

CANFOR'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE STUART-TAKLA FISHERY/FORESTRY WORKSHOP

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Canfor was asked to participate in this study because we hold the timber harvesting rights to the watersheds in question. We harvest some 800,000 m³ of wood per year which is processed in lumber and chips at our modern sawmill in Fort St. James. The actual area of mature merchantable wood located in the study watershed makes up a small portion of our annual allowable cut.

We recognize the uniqueness of these high value interior salmon streams and the need for interior data on the ecosystems.

As such we feel that logging should be considered a tool of the research program to be used as and when needed. Having said that we also expect that the research program to be of an applied nature that is soundly based in the reality of harvesting with the technology of the day. With enough money you can do almost anything but we want to ensure that the harvesting and its impacts reflect something that would happen in a real life situation.

Co-operation in this research is of major interest to us. By necessity however, the research design must also consider the issue of forest health. We have several serious mountain pine beetle outbreaks in the study area particularly in the Gluskie watershed. We do not want to see this problem get bigger or to see the presently attached timber values lost.

Although every effort will be made to allow sufficient time for base line data collection to take place we caution that the research schedule will have to be flexible when it comes to dealing with forest health issues.

Other areas where we can be of assistance in the study includes monitoring equipment during the winter months and providing some logistic support in the area. We are providing the map base on which a lot of the study mapping is being done.