



File: 19500-55

December 12, 2003

To All Licensees

At the onset of Silviculture Prescriptions, we allowed for some stands to contain as much as 20% broadleaf stems towards target stocking, but not towards the minimum requirements. These blocks had original stands with an established component of hardwoods thus; the prescription was recognized as an initial attempt at meeting some demands for biodiversity while ensuring that a stand of conifers was established. Since that time we have observed a general push towards recognizing hardwoods in more stands, to the extent that today it has become the standard and not the exception that it started out to be.

The fact that minimums generally continue to be dominated by conifer species, in your prescribed standards might make this seem quite innocuous, or indeed even meaningless. It might indeed have continued to be that, except we are seeing it pushed even further with the FDP stocking standards that we have been reviewing over the last few months. We are experiencing continued requests to relax the standards on coniferous stocking and accepting more broadleaf species. This is contrary to the original intent of allowing for limited use of broadleaf species and does not adhere to the direction given by the Chief Forester in his letters of August 22, 2000 and December 17, 2002.

Upon careful consideration of the circumstances, I feel that the District should follow the Chief Forester's direction. Specifically, broadleaf species should not be used towards target stocking or minimum stocking. The only exception to this will be where a predominately broadleaf stand is being harvested for commercial broadleaf use and there is a reasonable expectation of returning that site to a stand of broadleaf trees that will also be commercially valuable.

This meets the intent of the Chief Forester's directions, and is consistent with the objectives of the Timber Supply and LRMP for our District.



Page 1 of 2

To All Licensees

Those operating area FDP amendments for stocking that are awaiting approval, or yet to be submitted, will need to be changed to reflect this direction.

Yours truly,

Shane Berg, R.P.F.
District Manager
Kamloops Forest District

Enclosure(s): Chief Forester's Memos of August 22, 2000 and December 17, 2002