMU was the only unit with a suppression strategy for MPB but for 2006/07 it is designated as a holding BMU. Of the remaining fourteen (14) BMUs, three (3) are assigned the monitor strategy for MPB, and the ten (10) are assigned holding action and one (1) is now a salvage BMU (Plateau).

D. Strategic Goals

- The focus of the program within the district is to encourage small scale salvage operators to concentrate their efforts on non-epidemic areas (blowdown, fire kill, and spruce-fir bark beetle) and to a lesser extent, MPB epidemic areas.
- Spruce-fir bark beetle infestations are located in the Whipsaw and Placer BMU.
- In MPB epidemic areas, SSS will be restricted to smaller isolated patches (<1 ha) and larger mixed wood stands where the residual stocking is consistent with the requirements of section 46(3) (b) (ii) of the FPPR.
- Traditional SSS areas such as firekill, blowdown, and spruce-fir bark beetle may include blocks greater than one hectare but approval from the district is mandatory.
- Other ministry/agency priority areas for example, hazard reduction along various rights of way such as hydro lines, and roads, etc, and community fire interface, and recreation sites and trails will be harvested through an ISL or through a SNRFL. Note: Other ministries and agencies with a Licence of Occupation will be encouraged to utilize them by working with the SSS community with an Occupation Licence to Cut (OLTC) obtained from the Ministry of Forests and Range (MoFR).
- The forest district and the small scale salvage operators must communicate with major licensees, first nations, range holders etc. Written referrals with the concurrence of all the stakeholders must be submitted by the small scale salvage licensee with their professional Site Plan application.
- The district will encourage salvagers to look for new opportunities in other ministry priority areas for example, hazard reduction along various rights of way such as hydro lines, roads, etc, and community fire interface, and recreation sites and trails.
- District managers are to ensure all new SSS Forestry Licence to Cut's less than or equal one hectare (where the application was received after April 1, 2007) are restocked outlined in the *Reference Guide for FDP stocking standards*.

E. District Priorities

1. Traditional SSS areas: Spruce-fir bark beetle, blowdown, and fire kill (use of FLTC and ISL).
2. Other ministries and agencies: Hazard reduction on hydro right of ways and roads, infested and danger trees in recreation sites and trails, infested and danger trees in community fire interface areas (use of ISL, SNRFL and OLTC).
3. Epidemic areas:
Location: holding BMUs: Siwash (southern portion), Placer, Coquihalla, and Otter.
Species: Lodgepole Pine.
Stands: isolated clear cut patches (<1ha) in green and red attack, and mixed wood stands (< or > 1 ha) in which the residual stocking is consistent with the requirements of section 46(3) (b) (ii) of the FPPR.

F. District Objectives for the Use of FLTC's, SNRFL's and Intermediate Salvage Licences

- SNRFL would be used in pre-dominantly heavy infested pine areas, holding areas, and other ministries or agencies; whereas FLTCs would be used in isolated patches, mixed wood stands, traditional SSS areas, and suppression areas.
- ISL are competitive sales up to 5,000 m3. The new licence is created to recover medium-sized patches of wind-damaged, dead or beetle-attacked trees that are not being harvested by major logging companies. Licences will be competitively awarded and include silviculture requirements. The Cascades Forest District is participating in a 2006/07 intermediate salvage licence pilot project.

G. Roads

- No new roads will be constructed under the small scale salvage program.
- Road use agreements will be made with the major licensee and the small scale operators.

H. Implementation

- Strategic Plan will be available on the Cascades Forest District Small Scale Salvage Program, visit our Small Scale Salvage website at <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/dcs/Programs/sss.htm>

I. Future Considerations

- SNRFL proposal in the Merritt and Lillooet TSA
- Synergies with other ministry priority areas i.e. hazard reduction along various along various right of ways such as hydro lines, and roads, etc. and community fire interface.

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Recommend Approval:

Forest Officer: _____

Date: _____

District Manager: _____

Date: _____

Attachment(s)