CUT LEVEL UNCHANGED FOR MISSION

VICTORIA – The allowable annual cut for Tree Farm Licence 26, held by the District of Mission, remains the same at 45,000 cubic metres, deputy chief forester Melanie Boyce announced today.

“The current cut level is sustainable and reflects objectives for the full range of forest-based values, including water quality, biodiversity and wildlife,” said Boyce. “After a comprehensive review of the timber supply, I found there was no need to change the cut.”

Tree Farm Licence 26 is one of two municipally held tree farm licences in the province. The District of Mission acquired the licence in 1958, located just north of Mission. While the total area of the licence is 10,564 hectares, only 7,236 hectares are available for timber harvesting.

The deputy 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 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 social and economic issues.

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 ten 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 level is not expected to change significantly.

Copies of the deputy chief forester’s allowable annual cut determination are available on the Ministry of Forests and Range website at www.for.gov.bc.ca/hts/ or from the Chilliwack forest district office or the Coast Forest Region office in Nanaimo.

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