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October 30, 2007

To: All District Managers
Coast Forest Region

Jim Snetsinger
Chief Forester

From: Hal Reveley and Doug Meske
CRIT Co-chairs

**Re: Final Summary Report from the Coast Region FRPA Implementation Team
Silviculture Working Group**



A number of years ago the Coast Region Leadership Team challenged the Coast Region FRPA Implementation Team (CRIT) to improve the application of silvicultural systems in areas with high levels of dispersed overstory retention. Significant progress has now been accomplished. Here is a brief Summary:

- A jointly developed discussion paper was approved and broadly distributed in June 2006 on the appropriate application of high retention silvicultural systems on the coast. This document is viewed as professional guidance for professional foresters to consider when prescribing silvicultural systems with high levels of retention.
- The CRIT Silviculture Working Group, who authored the discussion paper, completed field monitoring on ten cutblocks where high retention silvicultural systems had been applied. The key principles described within the discussion paper and a methodology developed by the working group was used as the basis for assessment.
- Individual assessment reports for each block were prepared and sent to the prescribing forester, the licensee and the corresponding district manager. These reports are confidential and will not be shared beyond those three parties.

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- During the monitoring, field discussions and mentoring were also used as part of the larger strategy of improving professional reliance and practice.
- A summary report was drafted and approved by CRIT. This report is attached for your review.
- A two day workshop on the use of high retention silvicultural systems took place in Tofino on October 3 and 4, 2007. This was well attended by district and licensee professional foresters. This event was seen as a huge success.
- Evidence that the strategy is working includes:
 - Licensees indicating that practices are changing as a result of the discussion paper and monitoring. They are requesting recently harvested blocks be assessed by the CRIT silviculture working group as a method of determining whether the changed practices are sustainable, or need to be further modified or improved.
 - Licensees and prescribing foresters are considering comments and recommendations contained within confidential block reports, such as creating larger openings and planting when developing new site plans and prescriptions.
 - Licensees and prescribing foresters are requesting assistance from the silviculture working group at the planning stage when developing site plans and prescriptions for future blocks to help improve practices.

The approach CRIT is taking to resolve these types of field issues is to embrace professional reliance by developing discussion papers, monitoring against those discussion papers, and mentoring and training professionals where required. We believe this is consistent with the objectives of FRPA and will be the most effective.

We would like to thank you all for your ongoing support of CRIT and believe the team will continue to be successful through the implementation phase of Forest Stewardship Plans. CRIT is carrying out more monitoring on the application of silvicultural systems this field season, a large portion of which has already been completed. Unfortunately due to the strike, there are few new blocks to assess against the discussion paper, but the monitoring will increase the number of prescribing foresters exposed to the working group and provides further opportunity for mentoring. As such there will not be a summary report completed on blocks assessed this year. We are confident that monitoring done next year will show improvement in areas which were deemed problematic and will be included in a summary report in 2009.

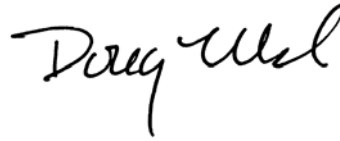
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We will also continue to sponsor workshops as necessary. A website has been developed which will house all key documents and meeting minutes (<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/rco/stewardship/CRIT/index.htm>).

Chuck Rowan, CRIT Secretariat at (250) 751-7096.



Hal Reveley
CRIT Co-chair



Doug Meske
CRIT Co-chair

pc: Chuck Rowan, CRIT Secretariat
Craig Wickland, Silviculture Forester