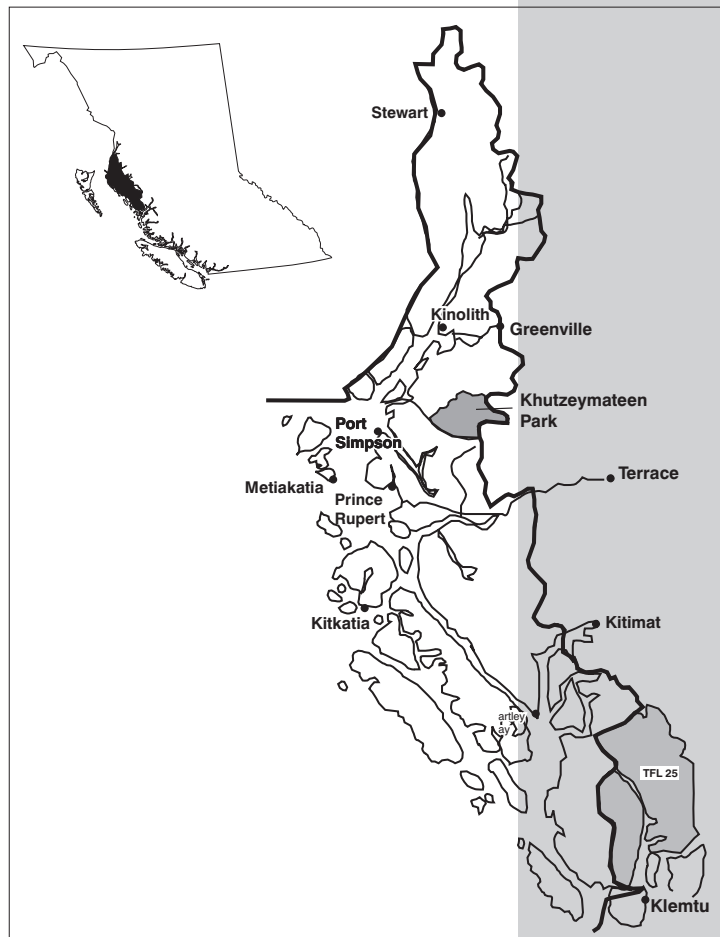


Timber Supply Review

North Coast Timber Supply Area

Information Report

February 1998



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

Ministry of Forests

Timber Supply Review

in the North Coast TSA

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 North Coast 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 *North Coast Timber Supply Area Analysis Report*.

The *North Coast 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 related to timber supply for the North Coast 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 seven through nine. For a more detailed description of the information, please contact the North Coast Forest District Office (in Prince Rupert) or the Prince Rupert Forest Region Office (in Smithers) 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 March 16, 1998.

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 of timber supply areas. The diagram indicates the current status of the timber supply review for the North Coast timber supply area, and the estimated time required for each step.

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.

Timber supply

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

Timber supply area

An integrated resource management unit established in accordance with Section 8 of the *Forest Act*.

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*.

Allowable annual cut

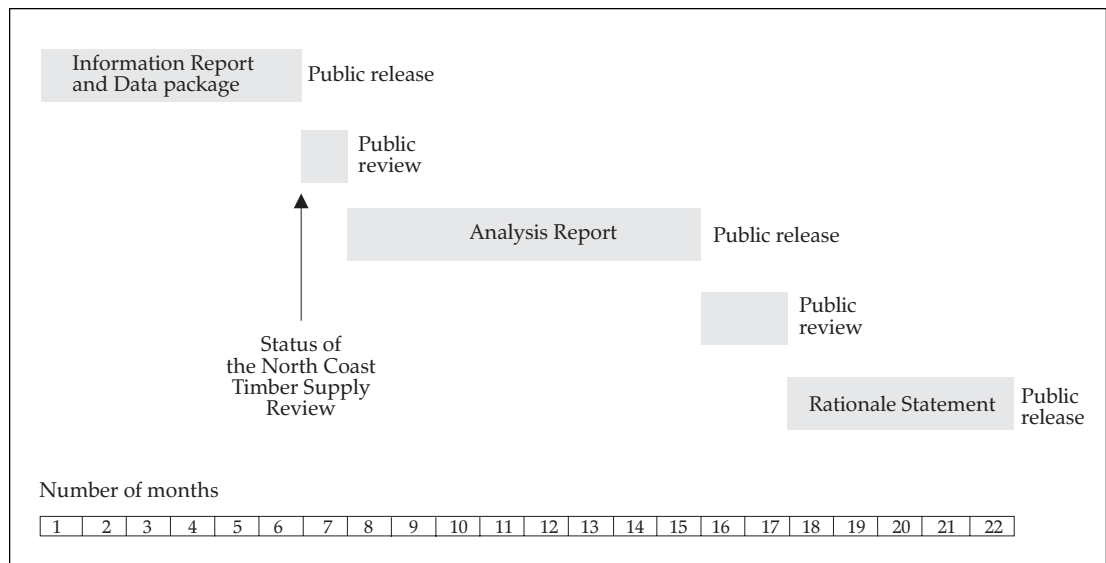
The rate of timber harvest permitted each year from a specified area of land, usually expressed as cubic metres of wood per year.

Timber Supply Review

in the North Coast TSA

Figure 1.

Review process for the North Coast timber supply area.



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 judgment 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 the 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

Central Coast Land and Coastal Resource Management Plan

The Central Coast Land and Coastal Resource Management planning process began in the summer of 1997. The management plan covers a large area of British Columbia's central coast, including a southern portion of the North Coast timber supply area.

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 central coast area. It is anticipated that the process will take over two years to complete. Once the plan has been finalized and implemented it will be considered in future timber supply reviews.

Description of the timber supply area

The North Coast timber supply area is situated in northwest British Columbia and covers approximately 1.95 million hectares. It borders on the Pacific Ocean, stretching from Meyers Passage (near Klemtu) in the south to Stewart in the north. The North Coast timber supply area is administered by the North Coast Forest District office located in Prince Rupert.

The communities

The major population centers in the area are Prince Rupert and Stewart. Other smaller communities include Dodge Cove, Greenville, Kincolith, Hartley Bay, Kitkatla, Metlakatla, Port Edward and Port Simpson.

According to the 1996 Census, the population of the timber supply area was approximately 20,100. This represents an increase of more than two per cent since 1991 which is relatively low compared to the total provincial population which increased by almost 14 per cent. The North Coast's population is concentrated in Prince Rupert (17,681 persons) and Stewart (1,033). By 2001, the population of the timber supply area is expected to grow by another five to six per cent to about 21,000 people.

The economy

The North Coast timber supply area is one of the few areas in the province, outside of the lower mainland, where forest-based employment is exceeded in size by other industrial sectors. Figure 2 (next page) illustrates total employment by industry sector for the Prince Rupert area.

The largest industrial component in the timber supply area is the commercial fishing and fish processing sector. Primary forestry and wood products manufacturing make up the next largest group. The

Timber Supply Review

in the North Coast TSA

transportation industry is also significant and is expected to make a larger contribution in the future. Other manufacturing reported in the area include printing and publishing, concrete products, boat building and repair, metal fabricating and machine shops. Finally, the region has numerous tourist attractions within its boundaries and is gradually developing as a tourist destination.

The majority of forestry employment in the timber supply area is associated with

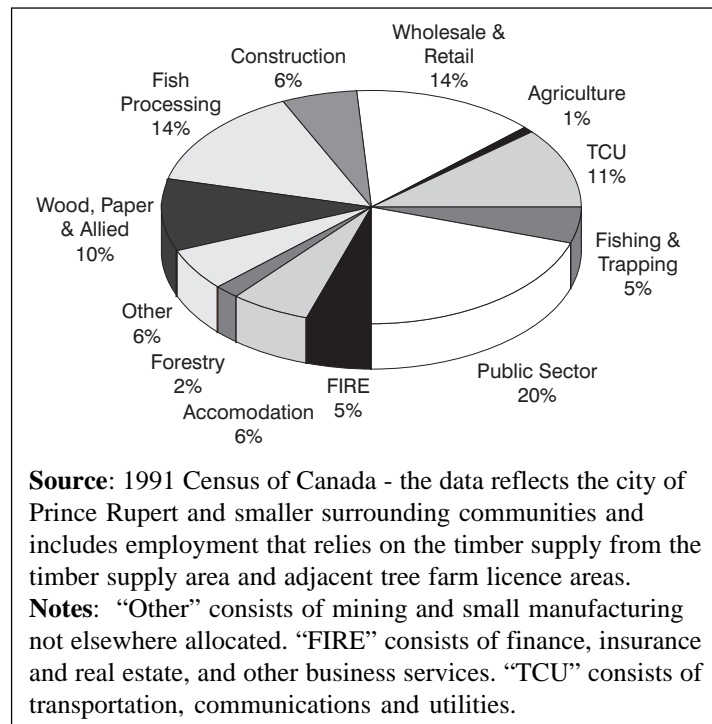


Figure 2. North Coast area (Employment by sector, 1991)

harvesting and silviculture activities in the southern portion and with the processing of wood products at two major facilities: the Skeena Cellulose pulp and paper complex and the West Fraser Mills lumber and chip mill, both in Prince Rupert. In 1996, employment at these facilities totalled 850 jobs.

Commercial forestry in the northern portions of the timber supply area is hampered by higher-than-average production costs which are often associated with older stands. Additional forestry related employment results from the substantial quantity of timber which moves through the port of Stewart to off-shore destinations and

from the timber harvested from Tree Farm Licence 25. Kitimat and Terrace, located in the adjoining Kalum timber supply area, also derive significant economic benefit from the harvest and processing of North Coast timber.

The forest sector supports numerous other jobs in the region through companies and employees purchasing goods and services from local businesses. This spending is another indicator of the role forestry has in the economy. Each 100 direct forestry jobs in the North Coast timber supply area is estimated to support a further 40 to 66 indirect and induced jobs, depending on the type of forestry activity (logging, wood manufacturing, or pulp & paper,) and the associated level of income. In contrast, each 100 jobs in the fishing and fish processing sector supports approximately 30 positions, the public sector supports 22 positions, while each 100 tourism jobs support approximately 12 positions.

First Nations

The North Coast timber supply area is within the traditional lands of the Tsimshian Nation, the Nisga'a Nation, the Haisla

Nation, the Heiltsuk Nation and the Gitanyow Nation. The Tsimshian Nation has four villages (Laxkw'alaams, Metlakatla, Kitkatla and Hartley Bay) and the Nisga'a Nation has two villages (Kincolith and Greenville) in the timber supply area.

The Nisga'a Tribal Council has submitted a comprehensive land claim which covers a northern portion of the North Coast timber supply area. The Agreement-In-Principle, dated February 15, 1996 has been signed by the Nisga'a Nation and the Federal and Provincial Governments. An Interim Protection Measures Agreement, dated December 5, 1996, is in effect for three years from the

date the Agreement-In-Principle was signed. When the land claim has been finalized it will be considered in either this or future timber supply reviews.

The Haisla Nation, the Heiltsuk Nation, the Gitnayow Nation, and members of the Tsimshian Nation (the Allied Tsimshian Tribes Association and the Kitsoo First Nation) are currently negotiating an agreement-in-principle.

All of the First Nations have expressed concerns about timber harvesting in areas with high cultural and economic values. Cultural heritage inventory studies, which identify sites of potential archaeological significance, have been completed. Once impact assessments and traditional-use surveys have been completed, this information will be considered in the timber supply review.

The forest land resources

Numerous natural resources are associated with the forest land base. Forest products, recreation and tourism amenities, and a variety of wildlife habitat highlight the wide range of values and uses found in the North Coast timber supply area.

The landscape ranges from low floodplains covered with cottonwood forests along the Nass and Skeena rivers, through forests of western hemlock, western redcedar and sitka spruce, to glaciers at higher elevations. While only about six per cent of the timber supply area is available for timber harvesting, the diverse landscape provides extraordinary opportunities for recreation and tourism. The coastline, deeply cut by narrow, steep-walled fjords and channels forms part of the Inside Passage. The Yellowhead Highway passes through the central part of the area allowing easy access to an area of outstanding mountain scenery. Khutzeymateen Park, Canada's first grizzly bear sanctuary, offers outstanding wildlife viewing.

The environment

There are three biogeoclimatic zones* in the North Coast timber supply area. The distinct ecological features as well as the unique nature of the area contribute to high biodiversity values.

The North Coast timber supply area hosts an abundance of wildlife including black-tailed deer, grizzly bear, black bear, sea mammals and marine birds.

History of the allowable annual cut

On July 6, 1995, the chief forester set the allowable annual cut at 600,000 cubic metres, unchanged from the previous determination.

As part of the 1995 determination, the chief forester gave direction to resolve uncertainties with respect to the timber supply in the North Coast timber supply area. In preparation for the next allowable annual cut determination, the following issues were to be examined:

- **economic operability** - during the last determination there was some uncertainty with respect to the economically operable land base due to changing market prices.

An operability review is now complete and the results indicate an increase in the economic operable land base. Most of the additions are located in areas of poorer quality timber types. Some better quality timber has been added but generally on very difficult terrain requiring expensive harvesting methods. This information will be incorporated into the timber supply analysis for the purposes of determining the timber harvesting land base.

- **harvest of low productivity sites** - the last allowable annual cut determination noted that the location and extent of timber types that are potentially accessible in low productivity sites and the operational requirements necessary to harvest and reforest these areas should be examined.

Biogeoclimatic zones
A large geographic area with broadly homogeneous climate and similar dominant tree species.

Timber Supply Review

in the North Coast TSA

Green-up

The time required for regenerated forests to reach a desired condition (usually a specific height) after harvesting to meet specific management objectives and allow harvesting to take place in adjacent areas.

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 guidebooks that govern forest practices and standards, with heavy penalties for violators.

Recently, a study has been undertaken to determine the ecology and management requirements of the cedar-cypress-hemlock forests of coastal British Columbia. There is uncertainty surrounding the feasibility and sustainability of harvesting such wet, slow-growing forests.

As the results of this five-year project are made available they will be considered in future timber supply reviews.

- **estimates of existing mature forest volumes** - at the time of the last allowable annual cut determination, there was a concern that the existing mature forest volumes were overestimated.

Since the previous determination, there have been a number of initiatives undertaken to resolve this concern. A re-inventory is in progress and will be audited for accuracy once completed. A study of decay and breakage factors is also underway. If the results of these initiatives are available before the allowable annual cut is set, they will be considered in the determination.

- **site productivity** - at the time of the last allowable annual cut determination, there was a concern that site productivity was underestimated.

A recent study in the adjacent Kalum timber supply area shows higher estimates of site productivity for hemlock stands than previously projected. Any increases to estimates of site productivity could affect estimates of regenerated stand volumes, the minimum harvestable age and the time required for green-up*.

Preliminary results of the site productivity study will be used to examine the potential impact of higher site productivity estimates on timber supply. This information will be considered in the timber supply analysis.

- **estimates of unsalvaged losses** - at the time of the last allowable annual cut determination, there was a concern that

unsalvaged losses related to windthrown timber may be underestimated.

Currently, a windthrow inventory project has been approved by Forest Renewal BC. If this project is completed prior to the allowable annual cut determination, the data will be incorporated into this timber supply review.

Note: For more information on these points, please refer to the North Coast timber supply area Rationale for Allowable Annual Cut Determination, July 6, 1995.

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

The data and management assumptions that will be used in the timber supply analysis will be based on the existing land-use designations and resource management practices that are currently approved and implemented in the North Coast 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.

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 consider 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 North Coast 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 offices listed at the end of this report.

Land base factors

- **Operable area** - the forested area in the North Coast timber supply area has been assessed for operability based on economic attributes, timber types and physical accessibility. Only those areas that are considered operable will contribute to the timber harvesting land base*.
- **Low productivity sites** - in addition to the above, forest types that are not considered fully available for harvesting due to forest characteristics such as low timber volumes or low growth productivity will be separated from the timber harvesting land base.
- **Marginal timber types** - pine and deciduous-leading stands are not currently harvested in the North Coast timber supply area. Also, stands which have low stand density or are close to mature ages and do not have closed canopies generally have marginal economic value. These stands will be

separated from the timber harvesting land base.

- **Environmentally sensitive areas*** - all or portions of these areas will not contribute to the timber harvesting land base. An evaluation of the environmental concerns and the past level of harvesting within these areas was used to determine the appropriate contributions. For the North Coast timber supply area, all of the area classified for highly sensitive soils, regeneration problems, recreation as well as areas identified with high or moderate avalanche or water quality rating will not contribute to the timber harvesting land base.
- **Forest roads** - harvesting and road construction follow provincial guidelines. Currently, it is estimated that there are 1,430 hectares of existing roads, trails and landings in the North Coast timber supply area. Also, it is estimated that an additional 8.4 per cent of the remaining unharvested areas will be lost over time to future roads, landings and trails construction.

Inventory factors

- **Forest inventory** - the current inventory has been updated to 1997 to take into account recent harvesting and silviculture activities.

The dominant tree species in the North Coast timber supply area are western hemlock, western redcedar and sitka spruce. Other tree species found are lodgepole pine and alder.
- **Minimum harvestable ages** - for the purposes of the timber supply analysis, the minimum harvestable age is defined as the earliest age at which a forest stand is estimated to reach a merchantable size. This age is based on the time required for regenerated stands to achieve desired physical characteristics such as a minimum average stand diameter of 30 centimetres at 1.3 metres above the ground and minimum volume of 375 cubic metres per hectare. It is also based on an evaluation of the age at

Timber Supply Review

in the North Coast TSA

Timber harvesting land base

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

Environmentally sensitive areas

Areas identified as requiring special management to protect important recreation and scenic values, fisheries resources, sensitive soils and unstable slopes.

Timber Supply Review

in the North Coast TSA

which the forest types achieve the maximum rate of growth over time.

Forest re-establishment factors

- **Basic silviculture** - British Columbia laws require that 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 control competing vegetation.

In the North Coast timber supply area, reforestation is achieved predominantly by natural regeneration with some planting of acceptable coniferous species. In the timber supply analysis, it is assumed that areas will be reforested two years after harvesting has begun.

Timber utilization factors

- **Timber utilization** - volume estimates will be based on the utilization of all trees which meet or exceed the following standards: a minimum 10-centimetre top diameter and a minimum diameter of 17.5 centimetres at 1.3 metres above the ground in old-growth stands; and a minimum 10-centimetre top diameter and a minimum diameter of 12.5 centimetres at 1.3 metres above the ground in second-growth forests; and for all stands a maximum 30-centimetre high stump.

Infestations, devastations, and salvage of timber

Each year portions of the forests in the North Coast timber supply area are damaged by natural agents such as fire and wind. It is anticipated that some of the damaged timber will not be salvaged due to road and economic limitations. The unsalvaged volume is estimated to be 2,034 cubic metres annually.

Factors to be considered for purposes other than timber production

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

- **Forest cover requirements** - under current forest management practices, cutblocks* must achieve green-up before adjacent areas are permitted to be harvested. For example, to account for forest cover requirements in the integrated management area, a maximum of 33 per cent of the timber harvesting land base will be allowed to have forests less than three metres tall at any time.
- **Visually sensitive areas** - these are areas where the maintenance of scenic landscapes is a priority for recreation and tourism management, particularly in areas that are adjacent to major travel corridors and waterways. Road construction and logging within these areas are planned and implemented to minimize visual impacts. Recommended visual quality objectives have been established for scenic areas identified in the North Coast timber supply area and vary according to the degree of visual sensitivity.
- **Riparian habitat*** - to meet the requirements of the Forest Practices Code, a portion of the timber harvesting land base will be considered unavailable for timber harvesting to account for riparian habitat areas along streams and lakes.
- **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

Cutblock

A specific area, with defined boundaries, authorized for harvest.

Riparian habitat

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

Code requires that biodiversity be examined at both the stand- and landscape-level.

Leaving wildlife tree* patches and coarse woody debris* for stand-level biodiversity is current practice in the North Coast timber supply area. Generally, coarse woody debris objectives can be met by the contributions of non-merchantable timber. The current practice for leaving wildlife tree patches requires that a percentage of each cutblock be retained. This requirement can be met by riparian habitat areas and other areas outside of the timber harvesting land base, therefore no further accounting was necessary for the purposes of the timber supply analysis.

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 type*. This approach has been taken because at this time the landscape units and biodiversity objectives are still draft and have not yet been formally established.

Sensitivity analyses* will be undertaken to examine the potential impact on timber supply from applying the draft objectives from the Prince Rupert Regional Landscape Unit Plan.

Implications of alternative rates of harvesting

- **Alternative rates of harvesting** - There are many alternative harvest forecasts that 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 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 implications of alternative short-term rates of harvest will be tested in sensitivity analyses.

- **Implications related to community dependence** - The impact of timber supply adjustments on local communities and the provincial economy is an important consideration in the timber supply review. The October 1994 *North Coast Timber Supply Area Socio-Economic Analysis* reported that, provincially, harvesting, silviculture and processing activities associated with the harvesting of the North Coast timber supply supported 744 direct person-years* and 1,100 indirect and induced* person-years of employment. About 25 per cent of these are located in the North Coast timber supply area.

The socio-economic section of the upcoming timber supply analysis report will review the role of the forest sector in the North Coast timber supply area. To provide this update, current information on employment and fibre flows will be gathered from licensees, processing facilities, the B.C. Forest Service and other stakeholders. 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

The socio-economic analysis will examine the implications of potential changes of timber supply for the area's major processing facilities: Skeena Cellulose's pulp mill and West Fraser's sawmill. In 1996, these two mills processed approximately 175,000 cubic metres of timber and a million tonnes of wood chips.

Timber Supply Review

in the North Coast TSA

Wildlife tree

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

Coarse woody debris

Logs and stumps that provide habitat for plants, animals and insects, and a source of nutrients for soil development.

Seral stages

Sequential stages in the development 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.

Timber Supply Review

in the North Coast TSA

Landscape unit

A planning area based on topographic or geographic features.

Sensitivity analysis

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

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.

Induced

Induced employment is generated through the spending of direct and indirect employment income, such as in local retail outlets.

Skeena Cellulose's pulp mill in Prince Rupert is the area's largest single employer. During 1996 the mill employed about 800 people. West Fraser Mills, also in Prince Rupert, is a dual purpose facility; one line produces dimensional lumber while the other is a dedicated whole log chipper. The chipper utilizes approximately 32,000 cubic metres per year of smaller log fibre, and the dimension mill about 140,000 cubic metres of larger timber. Wood chips from both lines are trucked to the Northwood Pulp & Timber Ltd. pulp and paper mill in Prince George where they support additional employment.

Economic and social objectives of the Crown

In a letter and a memo to the chief forester, the minister of forests has expressed the Crown's economic and social objectives for the province. The harvest flow objectives to be used in the timber supply analysis (see above, "Alternative rates of harvesting") are consistent with the minister's stated objectives.

In addition, economic and social objectives for the area and the general region will be derived from public input.

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 North Coast 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 Forest Service district manager located at the address below. Your comments will be accepted until March 16, 1998.

After receiving public input, the B.C. Forest Service will finalize the data and management assumptions that will be applied in this timber supply analysis. The timber supply analysis will be completed and available for review by summer of 1998. You may also wish to participate in the second public review period, which will follow the release of the *North Coast 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 North Coast 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
North Coast Forest District
B.C. Forest Service
125 Market Place
Prince Rupert, B.C.
V8J 1B9
Phone: (250) 624-7460
Fax: (250) 624-7479

or electronically mail to:

Vicky.Bosse@gems9.gov.bc.ca

APPENDIX A

Data Package Description of Data Inputs and Management Assumptions

This appendix is available upon request from the
Ministry of Forests.

Offices are located at:

North Coast Forest District
125 Market Place
Prince Rupert, B.C.
V8J 1B9

Phone: (250) 624-7460

Prince Rupert Forest Region Office
3726 Alfred Ave.
Bag 5000
Smithers, B.C.
V0J 2N0

Phone: (250) 847-7500

Timber Supply Branch
3rd Floor - 595 Pandora Avenue
P.O. Box 9512,
Stn Provincial Government
Victoria, B.C.
V8W 9C3

Phone: (250) 356-5947