



INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Ministry of Forests and Range

COMMENTS INVITED ON 100 MILE HOUSE HARVEST OPTIONS

VICTORIA – The Ministry of Forests and Range is inviting public comments until June 7 as part of an urgent timber supply review for the 100 Mile House timber supply area in response to the expanding impact of the mountain pine beetle infestation.

The review is exploring the implications of different harvest levels and strategies on the current and future timber supply in the 100 Mile House timber supply area. As part of the review, a range of scenarios was analyzed and described in a public discussion paper that was released today. The scenarios include:

- increasing the current allowable annual cut of 1.334 million cubic metres by about 40 per cent, to 1.87 million cubic metres, from 2006 to 2015; and
- increasing the cut to 2.6 million cubic metres for the first five years, then reducing this to 1.6 million cubic metres for the next five years.

Detailed timber supply modelling for the 100 Mile House timber supply area was completed for 20 years rather than the usual 250 years, because of the size and scope of the infestation. The analysis also looked at different harvesting scenarios and the impact each might have on the future timber supply.

The scenarios all consider other forest values, such as mule deer winter range and scenery, and most assume the harvest will focus on forest stands most affected by the beetle. The chief forester will consider these scenarios along with many other sources of information when determining the allowable annual cut.

The public discussion paper is available on the Ministry of Forests and Range website at www.for.gov.bc.ca/hts/tsa/tsa23/ or from the 100 Mile House forest district office at 300 South Cariboo Highway or the Southern Interior forest region office in Kamloops. The forest district also plans an open house in May – for more information, call 250-395-7800.

Under the comprehensive timber supply review, the chief forester must determine how much wood can be harvested in each of British Columbia's 37 timber supply areas and 34 tree farm licences at least once every five years. The chief forester can postpone a determination for up to five more years if the annual harvest is not expected to change significantly or set a new harvest level earlier to deal with abnormal situations such as insect infestations or wildfires.

Each allowable annual cut determination is an independent professional judgment based on information ranging from technical forestry reports and public input to government's social and economic objectives.

Visit www.for.gov.bc.ca/hts for information about the timber supply process, and www.gov.bc.ca/pinebeetle to learn more about mountain pine beetles.

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