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Chief Forester's Office

DAWSON CREEK ALLOWABLE ANNUAL CUT INCREASED

VICTORIA – The new allowable annual cut for the Dawson Creek timber supply area will increase by 127,000 cubic metres to 1.86 million cubic metres, effective May 1, British Columbia chief forester Larry Pedersen announced today.

The decision is the last of 37 allowable annual cut determinations for timber supply areas in the second provincewide timber supply review. The third series of reviews is underway. The timber supply review is an ongoing, detailed and comprehensive process that ensures harvest rates reflect current information about forest practices and important ecological values such as biodiversity and wildlife as well as timber, jobs and economic benefits.

The new allowable annual cut for Dawson Creek consists of two components:

- 978,000 cubic metres from coniferous stands, including 100,000 cubic metres a year from small lodgepole pine stands, and
- 882,000 cubic metres from deciduous stands.

“The determination reflects new and updated forest inventory information and accounts for important environmental factors like biodiversity; stream, lake and wetland areas; caribou and grizzly bear habitat; as well as protected areas established since the previous decision,” Pedersen said.

The new AAC will continue to provide economic opportunities for the Dawson Creek area and, if fully harvested and processed, it could support about 1,320 direct and another 1,690 indirect and induced full-time jobs across the province, generating about \$114 million in employment income annually.

The determination considered a number of uncertainties such as the contribution of marginally economic stands, site productivity and volume estimates and the amount of land set aside to protect sensitive soils. In particular, Pedersen was cautious in considering how much mixed-wood stands will contribute to the timber supply in the future.

The Dawson Creek timber supply area covers 2.3 million hectares in northeastern B.C. and includes Dawson Creek, Tumbler Ridge, Chetwynd, Hudson's Hope, and Pouce Coupe, as well as the First Nation communities of West Moberly and Saulteau, and a Métis community at Kelly Lake.

A copy of the chief forester's allowable annual cut determination for the Dawson Creek timber supply area and a summary of public input on the timber supply review are available from the Ministry of Forests Web site at www.for.gov.bc.ca/tsb and at the following Forest Service offices:

- Peace forest district, 250-784-1200.
- Northern Interior forest region, 250-565-6100.

For more information on the timber supply review, visit www.for.gov.bc.ca/tsb on the Internet.

Visit the province's Web site at <http://www.gov.bc.ca/> for online information and services.

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