

Chief Forester Order  
Respecting an AAC Determination  
For Tree Farm Licence No. 23

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. 23:

- I have reviewed each of the factors considered in the most recent relevant determination, made on May 2, 2000. That determination set the AAC at 680,000 cubic metres, effective on August 31, 1999, and attributed 56,000 cubic metres to the "aerial operability class" of terrain.
- I have reviewed the timber supply analysis submitted in 1999 in support of that determination, including the sensitivity analyses. I am aware that the analysis projected a flat-line timber supply for the first 40 years of the planning horizon.
- I have also considered the significance of the requests that the chief forester made of the licensee in his 2000 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:
  - The licensee has been harvesting little of the portion of the AAC attributable to the "aerial operability" terrain class. I note, however, that harvesting over the balance of the tree farm licence area has not exceeded the balance of the AAC.
  - Site productivity estimates have been revised upward based on recent vegetation resource inventory work. I note that a sensitivity analysis in 1999 indicated that increasing site indices to reflect provincial Old Growth Site Index adjustments had no effect on timber supply over the first fifty years.
  - The 1999 timber supply analysis reflected the land-use recommendations of the Kootenay-Boundary Land Use Plan (KBLUP), and of the Revelstoke and Area Land Use Planning Minister's Advisory Committee (MAC). Since the time of the last AAC determination, the government has promulgated the KBLUP Higher Level Plan Order, and has accepted the recommendations of the MAC. I am aware that the government has

(... /2)

invited public comment on proposed changes to the HLP Order, and that government staff and licensees are continuing to assess timber supply impacts of the Order.

- The area identified as caribou habitat, and the management strategy for this area, have changed slightly since 1999, as has the mapping of ungulate winter range. None of these changes would significantly affect timber supply for the TFL: as a whole.
- Upon enquiry, I am not aware of any First Nations issues that would impact short-term 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 the area covered by Tree Farm Licence No. 23 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. 23 to September 1, 2007, being approximately 8 years after the effective date of the last AAC determination.

Despite being aware that some 80,000 cubic metres of "aerial operability" timber is included in currently approved cutting permits, I am somewhat concerned about the lack of harvesting on that portion of the TFL. Because the AAC is ultimately for the tree farm licence as a whole, I request that Forest District staff monitor harvesting and advise me if the conventionally operable areas are being harvested, over time, at a significantly greater pace than anticipated in the most recent AAC Rationale.

If I conclude that circumstances for the tree farm licence area have changed significantly in the interim, I may rescind this order as authorized by Section 8(3.2) of the *Act*, and set a date for the next AAC determination that is earlier than September 1, 2007.

Ken Baker  
Ken Baker  
Deputy Chief Forester

Oct. 16/02  
Date