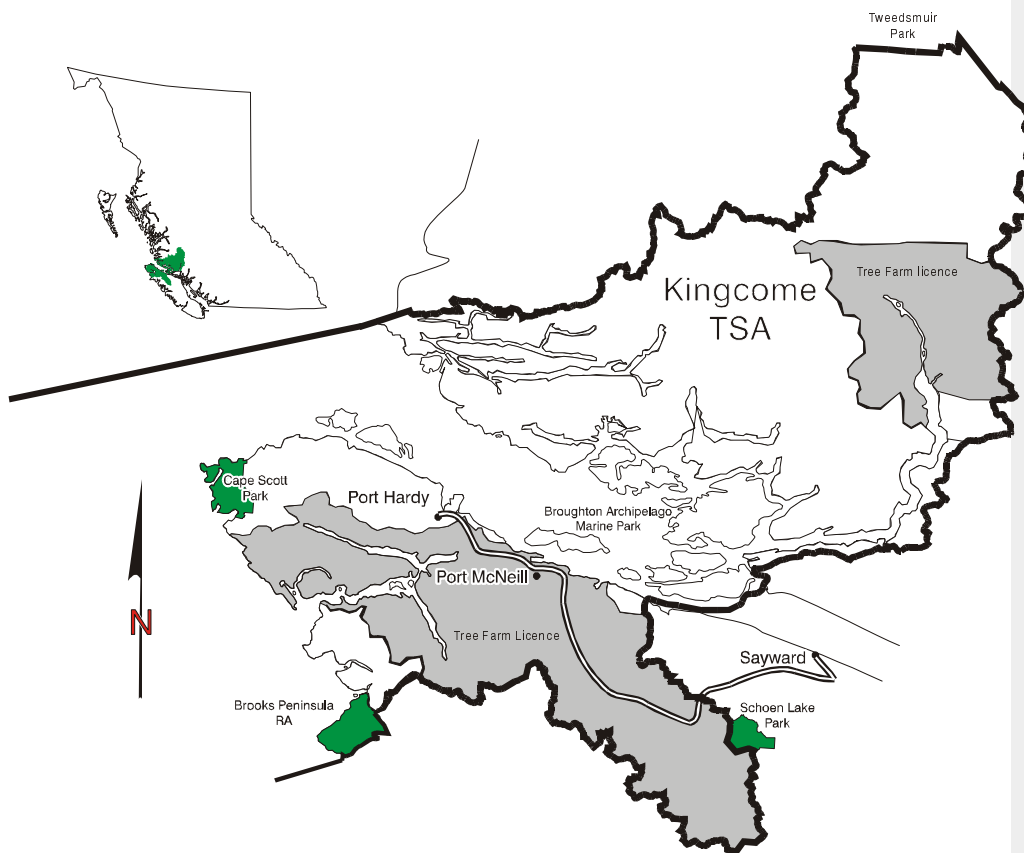


Timber Supply Review

Kingcome Timber Supply Area

Information Report
June 2000



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 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 the timber supply analysis for the Kingcome 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 *Kingcome Timber Supply Area Analysis Report*.

The *Kingcome 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 Kingcome timber supply area. For the purpose of this timber supply review, current practices can be defined as the set of land-use decisions and forest management practices that are currently implemented and enforced. Future forest management objectives that may be established but are not currently implemented and enforced are not included.

The draft data and management assumptions are summarized on pages 6 through 10. For a more detailed description of the information, please contact the Planning Officer, Port McNeill Forest District office, in Port McNeill or the Timber Supply Forester, 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 July 24, 2000.

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 Kingcome timber supply area, and the estimated time required for each step.

Timber Supply Review

in the Kingcome TSA

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*.

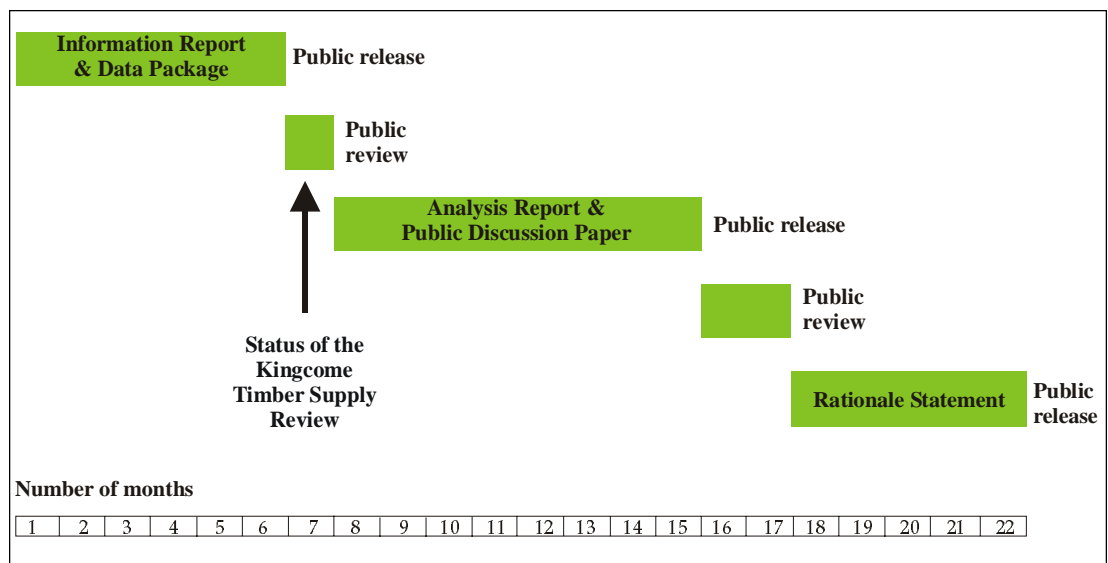
Tree farm licence

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
Kingcome timber
supply area.



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 currently takes 30 months to complete. By the end of 2001, a new process for tree farm licences will take 20 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 the 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

Land-Use Planning Activities

Two land-use planning processes will provide direction for resource management and for the establishment of new protected areas in the Kingcome timber supply area. The first is the *Vancouver Island Land Use Plan*, which covers the Vancouver Island portion of the timber supply area. New protected areas were announced in 1995; more recently, specific resource management objectives and strategies have been approved. Some of these objectives,

especially those pertaining to Special Management Zones, will directly influence forest management and will be reflected in the timber supply analysis.

The second plan is the Central Coast Land and Coastal Resource Management Plan, which covers the mainland portion of the Kingcome timber supply area. The intent of this plan is similar to that of the *Vancouver Island Land Use Plan*; that is, to develop new protected areas and resource management zones, with accompanying resource management objectives and strategies. To facilitate the protected areas strategy, government has identified a number of study areas for consideration by the planning table. Resource development is currently deferred in these study areas pending conclusion of the planning process. The planning table has yet to reach consensus on recommendations for protected areas or other resource management objectives. Approved land-use decisions from this planning process will be incorporated into future Timber Supply Reviews.

Description of the timber supply area

The Kingcome timber supply area is within the Port McNeill Forest District, which is located on northern Vancouver Island and the adjacent mainland. There are a number of tree farm licences (TFL 6, 37, 39, 43, 45, and 47) that are partially located within the forest district.

Most of the timber supply area is on the mainland, stretching from Knight Inlet in the south and west, to Cape Caution in the northwest and inland to Tweedsmuir Park. Smaller portions of the timber supply area are located on the northern tip of Vancouver Island, and adjacent to Brooks Bay on the west coast of Vancouver Island.

The Kingcome timber supply area covers approximately 1.1 million hectares and is administered by the Port McNeill Forest District office located in Port McNeill.

The communities

In 1999, the population of the Mount Waddington Regional District, which encompasses the Kingcome timber supply area, was 15,181 people, reflecting a minor reduction from the 1996 population of 15,224. The population of the largest communities located in the regional district are Port Hardy with 5,281 people, Port McNeill with 3,109 people, Port Alice with 1,293 people, and Alert Bay with 553 people. All of these communities, except Port McNeill, experienced population declines from 1996 to 1999. Other smaller communities include Coal Harbour, Holberg, Winter Harbour, Sointula and Woss. Eighty percent of the population resides on the Vancouver Island side of the regional district.

The economy

The forestry sector is the leading employer in the Port McNeill Forest District, and in 1996 directly and indirectly supported

approximately 39 per cent of the labour force (see Figure 2). The public sector is the second largest employer supporting approximately 23 per cent of the labour force. Other important employment sectors in the district include tourism supporting approximately 15 per cent of the labour force, fishing and trapping supporting 11 per cent, and mining and construction each supporting 4 per cent of the labour force.

First Nations

Eleven First Nations bands have traditional territories within the Kingcome timber supply area. The total First Nations' population is estimated at 4,200, of which about 1,900 reside on reserves within the Port McNeill Forest District.

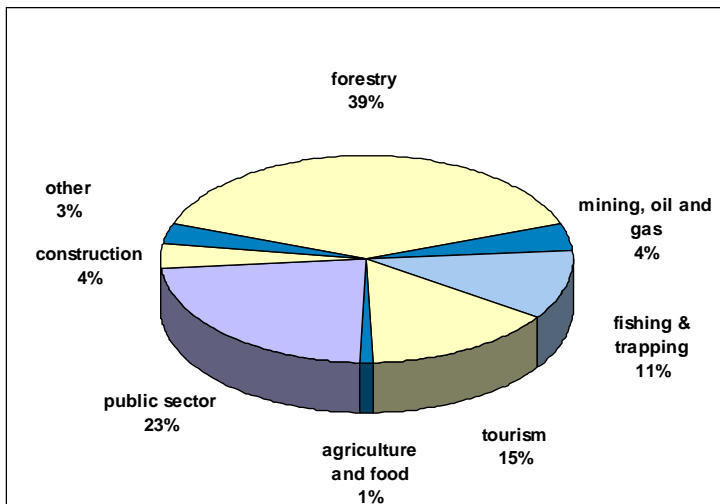
While the traditional territories of several bands are located on the mainland, due to historical relocations the majority of First Nations now reside in settlements on Vancouver or Cormorant Islands. The main communities are located at Fort Rupert and on the Tsulquate reserve, both near Port Hardy; at the Quatsino reserve near Coal Harbour; and on the Namgis reserve on Cormorant Island, near Alert Bay. The Quaae reserve (commonly known as Kingcome Village) on the lower Kingcome River, is the largest permanent settlement on the mainland; other smaller settlements are located on Gilford Island and Watson Island.

Forest land resources

Numerous natural resources are associated with the forest land base. Forest products, tourism and recreation, community water supplies and diverse fish and wildlife populations highlight the wide range of values and uses found within the Kingcome timber supply area.

Hemlock, balsam (true firs) and western redcedar are the major tree species found in the timber supply area, with smaller amounts of spruce,

Figure 2.
Total employment by sector for the Kingcome TSA, 1996



Source: Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations. April 1999. "The 1996 Forest District Tables." Victoria

Notes: "Other" consists of employment in transportation and manufacturing not included elsewhere, and employment supported by the spending of pension and investment income, and social transfer payments. "Forestry" employment consists of logging, other forestry services, and wood products manufacturing. "Tourism" includes services for holiday and business travel.

Douglas-fir, cypress and deciduous species. Due to the coastal and mountainous terrain, less than 20 per cent of the timber supply area is suitable for harvesting. The timber supply area has a long history of harvesting activity, with the majority of harvesting occurring within the last three decades. The result is considerable area of younger forests in the more accessible and productive growing sites and much of the remaining mature forest on the poorer and less accessible sites.

Tourism and recreational use within the timber supply area is largely marine-based, and has been increasing in recent years. Fishing, kayaking, whale watching, scuba diving and yachting are among the most popular activities. Numerous parks, recreation sites and trails, and roaded and non-roaded areas also provide opportunities for land-based activities, including hiking, camping, freshwater fishing, mountaineering and wildlife viewing.

The environment

There are portions of five biogeoclimatic zones* in the Kingcome timber supply area, ranging from the poorly drained lowlands of northern Vancouver Island to the rugged Coast Mountains and the drier interior conditions of the upper Klinaklini watershed. This variation of geography, topography and climate creates a wide range of ecological conditions.

The timber supply area supports a variety of wildlife species, including black-tailed deer, Roosevelt elk, moose, black bear, grizzly bear, mountain goat, wolf, marten and other fur-bearing species. Native and migratory birds in the area include marbled murrelets, Queen Charlotte Island goshawks, great blue herons and pileated woodpeckers. Adjacent marine habitats and estuaries support species such as Peale's peregrine falcons, bald eagles and trumpeter swans. Fish species found in the timber supply area include spring salmon, coho, pink

salmon, chum salmon, steelhead, cutthroat and rainbow trout, as well as Dolly Varden char.

History of the allowable annual cut

In July 1996, the chief forester reduced the allowable annual cut from 1,798,270 cubic metres to 1,399,000 cubic metres, effective November 1, 1996, a decrease of approximately 22 per cent. The coniferous portion was set at 1,244,000 cubic metres, approximately 25 per cent less than the previous determination. A partition of 25,000 cubic metres was established for deciduous forest stands, as well as an additional 130,000 cubic metres for harvesting in low-productivity stands.

As part of the 1996 determination, the chief forester gave direction that, in preparation for the next allowable annual cut determination, the following issues were to be examined:

- **commercial thinning** – the potential for commercial thinning in the Kingcome timber supply area was to be analyzed by district staff, and if feasible, a commercial thinning strategy implemented.

Current market conditions and high costs associated with remote access are considered to be extremely limiting to commercial thinning opportunities, at least in the short term. Therefore, a commercial thinning strategy has not been implemented.

- **sensitive soils** – work was to be undertaken to clarify the estimated area of sensitive soils.

District and regional staff are undertaking a review of sensitive soils using detailed terrain stability assessments and digital slope mapping. Additional areas considered to have sensitive soils will be examined in the upcoming timber supply analysis.

Biogeoclimatic zones

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

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.

Sensitivity analysis

A process that examines how uncertainty in data and management assumptions affect timber supply.

Operability

Classification of an area considered available for timber harvesting. Operability is determined using the terrain characteristics of the area as well as the quality and quantity of timber on the area.

- **red alder** – an additional study was requested to quantify the available timber supply of red alder.

District and regional staff are reviewing areas covered with red alder in conjunction with an examination of problem forest types. Areas covered with red alder that are considered merchantable will contribute to the timber supply.

- **forest inventory** – uncertainties in the inventory information for the timber supply area were to be addressed.

Since the last AAC determination, the Ministry of Forests has initiated a new Vegetation Resources Inventory for the Kingcome timber supply area. The new inventory has been completed on approximately 70 per cent of the timber supply area and will be utilized in the upcoming timber supply analysis.

Note: For more information on these points, please refer to the Kingcome Timber Supply Area Rationale for Allowable Annual Cut Determination, July 22, 1996.

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, and the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks manages 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 in effect 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 Kingcome timber supply area. Uncertainties about some of the data regarding current practices, and their potential effect on timber supply will be examined through sensitivity analyses*. 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 Kingcome timber supply area. More detailed information can be found in *Appendix A: Data Package*. That appendix is available upon request from the Ministry of Forests offices listed at the end of this report.

Land base factors

- **operable* areas** – operability mapping was first completed in 1993. Only those areas considered accessible and merchantable will contribute to the timber harvesting land base*.
- **low-productivity and problem forest types** – forest types that are not considered available for harvesting due to low timber volume, value or projected growth rates will not be included in the timber harvesting land base. A review is underway to examine

forest types that are being harvested under recent economic conditions. Forest types, particularly in areas with lower volumes and/or value and on steeper terrain that are not consistently harvested will not contribute to the operable land base.

- **environmentally sensitive areas*** - many areas in the timber supply area have been identified as being environmentally sensitive, due to their high wildlife or recreation values, regeneration difficulties, avalanche activity or soil instability. Areas rated as highly sensitive for wildlife, recreation or having regeneration problems will be excluded from the timber harvesting land base. One half of the area classified as moderately sensitive for wildlife or recreation will be excluded from the timber harvesting land base.

To improve existing mapping of environmentally sensitive soils, terrain stability mapping and slope mapping will be used to identify areas with potentially unstable soils throughout the timber supply area. The areas with a high potential for instability will be 80 per cent excluded from the timber harvesting land base, and areas with a moderate potential for instability will be 20 per cent excluded.

- **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, seven per cent of the timber harvesting land base is considered occupied and will be excluded. In the future, this percentage is expected to be six per cent, due to improved road construction practices, road deactivation, and increased use of helicopter logging.

Inventory factors

- **forest inventory** – an audit of the Kingcome timber supply area's forest inventory was conducted in 1995. The results indicated that the inventory overestimated overall standing timber volume by 18 per cent for the operable land base, and 11 per cent for all forested crown land. As a result, in 1996 a new Vegetation Resource Inventory was initiated for the timber supply area.

The upcoming timber supply analysis will use the available portion of the new inventory for approximately 70 per cent of the timber supply area and the older inventory for the remaining portion. This will improve the reliability of the forest inventory information. The entire timber supply area has been updated to mid-1999 to account for recent harvesting activities; this information will be incorporated into the timber supply analysis.

The dominant tree species are western hemlock/balsam and western redcedar, which account for 56 per cent and 41 per cent respectively of the timber harvesting land base. Sitka spruce, Douglas-fir and deciduous species are a minor component. Approximately 45 per cent of the total area is mature stands, with over 60 per cent occupying poorer sites.

- **minimum harvestable ages** – the minimum harvestable age is the earliest age at which a forest stand is estimated to reach a merchantable size and be considered available for harvest. For this timber supply analysis, this age is defined as the time it takes for a forest stand to achieve 95 per cent of its maximum average annual rate of growth. In addition, coniferous stands must reach at least 350 cubic metres per hectare. For red alder stands, this volume must be at least 300 cubic metres per hectare.

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.

Clearcutting with reserves

A variation of the clearcut silvicultural system in which trees are retained, either uniformly or in small groups, for purposes other than regeneration.

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.

Biodiversity (biological diversity)

The diversity of plants, animals and other living organisms in all their forms and levels of organization, and includes the diversity of genes, species and ecosystems, as well as the evolutionary and functional processes that link them.

Forest re-establishment factors

- **basic silviculture** - British Columbia laws require that harvested areas that are expected to produce timber in the future must be reforested with ecologically acceptable species within a specified time frame. The most common silviculture system in the Kingcome timber supply area is clear-cutting with reserves,* then reforestation by planting a mix of species or by relying on natural regeneration; and finally, if necessary, control of competing vegetation. To reflect current practice in the timber supply analysis, it is assumed that reforestation will occur within three to five years following harvest.
- **tree improvement** – about 74 per cent of the seedlings planted in the Kingcome timber supply area are from seed orchards that produce improved stock. Improved stock does not mean that the seedlings are genetically modified but rather they are the product of superior parent trees selected from a large number of forest stands along the coast. Therefore, the seedlings produced from these parents exhibit qualities such as straight stem form, higher volume production, and tighter wood density. Provincial studies show that improved stock can result in a volume increase of about two per cent over the long term. This potential increase to managed stand volumes will be examined in the timber supply analysis.

Timber utilization factors

- **timber utilization** – estimates of merchantable volume will be based on the utilization of all trees which meet or exceed a 17.5-centimetre diameter measured at 1.3 metres above ground, a 10-centimetre top diameter (inside the bark), and a maximum 30-centimetre high stump.

Devastations, infestations and salvage of timber

Each year, natural agents, primarily wind and fire, damage portions of the forests in the Kingcome timber supply area. 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 13,583 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. The objective of this practice is to avoid over-concentration of harvesting in an area. To account for this practice in the timber supply analysis, no more than 25 per cent of the timber harvesting land base in the integrated management area will be permitted to have forests less than three metres tall at any time. In addition, forest cover requirements will be applied in the analysis to account for the maintenance of old-growth forests for biodiversity*.
- **visually sensitive areas** - the maintenance of scenic landscapes is a priority for recreation and tourism management. In the Kingcome timber supply area, these landscapes are primarily located adjacent to marine corridors. Road construction and logging within these areas are planned and implemented to mitigate visual impacts. In the timber supply analysis,

this will be reflected by limiting the amount of area having forests less than five metres tall to a maximum percentage based on the specific visual quality objective and the visual absorption capacity of the landscape.

- **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 8.9 per cent of the operable land base will not contribute to the timber harvesting land base to account for riparian reserve and management zones.
- **biological diversity** - the *Forest Practices Code* requires that biodiversity be considered at both the stand and landscape level.

Leaving wildlife tree* patches within cutblocks to provide stand-level biodiversity is current practice in the Kingcome timber supply area. The amount of area varies by landscape unit* and natural disturbance type* and ranges from about three per cent to 15 per cent of each cutblock. It is estimated in coastal forests that 75 per cent of this requirement is met from areas outside of the timber harvesting land base (such as riparian reserves, inoperable areas, and environmentally sensitive areas). The remaining 25 per cent of the specific retention requirement (from 0.75 per cent to 3.75 per cent), will be excluded from the timber harvesting land base in the timber supply analysis.

Management 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 is being taken because at this time landscape units and biodiversity objectives are still in draft form and have not been formally established.

- **wildlife habitat** – environmentally sensitive areas for wildlife (also discussed above) currently represent the best available mapping of wildlife habitat, primarily for ungulate species (deer, elk and mountain goat). For the next Timber Supply Review, additional studies for ungulate winter ranges will be undertaken by BC Environment and the location of critical areas in the timber supply area will be available.

It is expected that marbled murrelet habitat will be maintained through the application of the landscape-level biodiversity requirements described above. Areas have not yet been identified as part of the *Identified Wildlife Management Strategy*. Timber supply impacts of this strategy are expected to be limited to one per cent.

- **community watersheds** - there are two designated community watersheds in the timber supply area covering approximately 1,000 hectares of mature forest within the timber harvesting land base. The forest management guidelines for these areas will be accounted for in the timber supply analysis by limiting the harvest rate to a maximum of five per cent of the productive forest within each community watershed every 5 years.

Implications of alternative rates of harvesting

- **alternative rates of harvest** - many alternative harvest forecasts 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 subsequent transition 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, and if necessary, allowing for gradual and managed transitions to lower harvest levels. The

Timber Supply Review

in the Kingcome TSA

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.

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.

Serial stages

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

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.

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.

implications of alternative short-term rates of harvest will be examined in sensitivity analyses.

- **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 1995 *Kingcome TSA Socio-Economic Analysis* reported that provincially, harvesting, silviculture and processing activities associated with the Kingcome timber supply area timber supply supported approximately 1,902 person years* of direct employment and approximately 2,853 person years of indirect and induced employment. Local residents accounted for approximately seven 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 Kingcome timber supply area. To provide this update, current information on employment and fibre flows will be gathered from licensees, processing facilities, the 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 in timber supply for the area's timber processing facilities. There are approximately 14 mills operating in the timber supply area Port McNeill Forest District, including seven small sawmills, one pulp mill, four shake and shingle mills, and a pole and chipping operation. In 1998, these mills consumed approximately 74,000 cubic metres of timber and 220,000 bone dry units of wood chips. While a portion of the wood harvested from the Kingcome timber supply flows to local mills, the large majority is shipped to other locations on Vancouver Island and the lower mainland for processing.

Your input is needed

Establishing the allowable annual cut is an important decision that 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 Kingcome 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 district manager or regional manager located at the address below. Your comments will be accepted until July 24, 2000.

After receiving public input, the 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 the end of 2000. You may also wish to participate in the second public review period, which will follow the release of the *Kingcome 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 Kingcome 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
Port McNeill Forest District
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P.O. Box 7000
Port McNeill, B.C.
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Phone: (250) 956-5000
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Regional Manager
Vancouver Forest Region
B.C. Forest Service
2100 Labieux Road
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Phone: (250) 751-7001
Fax: (250) 751-7190

or electronically mail to:
Scott.Mitchell@gems2.gov.bc.ca

**Timber
Supply
Review**
in the Kingcome TSA

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:

District Manager
Port McNeill Forest District
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P.O. Box 7000
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