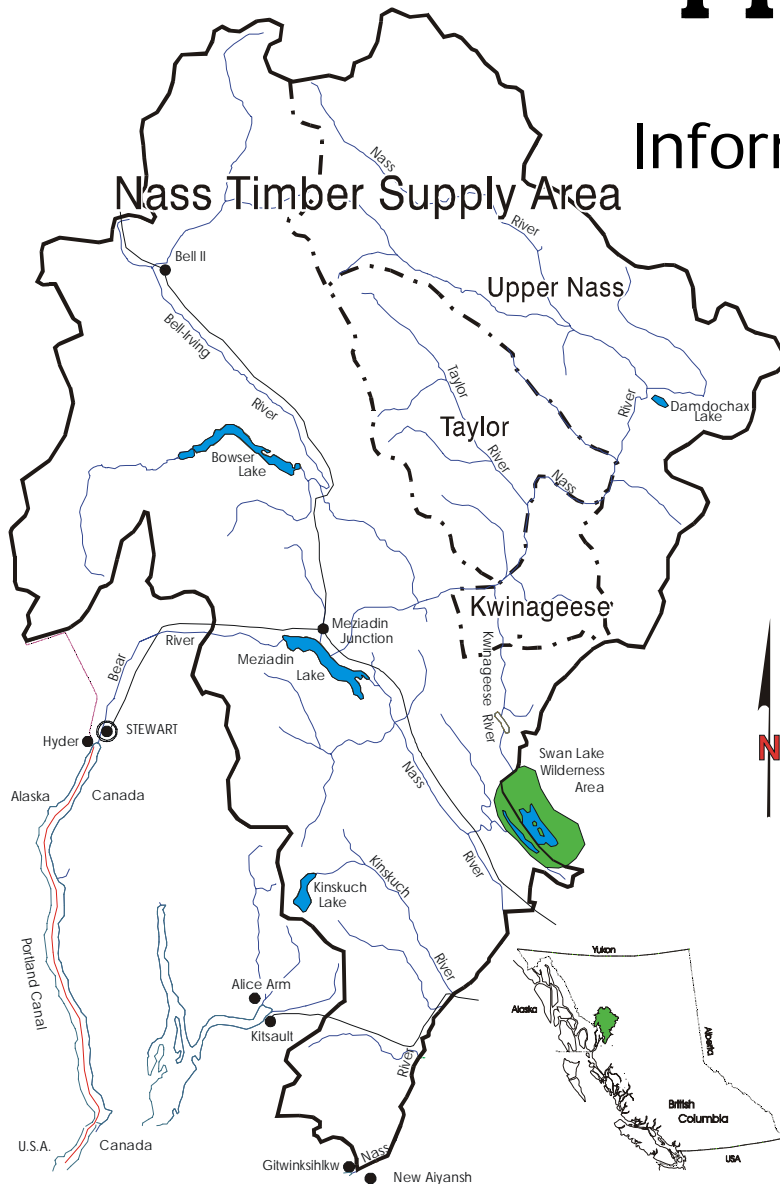


Timber Supply Review

Nass Timber Supply Area

Information Report
May 2000



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 Nass 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 data and management assumptions that will be used in the upcoming *Nass Timber Supply Area Analysis Report*.

The *Nass 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 Nass 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.

Many of the draft data and management assumptions are summarized on pages seven through ten. For a more detailed description of the information, please contact the Kalum Forest District office in Terrace or the Prince Rupert Forest Region office in Smithers and request a copy of the *Nass Timber Supply Area Data Package*. The public will have an opportunity to review and comment on the information report and data package. A response form at the end of this document is provided for written comments which will be accepted until June 5, 2000.

Timber Supply Review process

In British Columbia, a process for determining allowable annual cuts has been in place since the late 1940s. However, the process has changed significantly over time. More recently, the process has undergone 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 Nass timber supply area, and the estimated time required for each step.

Timber Supply Review

in the Nass 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*.

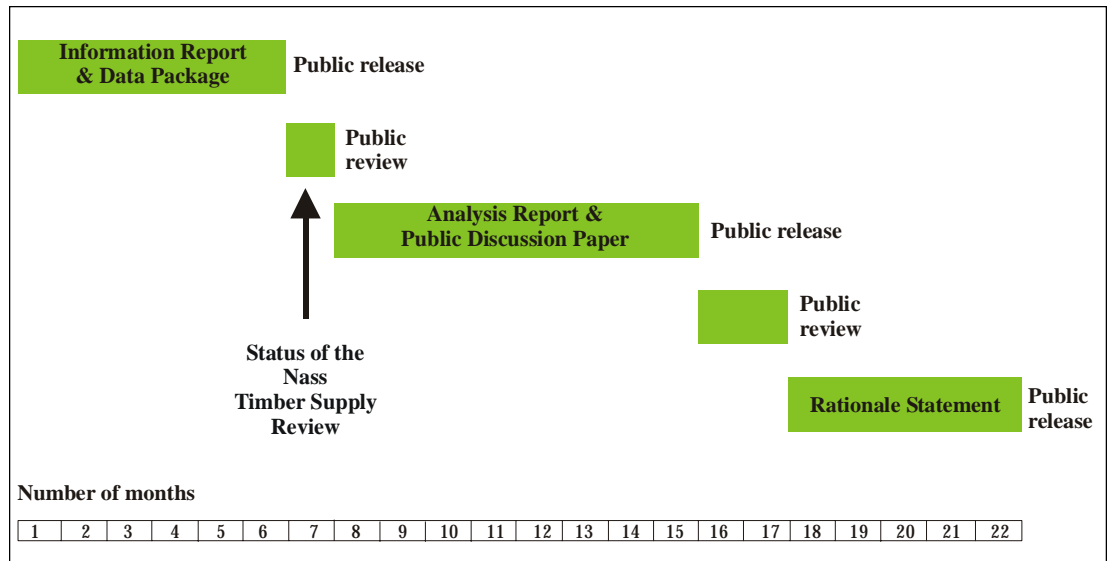
Tree farm licence

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 Nass 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.

Following the release of the allowable annual cut determination by the chief forester, the minister of forests apportions the cut to 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 allowable annual cuts 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 Nass timber supply area (formerly Kalum North) is situated in the northwest portion of the province and covers approximately 1.7 million hectares. The Nass is administered by the Kalum Forest District office located in Terrace. The Kalum Forest District includes: the Nass and Kalum (formerly Kalum South) timber supply areas; and Tree Farm Licence 1 and 41.

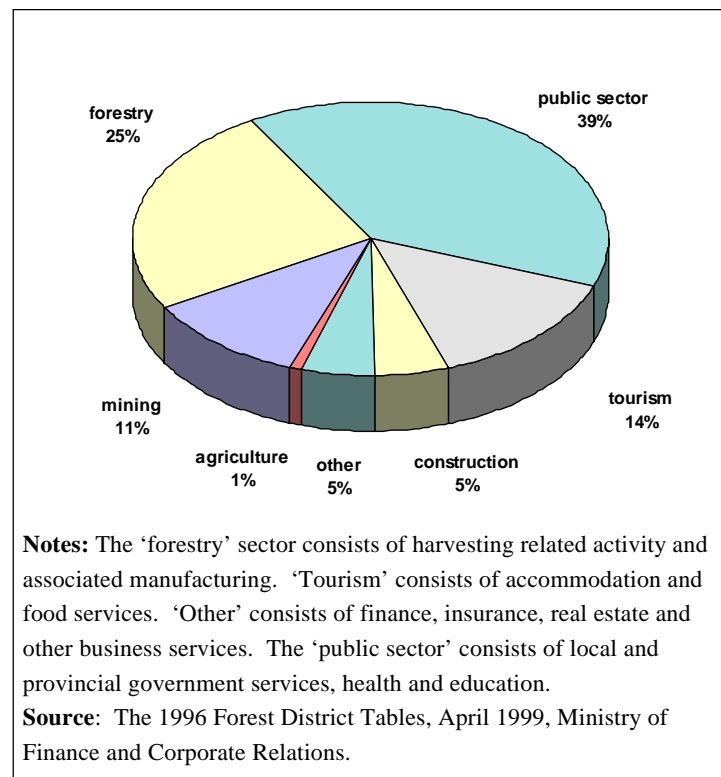
The communities

The timber supply area is remote and sparsely populated. The communities within and adjacent to the area include Stewart, Meziadin, Elsworth camp, Nass camp, Gitlakdamix, Gitwinksilkw, Lakalzap, Kitwancool and Gitwangak. According to the 1996 Census, the total permanent population of the Nass timber supply area was approximately 2,000 people.

The economy

In 1996, the public sector and forestry accounted for 64 per cent of the timber supply area's employment (see Figure 2). Logging is the leading industry although there are no timber processing facilities within the Nass timber supply area. Timber harvested from the area is processed in sawmills and pulp mills in the Terrace, Prince Rupert and Hazelton areas, or exported to United States or Japanese markets.

Figure 2. Total employment by sector for the Nass timber supply area, 1996.



The economic viability of the timber supply in the Nass area is highly dependent on the export and pulp markets. Since 1996, depressed export markets and low pulp prices have resulted in significant reductions to forestry operations within the timber supply area.

The three main licensees in the area are Skeena Cellulose Incorporated, West Fraser Mills Limited, and Sim Gan Forest Corporation. Over the past several years, the average amount of actual harvesting in the Nass timber supply area has been approximately 40 per cent below the allowable annual cut level. This has been mainly due to factors such as poor market conditions and Skeena's corporate restructuring.

The forestry sector supports other jobs within the region through companies and employees purchasing goods and services from Terrace, Stewart, Hazelton and other local businesses. This spending is another indicator of the role forestry has in the economy. For every 100 direct forestry jobs in the Nass timber supply area, another 20 to 50 indirect and induced jobs are supported, depending on the type of forestry activity (logging or manufacturing) and the associated level of income. In comparison, every 100 jobs in the public sector or tourism support five to 12 additional positions.

In the upcoming *Nass Timber Supply Area Analysis Report*, the socio-economic data will be updated based on recent trends in the forest sector for the area. The updated information will be based on data gathered from local governments, forest industry representatives and the communities.

First Nations

A number of First Nations have traditional territories within the Nass timber supply area. They are represented by four tribal organizations: Nisga'a, Gitksan, Gitanyow and Tahltan.

The Nisga'a Treaty—a comprehensive land claim—has been ratified by the Nisga'a First Nation, and the governments of British Columbia and Canada. As decisions regarding the land claim have now been finalized, the Nisga'a lands will not contribute to the Nass timber supply area.

The Gitanyow First Nation have reached the agreement-in-principle stage 4 of the British Columbia Treaty Commission process. In November 1999, British Columbia and Canada presented a joint land and cash offer to Gitanyow. The offer is considered an important step in the negotiations toward completing an agreement-in-principle with the Gitanyow.

Tahltan First Nation have suspended treaty negotiations. Currently Tahltan have prioritized their involvement in lands and resource management planning initiatives to areas outside of the Nass timber supply area.

The Gitksan First Nation are conducting bilateral negotiations with British Columbia in accordance with a Reconciliation Agreement signed in September 1998. An objective of these bilateral negotiations is to prepare a set of consultation procedures that will guide how the province consults with Gitksan on lands and resource matters within Gitksan traditional territory.

All of the First Nations have expressed concerns about timber harvesting within their traditional territories. Cultural heritage inventory studies, which identify sites of potential archaeological significance, have been completed. Archaeological impact assessments and traditional use studies have also been completed within portions of the timber supply area. The information gathered from these studies is used to plan forest management operations, while ensuring that cultural heritage resources are taken into account.

The forest land resources

Numerous natural resources are associated with the forested land within the Nass timber supply area. Forest products, recreation, wild pine mushroom harvesting, mining, tourism amenities, and a variety of wildlife habitats highlight the wide range of values and uses found in the area.

Parks, recreation sites and trails, glaciers, water bodies, and roaded and non-roaded areas provide opportunities for numerous outdoor activities. Within the timber supply area, Meziadin Lake Provincial Park and Swan Lake-Brown Bear Wilderness Area are established as protected areas. Mount Bell Irving/Hanna Ridge and Damdochax/Slamgeesh Lake are areas identified by cabinet as approved official study areas. Recreation activities include back-country touring, sport fishing, hiking, hunting and wilderness viewing along the Stewart / Cassiar Highway. This highway is the connection to further recreation opportunities in the Yukon and Alaska.

The environment

The topography of the western portion of the timber supply area is mountainous with coastal plains and rugged ice-capped mountains. The eastern portion is characterized by wide and flat plateaus that are bordered by the Skeena and Coast Mountain Ranges. The summers are warm, while the winters have an Arctic front that frequently descends into the area. This cold front results in dense coniferous* forests of western hemlock and balsam (subalpine fir), with lesser amounts of spruce, lodgepole pine, scattered wetlands and deciduous* forests. Alpine tundra occurs in the higher mountain summits.

The forests of the Nass timber supply area host a wide variety of wildlife species including moose, mountain goat, grizzly and black bear.

The rivers support a rich variety of habitat and fishery resources. The Nass, Bell Irving and Kwinageese rivers are inhabited by salmon, steelhead, rainbow trout, cutthroat trout and Dolly Varden char. Wetlands and lakes provide habitat for a variety of birds and other species.

History of the allowable annual cut

In September 1995, the chief forester set the allowable annual cut for the Nass timber supply area at 1,150,000 cubic metres (effective January 1, 1996), which reflected an eight per cent reduction from the previous determination.

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

- **size of timber harvesting land base** - during the previous determination, the chief forester requested that Forest Service staff evaluate the amount of harvesting activity that has occurred relative to the proportion of area classified for different harvesting systems within the timber harvesting land base. The chief forester also recommended the continuation of monitoring the Upper Nass to evaluate the accessibility and economic feasibility of harvesting in this area.

Since the last determination, the Forest Service has conducted an operability review, primarily based on terrain accessibility. Due to dependency on favourable market conditions, there is still some uncertainty about the economics of harvesting in some areas of the timber supply area, particularly in areas identified as suitable for cable harvesting systems.

Timber Supply Review

in the Nass TSA

Coniferous

Coniferous trees have needles or scale-like leaves and are usually 'evergreen'.

Deciduous

Deciduous trees commonly have broad-leaves and usually shed their leaves annually.

Partition

A portion of the AAC that is attributable to certain types of timber and/or terrain.

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.

Inoperable areas

Areas defined as unavailable for harvest for terrain-related or economic reasons. Characteristics used in defining inoperability include slope, topography (e.g., the presence of gullies or exposed rock), difficulty of road access, soil stability, elevation and timber quality. Operability can change over time as a function of changing harvesting technology and economics.

In addition, in 1997, the Forest Service hired a consultant to examine and map the operable areas in the Upper Nass. The results of the study indicated that based on terrain accessibility, the operable area could be larger than the area mapped in 1989. The actual amount of harvesting has been monitored, and to date no harvesting or forest development planning has occurred in the Upper Nass.

In summary, due to the continuation of poor markets and lack of harvesting activity in many areas of the Nass timber supply area—particularly in the Upper Nass and in cable harvesting areas—the size of the timber harvesting land base will likely be reduced. As noted in the previous determination, prior to the upcoming allowable annual cut determination, the chief forester will examine the district’s review of the timber harvesting land base and evaluate the need to partition* the harvest level to ensure that harvesting is not concentrated in the more accessible areas in the Nass timber supply area.

- **problem forest types** – during the previous determination the chief forester noted uncertainty regarding the extent that climate and soil conditions hindered prompt and successful regeneration.

In 1998, the Forest Service completed a review of silviculture practices and silviculture accomplishments in the northern portion of the Nass Timber Supply Area, where climate and soil conditions reportedly affected successful regeneration. The review indicated that silviculture performance is achieving regeneration delay within the current prescribed timeframes.

Generally it was found that areas difficult to regenerate are avoided during harvesting operations. These areas will be removed from contributing to the timber harvesting land base.

Note: For more information on these points, please refer to the Nass timber supply area Rationale for Allowable Annual Cut Determination, September 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, 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 used in the timber supply analysis will be based on the existing land-use designations and forest management practices that are currently approved and implemented in the Nass timber supply area. Data and management uncertainties and their potential effects 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 a brief description 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 Nass timber supply area. More detailed information can be found in *Appendix A: Data Package*. This appendix is available upon request from the Forest Service offices listed at the end of this report.

Land base factors

- **operable area** - forested areas are determined to be operable by different logging methods based on an assessment of economic and terrain attributes. In the Nass timber supply area, inoperable areas* and marginally operable areas will not contribute to the timber harvesting land base.
- **low productivity sites** - forest stands that are not considered fully available for harvesting due to site characteristics such as low growth productivity or incomplete occupancy of commercial species will not contribute to the timber harvesting land base.
- **environmentally sensitive areas*** - the forest inventory includes a classification of areas considered to be environmentally sensitive and/or significantly valuable for other resources. For the Nass timber supply area, environmentally sensitive areas include areas with sensitive soils, forest regeneration problems, snow avalanche risk, watershed* values, important wildlife habitat and recreation

opportunities.

Areas identified with high or extreme environmental sensitivity will not contribute to the timber harvesting land base. A reduction factor of 50 per cent will be applied to areas identified with moderate environmental sensitivity within the timber harvesting land base.

- **forest roads** - for the timber supply analysis, an estimate was made of the productive forest land occupied by existing roads, trails, and landings. To account for productivity losses due to existing roads, about 1,343 hectares are considered occupied, and will not contribute to the timber harvesting land base. To account for existing landings, four per cent of areas previously harvested are considered occupied. To account for future roads, trails and landings, a seven per cent deduction will be applied to the timber harvesting land base currently covered with mature forests.

Inventory factors

- **forest inventory*** - the forest information is based on an inventory originally conducted in 1975, and partially reinventoried in 1989. Since 1990, the inventory has been continuously updated to take into account recent harvesting and silviculture activities.

The dominant tree species in the Nass timber supply area are balsam (subalpine fir) and western hemlock, which account for approximately 93 per cent of the timber harvesting land base. Other species include cottonwood, lodgepole pine and spruce.

- **minimum harvestable ages** - the minimum harvestable age is the earliest age at which a forest stand is estimated to reach a merchantable size and considered available for harvest. For the timber supply analysis, the minimum ages will be based on stands attaining a minimum merchantable volume of 300 cubic metres per hectare.

Timber Supply Review

in the Nass TSA

Environmentally sensitive areas

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

Watershed

An area drained by a stream or river. A large watershed may contain several smaller watersheds.

Forest inventory

An assessment of British Columbia's timber resources. It includes computerized maps, a database describing the location and nature of forest cover, including size, age, timber volume, and species composition, and a description of other forest values such as recreation and visual quality.

Timber Supply Review

in the Nass TSA

Silviculture

Activities that ensure the regeneration of young forests on harvested areas, enhance tree growth or improve wood quality in selected stands. Activities include: site rehabilitation and preparation, planting, spacing, fertilization and pruning.

Clearcut harvesting

A harvesting method whereby all trees that meet utilization standards are harvested. The harvested site is then regenerated to acceptable standards by appropriate means including planting and natural seeding.

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.

Forest re-establishment factors

- **basic silviculture** - British Columbia laws require that harvested areas expected to produce timber in the future must be reforested with ecologically acceptable species within a specified time frame. A variety of different silviculture* practices are used throughout British Columbia. In the Nass timber supply area, the most common silvicultural practice involves clearcut harvesting* or clearcut harvesting with reserves, followed by planting well-spaced trees of acceptable species and controlling competing vegetation. In the timber supply analysis, to reflect current practice it is assumed that areas will be reforested within an average of three years following harvest.

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 the ground, and between a maximum 30-centimetre high stump and a minimum 10-centimetre top diameter (inside the bark).

Infestations, devastations and salvage of timber

Each year, natural agents such as fire, wind, insects and disease damage portions of the forests in the Nass timber supply area. It is anticipated that some of the damaged timber will not be salvaged due to access and economic limitations or environmental considerations. For the timber supply analysis, the annual unsalvaged volume due to fire in the Nass timber supply area is estimated to be 25,000 cubic metres.

In addition, a number of forest insects have infested areas within the Nass timber

supply area. Due to a large infestation of the defoliating hemlock looper (Green-Striped Forest Looper) in the Kwinageese area, the volume projections for hemlock-leading stands will be reduced by approximately 20 per cent. In the remote Taylor area, all hemlock stands with high attack levels will be considered unmerchantable, and the volume projections for hemlock stands with low and moderate attack levels will be reduced by 20 per cent for this timber supply analysis.

In 1996, balsam bark beetle infestations were found in the Upper Nass area. Currently, information is being gathered to determine the amount of damaged timber that will not be salvaged.

A small component of the Nass timber supply area is covered with lodgepole pine forests. It is estimated that approximately one half of the lodgepole pine forests will be attacked by mountain pine beetle during the next 50 years. For the timber supply analysis, only one half of the volume within existing lodgepole pine forests, older than 100 years, will contribute to the projected timber supply. Future managed lodgepole pine forests with associated improved access and increased salvage operations will fully contribute to the timber supply.

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 35 per cent of the timber harvesting land base in the integrated resource management zone will be allowed to be covered with trees less than three metres tall at any time. In addition, in the timber supply analysis, forest cover requirements for the maintenance of old-growth forests for biodiversity* will be applied.

- **visually sensitive areas** - areas where the maintenance of scenic landscapes are a priority for recreation and tourism management are often located along major highways, primary access corridors and recreational waterways. Road construction and logging within these areas are planned and implemented to minimize visual impacts. In the Nass timber supply area, the current management practice allows a maximum amount of the productive forest area to be comprised of forests less than 5 metres tall at any time—maximum of 5 per cent in the retention zone, 10 per cent in the partial retention zone, and 15 per cent in the modification zone.
- **riparian areas** – to meet the requirements of the *Forest Practices Code*, a portion of the forest land base will be considered unavailable for timber harvesting to account for riparian habitat areas along streamsides, or around lakes and wetlands. In areas covered by the *Kwinageese Integrated Resource Management Plan*, accounting for riparian habitat, which includes some overlap with important wildlife habitat along streamsides, will follow the additional requirements of the plan.
- **pine mushrooms** – are considered an economically significant mushroom for harvesting within the province. Pine mushroom habitat often consists of well-drained, coarse textured and nutrient poor soils under the canopy of older hemlock forests. The extent and location of prime mushroom habitat has been identified in two important areas

within the Nass timber supply area. The contribution of these areas to the timber supply will be examined in the timber supply analysis.

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

Leaving wildlife tree* patches to maintain stand-level biodiversity is considered current practice for larger cutblocks in the Nass timber supply area. This practice will be accounted for in the timber supply analysis by reducing the average volume per hectare.

Considerations for landscape-level biodiversity will be accounted for in the timber supply analysis by applying averaged requirements for maintaining portions of the older forests in each biogeoclimatic variant* within each draft landscape unit*. This is being done because at this time the landscape units and biodiversity objectives are still draft and have not yet been formally established.

Implications of alternative rates of harvesting

- **alternative rates of harvesting** - 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 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 allowable rate of harvest in the short term without compromising the long-term harvest level, and if necessary, allowing for a gradual transition to lower harvest levels.

Timber Supply Review

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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.

Wildlife tree

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

Biogeoclimatic zones

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

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.

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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 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 *June 1993 Socio-Economic Assessment of Timber Supply Options for the Northern Portion of the Kalum Timber Supply Areas* reported that, provincially, harvesting, silviculture and processing activities associated with the harvesting of the Nass timber supply would support 580 direct person-years* and 270 indirect and induced person-years of employment. As previously noted, this information will be updated to reflect the current level of forestry activity in the timber supply area.

The socio-economic section of the upcoming timber supply analysis report will review the role of the forest sector in the timber supply area. To provide this update, current information on employment and fibre flows will be gathered from licensees, regional processing facilities, the Forest Service and other stakeholders. As the information is collected the report will also consider factors that have contributed to the recently reduced activity within the forest sector. 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

There are no processing facilities within the Nass timber supply area. The socio-economic analysis will examine the implications of potential changes of timber supply for the regional timber processing facilities reliant on the Nass timber supply area.

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 previous section, "*Alternative rates of harvesting*") will be 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 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 Nass 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 June 5, 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 *Nass 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 Nass 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
Kalum Forest District
Rm. 200 – 5220 Keith Ave,
Terrace, B.C.
V8G 1L1

Phone: (250) 638-5100
Fax: (250) 638-5176

Or electronically to
Rod.Meredith@gems3.gov.bc.ca

Regional Manager
B.C. Forest Service
Prince Rupert Forest Region
Bag 5000,
3726 Alfred Avenue
Smithers, B.C.
V0J 2N0

Phone: (250) 847-7545
Fax: (250) 847-7217

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Supply
Review**
in the Nass 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:

Kalum Forest District
Rm. 200 – 5220 Keith Ave,
Terrace, B.C.
V8G 1L1

Phone: (250) 638-5100
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