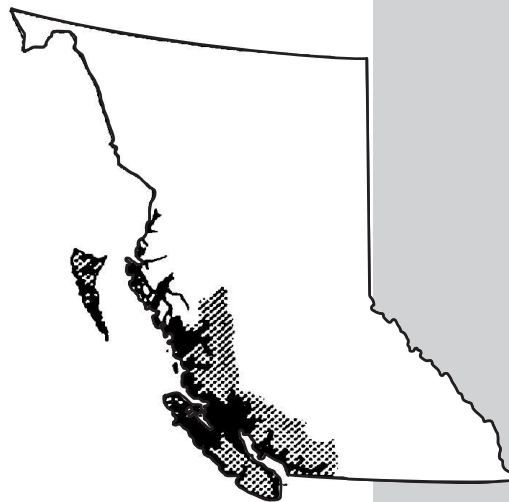


**Timber
Supply
Review**

Strathcona Timber Supply Area

Information Report

December 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 Strathcona 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 *Strathcona Timber Supply Area Analysis Report*.

The *Strathcona 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 Strathcona 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 10. For a more detailed description of the information, please contact the Campbell River Forest District Office or the Vancouver Forest Region Office and request a copy of the data package. The public will have 40 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 January 28, 1998.

Timber Supply Review process

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

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

Timber supply

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

Timber supply area

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

Tree farm licence

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

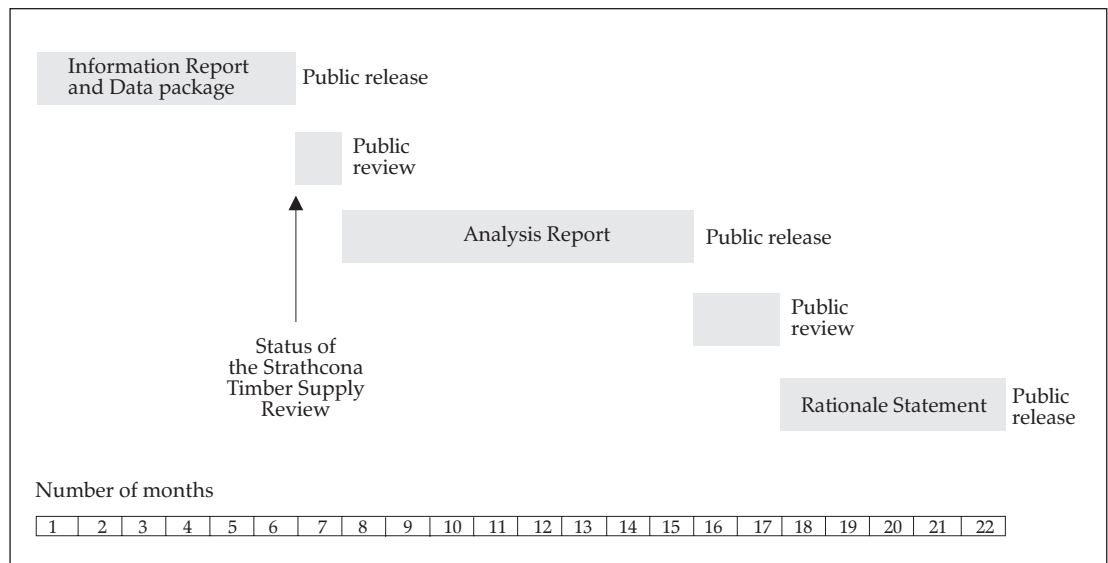
Allowable annual cut

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

Timber Supply Review

in the Strathcona TSA

Figure 1.
Review process for the Strathcona 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 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. The timber supply review for the Strathcona timber supply area was initiated earlier than legislatively required to reflect land-use planning decisions.

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

Vancouver Island Land-Use Decision

As a result of the 1994 Vancouver Island Land-Use Decision, more than 46 new parks were created and 81 per cent of the land-base comprising Crown lands and

private managed forest lands was established as the Forest Land Reserve.

New protected areas within the Strathcona timber supply area include the Tahsish-Kwois, Brooks-Nasparti, Catala Island, Bligh Island, White Ridge and several special feature areas*. As these areas have now been formally designated they will be accounted for in this timber supply review.

The Vancouver Island Resource Targets project was initiated to define the boundaries and resource management objectives and strategies for general management and enhanced development zones. It also refined the strategy for special management zones (formerly called low intensity areas). Technical recommendations for completion of the Vancouver Island Land-Use Decision have recently been released for public review. If these recommendations receive government approval and have been implemented before the chief forester makes an allowable annual cut determination, then they will be considered in the timber supply review.

Central Coast Land and Coastal Resource Management Plan

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

The planning process provides an opportunity for the public, interest groups and government to make recommendations regarding future management of public forest lands in the central coast area. It is anticipated that the process will take over two years to complete. Once the plan has been finalized and implemented it will be considered in future timber supply reviews.

Special feature areas

Areas which contain outstanding local special features, widely recognized hiking trails, spectacular waterfalls or critical habitats for plant or animal species.

Description of the timber supply area

The Strathcona timber supply area covers 430,000 hectares of central Vancouver Island from the south end of Strathcona Park to the Brooks Peninsula in the north, several of the islands in the Johnstone Strait and the Strait of Georgia, and portions of the mainland to the east.

The timber supply area is comprised of three timber supply blocks (subunits of the timber supply area): the Kyuquot to the west and the Sayward to the east of Strathcona Park, and the Loughborough on the mainland.

The communities

The Strathcona timber supply area includes the municipalities of Campbell River, Comox and Courtenay and the smaller communities of Cumberland, Gold River, Kyuquot, Sayward, Tahsis and Zeballos. There are also several small unincorporated areas from Fanny Bay to Oyster Bay and a number of very small settlements on the west coast.

According to the 1996 Census, the population of the timber supply area has increased 18 per cent since 1991 to approximately 93,620. Population growth was primarily in the municipalities, while smaller communities like Gold River and Tahsis experienced a decline in population. It is anticipated that the overall population of the timber supply area will continue to grow at a strong rate.

In 1991 the public sector and forestry accounted for almost 60 per cent of the timber supply area's employment (see Figure 2). Forestry employment is supported by harvesting and silviculture activity and by the processing of wood products at 20 mills in and around the timber supply area.

Other important sectors of the Strathcona timber supply area are commercial fishing, tourism, construction and mining.

The economies of the communities in the eastern Strathcona area are relatively diversified. The major resource sectors of forestry, commercial fishing, and mining remain important components of the local economies, although they have experienced some decline and instability in recent years.

Other sectors are strongly expanding fueled by high rates of in-migration.

In and adjacent to the western Strathcona timber supply area, Gold River, Tahsis and Zeballos are essentially single industry communities that rely heavily upon the forest sector. Kyuquot has a diversified seasonal economy that is dependent upon natural resources, specifically fisheries and the scenic environment for a growing eco-tourism industry.

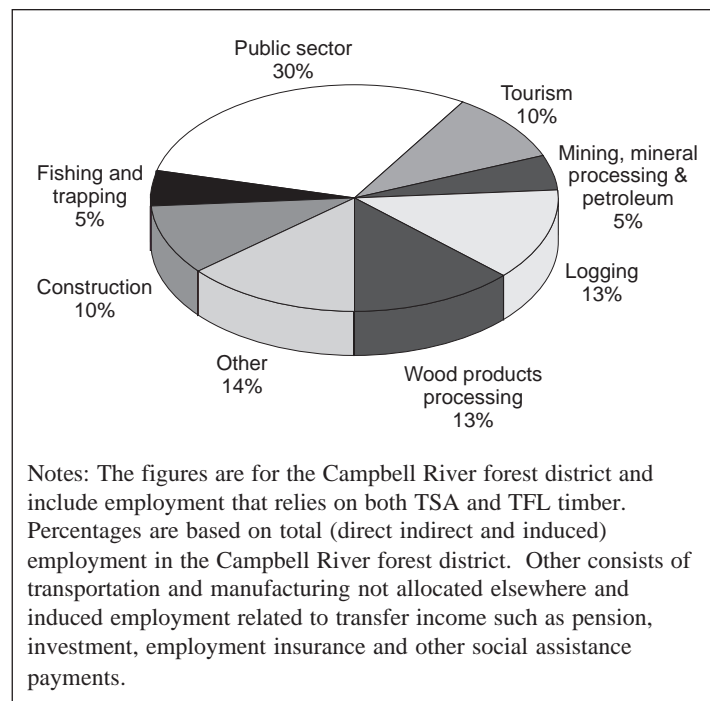


Figure 2.
Major employment sectors in the Strathcona timber supply area

First Nations

The Strathcona timber supply area is within the traditional lands of 10 First Nations. They are represented by three tribal organizations: the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council, the Kwakiutl Ligwitdaxw First Nations Treaty Making Society, and the Musgamagw Tsawataineuk Tribal Council.

A number of the First Nations have entered into treaty negotiations. There is one archaeological overview assessment currently underway in west coast portions of the timber supply area.

The forest land resources

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

The mountainous terrain, marine inlets, numerous lakes and rivers provide a wide range of recreational opportunities. The area is easily accessible to local residents as well as visitors from the Lower Mainland and southern Vancouver Island.

The environment

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

The Strathcona timber supply area contains one of the richest and most diverse arrays of wildlife in Canada. More than 300 species of migratory and resident birds, 45 species of mammals and 13 species of amphibians and reptiles are found in this area.

Some of the larger mammals in the area include black-tail deer, Roosevelt elk, black bear, grizzly bear, mountain goat, wolf, beaver, pine marten, wolverine and short-tailed weasel.

Native and migratory birds in the area include marbled murrelets, Queen Charlotte Island goshawks, great blue herons and pileated woodpeckers. Adjacent marine and estuary habitats support populations of Peale's peregrine falcons, bald eagles, trumpeter swans and harlequin ducks.

The oceans, rivers, streams and lakes of the area are inhabited by at least 87 species of finfish and shellfish including steelhead and cutthroat trout and Dolly Varden char. In addition, the rivers and tributaries provide important spawning habitat and migration routes for Chinook, chum, coho, pink and sockeye salmon.

History of the allowable annual cut

On January 1, 1996 the chief forester reduced the allowable annual cut to 1,420,000 cubic metres from 1,693,745 cubic metres, a reduction of approximately sixteen per cent.

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

- **distribution of harvesting** - it was noted in the last allowable annual cut determination that harvesting was concentrated in the Kuyquot timber supply block and that there was a need to redistribute some of the harvest to the eastern portions of the timber supply area.

Since the last determination, district staff have been reviewing the distribution of harvesting, and discussions with licensees are currently underway to resolve this concern.

- **estimates of existing forest volumes** - at the time of the last determination, there was a concern that the existing forest volumes were overestimated, particularly

Biogeoclimatic zones

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

Timber Supply Review

in the Strathcona TSA

Timber harvesting land base

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

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.

in the Loughborough timber supply block.

An audit of total volume estimates for existing and immature forest stands is scheduled for 1998. If the audit is completed before the allowable annual cut is set, the results will be considered in the determination.

- **the size of the timber harvesting land base*** - the previous determination noted that some areas previously viewed as inoperable may be operable due to advances in technology and favourable market conditions, and that in other areas there may be less operable land base than previously estimated.

Since then, there has been a review of the operability mapping for the Strathcona timber supply area. The review included input from licensees and a review of harvesting performance in areas previously classified inoperable. The results will be considered in this timber supply review.

- **decay, waste and breakage factors for redcedar** - at the time of the last allowable annual cut determination, there was a concern that decay, waste and breakage factors for western redcedar may be overestimated. These are volume reductions applied to the total volume estimates to account for losses due to decay, waste and breakage.

A coastal study is currently underway to examine decay, waste and breakage losses. The results of the study may be available in the near future and if complete will be considered in this timber supply review.

Note: For more information on these points, please refer to the Strathcona timber supply area Rationale for Allowable Annual Cut Determination, January 1, 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, 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 Strathcona 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 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 Strathcona timber supply area. More detailed information can be found in Appendix A: Data Package. This appendix is available upon request from the Ministry of Forests offices listed at the end of this report.

Land-base factors

- **Operable area** - the forested area in the Strathcona timber supply area has been assessed for operability based on economic, ecological and topographical attributes. Only those areas that are considered operable will contribute to the timber harvesting land base.
- **Low productivity sites** - in addition to the above, forest types that are not considered available for harvesting due to forest characteristics such as low timber volumes or low growth productivity will be separated from the timber harvesting land base.
- **Poor quality timber** - sites with unmerchantable timber (primarily lodgepole pine-leading) will be separated from the timber harvesting land base.
- **Environmentally sensitive areas*** - portions of these areas are removed from the timber harvesting land base to account for their sensitivity. An evaluation of the environmental concerns and the past level of harvesting within these areas was used to determine the extent of the reductions. For the Strathcona timber supply area, 90 per cent of the areas identified as having highly sensitive soils and 40 per cent of the areas with moderately sensitive soils will be removed from the timber harvesting land base (other reductions for environmentally sensitive areas are discussed below under Recreation and Wildlife habitat).

- **Forest roads** - harvesting and road construction follow regional and provincial guidelines. Reductions are applied in the timber supply analysis to account for road construction. Currently it is estimated that five per cent of the timber harvesting land base under 80 years old is occupied by roads, trails and landings. Also, it is estimated that six per cent of the remaining unroaded area will be lost over time to future roads, trails and landings. In addition, approximately 0.5 per cent will be lost over time to expansion of road surfaces and landings due to helicopter harvesting systems.

Inventory factors

- **Forest inventory** - the dominant tree species in the Strathcona timber supply area are Douglas-fir, hemlock, amabilis fir, and western redcedar. Other tree species include sitka spruce, red alder, western white pine, and lodgepole pine.
- **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.

For the Strathcona timber supply area, this age is based on the time required for a regenerated stand to reach within five per cent of its highest average annual growth. This applies to all species with the exception of Douglas-fir on good sites, which are assumed to reach a minimum harvestable age once a merchantable volume of 550 cubic metres per hectare has been achieved.

Forest re-establishment factors

- **Basic silviculture** - British Columbia laws require areas that are harvested and expected to produce timber in the future must be reforested with ecologically acceptable species within a specified time frame. The most common

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

Timber Supply Review

in the Strathcona TSA

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.

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 Strathcona timber supply area, reforestation is achieved by planting a mixture of acceptable coniferous species and retaining other natural regenerating tree species for wildlife and biodiversity, when present. In the timber supply analysis, it is assumed that logged areas will be reforested within two 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 current standards: a minimum 10-centimetre top diameter and a minimum diameter of 17.5 centimetres at a ground height of 1.3 metres in old-growth stands, and a minimum 10-centimetre top diameter and a minimum diameter of 12.5 centimetres at a ground height of 1.3 metres in second-growth forests, and for all stands a maximum 30-centimetre high stump.

Infestations, devastations and salvage of timber

Each year portions of the forests in the Strathcona timber supply area are damaged by natural agents such as fire, wind, insects and disease. It is anticipated that some of the damaged timber will not be salvaged due to road and economic limitations. The unsalvaged volume is estimated to be 43,150 cubic metres annually.

Factors to be considered for purposes other than timber production

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

- **Forest cover requirements** - under current forest management practices, cutblocks* must achieve green-up* before adjacent areas are permitted to be harvested. For example, to account for forest cover requirements in the integrated management area, a maximum of 25 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** - these are areas where the maintenance of scenic landscapes is a priority for recreation and tourism management, particularly in areas that are adjacent to major travel corridors and waterways. Road construction and logging within these areas are planned and implemented to minimize visual impacts. Interim visual quality objectives have been established for scenic areas in the Strathcona timber supply area. The current practice in visually sensitive areas is that harvested areas must have trees that are at least five metres tall before adjacent areas can be harvested. Also, forest cover requirements will vary according to the degree of visual sensitivity and will permit a maximum of between five and 15 per cent of a visual landscape area to have forests less than five metres tall at any time.
- **Recreation** - areas designated as highly important for the use, recreation and enjoyment of the public will be

considered to be 100 per cent unavailable for harvesting in the timber supply analysis. Areas designated as moderately important will be considered to be 50 per cent unavailable.

Karst* areas- Eight per cent of areas which have been identified as having karst potential and which have not already been excluded as designated recreation areas will be separated from the timber harvesting land base.

Wildlife habitat - a number of areas have been identified as important for wildlife habitat in the area. For the timber supply analysis, all highly sensitive wildlife habitat will be separated from the timber harvesting land base. Moderately sensitive areas will be accounted for by forest cover requirements which call for at least 50 per cent of the moderately significant wildlife areas to be covered by forests at least five metres tall at any time.

Riparian habitat* - to meet the requirements of the Forest Practices Code, a portion of the forested land base will be considered unavailable for timber harvesting to account for riparian reserve areas and riparian management zones along streamsides, lakeshores and swamps.

Biological diversity - or biodiversity, is the full range of living organisms, in all their forms and levels of organization, and includes the diversity of genes, species and ecosystems, and the evolutionary and functional processes that link them. The Forest Practices Code requires that biodiversity be examined at both the stand- and landscape-level.

Leaving wildlife tree* patches for stand-level biodiversity is current practice in the Strathcona timber supply area. This practice will be accounted for in the timber supply analysis by reducing the forested land base. Current practice requires that at least eight per cent of a cutblock must be retained as wildlife tree patches. It is assumed that 75 per cent of

this requirement will be met by areas outside of the timber harvesting land base. As a result, approximately two per cent of the timber harvesting land base will be considered unavailable for harvesting in the timber supply analysis.

Considerations for landscape-level biodiversity will be accounted for in the timber supply analysis by applying averaged older seral stage* constraints to each draft landscape unit* and natural disturbance types*. This is being done because at this time the landscape units and biodiversity objectives are still draft and have not yet been established.

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 in the long-term harvest level. For the projected base-case forecast*, the initial harvest forecast will be based on trying to achieve the current rate of harvest in the short term without compromising the long-term harvest level. The implications of alternative short-term rates of harvest will be tested in sensitivity analyses*.
- **Implications related to community dependence** - the impact of timber supply adjustments on local communities and the provincial economy is an important consideration in the Timber Supply Review. Research by the Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations found that for each 100 direct forestry jobs in the Strathcona timber supply area, a further 30 to 50 indirect and induced jobs are supported.

The upcoming socio-economic analysis will use recent information to examine the potential socio-economic

Timber Supply Review

in the Strathcona TSA

Karst

A distinctive landscape characterized by caves, sinkholes, disappearing streams and complex underground drainage systems. This landscape develops over thousands of years by the dissolving action of water on limestone or marble.

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.

Seral stages

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

Timber Supply Review

in the Strathcona TSA

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.

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.

impacts associated with alternative rates of timber harvesting. Current information on employment and fibre flows will be gathered from the BC Forest Service, licensees, processing facilities and other stakeholders. Indirect and other related employment at both local and provincial levels will also be estimated using employment multipliers provided by the Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations.

To examine the implications of alternative rates of harvest, employment co-efficients, reported in person years per 1,000 cubic metres, will be developed and used to estimate changes to employment levels now and in the future from any potential harvest level changes.

Timber processing facilities

The socio-economic analysis will also examine the implications of potential changes in timber supply for the area's processing facilities. Twenty mills operate in and adjacent to the timber supply area, and in 1996 these mills processed approximately 5.3 million cubic metres of timber and employed about 2,200 people. The Strathcona timber supply area contributes a portion of this total fibre requirement.

There are two major processing facilities operating in and adjacent to the western portion of the Strathcona timber supply area: a sawmill in Tahsis and a pulp mill in Gold River. These facilities are heavily dependent upon harvesting from this timber supply area as well as from other coastal areas. There is also a newsprint mill in Gold River which closed in 1993 for an indefinite period due to economic factors.

In the eastern portion of the timber supply area, the major processing facilities include a pulp mill at Elk Falls, two large sawmills in Campbell River, and one large sawmill in Courtenay.

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 Strathcona 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 January 28, 1998.

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 Fall of 1998. You may also wish to participate in the second public review period, which will follow the release of the *Strathcona Timber Supply Area Analysis Report*.

Sensitivity analysis

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

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

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

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

District Manager
B.C. Forest Service
Campbell River Forest District
370 South Dogwood Street
Campbell River, B.C.
V9W 6Y7

Phone: (250) 286-9300
Fax: (250) 286-9490

or electronically mail to:
jandres@mfor01.for.gov.bc.ca

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:

Campbell River Forest District
370 South Dogwood Street
Campbell River, B.C.
V9W 6Y7
Phone: (250) 286-9300

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

Forestry Division Services Branch
1st Floor - 1450 Government Street
Victoria, B.C.
V8W 9C3
Phone: (250) 387-2511