

December 3, 2009 Insert to the 2008 Merritt Timber Supply Area Sustainable Forest Management Plan

Purpose:

The changes contained in this combined 2008 and 2009 insert to the 2008 SFM Plan in addition to the 2008 Plan will constitute the 2010 SFM Plan for the Merritt TSA. As for 2009, a new Plan for 2010 will not be printed. Work is planned starting in April, 2010 to make the necessary Plan changes required by revisions to the CSA SFM standard (CAN/CSA Z809-08).

SFM Plan text changes to the 2008 Plan for 2009 and 2010 (shown in red italic):

1. Page 7 – Licensee participation; rights of those not signing the plan will be respected (insert the text below after paragraph on NRFL holder reporting).

Forest Licensees participating in this plan agree to respect the rights and responsibilities of other stakeholders (e.g., trappers, ranchers) who are not signatories to the plan.

2. Page 9 – update section; recognize no LRMP to occur for the TSA.

Resource use planning in British Columbia occurs at a variety of levels ranging from strategic land use to site specific plans for small areas (e.g., site plans for individual cut blocks).

Strategic land use plans (such as those created by the Commission on Resources and Environment process or by the Land and Resource Management processes) provide broad direction for the sustainable management of land and resources through the establishment of resource management zones (e.g., protected areas, special management areas and general resource management zones). Within these zones, management objectives and strategies are developed to guide land and resource management activities.

Operational and site plans address resource management at a site specific level and are guided and often regulated by objectives and strategies in strategic land use plans or by broader government objectives such as those within the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA).

A formal strategic land use plan was not completed for the Merritt TSA. Forest planning and practices are guided by other broad plans such as the Nicola-Similkameen Innovative Forest Society's Forestry Plan or by the legislation itself. In their development of Forest Stewardship Plans, forest licensees are mandated to include results and strategies that meet government's objectives for resource values such as water, wildlife, soils, biodiversity and cultural heritage.

- Update Section 3.1.2 (page 5) confirming FN participation is without prejudice.

***Advisory Group participation:** The CSA standards require informed, inclusive, and fair consultation with First Nations and members of the public during the development and implementation of the SFM Plan. The Merritt SFM Advisory Group was established to provide advice and recommendations to the Merritt TSA Licensees regarding the development of values, objectives, indicators and targets. First Nations participation in this process is without prejudice to Aboriginal title and rights, and treaty rights.*

- Appendix 2, Indicator 25 (page 93) – clarify that the type/variety of FN information exchanges need to be reported on.

25	Monitoring/Reporting: Licensees will report the number of information exchanges with First Nations related to their Values and Uses.	# information exchanges <i>List type of information exchanges:</i> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
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- Delete Appendix 5 of the Plan (pages 113-116) and revise wording to the paragraph on Rare Features and Species at Risk (page 11). Provide link on page 11 to the BC government Identified Wildlife list.

Appendix 5 – DELETE

Rare Features and Species at Risk

Existing forest legislation outlines the management requirements for rare features and species at risk (referenced as identified wildlife). Plants and animals that are designated as identified wildlife within the Cascades Forest District can be found by searching the governments BC Species and Ecosystems explorer website at: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/atrisk/toolintro.html> - top*

** The provincial list of Identified Wildlife includes all species in BC that are designated within Schedule 1 of the federal Species at Risk Act plus other species felt be of regional importance. Information on the federal list of species at risk can be found at the website: http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/species/default_e.cfm. Companies are obligated to adequately manage the habitat associated with Identified Wildlife.*

6. Replace Appendix 6 (pages 117-124) with the December 4, 2008 Terms of Reference that was reviewed and approved at the meeting of the same date.

Appendix 6 – Replace with Dec 4, 2008 Terms of Reference

7. April 2, 2009 – additional change to SFM Plan (refer to April 2 meeting minutes).

Revise target for Indicator #20:

Operating level of timber processing facilities

Agreed to change the target, moving away from reporting on the average number of shifts worked per day to the total number of man hours that were worked (including woods staff). This reporting is to occur for the 2009 SFM Plan. This indicator remains not-applicable to BCTS and Stuwix (licensees without timber processing facilities). The target for Indicator 20 is revised as follows:

Report number of timber processing facility operating days, the total number of man hours worked and the number of mill employees on payroll.

SFM Plan text changes to the 2008 Plan for 2010 (shown in red italic):

8. Adjust website url on page (roman numeral) III and page 1 of the Plan so that it links directly to the Merritt Plan and SFM Process. Link as follows:

http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/dcs/sustainable_forestry/sustainable_forestry_DME.htm