
NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Forests and Range

DEPUTY CHIEF FORESTER INCREASES AAC FOR TFL 8

VICTORIA – The allowable annual cut for tree farm licence 8, near Grand Forks, will increase by about six per cent to 186,000 cubic metres, deputy chief forester Melanie Boyce announced today.

The increase takes effect April 1, 2009. The previous allowable annual cut was 175,000 cubic metres.

“I’ve reviewed the timber supply analysis, which shows higher harvest levels are possible in the future,” Boyce said. “At this time, I’m confident the new harvest level can accommodate objectives for forest resources over the next five years. I also considered mountain pine beetle concerns and expect the licensee to continue harvesting as much pine as possible to help prevent the beetle from reaching an epidemic level in this tree farm licence area.

“The small increase in harvest level should sufficiently address any beetle issues and still ensure a sustainable, stable timber supply for mid- and longer-term needs.”

If the mountain pine beetle infestation grows more than anticipated, or additional information significantly changes circumstances, the deputy chief forester is prepared to make a new decision before the next regular AAC determination.

Tree farm licence 8 is held by International Forest Products Limited and covers about 77,480 hectares in south-central B.C. Administered by the Arrow Boundary Forest District, tree farm licence 8 provides employment and economic benefits to the nearby communities of Greenwood, Grand Forks, Midway, Rock Creek and Beaverdell.

The deputy chief forester’s determination is an independent professional judgment based on information ranging from technical forestry reports, First Nations input, and government’s social and economic goals. The timber supply review accounts for environmental factors such as biodiversity (which includes old-growth forests), wildlife, 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 five years. A new allowable annual cut may be determined earlier in response to abnormal situations or postponed for another five years if a harvest 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 Arrow Boundary Forest District office in Castlegar.

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