All Licensees and Operations Managers

Attached is the South Island Forest District Policy DSI-01 entitled Wildlife Tree Patch Guidelines. These guidelines outline my expectations for operational plans to achieve acceptable stand level biodiversity through the designation of Wildlife Tree Patches (WTP).

The guidelines include WTP retention target percentages by subzone for all landscape units in the South Island Forest District, excluding the Clayoquot Sound Land Use Decision Area. My staff have used the Biodiversity Guidebook (1995) as well as the Forest Practices Code - Timber Supply Analysis (February 1996) for guidance on methodology as well as acceptable timber supply impacts.

The WTP retention percentages calculated for the South Island Forest District have been reviewed in the context of the Forest Practices Code - Timber Supply Analysis (February 1996). The weighted average WTP retention percentage was calculated for the District by multiplying the percent retention by subzone and landscape unit by the hectares of productive forest in the landscape unit, and then totalling these values. The weighted average WTP retention percentages were 9% for landscape unit with landscape level biodiversity objectives in place and 12% for landscape units without landscape level biodiversity objectives in place. The impact of these WTP retention targets on the timber harvesting landbase was evaluated by using the assumption from the Biodiversity Guidebook and the Forest Practices Code - Timber Supply Analysis that 75% of WTP area requirements can be met in constrained or non-contributing areas. The impact on the timber harvesting landbase was evaluated by multiplying the weighted average WTP retention target percentage by 25%. This resulted in an impact of 2% on the timber harvesting landbase for landscape units with landscape level biodiversity objectives and 3% on landscape units without landscape level biodiversity objectives. These impacts are the same as those generated by the Forest Practices Code - Timber Supply Analysis for the coast.
Please note that the phase-in period for the Wildlife Tree Patch Guidelines is four months with full implementation starting April 8, 1998. Details of the phase-in are contained within the guidelines.

If you have any questions or require further information concerning the attached WTP Guidelines (DSI-01) please contact Madeline Maley, Planning Forester at 250/724-9205.

Yours truly,

[Signature]
T.R. (Tim) Sheldan
District Manager
South Island Forest District
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I recognise that Woodlots are relatively small parcels of Crown and private land that are generally managed intensively. The cutblocks tend to be small and the focus toward alternative harvest systems. If the WTP retention target percentage was applied to each cutblock, the
resulting patches may not be large enough to achieve the objectives of valuable habitat for the conservation and enhancement of wildlife. Therefore, the WTP retention target will be calculated for the total area of the Woodlot, rather than on a cutblock by cutblock basis. The WTPs will be located throughout the Woodlot in such a way that there is no more than 500 m between areas of suitable habitat. The WTPs must be indicated on the FPD and it is expected that WTP objectives will eventually be incorporated into the Management Plan.

Please note that the phase-in period for the Wildlife Tree Patch Guidelines is four months with full implementation starting April 8, 1998. Details of the phase-in are contained within the guidelines.

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Yours truly,

T.R. (Tim) Sheldan  
District Manager  
South Island Forest District