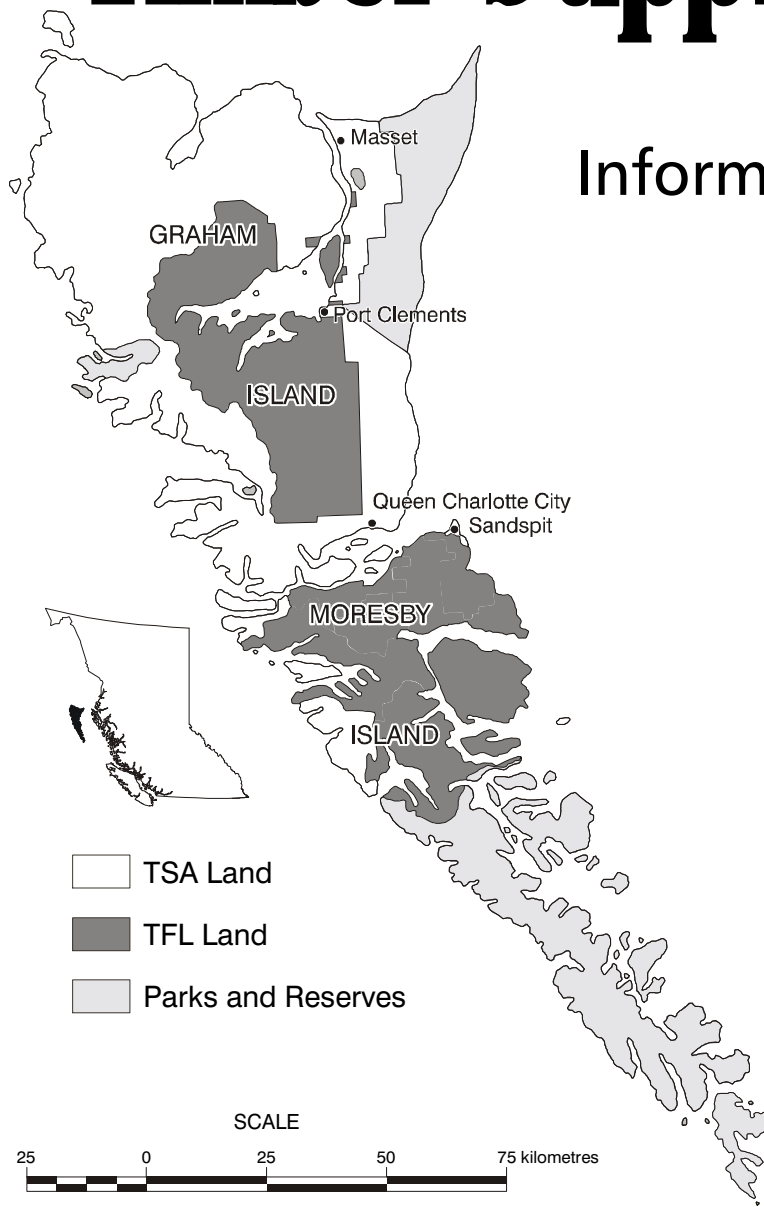


# Queen Charlotte Timber Supply Area

Information Report  
March 1999





# 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
- to identify where improved information is required for future timber supply forecasts
- to 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 Queen Charlotte 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 *Queen Charlotte Timber Supply Area Analysis Report*.

The *Queen Charlotte 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 Queen Charlotte 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 six through nine. For a more detailed description of the information, please contact the Queen Charlotte Forest District Office in Queen Charlotte City or the Vancouver Forest Region Office in Nanaimo 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 April 26, 1999.

## 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 Queen Charlotte timber supply area. The estimated time required to complete the data package was approximately 12 months and not the

### 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 7 of the Forest Act.

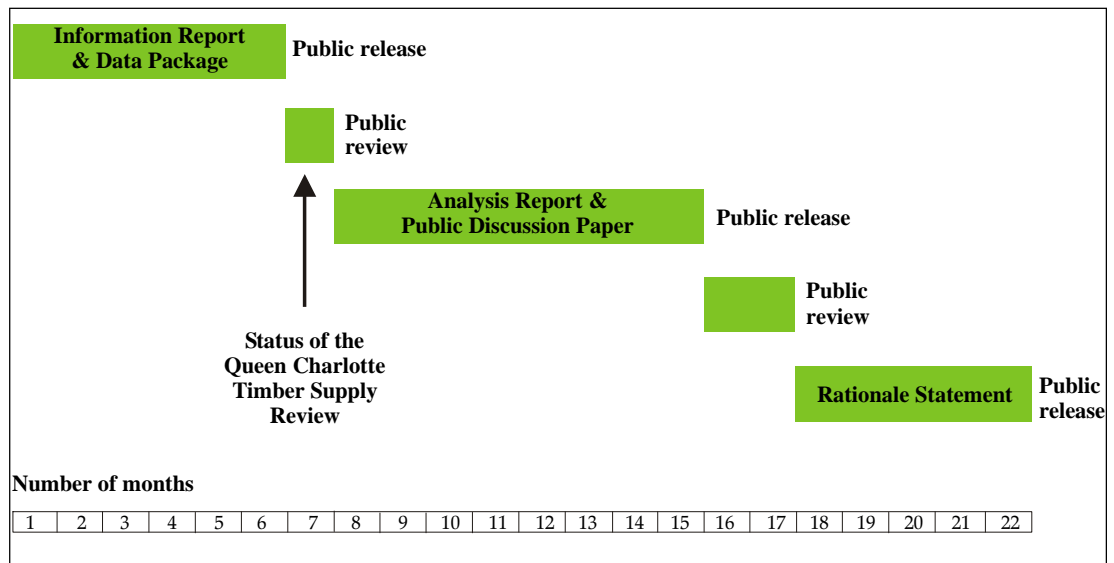
### Tree farm licence (TFL)

Provides rights to harvest timber, and outlines responsibilities for forest management, in a particular area.

### Allowable annual cut (AAC)

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

**Figure 1.**  
Review process for  
the Queen Charlotte  
timber supply area.



standard six months as indicated by Figure 1.

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 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

## Queen Charlotte Islands land-use planning process

The Islands Community Stability Initiative was formed in November 1995 by elected representatives and their designated alternates, from every community and rural electoral area.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the initiative and the Ministry of Forests in August 1996. Ministry and local communities have committed to completing a strategic plan for the islands which will

include a resolution of potential new protected areas. Once the planning process is complete and implemented, it will be considered in this or future timber supply reviews.

## Description of the timber supply area

The Queen Charlotte Islands, Haida Gwaii to its native inhabitants, consists of more than 150 islands located approximately 90 kilometres west of British Columbia's north coast. The islands are divided into three physiographic units - the Queen Charlotte Ranges, the Skidegate Plateau and the Queen Charlotte Lowlands.

The Queen Charlotte timber supply area covers an area of 465,000 hectares, approximately 46 per cent of the islands' total land base. The timber supply area is primarily located on the east and west sides of Graham Island, with a smaller portion on northwest Moresby Island.

The timber supply area attracts visitors from all corners of the world as a place to explore the west coast rainforest and associated marine environments. Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve on Moresby Island, and Naikoon Class 'A' Provincial Park on Graham Island border the south and east sides of the timber supply area.

The timber supply area is located within the Queen Charlotte Islands Forest District boundary, and is administered by the Queen Charlotte Islands Forest District office located in Queen Charlotte City.

## Forest land resources

Forest products, recreation and native culture highlight the range of values and uses found in the timber supply area. Where drainage and soil nutrient conditions are favorable, stands can achieve some of the fastest growth rates on the coast. Subdued terrain on the Queen Charlotte Lowlands and Skidegate Plateau have extensive bogs and nutrient poor stands, while rugged steep terrain

dominates the west coast. As a result, only a small percentage of the timber supply area is available for timber harvesting.

## Environment

The timber supply area is part of a large and complex island ecological system. Animals unique to the area include a sub-species of North American black bear, a sub-species of pine marten (both larger than their mainland cousins), and species of deer mouse, dusky shrew and short-tailed weasel. Concerns over the population decline of the Queen Charlotte goshawk and marbled murrelet prompted their listing as provincially red-listed as threatened and endangered species. Sitka black-tailed deer, raccoons, squirrels, beaver and three species of rats were introduced to the islands and now exist in great numbers—much to the detriment of some native plants and animals.

## The communities

The Queen Charlotte Islands includes the communities of Sandspit, Queen Charlotte City, Skidegate, Tlell, Port Clements, Masset and Old Massett.

According to the 1996 Census, about 5,600 people reside on the Queen Charlotte

Islands, reflecting a 5.3 per cent increase from 1991. In 1996, the population for each community was: Sandspit (568), Alliford Bay (50), Queen Charlotte City (1,222), Skidegate (695), Tlell (369), Port Clements (558), Masset (1,293), Old Massett (692), and North Beach (150). The notable change in population from 1991 to 1996 occurred in Masset where the population declined by 12 per cent, reflecting the downsizing of the Canadian Forces Detachment. Since 1996, Sandspit has experienced a population decline of over 100 people due to the economic slowdown in the resource based sector, while Masset has experienced an increase of up to 200 people.

## The economy

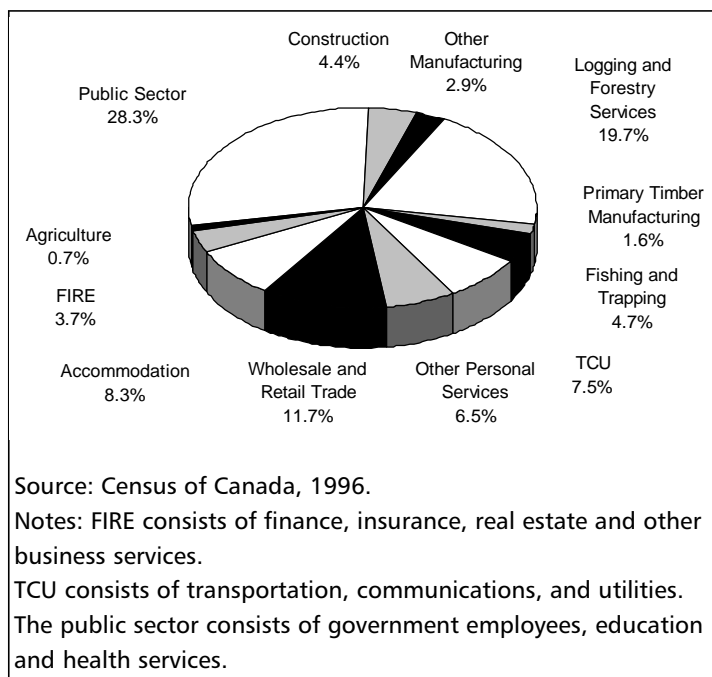
The Queen Charlotte Islands is largely a resource based economy, with forestry the predominant sector. Figure 2 illustrates total employment by sector for the area.

The forest industry sector accounts for approximately 21 per cent of the Queen Charlotte Islands total labour force. Forestry employment includes logging and forestry services, and primary timber manufacturing. Primary timber manufacturing presently occurs at three small- to medium-sized mills on the Queen

Charlotte Islands, although a number of other small mills operate intermittently. The majority of timber is shipped to the mainland for processing.

The public sector is also an important source of employment and income for residents of the Queen Charlotte Islands, and in 1996 supported approximately 28 per cent of the island's labour force. The service sector, consisting of finance, insurance, and real estate (FIRE), accommodation, wholesale and retail trade, other personal services, and transportation, communications and utilities (TCU) also

**Figure 2.**  
Employment by basic sector for the Queen Charlotte timber supply area, 1996.



support a substantial percentage of the labour force. Many of these service activities rely on the forest industry.

## First Nations

Haida Gwaii has been home to the Haida people for as long as oral history and archaeology have recorded occupation of the islands. At least 14,000 people have lived in over 126 known village sites. Following first contact with Europeans, the population plummeted to 589 by 1911, all resident in either Skidegate or Old Massett. Today, two out of three Haida live off-island, many of whom are planning to return.

In 1993, a statement of intent to pursue treaty negotiations was filed. While progress towards achieving an agreement has slowed, cases pending in the courts could ultimately affect the size of the timber harvesting land base\*. Such cases include: defining the meaning of proof of aboriginal title; and how Haida interests could affect area-based tenures issued by the province.

In 1998, the Haida Accord was finalized, which stated that the Council of the Haida Nation would represent the Haida people in relation to the provincial and federal governments on matters dealing with land and resources.

Food, shelter, medicines and material culture have been prepared from over two hundred species of plants. Most physical evidence of this use, primarily in the form of culturally modified trees has been lost to commercial harvesting. Much of the Haida cultural expression depends on yellow and redcedar. The demand for all ages of these tree species is increasing during the current renaissance of Haida art, especially for monumental trees suitable for canoes, poles and longhouses. Interest in the economic opportunities of forestry has also increased. In part to protect the supply of such resources for future generations, 14 areas of interest (nine in the timber supply area) have been

identified by the Council of Haida Nation or by the Haida House of Assembly.

Any known information regarding the Haida's culture that affects timber supply will be considered in the timber supply review.

## History of the allowable annual cut

On May 1, 1996, the chief forester reduced the allowable annual cut from 514,335 cubic metres to 475,000 cubic metres, of which 75,000 cubic metres were specific to low-volume cedar stands.

As part of the 1996 determination, the chief forester gave direction to resolve uncertainties with respect to the timber supply in the Queen Charlotte timber supply area. In preparation for the next allowable annual cut determination, the following issues were examined:

- **operability** - it was noted in the last determination - that there was uncertainty regarding the operable land base and that further study was required to quantify the economic and accessible land base.  
Since then, the Vancouver Forest Region has completed a project to re-evaluate the operability mapping for the entire timber supply area. This new information will be incorporated into the upcoming timber supply analysis.
- **cultural heritage resources** - at the time of the last determination, there was concern about the location and management strategy for culturally modified trees and other cultural resources.

Since the previous determination, all known and identified culturally modified trees have been mapped, and district guidelines for the protection of culturally modified trees have been adopted. This information will be considered in the upcoming allowable annual cut determination.

### Timber harvesting land base

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

### **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, and which forms the reference point for sensitivity analysis.

### **Integrated resource management**

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

- **low-volume cedar stands** - in the last allowable annual cut determination, concern was raised regarding the contribution of low-volume cedar stands or marginally economic stands to the timber supply. A partition was established to assist in monitoring the appropriate contributions of these stands to the timber supply.

Since then, no harvesting has occurred in areas classified as low-volume or marginally economic in the timber supply area. In the upcoming timber supply analysis, the uncertainty of the appropriate contribution of these stands will be examined in a sensitivity analysis\* to assess the risk to timber supply.

- **site productivity** - it was noted in the last determination there was concern about estimates of site productivity in old-growth forests, particularly for stands of Sitka spruce.

The Vancouver Forest Region has since completed a study that examined site productivity estimates for Sitka spruce, western hemlock and redcedar. The study found that site productivity estimates have been underestimated for these tree species. The impact of higher estimates on timber supply will be examined through sensitivity analyses.

- **estimates of existing stand volumes** - it was anticipated during the last determination that work was required to assess the forest inventory and estimates of existing stand volumes.

An inventory audit was undertaken in 1997 and indicated that overall, inventory volumes are underestimated in the timber supply area. The main reason for the underestimation is that new adjustment factors were developed to more accurately account for volume losses due to wood decay in redcedar stands. The results from the audit will be incorporated into the base case forecast\* in the timber supply analysis.

## **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 Queen Charlotte 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 Queen Charlotte 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 operability mapping for the timber supply area was reviewed and updated during 1998 and 1999. The update involved classifying the operable land base by accessibility and harvesting system. Land base reductions were applied to account for constraints due to the Forest Practices Code, fisheries values, and cultural features. The resulting assessment was then combined with economic limitations to define the current timber harvesting land base.
- **low-productivity and problem forest types** - forest stands may have low productivity due to site quality factors that limit growth of commercial tree species. Some of the lower quality stands are not considered harvestable if they fail to reach a minimum volume requirement by 150 years of age, and are not considered to contribute to the timber harvesting land base. In addition, deciduous (broad-leaf) and pine-leading stands do not contribute to the timber harvesting land base.
- **environmentally sensitive areas\*** - an evaluation of current levels of harvesting in areas with moderate and high likelihood of landslides indicates that 79 per cent and 97 per cent, respectively, of these areas should not contribute to the timber harvesting land base. Additional environmentally sensitive areas—identified from further evaluation using detailed terrain stability mapping—will not contribute to the timber harvesting land base. These results will be incorporated into the timber supply analyses.

- **areas with high recreation resources** - in 1995, a recreation and landscape inventory was completed for the timber supply area. All areas identified to be managed exclusively for recreation, and half of the areas requiring special management to protect recreational values, will not contribute to the timber harvesting land base.
- **forest roads** - an estimation was made of the productive forest land occupied by roads, trails and landings. To account for existing roads, trails and landings, about seven per cent of the timber harvesting land base is considered occupied and therefore does not contribute. In the future, this percentage is expected to approach 6.5 per cent.
- **cultural heritage resources** - to examine the protection of cultural heritage resources, a review of the past three years of harvesting was completed. The review shows that 5.5 per cent of the timber harvesting land base should be reduced to account for the protection of culturally modified trees. Once more information is gathered for other cultural heritage resources, it will be considered in this or future timber supply reviews.
- **areas of interest** - the Haida have identified nine areas of interest in the Queen Charlotte timber supply area. For the purpose of the timber supply analysis, only 20 per cent of the forested area—within the areas of interest—will be permitted to have forests less than three metres tall at any time. In addition, sensitivity analysis will examine the impacts to timber supply from removing all or portions of these areas from the timber harvesting land base.

## Inventory factors

- **forest inventory** - the dominant tree species (by volume) in the timber supply area are western and mountain hemlock (49 per cent), redcedar (30 per cent), Sitka spruce (21 per cent), and a small component of yellow cedar (less

## Forest Practices Code of BC Act

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

## Environmentally sensitive areas

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

### **Cutblock**

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

### **Green-up**

The time needed after harvesting for a stand of trees to reach a desired condition (usually a specific height) — to ensure maintenance of water quality, wildlife habitat, soil stability or aesthetics — before harvesting is permitted in adjacent areas.

### **Riparian habitat**

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

### **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.

than one per cent). The majority of the existing forest is mature (75 per cent), and of this, primarily occupies poorer growing sites (62 per cent).

The forest cover inventory has been updated to 1997 to reflect all recent harvest and silviculture activities.

- **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 is estimated to reach a merchantable size. This age is based on an evaluation of the age at which a forest stand achieves 95 per cent of its maximum average annual rate of growth. However, in order to be considered merchantable, the stand must also reach at least 400 cubic metres per hectare.

### **Forest re-establishment factors**

- **basic silviculture** - British Columbia law requires that harvested areas which are expected to produce timber in the future must be reforested with ecologically acceptable species within a specified time frame.

In the Queen Charlotte timber supply area, the most common silvicultural practice is to clear-cut harvest, and then reforest by planting a mix of species or relying on natural regeneration. Competing brush problems in regenerating stands have generally been removed due to intense deer browsing. However, deer browsing has also effectively eliminated relying on natural cedar regeneration. Therefore, over the past several years, the district has implemented a strategy to ensure that cedar sites will be regenerated with a mix of cedar and either Sitka spruce or western hemlock, then protected until the trees are tall enough to be free of brush competition and deer browsing.

In the timber supply analysis, it is assumed that areas will be reforested with three to five 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 maximum stump height of 30 centimetres, a minimum top-diameter (inside bark) of 10 centimetres, and a minimum diameter of 17.5 centimetres measured at 1.3 metres above the ground.

### **Infestations, devastation's, and salvage of timber**

- Each year portions of the forests in the timber supply area are damaged by natural agents including defoliating insects and wind. It is anticipated that some of the damaged timber will not be salvaged due to poor access and economic limitations. The unsalvaged volume is estimated to be approximately 7,100 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.

- **general 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 25 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, particularly in areas that are adjacent to marine corridors, island

communities, major highways and primary access corridors. In the timber supply analysis, the recommended visual quality classes will be applied—in known scenic areas—by limiting a maximum of five per cent in retention, and 15 per cent in partial retention, of the forested area that will be allowed to have forests less than six metres tall at any time.

- **riparian habitat\*** - to meet the requirements of the Forest Practices Code, a portion of the operable land base will be considered unavailable for harvesting to account for riparian management areas along streams and lakes. It is estimated that 9.8 per cent of the operable land base will not contribute to the timber harvesting land base to account for riparian reserves and riparian management zones.
- **wildlife habitat** - in the timber supply analysis, a 12-hectare area around one known Queen Charlotte goshawk nest site will not contribute to the timber harvesting land base. In addition, sensitivity analyses will examine the timber supply impacts of general wildlife measures as per the recently released *Identified Wildlife Management Strategy*.

It is expected that marbled murrelet habitat will be maintained through the application of landscape level biodiversity requirements.

- **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 managed at both the stand and landscape level.

Leaving wildlife tree\* patches and coarse woody debris for stand-level biodiversity is current practice in the timber supply area. Generally, coarse woody debris\* objectives can be met by the contributions of non-merchantable

timber left on site after harvesting. The current practice of leaving wildlife tree patches requires that about four per cent of each cutblock be retained. It is estimated that three quarters of this requirement can be met by riparian management areas and other areas outside of the timber harvesting land base; therefore, within the timber harvesting land base about one per cent of the area will not contribute to the timber supply.

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 that landscape units and biodiversity objectives are still in draft form and have not been formally established.

Sensitivity analyses will be undertaken to examine the potential impact on timber supply of applying the draft biodiversity emphasis objectives developed for the Queen Charlotte Islands Forest District.

- **community watersheds** - to account for forest cover requirements in community watersheds, a maximum of five percent of the forested area will be allowed to have forests less than five years of age at any time.

## 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.

### Seral stages

Sequential stages in the development of plant communities that successively occupy a site and replace each other over time.

### Landscape unit

A planning area based on topographic or geographic features, that is appropriately sized (up to 100 000 hectares), and designed for application of landscape-level biodiversity objectives.

### Natural disturbance type (NDT)

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

### **Person-year(s)**

One person working the equivalent of one full year, defined as at least 180 days of work. If someone works full-time for 90 days, he or she accounts for 0.5 person years.

### **Indirect and induced jobs**

Indirect jobs are supported by direct business purchases of goods and services. Induced jobs are supported by employee purchases of goods and services; for example, at retail outlets.

- **Implications related to community dependence** - the impact of timber supply adjustments on local communities and the province is an important consideration in the timber supply review. The December 1994 *Queen Charlotte Socio-Economic Analysis* reported that, provincially, harvesting, silviculture and processing activities associated with the harvesting from the Queen Charlotte timber supply area supported 669 person years\* of direct employment and approximately 1,000 person years of indirect and induced\* person years of employment. Local residents account for approximately 13 per cent of this employment.

The socio-economic section of the upcoming timber supply analysis report will review the role of the forest sector in the Queen Charlotte 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 the 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 coefficients, 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 timber processing facilities. In 1997, in the area, three small- to medium-sized mills operated and processed approximately 25,000 cubic metres of timber.

## **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 Queen Charlotte 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 April 26, 1999.

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 1999. You may also wish to participate in the second public review period, which will follow the release of the *Queen Charlotte 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 Queen Charlotte 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  
Queen Charlotte Islands Forest District  
B.C. Forest Service  
Box 39  
1229 Cemetary Road  
Queen Charlotte City, B.C.  
V0J 1E0

Phone: (250) 559-6200

Fax: (250) 559-8342

or electronically mail to:

Rene.deJong@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:

Queen Charlotte Islands Forest District  
1229 Cemetary Road  
Queen Charlotte City, B.C.  
VOJ 1E0

Phone: (250) 559-6200

Vancouver Forest Region  
2100 Labieux Road  
Nanaimo, B.C.  
V9T 6E9

Phone: (250) 751-7001

Timber Supply Branch  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor - 595 Pandora Avenue  
Victoria, B.C.  
V8W 9C3

Phone: (250) 356-5947