
Facsimile Cover Sheet

To: Community Business Groups
within the Lillooet TSA

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Date: March 26, 2009

**Pages including this
cover page:**

Comments:

In the following news release please find the announcement of the new Annual Allowable Cut for the Lillooet Timber Supply Area, within the Cascades Forest District.

Thank you.



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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2009FOR0044-000522
March 26, 2009

Ministry of Forests and Range
Chief Forester's Office

HARVEST LEVEL DECREASED FOR LILLOOET TIMBER SUPPLY AREA

VICTORIA – Effective May 1, 2009 the allowable annual cut for the Lillooet timber supply area will be reduced by about 10 per cent, from 639,500 cubic metres down to 570,000 cubic metres, chief forester Jim Snetsinger announced today.

The new allowable annual cut includes a partition that limits the harvest of non-pine to a maximum of 400,000 cubic metres. Current market conditions and the absence of a pine milling facility nearby may somewhat limit pine harvest but the chief forester has also directed that, whenever possible, the overall cut should be managed to address epidemic levels of mountain pine beetle in the timber supply area.

“The partition is necessary for sound stewardship and responsible management of the forest resource,” said Snetsinger. “It’s imperative to keep an ample supply of Douglas-fir and other timber species so there can be harvesting in the future as pine stands recover from the beetle infestation.

“It’s also important to ensure future biodiversity and economic sustainability. The new allowable annual cut strikes a balance between the timber supply area’s current operational and economic realities and its longer-term economic and environmental needs.”

The mountain pine beetle is expected to kill 72 per cent of the Lillooet timber supply area’s mature pine by 2012.

In a comprehensive rationale explaining his decision, the chief forester discusses the beetle epidemic, economic challenges in the Lillooet area, and other issues likely to impact timber supply and various aspects of forest management.

The Lillooet timber supply area covers about 1.12 million hectares in southwestern British Columbia. It’s administered by the Cascades Forest District and encompasses Lillooet, Lytton and other smaller communities.

The chief forester’s determination is an independent professional judgment based on information ranging from technical forestry reports, First Nations input, and public input to the government’s social, environmental and economic goals. The timber supply review accounts for environmental factors such as biodiversity (which includes old-growth forests), water resources, and scenic values in addition to First Nations interests, social issues, and economic issues.

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- 2 -

Under the timber supply review, the chief forester or deputy chief forester must determine how much wood can be harvested in each of the province's 37 timber supply areas and 34 tree farm licences at least once every five years. A new allowable annual cut may be determined earlier in response to abnormal situations, or postponed for another five years if an allowable annual cut is not expected to change significantly with a new determination.

Copies of the chief forester's rationale for the allowable annual cut determination are available on the Ministry of Forests and Range website at www.for.gov.bc.ca/hts/ or from the Cascades Forest District office in Lillooet or the Southern Interior Forest Region office in Kamloops.

-30-

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