Recognizing that there have been a significant number of legislative changes in the past year, we would like to reaffirm the importance of us working together to jointly ensure that these legislative changes are effectively implemented, and similarly, to ensure that any potential opportunities for efficiencies are maximized.

Effective implementation may mean developing some new processes and policies, but it will also mean adapting existing processes and policies to ensure they are still useful. To this end, the South Island Forest District has initiated a review of its existing district policies. Currently, this review has identified a couple of policies that could be seen to potentially fetter the District Manager’s statutory decision making, or alternatively may set out requirements that are incremental to current legislation.

In an effort to mitigate these circumstances, we ask that you consider the following points of clarification with respect to the identified policies:

1. South Island Forest District Policy DSI-01 entitled Wildlife Tree Patch (WTP) Guidelines. These guidelines are intended to advise licensees of some the guiding principles that the District Manager may consider in reviewing operational plans and assessing their ability to adequately manage and conserve the forest resource.

Please note that where circumstances result in operational plans that depart from this district policy, the District Manager will still evaluate them on their specific merits.

Similarly, the WTP Targets Table attached to this policy is intended to serve as guidance regarding WTP retention. The District Manager will, however, consider operational plans that vary from these targets, given appropriate alternatives that adequately manage for stand level biodiversity.

Provincial guidance regarding WTPs is currently being developed, so we will reassess the need for this district policy as the provincial document becomes available.
2. **District Operational Procedure No. DPA95-001 (November 23, 1995)** entitled Special Forest Products / Salvage Operations. This document was originally intended to clarify the requirements of the *Forest Practices Code Act* with respect to special forest product and opening or road right-of-way salvage operations, but it has become obsolete and therefore, should be considered rescinded.

3. **Paul Pashnik’s September 20, 1996 letter.** This letter clarifies the use of section 54 of the *Forest Practices Code Act*. This document was originally intended to clarify the situations under which the District Manager might, if satisfied, provide an exemption under *section 54(5)* of the *Forest Practices Code Act*.

   Note that on page 2 of this letter it indicates that an exemption may be provided if the District Manager is satisfied that “there is no need to use the road for more than one operating season so that temporary deactivation will not be required, or the use of the road will not otherwise impact other users or the environment, and the cumulative duration of the activity is less than 60 days within one operating season”.

   Please note that in accordance with current legislation the District Manager will consider requests for exemptions that extend beyond one operating season, where the person’s use of the road will not materially effect the use of the road by others, or unnecessarily disturb the natural environment or cultural heritage resources, and where the use will be for a period less than 60 days.

   We will continue to refine our policies as we identify opportunities, but we would ask that you support us in this endeavour by forwarding any comments or ideas you may have with respect to existing policies, or by proposing any new policies you feel could help us clarify or streamline our processes.

   If you have any comments, concerns or questions regarding this letter, or any of our district policies please contact Martin Foy, Operations Manager, Post Award at (250) 724-9205.

   Thank you for your continued support.

   Yours truly,

   [Signature]

   Cindy Stern
   District Manager
   South Island Forest District