

Date: October 15, 2008

To: SSS Licensees

RE: APPROVAL GUIDELINES FOR SPECIAL FOREST PRODUCTS APPLICATIONS

Effective immediately, the following guidelines are to be used in the approval of special forest products (SFP) applications within the Haida Gwaii Forest District (HGFD). These guidelines were developed with the intent of protecting regeneration investment and objectives while minimizing restrictions on salvage opportunities. Optimizing the present/future value of stands and the reliance on professional accountability has also been addressed.

Scope:

These guidelines are to be used for any SFP applications administered directly by the MoFR. It includes but is not limited to applications on BCTS chart areas, Vacant Crown Land, second growth forests within Timber Licenses outside of TFLs, and all operable forests within Timber Supply Areas administered by the HGFD. Applications in areas that are within existing Forest License chart areas will remain the responsibility of the license holder that has a legal silviculture obligation over that area.

Guidelines:

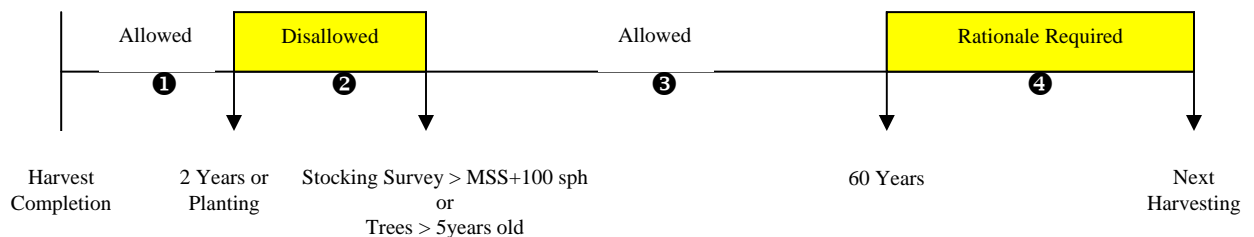
The guidelines are separated into three categories based on regeneration strategies (stands left for natural regeneration, planted stands and stands with regeneration problems). In addition to these categories, guidelines are included for the inclusion of SFP operations in stands greater than 60 years of age where appropriate. The HGFD Guidelines for SFP operations includes the salvage of imperilled, dead and downed timber only. Standing dead trees will not be considered unless they pose a significant and unavoidable safety risk or are impeding forest management operations.

A) Stands Left for Natural Regeneration (Figure 1.)

- ① SFP operations allowed up to two years after harvest completion.
- ② Once more than two years have elapsed since harvest completion, SFP operations are disallowed until stocking survey shows the preferred and acceptable tree species densities to be at least 100 stems per hectare (sph) above the minimum stocking standards (MSS) requirements of the SP/FDP (Provincial standards will be used in the absence of approved standards) or trees within the silviculture layer must be greater than 5 years old and clearly visible.

- ③ SFP operations are allowed in stands up to 60 years of age. Special care will be expected in younger stands (non-Free Growing) to prevent damage to small trees. Where stand densities are very low (near MSS), SFP operations may not be allowed depending on site-specific circumstances.
- ④ SFP operations permitted on a case by case basis specific to the stand. Sound rationale will allow salvagers entry to age class 4, 5 or 6 when constraints on the timber harvesting land base restrict second pass options and prevent future utilization of cedar. (Where second growth blocks are to be harvested by feller buncher, special consideration may be given to permit the harvest of special forest products.)

Figure 1.



B) Planted Stands (Figure 1.)

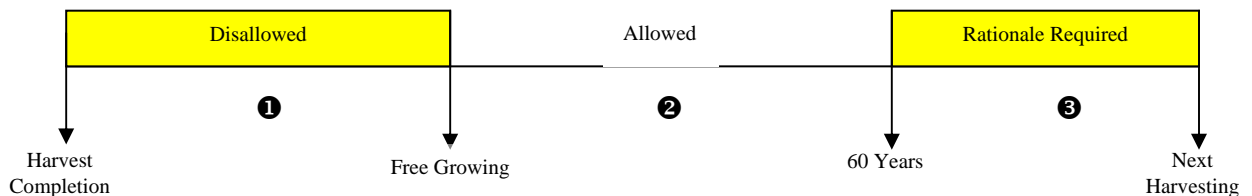
- ① SFP operations allowed up until planting. Existing natural regeneration should nevertheless be protected during SPF operations.
- ② SFP operations are disallowed for 5 years after planting to protect silviculture investment. SFP operations will be considered after 5 years providing trees within the silviculture layer are well stocked (100 sph above the MSS requirements) and these trees are tall enough and easily visible to be protected during SPF operations. Exception may be given to applicants who can demonstrate the ability to harvest within these stands without causing damage to the regeneration.
- ③ SFP operations are allowed in stands up to 60 years of age. Special care will be expected in younger stands (non-Free Growing) to prevent damage to small trees. Where stand densities are very low (near MSS), SFP operations may not be allowed depending on site-specific circumstances.
- ④ SFP operations permitted on a case by case basis specific to the stand. Sound rationale will allow salvager's entry to age class 4, 5 or 6 when constraints on the

timber harvesting land base restrict second pass options and prevent future utilization of cedar.

C) Stands With Regeneration Problems (Figure 2.)

- ① SFP operations disallowed up until the stand is Free Growing. This guideline may be required to protect regeneration in areas with serious silviculture problems. This may include extremely brushy areas, caged areas and areas with repeated plantation failures. Consideration may be given on a case specific basis to allow the extraction of SFP if the MoF is fully confident that the stocking within these areas will not be affected by SFP operations. Generally, exemptions to this guideline will not be considered without the written rationale of a Registered Professional Forester (RPF).
- ② SFP operations are allowed in stands up to 60 years of age.
- ③ SFP operations permitted on a case by case basis specific to the stand. Sound rationale will allow salvagers entry to age class 4, 5 or 6 when constraints on the timber harvesting land base restrict second pass options and prevent future utilization of cedar.

Figure 2.



D) Common

- ③ - ④ SFP operations are generally not allowed in stands greater than 60 years of age. This strategy focuses on preserving the optimum value of the stand by allowing for the recovery of Cw logs and other salvage material concurrent with future harvesting operations. However, under certain circumstances SFP operations may be permitted in these advanced second growth stands prior to their harvest. For SFP operations to occur in stands that are greater than 60 years of age, sufficient rationale must be provided by a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) indicating that the salvage material is in some way imperilled and what specific conditions exist that would result in a loss of product value. Generally these areas will be reviewed at the stand or opening level.

SPF material may be considered imperilled where one or more of the following conditions exists:

- The use of ground-based harvesting will lower the value of the SFP material. Specifically, smaller processors and forwarders that are unable to cut, lift or forward this material, could damage potential SFP and lower its value significantly. Rationale justifying SFP harvesting in these areas must include vegetation cover maps showing dominant tree species and topographic maps indicating that an average slope gradient of less than 20% exists in the area and that the area is within a geographic region that would be conducive to ground-based harvesting. Being mindful of the future diameter of standing trees is important consideration when determining the likelihood of using smaller processors.
- High water tables or fluctuating water tables could adversely affect the quality of the SFP material through freezing and thawing processes or could cause the leaching of resins and oils from wood, thereby lowering the value of the SFP. Rationale used for justifying harvesting under these conditions must include appropriate information about these sites that would indicate the influence of the water table.
- Salvage material in areas that have been previously burned either by prescribed or wild fire are subject to “shelling” which may alter the properties of the material making it undesirable as sawlog. Often these logs are also “saddle burned” further decreasing the value as sawlog material. Rationale justifying SFP operations within these areas must include information regarding fire history and, if required, photographic evidence of fire damage. Standing burned trees will generally not be considered for SFP operations.
- Areas where operational constraints indicate that future harvesting will be performed by helicopter logging would suggest that salvage opportunities may be lost. Heli-logging may be appropriate in previously roaded areas where stability issues have developed historically or where other operational constraints affecting road construction exist. Rationale should clearly reflect the conditions that would prevent conventional cable-yarding harvesting systems.
- Other constrained operable area may impact the future availability of salvage material. Areas where selective logging or partial cutting is expected to occur would include areas affected by Visual Quality Objectives or Recommendations where Partial Retention is required. RPF rationale justifying SFP operations should include known VQO or VQR maps for these areas.

E) Other Considerations

Reliance on professional foresters is vital in the interpretation of the intent of these guidelines and ultimately to the success of the salvage program. Rationales must be clear

and convincing that an opportunity will be gained from these operations with minimal effect on the value and operability of the future stand.

Additional consideration must be given to First Nations consultation as salvage operations occur in increasingly older stands, where previously, consultation was limited. CMT surveys may be a required before authorization to harvest can be granted.

These guidelines are provisional, will be re-evaluated on a continuing basis and will be amended as required.