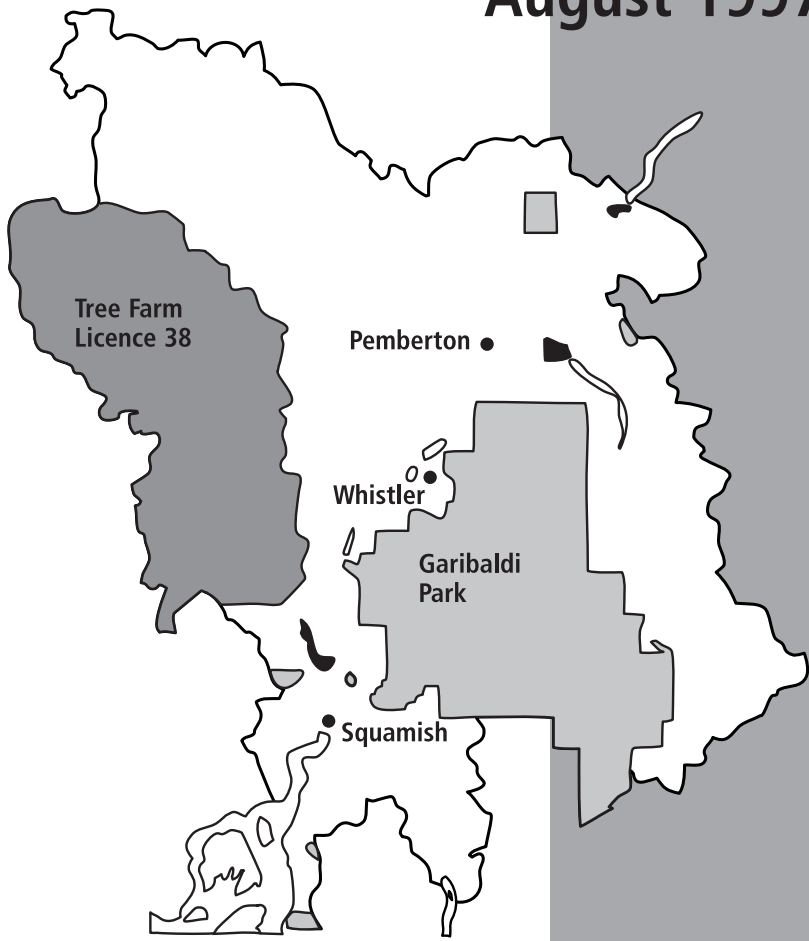


Soo Timber Supply Area

Information Report

August 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 Soo 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 *Soo Timber Supply Area Analysis Report*.

The *Soo 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 Soo 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 7 through 9. For a more detailed description of the information, please contact the Squamish Forest District Office or the Vancouver Forest Region 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 September 8, 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.

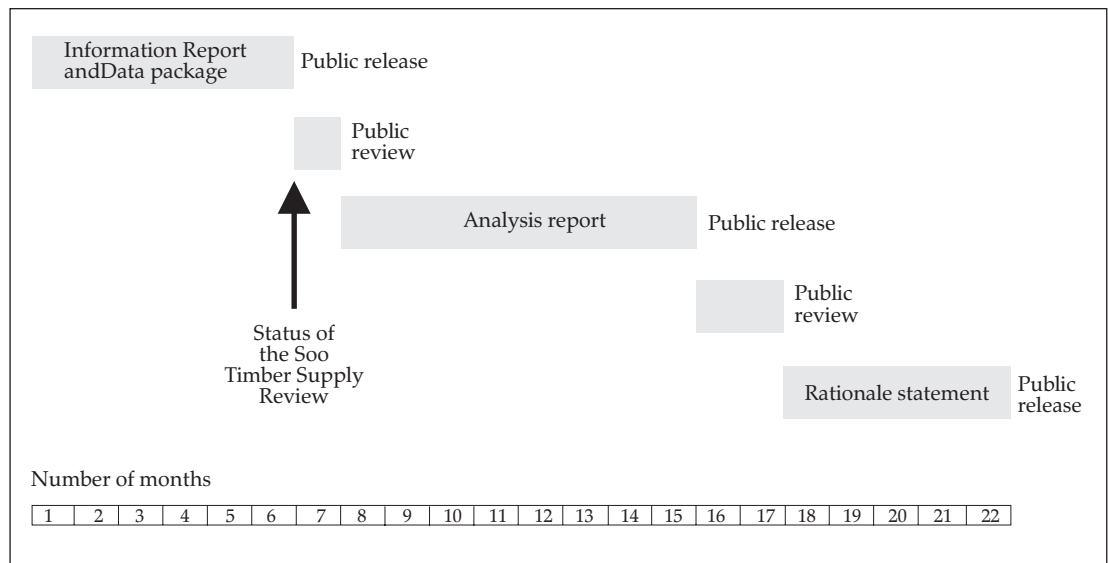
Figure 1 (next page) illustrates the five-step process that has been developed for the Timber Supply Review for timber supply areas. The diagram indicates the current status of the timber supply review for the Soo timber supply area, and the estimated time required for each step.

The process for reviewing the timber supply and establishing the allowable annual cut for tree farm licence areas is

Timber Supply Review

in the Soo TSA

Figure 1.
Review process for the Soo timber supply area.



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

Description of the timber supply area

The Soo timber supply area is located north of Vancouver. The unit is bordered on the west by Tree Farm Licence 38 and the Sunshine Coast timber supply area, to the north and northeast by the Lillooet timber supply area, and to the southeast and south by the Fraser timber supply area and Garibaldi Provincial Park. The unit covers approximately 720,000 hectares and is administered by the Squamish Forest District Office.

The communities

The Soo timber supply area includes the District Municipality of Squamish, the Resort Municipality of Whistler, the Village of Lions Bay, and the Village of Pemberton and Electoral Areas C and D of the Squamish - Lillooet Regional District.

From 1991 to 1996, the population of the timber supply area increased by 28 per cent from 20,353 to approximately 26,117 people. The communities of Pemberton and Whistler took the lead as the fastest growing in the province. The growth in community population is expected to continue, but at a somewhat slower pace.

Whistler is a popular destination spot for winter skiing and other outdoor recreational activities. During peak season, the area's population can increase by 10,000 to 35,000 temporary residents and visitors.

The communities of Squamish and Pemberton are more dependent on the forest industry than Whistler. Squamish has a sizeable workforce related to forest products manufacturing and timber harvesting, while Pemberton mainly has a timber harvesting workforce.

The economy

The area's economy is reasonably well diversified with tourism, the public sector, forestry and construction predominating. Figure 2 shows employment by industry sector for the Squamish area.

Forestry employment in the timber supply area is supported by harvesting and silviculture activity, two large mills – the Western Pulp Limited Partnership Pulpmill at Woodfibre and International Forest Product's Empire Sawmill at Squamish, and four smaller mills. From 1993 to 1996, the annual harvest averaged approximately 550,000 cubic metres. Research by the Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations found that for every 100 direct forestry workers in the timber supply area, a further 52 to 85 jobs are created, depending on the type of forestry activity.

Tourism is an important sector in all communities, particularly in Whistler as discussed above. As shown in Figure 2, tourism is the largest employment sector in the timber supply area and supports about 26 per cent of the workforce; however, in terms of income the forest industry is second only to the public sector.

The construction industry is closely linked to the growth of the tourism industry as building is primarily related to the development of resort and other residential

a local population of approximately 2000; this does not include First Nations members living off reserve.

The Mt. Currie Band (Stl'atl'imx) and Anderson Lake Band (N'Quatqua) have well-established communities in the Soo timber supply area. The Douglas, Samahquam and Skookumchuck reside in the Lillooet River valley in several small communities, and the Squamish Nation (Skxwumish7ulh) has a community near Squamish. The Burrard Band (Tsleil-Waututh) has reserve land and traditional territory in the timber supply area.

First Nations are largely employed in fishing, but some are employed in timber harvesting, processing and, more recently, silviculture.

The forest land resources

There are numerous natural resources associated with the Soo timber supply area. Outdoor recreation, forest products, community water supplies and botanical forest products highlight the wide range of values and uses in the Soo timber supply area.

The forest industry contributes to provincial government revenues through stumpage payments, and other industry and employment-

related taxes. The Soo timber supply is an important source of fibre for the various mills located in the area.

The mountainous terrain, natural hot springs, and numerous river systems provide a wide range of recreational opportunities. The area is easily accessible to residents from the lower mainland and surrounding areas and is increasingly becoming a very popular destination for visitors.

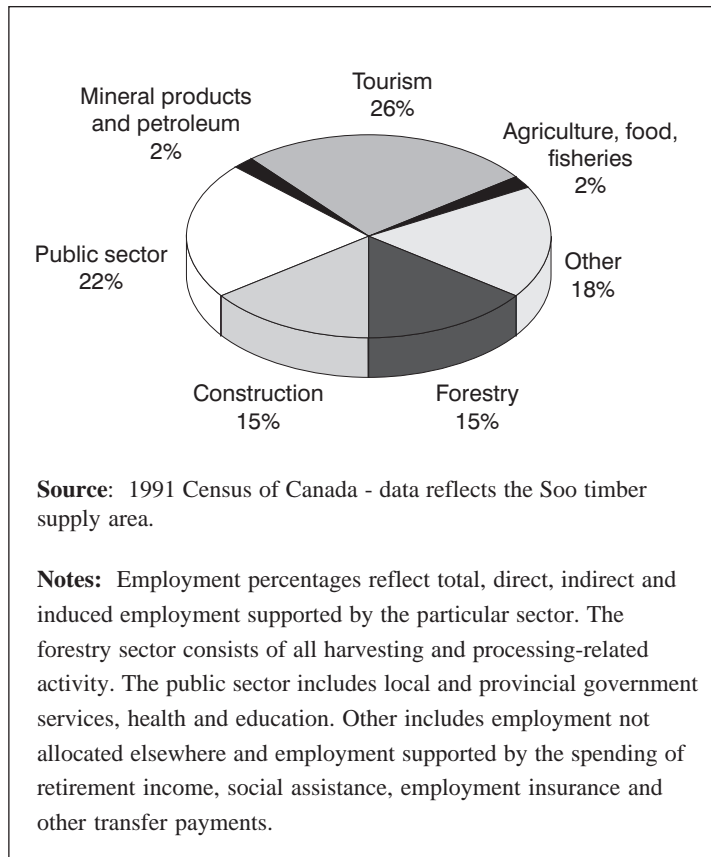


Figure 2.
Total employment by industry sector, 1991

accommodation, and commercial facilities. The value of residential, commercial and industrial building permits in the Whistler municipality more than doubled from 1991 to 1995.

First Nations

There are seven First Nations with reserve lands and traditional territory within the Soo timber supply area. Together they represent

The major travel corridor is Highway 97 (Sea to Sky Highway). Managing forest activities along the corridor is an important consideration for visual quality and value of the forest landscape scenery.

The commercial harvesting of a variety of botanical forest products, such as wild mushrooms, salal and other floral greenery, is also an important activity in the Soo timber supply area. It is one of several areas in British Columbia where pine mushrooms are harvested. The management of botanical forest products is currently unregulated, and there are many unanswered questions about the appropriate degree of regulation that might be applied in the future.

The environment

There are six biogeoclimatic zones* in the timber supply area. The transitional area between coastal and interior zones results in distinct ecological features as well as contributing to the unique nature of the area.

The timber supply area provides habitat for a diverse range of wildlife, including black-tailed deer, moose, black and grizzly bear, cougar, mountain goat and gray wolf.

The Northern spotted owl is designated as an endangered species in Canada. There are currently an estimated 100 pairs in southern British Columbia, some of which are in the Soo timber supply area.

The lower Squamish River is inhabited by steelhead, sockeye, coho, chum and chinook salmon. In addition, there are cutthroat trout and Dolly Varden char. However, fisheries potential in the Squamish and Cheakamus Rivers are somewhat limited due to steep streambed gradients, extreme water level variations, low temperatures and poor availability of nutrients.

History of the allowable annual cut

On October 11, 1995 the chief forester reduced the allowable annual cut to 506,000 cubic metres from 580,000 cubic metres, a reduction of approximately 13 per cent. The harvest level includes a partition of 2,500 cubic metres per year for cottonwood-leading forest types. At that time, the Spotted Owl Management Strategy and the Protected Areas Strategy* were not complete. As a result, the chief forester could not speculate on the potential impacts to timber supply from these strategies.

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

- **spotted owl management and protected areas strategy** - over the last few years it has become increasingly difficult to plan harvestable cutblocks in some parts of the timber supply area due to uncertainties about areas affected by the spotted owl management strategy and the protected areas strategy.

In August 1996, the Lower Mainland Protected Areas Strategy was announced and all the remaining study areas not designated as protected areas were removed from the list of candidates. The areas designated as protected will be removed from the timber harvesting land base* of the Soo timber supply area.

More recently, the decision by government for the management of Northern spotted owl was released in May 1997. As a result of the decision, new spotted owl management guidelines will be incorporated into the timber supply analysis.

- **minimum harvestable ages** - it was noted in the last determination that minimum harvestable ages extended

Timber harvesting land base

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

Timber Supply Review

in the Soo 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

A law which defines forest practices and standards, with heavy penalties for violators.

beyond the time of maximum annual incremental growth and should be examined to assess the criteria upon which they were based.

Since the previous allowable annual cut determination district staff have reviewed the criteria, and for the upcoming timber supply analysis the minimum harvestable age will be based on the time required for a stand to reach 90 per cent of its maximum annual incremental growth.

- **ecological reserves** - in the 1994 timber supply analysis, two proposed ecological reserves located near South Creek and Lillooet River were removed from the timber harvesting land base. In the 1995 allowable annual cut determination, it was noted that these areas were only proposed and had not been officially designated as ecological reserves.

Recently, the proposals have been re-examined and are no longer candidates for designation as ecological reserves. These two areas will now be included in the timber harvesting land base.

- **mule deer winter range** - at the time of the 1995 allowable annual cut determination, a deer habitat management plan was being developed but was not incorporated into the timber supply analysis.

Recently, the Ministry of Forests and Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks have developed a memorandum of understanding regarding the management of mule deer winter range, which provides guidance for forest development planning. The management guidelines will be reflected in the timber supply analysis.

Note: For more information on these points, please refer to the Soo Timber Supply Area Rationale for Allowable Annual Cut Determination, October 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 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 Soo 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 Soo 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 currently physically and economically accessible for timber harvesting. A recent review and update of the operability mapping—which is one of the main criterion for defining the timber harvesting land base*—for the Soo timber supply area has been conducted. The results of this review will be incorporated into the timber supply analysis.
- **Low sites** - in addition to the above, forest types that are not considered available for harvesting due to forest characteristics such as low timber volumes and/or low growth productivity are deducted from the timber harvesting land base. Criteria developed for this purpose are based largely on past performance in these forest types.
- **Environmentally sensitive areas*** - areas designated as environmentally sensitive due to highly unstable soils, high recreation and wildlife values, and areas which present serious regeneration problems will have 90 per cent of the area excluded from the timber harvesting land base. Areas identified as moderately unstable soils and avalanche buffers will have 60 per cent of the area excluded from the timber harvesting land base.
- **Forest roads** - harvesting and road construction follow regional and provincial guidelines. Currently, it is estimated that there are 4,800 kilometres of road averaging 15 metres wide within the timber harvesting land base, for a total of 7,200 hectares of existing roads, trails and landings. Also, it is estimated that an additional 5.4 per cent of the

mature timber harvesting land base will be lost over time due to future roads, trails and landings.

Inventory factors

- **Forest inventory** - most of the forested area in the Soo timber supply area is covered by coastal Douglas-fir, western hemlock and amabilis fir. Other areas are covered by redcedar, spruce, cottonwood, lodgepole pine and interior Douglas-fir.

The forest inventory was re-inventoried in 1992 and has been updated to 1996 to incorporate recent harvesting, silviculture and wildfire activity.

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 Soo timber supply area, reforestation is achieved predominantly by planting a mixture of acceptable coniferous species for harvested areas, with the exception of hemlock and amabilis fir areas, which generally regenerate naturally within an acceptable time period. In the timber supply area, once harvested, areas are assumed to be regenerated within three years on average, depending on tree species and growth productivity.

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

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.

top diameter, a maximum 30-centimetre high stump, and a minimum diameter of 17.5 centimetres at a height of 1.3 metres, except pine and interior spruce which, require a minimum diameter of 12.5 centimetres at a height of 1.3 metres.

Infestations, devastations and salvage of timber

- Each year portions of the forests in the Soo timber supply area are damaged by natural agents such as fire, wind, insects and disease. A large proportion of the timber affected by these factors is salvaged and contributes to the timber supply. However, a reduction to the timber supply is required to account for the estimated average volume of timber that is not salvaged. Currently the estimate is approximately 34,000 cubic metres per year, attributable mainly to wildfire and insect damage.

Cutblock

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

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.

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, volume reductions, 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 and still satisfy management objectives for values such as water quality or visual sensitivity.

- **Forest cover requirements** - under current forest management practices, cutblocks* must achieve green-up* before adjacent areas are permitted to be harvested. The timber supply analysis

reflects the desired conditions for wildlife, watershed protection, visual quality and other integrated resource management objectives. 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. As well, considerations for maintaining areas of old growth forests will be accounted for in the timber supply analysis.

- **Visually sensitive areas** - are areas where the maintenance of scenic landscapes is a priority for recreation and tourism management, such as the areas that are adjacent to the Sea to Sky Highway. Road construction and logging within this area is planned and implemented to minimize visual impacts. The current practice in this scenic area is that harvested areas must be reforested with trees that are at least five metres tall before adjacent areas can be harvested. Areas with approved or recommended visual quality objectives will have forest cover requirements applied in the analysis that vary according to the degree of visual sensitivity and will permit a maximum of between three to 25 per cent of a landscape to be less than five metres tall at any time.
- **Deer management areas** - are areas where deer winter range will be maintained or re-established. Deer winter range areas have been identified by Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks. They consist of reserve areas and areas with minimum forest cover requirements that are based primarily on a combination of elevation and snowpack depth.
- **Community watershed** - there are currently 23 designated community watersheds in the Soo timber supply area. In the timber supply analysis, the forest management requirements in community watersheds will be accounted for by limiting the rate of harvest in

these areas to a maximum of five percent of the forests in the watershed area can be less than five years old at any time.

- **Northern spotted owl** - to reflect the forest management practices required in the special resource management zones for the northern spotted owl, the timber supply analysis will require a minimum of 67 per cent of each of these zones to be covered with forests at least 100 years old at any time.
- **Botanical forest products areas** - a small area in the vicinity of Pemberton/D'Arcy is recognized as being important for the production and harvesting of the pine mushrooms. To reflect the management in this area, forest cover requirements will be applied in the timber supply analysis which allow a maximum of 20 per cent of the forested area to be less than approximately five metres tall at any time.
- **Riparian habitat*** - to meet the requirements of the Forest Practices Code, approximately five per cent of the timber harvesting land base will be considered unavailable for timber harvesting to account for riparian reserves areas along streamsides. In addition, to account for riparian management areas, the volume of timber assumed to be harvested from each cutblock will be reduced by 4.2 per cent to account for trees that must be retained adjacent to the reserves.
- **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 within cutblocks to provide stand-level biodiversity is a current practice in the Soo timber supply area. Based on

reviews of operational plans and development, this practice will be accounted for in the timber supply analysis by reducing the area available for harvest. The biodiversity guidebook requires 12 per cent retention of old growth for wildlife tree patches. It is assumed in coastal forest, that 75 per cent of this requirement is met from areas outside of the timber harvesting land base. As a result, the timber harvesting land base will be reduced by three per cent.

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 Soo timber supply area.

- **Protected Areas Strategy** - On October 28, 1996, government announced its intention to create 23 new parks and protected areas in the Lower Mainland. Five of these areas are within the Soo timber supply area, namely: Callaghan Lake, Sockeye Creek, Tantalus, Upper Lillooet and the Brackendale Eagle Reserve. Although these areas have been announced as new parks, formal government designation and legislation of these areas as parks has not been completed. If the required legislation establishing these new areas as parks is not completed prior to undertaking the timber supply analysis, the impact on timber supply of removing these areas will be examined through sensitivity analysis*.

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

Riparian habitat

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

Seral stages

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

Landscape unit

A planning area based on topographic or geographic features.

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 Soo TSA

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.

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 timber supply 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 1994 *Soo Timber Supply Area Socio-Economic Analysis* identified close to 700 harvesting, processing and related direct person-years* associated with the Soo allowable annual cut. Numerous other indirect and induced jobs are also associated with this activity.

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 Soo timber supply area and to examine potential changes in forestry's role in the area, new information will be gathered from licensees, processing facilities, the 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 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

Western Pulp Limited Partnership pulpmill at Woodfibre and International Forest Products Empire Sawmill are the largest timber processing facilities in the Squamish area. The two facilities utilize 1.1 million cubic metres and 400,000 cubic metres, respectively, of wood fibre annually. All of the wood supply for the Woodfibre pulpmill is from sawmill residue and chips from Vancouver Island sawmills. Empire Sawmill obtains approximately six percent of its fibre requirements from the Soo timber supply area, with the majority of the supply coming from the adjacent Tree Farm Licence 38 and from other management units outside of the Soo timber supply area.

There are four smaller facilities: two sawmills located just north of Squamish at Brackendale and Cheekeye, a polemill at Pemberton, and a log home facility at Whistler. In 1996, these facilities processed a total of approximately 18.5 thousand cubic metres and employed 40 individuals. They obtain all of their wood supply from the Soo timber supply area.

Some of the timber harvested from the area is not processed locally but is shipped to other processing facilities in the lower mainland.

The upcoming socio-economic analysis will examine the implications of potential changes of timber supply for the area's processing facilities.

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 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 are derived from public input. The communities within and adjacent to the Soo timber supply area recognize the importance of the timber industry to their economy, and have expressed concern about possible changes in timber supply resulting from this review.

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 Soo 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 or regional manager located at the addresses below. Your comments will be accepted until September 8, 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 spring of 1998. You may also wish to participate in the second public review period, which will follow the release of the *Soo 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 Soo 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:

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

Phone: (250) 751-7001
Fax: (250) 751-7198

District Manager
B. C. Forest Service
Squamish Forest District
42000 Loggers Lane
Squamish B.C.
VON 3G0

Phone (604) 898-2100
Fax (604) 898-2191

APPENDIX A

Data Package

Description of Data Inputs and Management Assumptions

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

Offices are located at:

Vancouver Forest Region
2100 Labieux Road
Nanaimo, B.C.
V9T 6E9
Phone: (250) 751-7001

Squamish Forest District
42000 Loggers Lane
Squamish B.C.
V0N 3G0
Phone (604) 898-2100

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