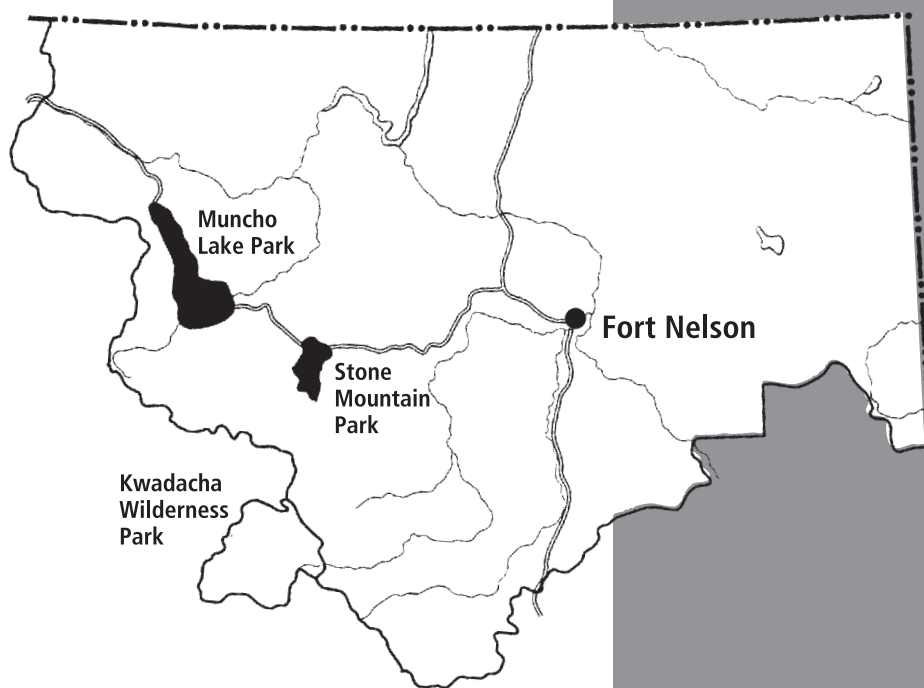


Fort Nelson Timber Supply Area

Information Report

July 1997



**BRITISH
COLUMBIA**

Ministry of Forests

Introduction

The British Columbia Forest Service is required by law to formally review the timber supply* in all timber supply areas* and tree farm licence* areas in the province. A review of each of the areas is completed at least once every five years. The main objectives of the five-year reviews are to:

- identify the economic, environmental and social information that reflects the current forest management practices—including their effects on the short- and long-term timber supply
- identify where improved information is required for future timber supply forecasts
- provide the chief forester with information to make any necessary adjustments to the allowable annual cuts* for the next five years

* Throughout this document, an asterisk at the end of a phrase or word indicates that a definition can be found in the margin.

Objective of this document

The objective of this document is to provide an opportunity for public review of the draft data and management assumptions that will be applied in reviewing the timber supply for the Fort Nelson timber supply area. This document represents the early stages of the timber supply review process and is intended to provide a non-technical overview of the draft data and management assumptions that will be used in the upcoming *Fort Nelson Timber Supply Area Analysis Report*.

The *Fort Nelson Timber Supply Area Analysis Report* will be one of the documents that the chief forester will consider in making the allowable annual cut determination under Section 8 of the *Forest Act*. Public input is encouraged to ensure

the best information is used in determining allowable annual cuts.

This report contains a general description of the data assumptions and current forest management practices for the Fort Nelson timber supply area. For the purpose of this timber supply review, current practices can be defined as the set of land-use decisions and forest management practices that are currently implemented and enforced. Future forest management objectives that may be established but are not currently implemented and enforced, are not included.

The draft data and management assumptions are summarized on pages 6 through 9. For a more detailed description of the information, please contact the Fort Nelson Forest District Office and request a copy of the data package. The public will have 30 days to review and comment on the information report and data package. A response form at the end of this document will assist you in providing your comments. Written comments will be accepted until August 25, 1997.

Timber Supply Review Process

In British Columbia, a process of determining allowable annual cuts has been in place since the late 1940s. However, the process has changed significantly since then. More recently, the process has had some minor revisions designed to improve efficiency and encourage earlier public review through the release of this report.

Figure 1 (next page) illustrates the five-step process that has been developed for the Timber Supply Review for timber supply areas. The diagram indicates the current status of the timber supply review for the Fort Nelson timber supply area, and the estimated time required for each step.

Timber supply

A harvest level that is forecasted to be available over time, under a particular management regime.

Timber supply area

An area of Crown land defined in accordance with the *Forest Act*, primarily based on an established pattern of wood flow from the forest to the primary timber-using industries.

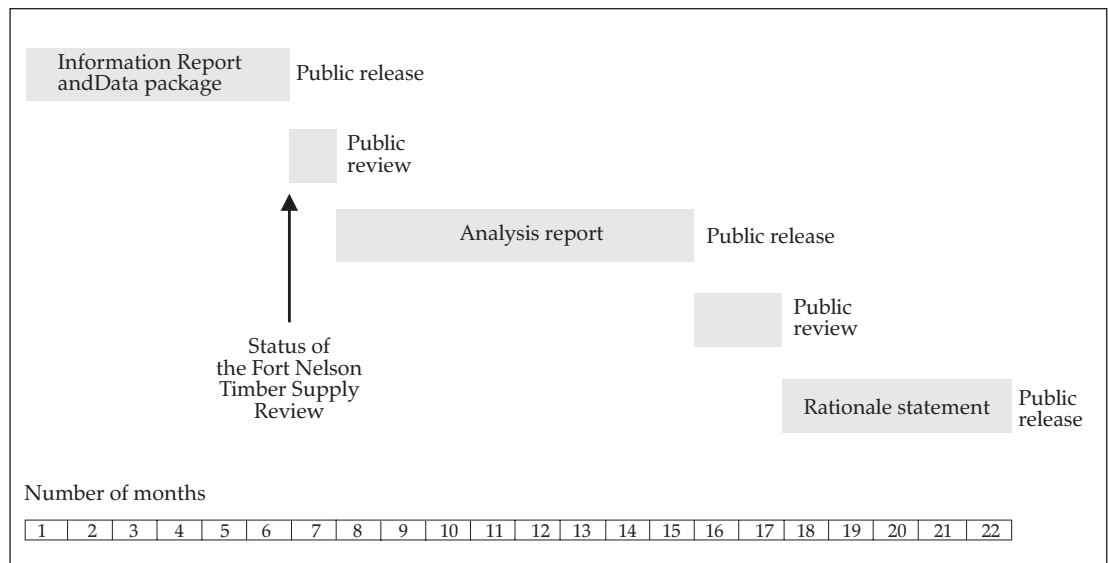
Tree farm licence

An agreement entered into with the provincial government which provides for the establishment, management and harvesting of timber by a private interest on a defined area of Crown land in accordance with the *Forest Act*.

Timber Supply Review

in the Fort Nelson TSA

Figure 1.
Review process for the Fort Nelson timber supply area.



Allowable annual cut

The rate of timber harvest permitted each year from a specified area of land, usually expressed as cubic metres of wood per year.

The process for reviewing the timber supply and establishing the allowable annual cut for tree farm licence areas is based on similar principles; however, the process takes 30 months from start to completion.

The chief forester's responsibility

Determining the allowable annual cuts for Crown forest lands in British Columbia is the responsibility of the province's chief forester. It is one of the chief forester's most important responsibilities since it affects the local and provincial economies and environment—now and in the future. Section 8 of the *Forest Act* requires the chief forester to consider the following factors to determine allowable annual cuts for timber supply areas and tree farm licence areas:

- a) the rate of timber production that may be sustained from the area, taking into account:
 - the composition of the forest and its expected rate of growth
 - the time in which the forest will become re-established
 - silvicultural treatments, including reforestation
 - standards of timber utilization

- constraints on the amount of timber produced from the area due to use of the forest for purposes other than timber production
 - any other information which relates to the capability of the area to produce timber
- b) the short- and long-term implications to the province of alternative rates of timber harvesting from the area
 - c) the nature, production capabilities and timber requirements of established and proposed processing facilities
 - d) the economic and social objectives of the Crown for the area, the region and the province, as expressed by the minister of forests
 - e) abnormal insect or disease infestations and major salvage programs planned for the timber on the area

Some of these factors can be measured and analyzed—others cannot. Ultimately, the chief forester's determination is an independent, professional judgement based on the best available information. Information that is relevant to the factors listed above is provided to the chief forester by government agencies, the minister of forests and the public.

One of the objectives of the Timber Supply Review is to incorporate changes arising from new information, new practices and new government initiatives

that may have an impact on timber supply. In the event of significant change, the allowable annual cut may be reviewed in less than the required five years.

Following the release of the allowable annual cut determination by the chief forester, the minister of forests apportions the cut to the various licences and programs.

Principles of timber supply review

In determining allowable annual cuts—in addition to the requirements outlined in Section 8 of the *Forest Act*—the following principles have been developed.

The Timber Supply Review:

- is a decision-making process for establishing the allowable annual cut for timber supply areas and tree farm licence areas by the chief forester on a maximum five-year cycle, as required under Section 8 of the *Forest Act*. **It is not a process for making land-use or management decisions**
- incorporates the best information available including all relevant current practices, and identifies where new information is needed
- reflects the results of implemented plans and land-use decisions, and provides a benchmark for future planning processes
- involves other agencies, affected groups, and the public

Description of the timber supply area

The Fort Nelson timber supply area is situated in the far north-eastern corner of the province. The unit is bordered on the east by Alberta, on the north by the Northwest and Yukon Territories, on the

west by the summit of the Northern Rocky Mountains, and on the south by the Fort St. John and Mackenzie Forest Districts. The unit is administered by the Fort Nelson Forest District.

The timber supply area covers about 8.2 million hectares and encompasses parts of the Alberta Plateau, Mackenzie Plains, the Rocky Mountain Foothills and the Liard Basin. There are five provincial parks and three recreation areas in the Fort Nelson Forest District. These areas provide wilderness experiences, scenic and wildlife viewing, water based activities, and other outdoor recreation opportunities.

Land and Resource Management Plan

The Fort Nelson Land and Resource Management planning process has been underway since early 1993. The planning process provides an opportunity for the public, interest groups, and government to make recommendations regarding future management of public forest lands in the Fort Nelson area.

As part of the process, the planning table has been reviewing resource objectives for the Muskwa-Kechika area. The area is considered unique for its wilderness values, wildlife and minimal development. The area extends into the Cassiar, Mackenzie, Fort St. John, and Fort Nelson Forest Districts. About 1.9 million hectares of the Muskwa-Kechika falls within the Fort Nelson timber supply area.

The planning table has reached consensus on its recommendations for resource management zones and related resource management objectives and strategies that balance social, economic and environmental values. The Fort Nelson Land and Resource Management Planning process is targeted for Cabinet approval by fall of 1997. Any changes to forest management practices resulting from Cabinet's approval of the land and resource management plan will be considered in the

upcoming allowable annual cut determination.

The community

The timber supply area encompasses the town of Fort Nelson and the smaller unincorporated areas of Prophet River, Muskwa Heights, Steamboat, Summit Lake, Toad River, Muncho Lake and Smith River. In 1996, the population of the Fort Nelson timber supply area was 5,852 which includes 4,401 people living in the town of

metres per year, the majority of which was processed in the timber supply area.

Tackama Forest Products Limited, a subsidiary of Slocan Forest Products, is the largest company, with 590 employees. Slocan Forest Products also recently opened a new oriented-strand board mill which uses the deciduous timber supply. Another major employer in Fort Nelson's forest industry was the Canadian Chopstick Manufacturing Company Limited, which utilized some of the area's aspen timber and provided employment for 150 to 200 people. However, as of April 1, 1997, the Canadian Chopstick Manufacturing Company has been permanently shutdown.

Direct forestry employment generates numerous other employment opportunities in the supply and service industries. Research by the Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations found that for every 100 forestry jobs in the Fort Nelson timber supply area, a further 26 to 51 jobs are created.

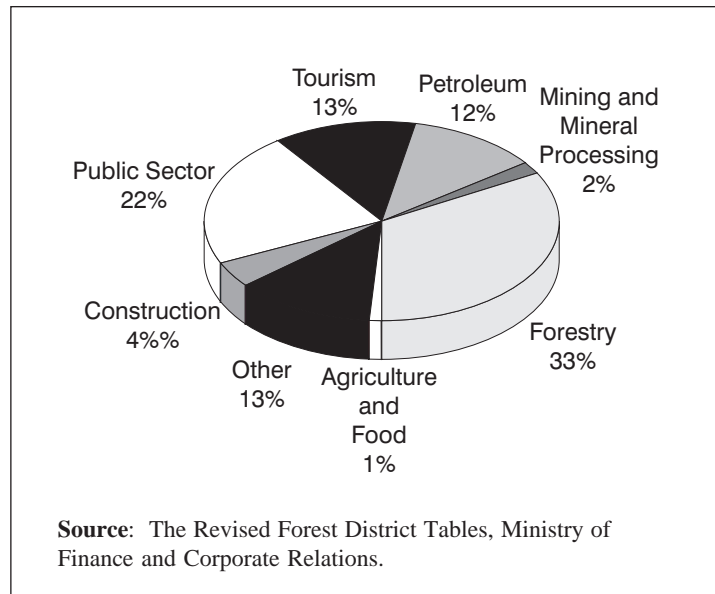


Figure 2.
Total employment by sector, 1991

Fort Nelson. Since 1991, the population in the timber supply area has grown by over 19 per cent. This growth is attributable to increases in oil and gas exploration and new timber milling facilities.

The forest land resources

Numerous resources are associated with the forest land base. Wildlife habitat, recreation and forestry highlight the wide range of values and uses in the Fort Nelson timber supply area.

Forestry provides a substantial source of revenue and employment in the Fort Nelson timber supply area. From 1993 to 1996, the harvest in the Fort Nelson timber supply area averaged just under 1.1 million cubic

The economy

Forestry supports 33 per cent (1991) of all the employment (Figure 2) in the area. The public sector, tourism, and the oil and gas industry are also important components of the local economy. In 1991, total employment in the timber supply area was approximately 2,500.

Tourism in the Fort Nelson timber supply area is a growing industry as the Alaska Highway is becoming increasingly popular for tourists destined for Alaska. The largest component of this sector is the service industry: food, accommodation and trade. Tourists are also drawn to the area's guide outfitting and large-game hunting opportunities.

Trapping, agriculture, construction, government sectors, service industries and other small businesses employ the remainder of the labour force. The town of Fort Nelson is the major centre for north-eastern British Columbia and provides the majority of employment in the area.

First Nations

Treaty 8 covers the Fort Nelson timber supply area. Three First Nations in the timber supply area are signatories to Treaty 8: Fort Nelson First Nations, Dene Tsaa Tse K’Nai First Nations and the Dena Tha’ First Nations. The Fort Liard First Nation, the Dene Tha’, of Assumption, Alberta and the Kaska-Dena First Nation all have traditional territory in the timber supply area.

The environment

The timber supply area provides habitat for a diverse range of wildlife, including moose, elk, caribou, black bear, grizzly bear, stone sheep, goat, wolverine, wolf, small mammals and birds.

Species listed as endangered or threatened in the timber supply area include: the bay-breasted warbler, the Cape May warbler, black-throated green warbler, the Connecticut warbler, northern bog lemming and the northern long-eared myotis.

The list of vulnerable species found in the timber supply area include: the short-eared owl, American bittern, trumpeter swan, sandhill crane, surf scoter, Philadelphia vireo, Canada warbler, plains bison, *luscus* wolverine, fisher, stone sheep, black-backed shrew, and grizzly bear.

There are also four rare, threatened or endangered fish species in the timber supply area: cisco, spottail shiner, ninespine stickleback and emerald shiner.

History of the allowable annual cut

On February 4, 1994 the chief forester established the allowable annual cut at 1,500,000 cubic metres. The harvest level includes a partition of 600,000 cubic metres for predominately coniferous forests and 900,000 cubic metres for predominately deciduous forests.

As part of the 1994 determination, the chief forester gave direction to resolve uncertainties with respect to the timber supply and its management in the Fort Nelson timber supply area. In preparation for the next determination, the following issues were to be examined:

- **forest re-establishment** - it was noted in the last determination that management practices for forest re-establishment should improve sufficiently to reduce regeneration delays, meet the legal obligations and the objectives for species representation.

Since the previous allowable annual cut determination in 1994, the minimum silviculture objectives have been met in terms of the legal obligations, species representation, stocking, and regeneration delay periods. It is expected that these minimums will continue to be met and exceeded in the future.

- **mixed tree species** - silvicultural methods must be used to retain the predominant mixture of tree species that existed in the original forests. As well, the district manager should require licensees to use silviculture practices that would meet this objective.

Since 1994, a committee has been established to address concerns about mixed tree species in the Fort Nelson timber supply area. Practices and standards have been developed and harvesting operations are changing to maintain appropriate amounts of the original mix of species. Efforts will continue to be made to improve mixed tree species management.

Timber Supply Review

in the Fort Nelson TSA

Integrated resource management

The identification and consideration of all resource values, including social, economic and environmental needs, in resource planning and decision-making.

Forest Practices Code

Legislation, standards, and guide books that govern forest practices and standards, with heavy penalties for violators.

Timber harvesting land base

Crown forest land within the timber supply area that is currently considered feasible and economical for timber harvesting.

Note: For more information on these points, please refer to the Fort Nelson Timber Supply Area Rationale for Allowable Annual Cut Determination, February 1994.

Current Timber Supply Review

Public forest lands in British Columbia provide recreational enjoyment, fish and wildlife habitat, water supplies, timber resources and many other benefits. The Ministry of Forests manages the timber, range and recreation resources on public lands, while the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks is responsible for the management of fish, wildlife, water resources and parks. Both agencies subscribe to the principle of integrated resource management*, where all resources are considered when making forest management decisions.

The data and management assumptions that will be used in the timber supply analysis will be based on the existing land-use designations and current resource management practices that are approved and implemented in the Fort Nelson timber supply area. The chief forester will also consider any new information, based on implemented changes, at the time of the allowable annual cut determination.

The Forest Practices Code* is now law and is being implemented in the timber supply area. The Code was fully implemented on June 15, 1997. These new practices may influence both the short- and long-term timber supply.

Draft data and management assumptions for public review

The public is encouraged to review the data and management assumptions for completeness and accuracy. In determining an allowable annual cut, the chief forester will be considering these assumptions as required by Section 8 of the *Forest Act*. The following general outline contains *some* of the more pertinent information that will be used in the timber supply analysis and subsequently, in the chief forester's allowable annual cut determination for the Fort Nelson timber supply area. More detailed information can be found in Appendix A: Data Package. This appendix is available upon request from the Ministry of Forests office listed at the end of this report.

Land base factors

- **Operable area** - is the forested area that is economically and physically accessible for timber harvesting. For the Fort Nelson timber supply area, these factors were reviewed separately, as follows:

To assess economic operability, costs associated with delivering wood to the mills will be examined. Areas found to be uneconomical will be deducted from the timber harvesting land base*.

The physically operable area is the forest area that is accessible for timber harvesting. Areas that are considered to be inaccessible will be deducted from the timber harvesting land base.

- **Low sites** - in addition to the above, forest types that are not considered available for harvesting due to low forest productivity are deducted from the timber harvesting land base. Criteria developed for determining these forest

types is based largely on past harvesting performance.

- **Non-merchantable tree species** - are forest types that are accessible, exceed the low site criteria, but are not generally considered a commercial tree species. These forest types are excluded from the timber harvesting land base. In the past, birch has been an example of a non-merchantable species in the Fort Nelson timber supply area. More recently, there has been interest to harvest birch. A sensitivity analysis* will examine its potential contribution.
- **Environmentally sensitive areas*** - Areas classified as highly sensitive for wildlife, soils or recreation will be deducted from the timber harvesting land base. Areas with high or moderate regeneration problems, snow avalanche sensitivity and moderately sensitive areas for caribou and goat habitat will be deducted from the timber harvesting land base.
- **Forest roads** - harvesting and road construction follow regional and provincial guidelines. For the timber supply analysis, it is estimated that allowances for existing roads, trails and landings account for about four per cent of the forested area that is younger than 40 years old. In addition, it is estimated that five per cent of the forested area older than 40 years of age will be lost over time to future roads, trails and landings.
- **Seismic activity** - throughout the Fort Nelson timber supply area, oil and gas exploration results in the establishment of seismic lines. Inventory mapping of these lines has been updated to 1994, and since then it is estimated that an additional 4,334 hectares of seismic lines have been established. This area will be deducted from the timber harvesting land base.

Growth and yield factors

- **Forest inventory** - units within the Fort Nelson timber supply area were inventoried between 1970 and 1989. The inventory was updated between 1991 and 1996 to incorporate more recent harvesting, silviculture and wildfire activity.
- **Minimum harvestable ages** - for the purposes of the timber supply analysis, a minimum harvestable age is defined as the earliest age at which a forested area achieves both a minimum height of 20 metres and a minimum volume of 140 cubic metres per hectare. The minimum harvestable age must be obtained before an area is considered eligible for harvest.

Forest re-establishment factors

- **Basic silviculture** - British Columbia laws require areas that are harvested and expected to produce timber in the future must be reforested with ecologically acceptable species within a specified time frame. The most common silvicultural practice is to harvest; then if necessary, prepare the site for reforestation; reforest by planting a mix of species or by relying on natural regeneration; and controlling competing vegetation. For the Fort Nelson timber supply analysis, once harvested, areas will be assumed to be reforested within two to four years on average, depending on the tree species and growth productivity.
- **Not-satisfactorily restocked areas** - currently there are 25,654 hectares of timber harvesting land base which are not-satisfactorily restocked in the Fort Nelson timber supply area. Of this area, about 2,500 hectares have been identified as having regeneration problems and will not be included in the timber harvesting land base. About 13,700 hectares originated from wildfires and are now considered naturally restocked. The remaining area of about 9,500 hectares

Timber Supply Review

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Sensitivity analysis

Examines how uncertainty in data and management assumptions affect timber supply.

Environmentally sensitive areas

Areas identified as requiring special management to protect important recreation and wildlife, or areas with serious regeneration problems, sensitive soils or unstable slopes.

Timber Supply Review

in the Fort Nelson TSA

Landscape unit

A planning area based on topographic or geographic features.

is scheduled to be restocked within the next 10 years and this will be reflected in the timber supply analysis.

Timber utilization factors

- **Timber utilization** - volume estimates are based on the utilization of all trees which meet or exceed the current standards of a minimum 10-centimetre top diameter, a maximum 30-centimetre high stump, and a minimum diameter of 17.5 centimetres at a height of 1.3 metres, except deciduous and lodgepole pine which require a minimum diameter of 12.5 centimetres at a height of 1.3 metres.

Infestations, devastations and salvage of timber

- Approximately 484,570 cubic metres of timber are lost annually to spruce beetle, spruce budworm, and wildfires. A portion of this volume is salvaged annually and contributes to timber supply. Only the portion that is not salvaged will be deducted from the timber supply.

Factors to be considered for purposes other than timber production

Forest management guidelines used to manage for forest resources such as biodiversity, scenic values, wildlife habitat and water quality will be accounted for in the timber supply analysis through the use of forest cover requirements and volume and land base reductions.

- **Forest cover requirements** - specify the minimum proportion of older forests that must be maintained to manage for values such as biodiversity or wildlife habitat and the maximum proportion of young, recently harvested forests that will be allowed while still meeting management objectives for values such as water quality or visual sensitivity.

For the Fort Nelson timber supply analysis, a number of zones or groups were created to reflect various forest cover requirements. The main groups are: integrated resource management, integrated resource management in major river corridors, special management, special management in major river corridors, four visual quality categories, and draft landscape units*.

- **Visual sensitivity** - in the visually sensitive zones, the maintenance of scenic landscapes is a priority for recreation and tourism, particularly in areas adjacent to major rivers, the Alaska Highway and in backcountry recreational areas. The current practice in these scenic areas is that harvested areas must be reforested with trees that are at least five metres tall before adjacent areas can be harvested. Areas with recommended visual quality objectives will have forest cover requirements that vary according to the degree of visual sensitivity and will permit a maximum, of between three to 33 per cent, of a visually sensitive area to be less than five metres tall at any time.
- **Range management** - the range program in the Fort Nelson timber supply area maintains and enhances wildlife habitat, and allocates Crown range for commercial horse operations. On some areas, the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks burns range land to enhance grazing opportunities. Areas maintained for range land will be deducted from the timber harvesting land base.
- **Biological diversity** - or biodiversity, is the full range of living organisms, in all their forms and levels of organization, and includes the diversity of genes, species and ecosystems and the evolutionary and functional processes that link them. The Forest Practices Code requires that biodiversity be examined at both the stand and landscape level.

Leaving wildlife tree* patches for stand-level biodiversity is current practice in the Fort Nelson timber supply area. District policy requires that 10 per cent of areas proposed for harvesting will be retained for wildlife tree patches. It is assumed that up to half of the wildlife tree patch requirements will be met in areas outside the timber harvesting land base (for example, in riparian reserves). Therefore, to account for wildlife tree patches in the timber supply analysis, a five per cent area reduction will be applied. However, accounting for stand-level biodiversity is currently being reviewed along with requirements for landscape-level biodiversity.

Considerations for landscape-level biodiversity will be accounted for in the timber supply analysis by applying averaged seral stage* constraints to each draft landscape unit and natural disturbance types*. Operationally, low biodiversity emphasis is being applied because at this time more detailed landscape units and biodiversity objectives have not yet been established in the Fort Nelson timber supply area.

- **Riparian habitat*** - to meet requirements of the Forest Practices Code, a preliminary study indicates that an average of approximately eight per cent of the coniferous land base, and four per cent of the deciduous land base, are required to be deducted from the timber harvesting land base to account for forested riparian management zones and reserves that occur next to the banks of streams, lakes and wetlands.
- **Fish and wildlife habitat** - the Fort Nelson timber supply area contains a number of threatened and vulnerable species. Wildlife habitat will be accounted for in the analysis by reductions applied for existing protected areas, environmentally sensitive areas, riparian management areas and wildlife tree patches.

Other factors that may affect timber supply

- **Archaeology** - Ministry of Forests and First Nations are currently working on archaeological inventories and are developing management strategies for existing and potential areas of archaeological significance. A project co-ordinated by Ministry of Small Business, Tourism and Culture has established that a portion of the timber supply area has archaeological potential. The mapping portion of this project was completed in March 1996. However, it is not yet certain whether this will impact forest management practices.
- **Protected Areas Strategy*** - the overall Protected Areas Strategy is to achieve a provincial target of 12 per cent. The provincial government provided the Fort Nelson Land and Resource Management Planning Table with a protected area target of 11.4 per cent. This target applies to the timber supply area and a portion of the Cassiar timber supply area included in the land-use planning area.

To achieve the protected area target, the Fort Nelson Land and Resource Management Planning Table is making final recommendations to Cabinet. However, until the proposed protected areas are established by an Order-in-Council, the areas will contribute to the timber harvesting land base. A sensitivity analysis in the upcoming timber supply analysis will examine the potential impact on timber supply of removing the proposed protected areas.

Implications of alternative rates of harvesting

- **Alternative rates of harvesting** - there are many alternative harvest forecasts than can be produced for a given set of forest conditions and management assumptions. Each alternative usually represents a trade-off between the harvest level in the short term and the

Wildlife Tree

A standing live or dead tree with special characteristics that provide valuable habitat for conservation or enhancement of wildlife.

Seral stages

Are stages in a sequence of plant communities that successively occupy and replace each other over time.

Natural disturbance type

An area that is characterized by a natural disturbance regime, such as wildfires, and affects the seral stages. Areas with less stand-initiating disturbance have older forests, and generally, a greater abundance of species.

Riparian habitat

The stream bank and flood plain area adjacent to streams or water bodies.

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Protected Areas Strategy

A provincial initiative to protect representative ecosystems and special features on a regional basis

Base case forecast

The timber supply forecast which illustrates the effect of current forest management practices on the timber supply using the best available information.

Person-year

One person working the equivalent of one full year. If someone works full-time for six months, he or she accounts for 0.5 person-years.

subsequent rate of decline to the long-term harvest level. For the projected base case forecast*, the initial harvest forecast will be based on trying to achieve the current rate of harvest in the short term without compromising the long-term harvest level. The timber supply implications of alternative short-term rates of harvest will be tested in sensitivity analyses.

- **Implications related to community dependence** - the impact of potential allowable annual cut adjustments on local communities and the provincial economy is an important consideration in the Timber Supply Review.

The 1993 report, *Socio-Economic Evaluation of Fort Nelson timber supply area Timber Harvest Scenarios*, identified over 600 direct person-years* associated with the previous allowable annual cut of 750,000 cubic metres for coniferous forests and 137,000 cubic metres for deciduous forests. Including all direct and other related economic activities, the Fort Nelson area relies on the forest industry for approximately 33 per cent of its employment.

As part of the Fort Nelson Land and Resource Management Planning process, the Ministry of Employment and Investment has commissioned a study of the local socio-economic profile and a socio-economic assessment of the recommended plan.

In addition to the socio-economic information gathered from the planning process, the socio-economic section of the upcoming analysis report will examine the potential socio-economic effects associated with alternative rates of harvesting. To provide an updated profile of the forest industry in the Fort Nelson area and to examine potential changes in forestry's role in the area, new information will be gathered from licensees, processing facilities and the Forest Service.

Indirect and other related employment at both local and provincial levels will also be estimated using employment multipliers provided by the Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations. To examine the implications of alternative rates of harvest, employment co-efficients, reported in person years per 1,000 cubic metres, will be developed and used to estimate changes to employment levels now and in the future from any potential harvest level changes.

Timber processing facilities

Currently, there are three processing facilities operating in the timber supply area: Slocan Forest Products' Tackama's sawmill, the veneer/plywood plant, and the oriented-strand board plant. In 1996, the three mills processed approximately 950,000 cubic metres of wood.

Slocan and its subsidiary Tackama hold licences totaling 733,716 cubic metres per year, of which 538,973 cubic metres is attributable to coniferous forests. Tackama also purchases timber from Small Business Forest Enterprise Program operators and private timber sales.

Slocan's oriented-strand board plant uses aspen and some cottonwood timber. Slocan's plant has an allocation of 610,000 cubic metres per year under Pulpwood Agreement* Number 14.

Economic and social objectives of the Crown

- The Minister of Forests has expressed in a letter and a memo to the chief forester, the Crown's economic and social objectives for the province. The provincial objectives are consistent with those applied in the timber supply analysis (see above, Alternative rates of harvesting). In addition, economic and social objectives for the area and for the general region are derived from the public review period which follows the release of the timber supply analysis.

Your input is needed

Establishing the allowable annual cut is an important decision which requires well-informed and thoughtful public input. Feedback is welcomed on any aspect of this *Information Report*, the *Data Package Appendix* and other topics related to the timber supply in the Fort Nelson timber supply area. The response form at the end of this document will assist you in preparing your comments. As well, Forest Service staff would be pleased to discuss questions or concerns that may help you prepare your response.

Please mail the completed response form and your comments to the Fort Nelson Forest District Manager at the address below. Your comments will be accepted until August 25, 1997.

After receiving public input, the Forest Service will finalize the data and management assumptions that will be applied in the timber supply analysis. The timber supply analysis will be complete and available for review by the end of 1997. You may also wish to participate in the second public review period, which will follow the release of the *Fort Nelson Timber Supply Area Analysis Report*.

Following the second public review period, the chief forester will examine all the information available in order to review the timber supply for the Fort Nelson timber supply area. The chief forester will then establish the allowable annual cut based on his consideration of the factors as required under Section 8 of the *Forest Act*.

You may identify yourself on your response if you wish. If you do, you are reminded that responses will be subject to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and may be made public. If copies of the responses are requested, personal identifiers will be removed before the responses are released.

For more information contact and/or mail your comments to:

District Manager
B.C. Forest Service
Fort Nelson Forest District
RR#1, Mile 301, Alaska Highway
Fort Nelson, B.C.
VOC 1R0

Phone: (250) 774-3936
Fax: (250) 774-3704

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Pulpwood Agreement

Is a form of tenure which permits the holder to harvest Crown pulpwood stands if there are insufficient quantities of pulp fibre available for their milling requirements from other sources. An agreement covers a 25-year term and may be replaced every ten years.

APPENDIX A

Data Package

Description of Data Inputs and Management Assumptions

The appendix is available upon request from the following Ministry of Forests offices.

Offices are located at:

Fort Nelson Forest District
Mile 301, Alaska Highway
RR #1
Fort Nelson, BC
V0C 1R0
(250) 774-3936

Prince George Forest Region Office
1011 4th Ave.
Prince George, BC
V2L 3H9
(250) 565-6100

Timber Supply Branch
1450 Government Street
P.O. Box 9512,
Stn Provincial Government
Victoria, BC
V8W 9C2
(250) 356-5947