VICTORIA – The allowable annual cut for Tree Farm Licence 3 in the West Kootenay area remains at 80,000 cubic metres, deputy chief forester Melanie Boyce announced today.

“This tree farm licence area continues to have a stable timber supply and therefore after reviewing all the current information and comprehensive new analysis, I have maintained the harvest level,” said Boyce. “I'm confident that this level of cut can be sustained for the next 10 years and reflects local social and environment objectives for the area.”

Tree Farm Licence 3 covers about 79,000 hectares near the village of Slocan, approximately 70 km north of Castlegar.

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 considers 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 10 years. A new allowable annual cut may be determined earlier in response to abnormal situations or if new information significantly alters the assumptions used to make the current determination.

Tree farm licences are area-based tenures issued under the Forest Act, and give the licensee rights to manage Crown timber for sustained yield for 25 years. The licensee manages the area under the general supervision of the Ministry of Forests and Range and receives approval from the ministry for harvesting activities.

Copies of the deputy chief forester’s allowable annual cut determination are available on the Ministry of Forests and Range website at [http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hts/](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hts/) or from the Arrow Boundary Forest District office in Castlegar or the Southern Interior Forest Region office in Kamloops.

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