

Haida Gwaii Forest District Small Scale Salvage Program Information and Procedures

A. INTRODUCTION

The Haida Gwaii Forest District (HGFD) has developed new application procedures aimed at improving turn around times and increasing the certainty of success for small scale salvage applications (volumes up to 2,000 cubic metres). These procedures rely on the involvement of Registered Professionals, generally a Registered Professional Forester (RPF), employed by the Small Scale Salvage (SSS) client, or the involvement of the district Salvage Coordinator who acts on behalf of the SSS client for all applications less than 50 m3. The Registered Professional will submit a professionally produced signed and sealed application package to the Ministry of Forests and Range for approval. All applications will be reviewed by the SSS Coordinator and most will be awarded within 30 days, provided that the application procedures are followed.

The objective of the SSS program within the HGFD is to:

- Provide employment and business opportunities for small independent operators;
- Harvest and utilize small, isolated patches of timber that are dead and/or in danger of being significantly reduced in value, lost or destroyed, and would otherwise not be harvested;
- Ensure areas harvested under the program are reforested within acceptable timeframes with acceptable species;
- Ensure small scale salvage operations take place within the context of overall, long-term forest stewardship and economic objectives;
- Ensure a cost-effective program that contributes to government revenues;
- Recognize and meet the government's objectives with respect to coarse woody debris; and
- Reduce the forest fire hazard by reducing the dead and down fuel load.

B. ELIGIBILITY

SSS program applicants must meet the following conditions to be eligible for a salvage licence:

- Be in good standing with the Ministry of Forests (Compliance and Enforcement history, no outstanding accounts, fees or fines).
- Hold a valid drivers licence.
- Not currently holding an active tenure or licence which may create potential conflicts.

There is no guarantee that any application will be processed. The District Manager may deny applications based on unacceptable risk or as a result of previous poor performance by the applicant.

All applications are processed on a first come, first serve basis.

C. TENURE

Under Section 47.6 of the *Forest Act* a Forestry Licence to Cut may be issued to harvest Crown timber that is dead or in danger, as a result of an insect infestation, fire, disease or windthrow, of being significantly reduced in value, lost or destroyed.

Tenure Types

In the HGFD, volumes less than 50 m³ are prepared by the district Salvage Coordinator or by a RPF. Volumes of salvage timber up to 500 m³ may be awarded directly as one of the forms of the FLTC listed below and should be discussed with the SSS Coordinator prior to an application being submitted to determine if the services of a RPF are required. Applications for volumes 500 m³ or greater must be prepared by a RPF.

1. FORESTRY LICENCE TO CUT (under 50m³)

Applications for FLTC under 50m³, can be prepared by the district Salvage Coordinator, or by a RPF.

- Issued for damaged timber, post harvest material, or SFP salvage.
- No standing trees are to be harvested.
- Has a set term, which is not extendable, up to 1 year.
- Issued for a defined area.
- Stumpage is paid on pre-scaled volume, scaled either by private scaler or Forest Service staff.
- No new road construction is permitted.
- First Nations referral may be required.
- A silviculture levy may apply to the licence.
- Application form is available at the Ministry of Forests office or online at:
<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/dqc/Salvage.htm>

This process is usually done with the assistance of the district Salvage Coordinator, but clients wishing to expedite the approval process can have the application prepared by a RPF.

When the RPF prepares the application, the applicant is responsible to conduct the scaling of the timber by a certified scaler. A photograph (or photographs) of the site must be submitted for processing along with the application package. The application package will contain a referral to the Council of the Haida Nation (CHN) and a copy of their response. The RPF must have approval from the district SSS coordinator to prepare an application for the proposed area before submitting an application or conducting a referral to the CHN.

2. FORESTRY LICENCE TO CUT (50m³ to 500m³)

Applications for FLTC 50m³ to 500m³ may require a professional application. The district Salvage Coordinator will determine if a professional application is required. This assessment is made depending on site specific considerations as well as the performance history of the applicant.

- Issued for damaged timber, post-harvest, and SFP salvage
- Has a set term, which is not extendable, usually 1 year.
- Issued for a defined area.
- Stumpage is paid on volume scaled after harvest. Arranging the scaling of the timber is the responsibility of the applicant.
- No new road construction is permitted.
- At the discretion of the SSS coordinator, a referral to the CHN may be required.
- A CMT survey may be required.
- May require a Road Use Permit (or permits) or Road Use Agreement
- May incur a silviculture levy.

3. FORESTRY LICENCE TO CUT (500m³ to a maximum 2000m³)

All applications for a FLTC 500m³ to 2000m³ must be submitted professionally.

- Issued for damaged timber, post-harvest, and SFP salvage
- Has a set term, which is not extendable, up to 2 years.
- Issued for a defined area.
- Stumpage is paid on volume scaled after harvest. Arranging the scaling of the timber is the responsibility of the applicant.
- No new road construction is permitted.
- A referral to the CHN is required.
- A CMT survey may be required.
- May require a Road Use Permit (or permits) or Road Use Agreement
- May incur a silviculture levy.
- Application form and information are available online at:
<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hth/timten/sss-professional-applications.htm>

D. PROCEDURES FOR SALVAGE REQUIRING A PROFESSIONAL APPLICATION

1. Submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) for ministry staff to conduct an internal review. The EOI must be restricted to BCTS chart area or vacant crown land and includes;

- The name and contact information of the proponent.
- A map showing the general location of the proposed salvage operation (1:5000, 1:10,000 or 1:20,000 scale).

General maps are available on the website at: <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/dqc/Salvage.htm>
Site specific maps can be obtained at the district office.

Submitting an EOI When The Tenure Has Expired

Within 30 days of receiving the EOI, ministry staff will provide notification of the risk associated with the proposal and any guidance necessary for a successful application. Upon this notification from the district staff, the proponent has a total of 60 days from that date to finalize the professional application. If this timeline cannot be met and another proponent is interested in the subset of the area, an additional 10 days will be granted after which the new applicant is given the right to develop the area. If another proponent doesn't exist, another EOI must be submitted to retain the right to prepare an application for an area.

Submitting an EOI In Advance of the Tenure Expiry

When an EOI is submitted in advance of the expiry of the active tenure over the proposed operating area, the EOI will be held until the tenure expires. The district SSS Coordinator will contact the client at the date of expiry. At that time, 30 days will be given to the applicant to develop an application.

EOIs will not be accepted for tenures expiring more than one year from the date of EOI submission.

2. The SSS client must retain the services of a Registered Professional Forester to review the applied for area and to submit the professional application. The SSS client should be prepared to provide the Registered Professional Forester with the general base information needed to begin the assessment.

- Location map of the area of interest
- Type of salvage being pursued (damaged timber, cedar blocks, cants, etc.)
- Species of timber
- Harvesting method

3. The Registered Professional Forester will be responsible for completing a preliminary land status clearance of the proposed area and for making the necessary referrals to major licensees. Based on the results of the clearance report and referral comments, the Registered Professional Forester and SSS client will decide if it is feasible to continue on with an application. (The criteria and list of information required for the clearance report is found in the Professional Submission section.).

4. If the clearance report and referrals are free of conflicts or the conflicts can be avoided by eliminating areas, the Registered Professional will conduct a Field Review. During this review the Register Professional will look at access routes, environmental concerns, riparian areas and timber volumes. Based on the information collected, the Registered Professional and SSS client will decide if the potential for salvage exists and to continue on with the application or not. (The information requested as part of the field review is found in the Professional Submission section.)

5. The Registered Professional will complete the Professional Check List and submit it along with a map of the area(s), shapefiles, referral letters and a completed application form. The Applicant and the Registered Professional Forester are also expected to

become involved in information sharing with the CHN. Documentation associated with discussions with First Nations (a copy of the information shared by the applicant and the CHN response letter) are to be submitted with the application and will form the core of the required consultation regarding the proposed Forestry Licence to Cut.

6. The signed and sealed package will be reviewed by the SSS Coordinator. Incomplete packages will be returned to the Registered Professional for resubmission. Completed packages will be dated and entered into the salvage tracking system.

7. A field review with the submitting forester may be required depending on the application. The district staff reserves the right to restrict harvesting where the salvage of the proposed timber will have an adverse effect on forest management or stewardship objectives. This includes, but is not limited to, restricting the harvest of leaning trees that are lending stability to the remaining standing timber.

8. A final submission, addressing referral comments, will typically be approved within 45 days if all the necessary information is provided by the submitting forester. There will be situations where the HGFD reserves the right to hold any application in abeyance for an indefinite period to conduct; preapproval inspections, first nation consultation or as required to balance the environmental, social and economic goals of the province.

E. PROCEDURES FOR SALVAGE NOT REQUIRING A PROFESSIONAL APPLICATION

1. Professional applications are not required for the salvage of volumes under 50m³. The SSS Coordinator will review and process applications for these small volumes.

2. Applicants are encouraged to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) illustrating the area(s) of interest (see Step 1 of “Procedures for Salvage Requiring a Professional Application). The area will be held for 60 days upon notification from the district SSS coordinator that the area is available to be applied for. When the EOI is submitted in advance of the tenure expiry, the area will be held for 30 days.

2. The SSS client must complete the application form and submit it along with a location map. Incomplete packages will be returned to the applicant for re-submission. Complete packages will be dated and entered into the salvage tracking system.

3. The SSS Coordinator will review the application for any conflicts and based on the clearance reports will return or proceed with the application.

4. If the application proceeds, the SSS Coordinator will arrange with the SSS client to conduct a field review. The SSS Coordinator will review access routes, riparian areas, environmental concerns, harvesting method and scale the timber if necessary. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that all pieces proposed for harvest are marked by flagging tape or tree marking paint that indicate their name and piece number. If

available, UTM coordinates of the piece locations aid in the review of the proposed timber. The district staff reserves the right to restrict harvesting where the salvage of the proposed timber will have an adverse effect on forest management or stewardship objectives. This includes, but is not limited to, restricting the harvest of leaning trees that are lending stability to the remaining standing timber.

5. If the information gathered during the field review meets the requirement for small scale salvage, the SSS Coordinator will submit the appraisal information and complete the documents for an FLTC (under 50m³).

6. The SSS client will pay the stumpage upfront based on the volume scaled during the field review.

7. To assist the SSS client in completing the Short Form Application (under 50m³) the following website links are provided.

- To order Hardcopies of 1:20 000 TRIM maps (for detailed map)

<http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/bmgs/catalog/hardcopy.htm>

- To view Licensee Operating Areas map,

<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/dqc/Salvage.htm>

- To order Forest Cover Maps 1:20 000 scale (for detailed map)

<http://www.cloverpoint.com/forestcovermaps.html>

- For access to online mapviewing programs MapView, Online Cadastre and Land Resource Data Warehouse

<http://maps.gov.bc.ca/>

F. PROFESSIONAL SUBMISSIONS

Initial Review

When approached by a SSS client with an area of interests, the Registered Professional Forester should first verify that the client meets the eligibility requirements and that the applied for salvage is within the limits set by the SSS program, that being;

- Volume is under 2000m³
 - Total area applied for is under 40 ha (SFP applications only) OR
 - The opening size does not exceed 1.0 ha per opening(Damaged timber/windthrow applications only)
- Dead and salvage timber only, the amount of live standing trees required to be harvested to access the timber is less than 10% of the total volume.
 - A rationale should accompany the application stating why live standing trees are required to be harvested, what strategies will be taken to mitigate damage and to retain as many stems as possible.

It is left up to the Forest Consultant to set their own standards for submissions by the SSS client.

Preliminary status

A preliminary status must be completed for the area under application. Any conflicts in the land use must be reported and the application boundaries adjusted as needed. There are online map viewers and district maps available through the districts website that may be used to collect the information required to clear an area for salvage.

- To view Licensee Operating Areas map,
<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/dqc/Salvage.htm>

- For access to online mapviewing programs MapView, Online Cadastre and Land Resource Data Warehouse
<http://maps.gov.bc.ca/>

When conducting the Preliminary Status the following reserved areas must be excluded.

- Tree Farm Licences (TFL) (including BCTS take back blocks within TFL39)
- Protected or designated areas (under Part 13 of the Forest Act and the Strategic Land Use Agreement)
- Woodlots (WL)
- Private lots
- Existing FLTC, TSL, FUP, SUP
- Proposed or approved cutblocks or timber sale licences
- Wildlife Tree Patches
- Slopes over 60% (damaged timber only)
- Riparian Reserve Zones
- Forest Service Recreation Sites and Trails
- Heritage Trails
- OGMA's
- Indian Reserves or Archaeological Sites
- Areas within 50 metres of a Culturally Modified Tree (CMT)
- Growth and Yield plots

The Registered Professional must carry out a referral to major licensee(s) and/or BC Timber Sales if either one has a Forest Stewardship Plan for the area and obtain written confirmation that they do not dispute the proposed application or the proposed road use required. Consultation with other tenure holders and agencies may also be applicable; any correspondence letters should be submitted along with the application. If information required to complete the preliminary status is not available online, arrangements can be made with the SSS coordinator to view the material at the HG District Office.

Field Review

It is required that a field review be completed for the area under application by the submitting forester. The information collected in the field and required for a completed submission includes:

- Estimates on volumes per species and salvage type
- Type of salvage (cedar blocks, cants, logs)
- Harvest method
- Stream classifications
- Information on the road conditions (washouts, level of deactivation, any work that may be required for accessibility)
- Boundary locations

Boundaries that use natural features that can be accurately mapped and visually identified on the ground (creeks, rock bluffs, cutblock boundaries, roads) may be used and do not require marking in the field. Boundaries that do not follow easily identified natural features must be accurately mapped and marked in the field. A 50 meter buffer should be used where these boundaries follow protected areas, private lots, park boundaries and recreation sites. A boundary traverse is not required.

Submission

For a salvage area to be considered for a FLTC the Registered Professional Forester must submit a complete application package to the SSS Coordinator for review. A complete application will include:

- Completed, signed and sealed copy of the Application for a Forestry Licence to Cut form
- Completed Forestry Licence to Cut application letter.
- Map meeting QCIFD standards.
- Shapefile(s) of areas under application
- RUP application, RP application and/or Exemption request letter.
- Licensee(s) and/or BC Timber Sales referral letter and documentation of the response.
- Copies of written correspondences with other tenure holders and agencies where applicable.
- Copies of the correspondence with the CHN if the referral is completed by the submitting forester.
- A rationale where live standing trees are proposed to be harvested.
- An assessment of the probability of future windthrow events that may occur as a result of harvesting and any strategies that can be undertaken during harvest to make the area less prone to windthrow.

G. MAP SUBMISSIONS

Here is a list of content requirements for map submissions.

- The background is to be on a 1: 5000, 1:10,000 or 1:20 000 scale forest atlas map, showing water features, roads, access trails, protected areas, CMTs (where applicable)
- Boundaries, cadastre (parks, lots, townships, etc.)
- Forestry Licence to Cut (FLTC) boundary must be shown clearly
- The size of the FLTC (ha)
- Legend
- North Arrow

H. DURING THE TERM OF THE LICENCE

For any approved application, whether professionally prepared or not, the licensee must be in contact with the district office at several times during the term of the licence. It is a requirement that notification is given when:

- Harvesting is to commence
- Timber is to be transported
- Harvesting is complete.

It is also required that the scale site is approved by the district Scaling Supervisor before any timber is transported. The appropriate road use agreements must be in place before timber is transported.

Post-Harvest Inspection

Upon completion of harvesting, a Registered Professional must conduct a site inspection and complete a Post Harvesting Report. The report should attest to the following:

- The timber targeted for salvage has been removed in accordance with the approved plan.
- Waste and residue standards have been achieved.
- The stand remains stocked and free growing in accordance to Section 46 of the Forest Planning and Practice Regulation.
- Measures undertaken to protect soil, water, archaeological features and wildlife habitat have achieved the required results.
- Access trails, roads and landings have been deactivated to an acceptable standard.
- In the opinion of the professional the licensee has completed all on-site obligations under the licence or cutting permit.

Failure to submit the post-harvest inspection report within 60 days of harvest completion may result in processing delays for pending applications from that RPF.

Waste and Residue

Once harvesting is complete, a waste and residue survey may be completed at the discretion of the district SSS coordinator. The decision to waste survey a licence area is made in consultation with the submitting forester. Any wood harvested under the licence that meets merchantability specifications and is left on site will be billed. Timber that was left that could have been harvested may also be included in the waste assessment.

It is the responsibility of the operator to leave the site in a condition that is suitable for planting once they are finished harvesting.

Operators are encouraged to bring wood to roadside that may be used for firewood.

I. CONTACT INFORMATION

For further information on the SSS program in the HGFD, please contact the district office at (250) 559-6200.