

**Section 8 (3.1) Order Respecting the AAC Determination  
for the Soo TSA**

Section 8 (3.1) of the *Forest Act* (for full subsection see Appendix 1) 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, then ... the chief forester by written order may postpone the next 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 June 2000, the allowable annual cut (AAC) for the Soo Timber Supply Area (TSA) was set at 503,000 cubic metres, effective October 1, 2000. The AAC excludes the volume issued to woodlots and is partitioned as follows:

- 413,000 cubic metres for the conventional land base, and
- 90,000 cubic metres for the helicopter-operable land base.

In considering whether to postpone the next AAC determination for the Soo TSA, I have reviewed the previous timber supply analysis (1999), and the last relevant AAC rationale (2000) for the Soo TSA.

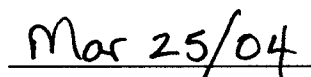
The timber supply forecasts reported in the 1999 timber supply analysis indicate that the harvest level of 503,000 cubic metres could be maintained indefinitely. In my 2000 AAC rationale I noted that the bounds of uncertainty for additional constraints in the Soo TSA represent a downward pressure on timber supply between 10 and 22 percent. The main uncertainties are related to volume estimates of mature stands and the operable land base. A sensitivity analysis that reflects the upper bound of uncertainty, by reducing volume and area are reduced by 10 per cent, shows that the current AAC could still be maintained for 20 years. My review of the updated information collected in 2003 and 2004 indicates that the relative magnitude of uncertainty is unchanged and that as with my consideration of the uncertainties in the 2000 AAC determination, some issues can not be accounted for at this time. These include the outcome of the pending Sea to Sky LRMP, grizzly bear habitat, ungulate winter range land use decisions as well as possible changes to the TSA due to the upcoming 2010 Olympics to be held in the timber supply area.

In summary, from my review of the factors discussed in the 2000 AAC rationale, recent data collected in 2003 and 2004, and the 1999 timber supply analysis, I have determined that the AAC for the Soo TSA, set in June 2000, would not likely change with a new determination.

Under my authority as outlined in Section 8 (3.1) of the *Forest Act*, I hereby postpone the next AAC determination for the Soo TSA to a date prior to October 2010, which is 10 years since the last determination. I request that the district staff monitor the outcome of the upcoming land use decision. Should the land use decision or new information become available that indicates significant impacts on timber supply then I am prepared to make an earlier re-determination of the AAC.



Larry Pedersen  
Chief Forester



Date

**Forest Act, Section 8**

**Allowable annual cut**

- (3.1) If, in respect of the allowable annual cut for a timber supply area or tree farm licence area, the chief forester considers that the allowable annual cut that was determined under subsection (1) is not likely to be changed significantly with a new determination, then, despite subsections (1) to (3), the chief forester
- (a) by written order may postpone the next determination under subsection (1) to a date that is up to 10 years after the date of the relevant last determination, and
  - (b) must give written reasons for the postponement.
- (3.2) If the chief forester, having made an order under subsection (3.1), considers that because of changed circumstances the allowable annual cut that was determined under subsection (1) for a timber supply area or tree farm licence area is likely to be changed significantly with a new determination, he or she
- (a) by written order may rescind the order made under subsection (3.1) and set an earlier date for the next determination under subsection (1), and
  - (b) must give written reasons for setting the earlier date.