

Order Respecting an AAC Determination For Tree Farm Licence No. 3

Section 8 (3.1) of the *Forest Act* stipulates in part that

If ... the chief forester considers that the allowable annual cut ... is not likely to be changed significantly with a new determination ... the chief forester ... by written order may postpone the next [allowable annual cut] determination ... to a date that is up to 10 years after the date of the relevant last determination, and ... must give written reasons for the postponement”.

In considering whether to postpone the next AAC determination for Tree Farm Licence No. 3:


- I have reviewed each of the factors considered in the most recent relevant determination, made on June 25, 1998. That determination set the AAC at 80,000 cubic metres, effective on July 1, 1988.
- I am aware that the timber supply analysis submitted in 1998 forecast a flat-line harvest level throughout the 200-year planning horizon, and I have reviewed the sensitivity analyses included in that analysis.
- I have considered the significance of the requests that the chief forester made of the licensee in his 1998 AAC rationale, and what has transpired in reaction to those requests.
- I have investigated whether any significant new information exists concerning each factor specified in Section 8 of the *Act*. I am aware that:
 - Agreement has been reached on a definition of non-merchantable forest types, which would reduce the assumed timber harvesting land base by about one percent.
 - The amount of area managed for visual quality has increased.
 - Recent information on terrain stability indicates that the area suitable for timber harvesting may be greater than assumed in 1998, and which set the AAC at 80,000 cubic metres.
 - Ungulate winter range mapping has been completed, and may have a slight downward impact on timber supply.
 - The licensee has analyzed recent vegetation resource inventory information, which indicates that the total existing volume may be approximately 8 percent less than modelled in the 1998 Base Case. I am aware of the sensitivity analysis done at that time on the basis of a 10-percent lower volume.
 - The licensee has not harvested in areas underlying the current partition to alternative harvesting systems. However, the current forest development plan includes an approved cutblock in such an area.

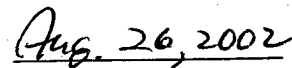
- Since the 1998 analysis, the width of the riparian management zone for S6 consumptive use streams has been increased by 10 metres. This is not expected to have a significant impact on timber supply.
- No new site index information is available.
- New information indicates that improved planting stock may increase the long-term timber supply by about 14 percent.
- The Kootenay-Boundary Higher Level Plan Order requires the establishment of connectivity corridors. This may slightly reduce timber supply.
- In 1988, a requirement to retain mature timber, as currently specified in the Kootenay-Boundary Higher Level Plan Order, of itself would not have constrained timber supply.

After reviewing the factors considered in the last AAC determination and the currently available information, I have determined that the allowable annual cut for this area is not likely to be changed significantly with a new determination made according to the existing schedule.

Under authority of Section 8(3.1) of the *Forest Act*, I hereby postpone the next allowable annual cut determination for Tree Farm Licence No. 3 to July 1, 2008, being approximately ten years after the date of the last determination in 1998.

If I conclude in the interim that circumstances for the tree farm licence area have changed significantly, I may rescind this order as authorized by Section 8(3.2) of the *Act*, and set an earlier date for the next AAC determination.


Ken Baker
Deputy Chief Forester


Date