

AUDIT OF FOREST PLANNING AND PRACTICES

Gitxsan Forest Licence Inc.
Forest Licence A16831

APRIL 2022
FPB/ARC/248



**Forest
Practices
Board**

BC'S INDEPENDENT
WATCHDOG FOR
SOUND FOREST &
RANGE PRACTICES

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Board Commentary

As part of its annual audit program, the Board conducted a full scope compliance audit of Gitxsan Forest Licence Inc.'s forest licence A16831 in the Skeena Stikine Natural Resource District. This commentary is the Board's views about the audits findings and what they mean for sound forest practices in BC.

While the audit found that, overall, planning and practices generally complied with legislation, there were two areas requiring improvement noted, as well as one significant non-compliance related to not meeting free-growing obligations.

Achieving free growing is a pillar of BC's system of forest practices. Licensees are required by law to achieve free growing within a specified period of time on all areas harvested. Meeting this commitment is essential to maintain public confidence in BC's forest practices.

When a forest tenure is transferred, the legal and financial obligation to achieve free growing is transferred with it. This forest licence was transferred to new owners approximately three years ago. The new owners now have the legal responsibility to achieve free growing for stands harvested under the tenure.

This audit found that the licensee failed to meet free-growing requirements in 6 of the 10 cutblocks examined. This significant non-compliance stems from the failure to promptly reforest sites following harvest almost 20 years ago, when the previous owner of these licences faced financial difficulties and eventually went into receivership.

In situations where free-growing obligations are transferred with a tenure, it is critical that the new licensees be fully aware of the obligations. When free-growing obligations are not likely to be met, the licensee, well in advance of the date when free growing is required to be achieved, should work with the local Ministry of Forests office to develop a strategy to address the outstanding obligations.

The magnitude of the issues encountered warrants a significant effort by the licensee to address the risks they inherited when they acquired this licence. Some of the sites that have failed to meet free growing are remote, high-elevation sites with poor access, and where brush competition requires additional attention to establish seedlings and manage them to free growing. These factors will need to be taken into account by the licensee and the Ministry of Forests in order to develop an appropriate course of action for these cutblocks.

Audit Results

Introduction

The Forest Practices Board is the public's watchdog for sound forest and range practices in British Columbia. One of the Board's roles is to audit the practices of the forest industry to ensure compliance with the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA) and the *Wildfire Act*.

As part of the 2021 Forest Practices Board audit program, the Board randomly selected the Skeena Stikine Natural Resource District as the location of a full scope compliance audit. Within the district, the Board selected forest licence (FL) A16831, held by Gitxsan Forest Licence Inc. (GFLI), for audit.

This report explains what the Board audited and the results. Detailed information about the Board's compliance audit process is provided in Appendix 1.



The Village of Hazelton at the confluence of the Skeena and Bulkley Rivers.

Background

FL A16831 is a volume based tenureⁱ in the Kispiox timber supply area (TSA) portion of the Skeena Stikine Natural Resource District. GFLI purchased FL A16831 from Gitxsan Forests Inc. in March 2018. The purchase transferred all rights and obligations associated with the licence, including free-growing legacy issues, accumulated under previous owners.¹

The Kispiox TSA covers approximately 1.22 million hectares in the northwest Interior of British Columbia. The TSA is administered by staff in the Skeena-Stikine Natural Resource District office, located in Smithers.

FL A16831 falls within the territories of six First Nations (Gitxsan, Gitanyow, Kitselas, Lake Babine, Skii km Lax Ha, and Wet'suwet'en) and the Nisga'a Treaty Nass Wildlife Area, and the Forest Practices Board recognizes their deep connection with the land that continues to this day.

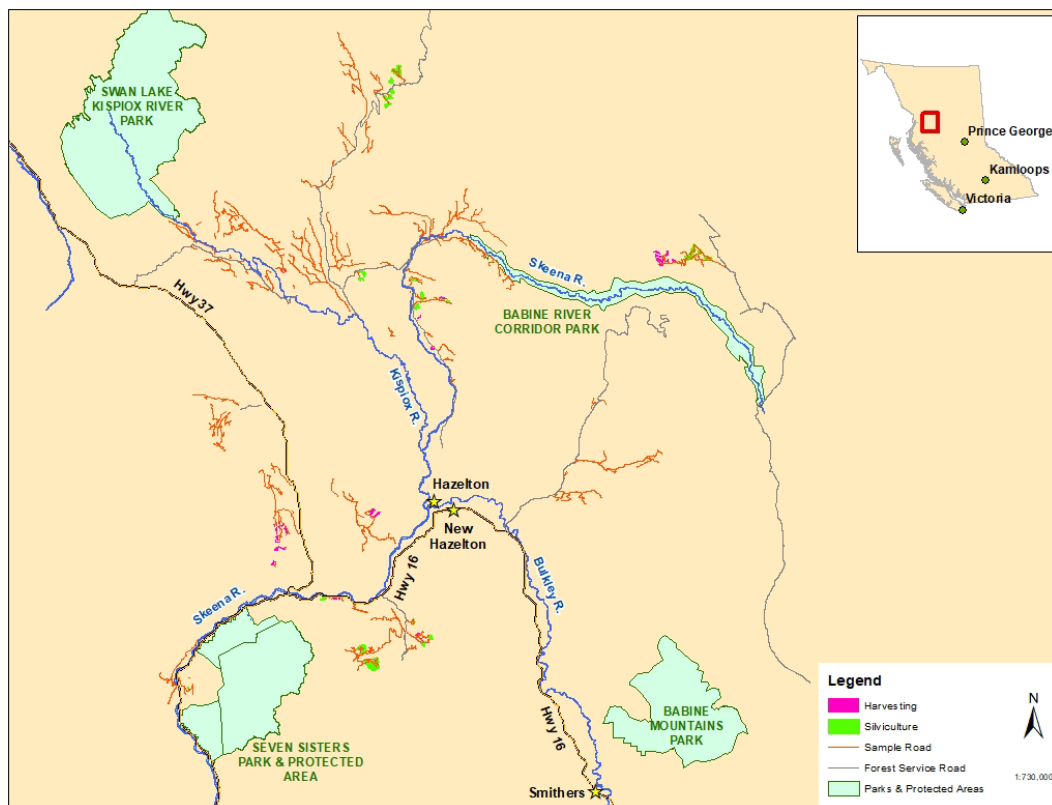
¹ Since 1992, owners of FL A16831 included Westshore Terminals Ltd., Repap Carnaby Inc., Repap British Columbia Inc., Skeena Cellulose Inc., NWBC Timber & Pulp Ltd., Gitxsan Forest Enterprises Inc., Gitxsan Forest Inc., and Gitxsan Forest Licence Inc.

The general topography of the Kispiox TSA consists of mountain ranges with wide intervening river valleys. The TSA surrounds the confluence of the Skeena and Bulkley rivers, and the Babine and Kispiox rivers are also major features. To the south, the TSA is bounded by the Rocher Deboile and Seven Sisters mountain ranges, and to the north by the Sicintine watershed and Kispiox River headwaters. To the west are the Hazelton mountain range, and to the east is the North Babine mountain range.

The forests of the Kispiox TSA are diverse and many tree species are commercially harvested and processed into a variety of wood products. Within the land base available for timber harvesting, forests are dominated by hemlock and subalpine fir. Spruce (Engelmann, white and hybrid), lodgepole pine, western red cedar, amabilis fir and cottonwood are also commonly found.

The diverse forests of the Kispiox TSA are home to an abundance of wildlife species including grizzly bear, moose, mule deer, and mountain goat, as well as songbirds, raptors, owls, and many other smaller mammal species. The Skeena River and its tributaries are a highly productive system for many fish species, providing important spawning habitat and migration routes for chinook, coho, sockeye and pink salmon. Other rivers and lakes in the TSA provide habitat for steelhead, bull trout, Dolly Varden, and lake trout.

Map of the Audit Area



Audit Approach and Scope

This was a full scope compliance audit with a two-year timeframe. All activities GFLI carried out between October 1, 2019, and October 7, 2021, were subject to audit. These activities included operational planning (forest stewardship plan (FSP)ⁱⁱ and site plans), harvesting, silviculture, wildfire protection and associated planning, and the construction, maintenance, and deactivation of roads and major structures.ⁱⁱⁱ

Auditors assessed these activities for compliance with FRPA, the *Wildfire Act*, applicable regulations, and legal orders. This work included interviewing GFLI staff, reviewing GFLI's FSP and site plans, assessing GFLI's records, and conducting site visits with GFLI staff to review field practices. Sites were accessed by truck and by helicopter. Two

forest professionals, one forest professional/geoscientist, and a chartered professional accountant made up the audit team. The audit team was in the field from October 4 to 7, 2021.

The standards and procedures used to carry out this audit are set out in the Board's *Compliance Audit Reference Manual, Version 7.1, July 2016*.

Planning and Practices Examined

Operational Planning

GFLI planned its activities under an approved FSP that expires on August 31, 2023. Auditors examined the FSP to determine if the results and strategies committed to are consistent with the applicable legal orders. These legal orders include government objectives for biodiversity, cultural and heritage resources, wildlife, botanical forest products, water quality, tourism and recreation, visual quality, and industrial activity.

Auditors reviewed GFLI's site plans during harvesting, road, and silviculture field sampling to ensure that they accurately identified site conditions.

Timber Harvesting

GFLI harvested 29 cutblocks during the audit period. Auditors examined 15 of these cutblocks.

Road and Major Structure Construction, Maintenance and Deactivation

GFLI constructed, maintained and deactivated roads and bridges during the audit period. Table 1 shows the populations and the sample examined by the auditors.

TABLE 1. Population and Sample for Road and Bridge Activities

ACTIVITY	POPULATION	SAMPLE
	(Kilometres)	(Kilometres)
Road Construction	43.7	26.6
Road Maintenance	893.5	314.2
Road Deactivation	4.3	4.3
	(Structures)	(Structures)
Bridge & Major Culvert Construction	4	3
Bridge & Major Culvert Maintenance	70	39
Bridge & Major Culvert Deactivation	3	2

Silviculture Obligations and Activities

GFLI conducted planting and brushing activities and had regeneration and free-growing obligations during the audit period.

TABLE 2. Population and Sample for Silviculture Activities and Obligations

OBLIGATIONS AND ACTIVITIES	POPULATION	SAMPLE
	(Cutblocks)	(Cutblocks)
Planting	13	13
Brushing	4	3
Regeneration Obligations (due or declared)	20	20
Free-growing Obligations (due or declared)	10	10

Wildfire Protection

Auditors examined fire hazard assessment and abatement activities. There were no sites with industrial activity during field sampling for auditors to examine fire preparedness.

TABLE 3. Population and Sample for Wildfire Activities

ACTIVITY	POPULATION	SAMPLE
	(Cutblocks)	(Cutblocks)
Fire Hazard Assessment	19	12
Fire Hazard Abatement	6	3

Findings

The audit found that GFLI's planning and practices generally complied with FRPA and the *Wildfire Act* as of September 2021. However, the audit identified a significant non-compliance related to not meeting free-growing obligations, and two opportunities for improvement for not updating silviculture data and not completing required fire hazard assessments within the timeframe required by legislation.

Silviculture Activities and Obligations

GFLI planted cutblocks with suitable tree species and stock, within the required timeframe, and within approved seed transfer limits. GFLI generally plants as soon after harvest as possible with reasonable planting densities to minimize the risk associated with the high vegetative competition. GFLI declares regeneration obligations met at the time of planting.

Free-Growing Obligations

Section 44 of the *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation* (FPPR)^{iv} requires that free growing be achieved before the late free-growing date has passed. The FPPR states that harvested areas must meet the free-growing stocking standards and free-growing height by a date that is no more than 20 years from the commencement date. Forest licensees have the option of using a blanket 20-year free-growing date in their FSP. However, if a date other than 20 years is approved in the FSP, then that is the date that the licensee is obligated to meet. In this instance, the approved FSP commits GFLI to establishing a free-growing stand within 11, 14, 15 or 20 years of commencement of harvesting, depending on the ecosystem.

Six of the ten blocks the auditors examined had not reached free-growing within the time period required by the legislation. These are all legacy blocks that were not planted following harvesting, by the previous licensee that owned the tenure from 1997 to 2004, and are now the responsibility of GFLI. As this is a pervasive issue, this non-compliance is considered significant.

Subsequent to the audit, GFLI stated they have submitted site plan amendments and retained a consultant to develop a mitigation plan with a goal to engage with ministry staff to address these legacy concerns.

Silviculture Reporting

Section 86 of the FPPR^v requires GFLI to accurately report all silviculture activities in a timely manner. The Province requires licensees to report using the government's Reporting Silviculture Updates and Land Status Tracking System (RESULTS).^{vi} GFLI did not report three silviculture cutblocks into RESULTS at all, and did not report the number of seedlings planted outside the seed transfer guidelines on two other cutblocks within the time required by legislation. This is considered an opportunity for improvement.

Subsequent to the audit, GFLI updated the RESULTS information for the three cutblocks that it previously failed to report on.

Operational Planning

The FSP is consistent with legal requirements, including the FPPR and legal orders that apply to forest practices in the audit area. Planning was consistent with the FSP. GFLI addressed site-specific resources in the site plans by accurately identifying and prescribing practices for resource features, including streams, soil disturbance limits, wetlands, recreation and visual quality. GFLI completed assessments at the landscape and operational (cutblock) levels where required.

There were no issues with operational planning.

Timber Harvesting

GFLI conducted harvesting in accordance with the requirements of legislation and site plans. All harvesting and road construction was outside of old growth management areas and mapped wildlife habitat areas. Most harvesting targeted green timber, although two cutblocks were harvested to salvage fire-killed timber. Natural drainage patterns were maintained and wildlife tree retention objectives were achieved. GFLI managed riparian areas along streams and non-classified drainages within cutblocks using machine-free zones and vegetation management adjacent to streams. Soil disturbance was below the limit specified in the FSP.

Auditors found no issues with harvesting.

Road and Major Structure Construction, Maintenance and Deactivation

Road Maintenance

All roads sampled were well constructed. Road construction used a conventional cut and fill construction technique. GFLI maintained natural drainage patterns on the road segments reviewed and there was no evidence of erosion or slope failures associated with the constructed roads. The roads were structurally sound and safe for industrial use.

Road Deactivation

GFLI removed culverts, maintained natural drainage and barricaded access. Auditors did not observe any cut bank or fill slope failures on the deactivated roads.

Bridge and Major Culvert Construction

Auditors field reviewed three new bridges and found they were well constructed. All required documentation was complete, accurate and compliant with legislation.

Bridge and Major Culvert Maintenance

GFLI adequately maintained bridges and culverts. GFLI regularly inspects bridges and the auditors did not observe any adverse environmental impacts.

Bridge and Major Culvert Deactivation

GFLI deactivated two bridges and the work was well done. Stream banks were grass seeded, mitigating the potential for sediment delivery into the stream channels.

Auditors found no issues with road and bridge construction, maintenance or deactivation.

Hazard Assessment and Abatement

Auditors evaluated all cutblocks in the harvest audit sample for compliance with hazard assessment and abatement requirements of the *Wildfire Act*.

The *Wildfire Act* requires licensees to assess the fire hazard at specified intervals, including an assessment of the fuel hazard and its associated risk of a fire starting or spreading. Licensees must provide a copy of a fire hazard assessment to an official when requested.^{vii} If an assessment identifies a hazard, it must be abated.

Auditors requested the fire hazard assessments for 10 cutblocks. GFLI acknowledged it did not have a consistent system for completing and documenting fire hazard assessments within the prescribed timeframes. As a result, it did not complete fire hazard assessments for these cutblocks.

Despite the shortfalls in the assessment process, auditors found that GFLI abated fire hazards in a timely and effective manner. While GFLI is abating the fire hazard as a standard practice, it cannot demonstrate diligence in assessing the hazard, which is a non-compliance with the *Wildfire Act*. Auditors do not consider this non-compliance significant, since fuel hazards are being abated in an effective manner. As a result, this is an area requiring improvement.

On those cutblocks where abatement had not yet occurred but harvesting was complete, slash was piled in a manner that would allow fuel hazard reduction by burning.

Subsequent to the audit, GFLI completed all outstanding fire hazard assessments. In addition, GFLI stated that it has now set up a formal and consistent process for documentation of fire hazard assessments and will review all active operations to ensure these assessments are completed within the legislated timeframes.

Audit Opinion

In my opinion, except for the issues identified below, the operational planning, timber harvesting, road and bridge construction, maintenance and deactivation, silviculture, and fire protection activities carried out by Gitxsan Forest Licence Inc. on forest licence A16831 between October 1, 2019, and October 7, 2021, complied in all significant respects with the requirements of the *Forest and Range Practices Act*, the *Wildfire Act* and related regulations, as of September 2021.

In reference to compliance, the term “in all significant respects” recognizes that there may be minor instances of non-compliance that either may not be detected by the audit, or that are detected but not considered worthy of inclusion in the audit report.

As described in the *Free-Growing Obligations* section of the report, the audit identified a significant non-compliance related to not meeting free-growing obligations.

Without further qualifying my opinion, I draw attention to the *Silviculture Reporting* and the *Hazard Assessment and Abatement* sections of the report, which describe two areas requiring improvement.

The *Audit Approach and Scope* and the *Planning and Practices Examined* sections of this report describe the basis of the audit work performed in reaching the above conclusion. The audit was conducted in accordance with the auditing standards of the Forest Practices Board, including adherence to the auditor independence standards and the ethical requirements, which are founded on fundamental principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence and due care, confidentiality and professional behaviour. Such an audit includes examining sufficient forest planning and practices to support an overall evaluation of compliance with *FRPA*, and *Wildfire Act*.



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Auditor of Record

Victoria, British Columbia
March 8, 2022

Appendix 1:

Forest Practices Board's Compliance Audit Process

Background

The Forest Practices Board conducts audits of government and agreement-holders under section 122 of the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA) and section 68 of the *Wildfire Act*. Compliance audits examine forest or range planning and practices to determine whether or not they comply with the applicable requirements of FRPA and the *Wildfire Act*. The Board conducts 6-8 compliance audits annually. Most of these are audits of agreement holders. The Board also audits the government's BC Timber Sales Program (BCTS).

Selection of Auditees

To begin with, auditors randomly select an area of the Province, such as a natural resource district. Then the auditors review the forest resources, geographic features, operating conditions and other factors in the area selected. These are considered in conjunction with the Board's strategic priorities, and the type of audit is determined. At this stage, auditors choose the auditee(s) that best suit(s) the selected risk and priorities.

For example, in 2016, the Board randomly selected the Dawson Creek portion of the Peace Natural Resource District as a location for an audit. After assessing the activities within the area, auditors noted that there were two community forest agreements that had not yet been audited by the Board. As the Board strives to audit an array of licence types and sizes each year, these two community forest agreements were selected for audit.

For BCTS audits, a district or timber supply area within 1 of the 12 BCTS business areas in the province is selected randomly for audit. The audit selections are not based on past performance.

Only those licensees or BCTS operations that have not been audited by the Board in the past five years are eligible for selection.

Audit Standards

The audits are conducted in accordance with auditing standards developed by the Board. These standards include adherence to the auditor independence standards and the ethical requirements, which are founded on fundamental principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence and due care, confidentiality and professional behaviour and are consistent with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. The standards for compliance audits are described in the Board's Compliance Audit Reference Manual.

Audit Process

Conducting the Audit

Once the Board randomly selects an area or district and determines the scope of audit to be conducted and the licensee(s) to be audited, all activities carried out during the period subject to audit are identified (such as harvesting, replanting, road construction, road deactivation). Items that make up each forest activity are referred to as a population. For example, all sites harvested form the timber harvesting population and all road sections constructed form the road construction population.

The auditors select a separate sample for each population (e.g., the cutblocks selected for auditing timber harvesting). Within each population, more audit effort (i.e., more audit sampling) is allocated to areas where the risk of non-compliance is greater. For smaller audits, the sample will include the full population. Auditors also consider factors such as geographic distribution and values potentially affected by activities to ensure an adequate sample.

Auditors' work includes interviewing licensee staff, reviewing the auditee's applicable plans, reviewing applicable government orders, assessing some features from helicopters and measuring specific features like riparian reserve zone widths using ground procedures. The audit teams generally spend three to five days in the field.

Evaluating the Results

The Board recognizes that compliance with the requirements of FRPA and the *Wildfire Act* is more a matter of degree than absolute adherence. Determining compliance, and assessing the significance of non-compliance, requires the exercise of professional judgment within the direction provided by the Board.

The audit team, composed of professionals and technical experts, first determines whether forest practices comply with legal requirements. For those practices considered to not be in compliance, the audit team then evaluates the significance of the non-compliance, based on a number of criteria, including the magnitude of the event, the frequency of its occurrence and the severity of the consequences.

Auditors categorize their findings into the following levels of compliance:

Compliance – where the auditor finds that practices meet FRPA and *Wildfire Act* requirements.

Unsound Practice – where the auditor identifies a significant practice that, although in compliance with FRPA or the *Wildfire Act*, is not considered to be sound management.

Not significant non-compliance – where the auditor, upon reaching a non-compliance conclusion, determines that one or more non-compliance event(s) is not significant and not generally worthy of reporting. However, in certain circumstances, these events may be reported as an area requiring improvement.

Significant non-compliance – where the auditor determines a non-compliance event(s) or condition(s) is, or has the potential to be, significant and is considered worthy of reporting.

Significant breach – where the auditor finds that significant harm has occurred, or is beginning to occur, to persons or the environment as a result of one or more non-compliance events.

If a significant breach of the legislation has occurred, the auditor is required by the *Forest Practices Board Regulation* to immediately advise the Board, the party being audited, and the responsible Minister(s).

Reporting

Based on the above evaluation, the auditor then prepares a draft audit report. The party being audited is given a copy of the draft report for review and comment before it is submitted to the Board.

The Board reviews the draft report and determines if the audit findings may adversely affect any party or person. If so, the party or person must be given an opportunity to make representations before the Board decides the matter and issues a final report. The opportunity to make representations allows parties that may potentially be adversely affected to present their views to the Board.

The Board reviews representations from parties that may potentially be adversely affected, makes any necessary changes to the report, and decides if recommendations are warranted. The report is then finalized and released: first to the auditee and then to the public and government seven days later.

ENDNOTES

ⁱ An area-based tenure are timber harvesting tenures covering specific tracks of Crown forest. While the area of the tenure normally remains unchanged, the allowable annual cut is reviewed at least every five years and may change up or down at the discretion of the chief forester. Examples include timber licence, tree farm licence, woodlot licence, and community forest.”

A volume-based tenure grants licensees the right to harvest a set volume (cubic metres) of timber within a specified timber supply area each year for the term of the licence; allows several licensees to operate in the same management unit. Examples include the larger and more common forest licence and the timber sale licence.

ⁱⁱ A forest stewardship plan (FSP) is a key planning element in the FRPA framework and the only plan subject to public review and comment and government approval. In its FSP, GFLI is required to identify results and/or strategies consistent with government objectives for values such as water, wildlife and soils. These results and strategies must be measurable and once approved are subject to government enforcement. FSPs identify areas within which road construction and harvesting will occur but are not required to show the specific locations of future roads and cutblocks. FSPs can have a term of up to five years.

ⁱⁱⁱ Major structure includes bridges and major culverts.

- Bridge means a temporary or permanent crossing structure with a span length equal to or greater than 6 metres or an abutment height of 4 metres or greater.
- Major culvert has a pipe diameter of 2 metres or greater or is a pipe or open bottom arch with a span greater than 2.13 metres.

^{iv} *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation*

44 Free growing stands generally

- (1) A person who has an obligation to establish a free growing stand must establish, for areas that have been identified under section 16 (1) [*stocking standards*] as areas to which this section will apply, a stand that
- (a) meets the applicable stocking standards set out in the forest stewardship plan for the area, by the applicable regeneration date specified for the area, and
 - (b) meets the applicable stocking standards and free growing height set out in the forest stewardship plan for the area by a free growing date that is no more than 20 years from the commencement date, unless the minister permits a later free growing date.
- (2) If an agreement holder contravenes section 52 (1) [*unauthorized timber harvesting*] of the Act, the holder must establish, on the area on which the contravention occurred, a stand that meets the requirements specified in the holder's forest stewardship plan for an area with similar attributes, as if the area on which the contravention occurred had been identified under section 16 (1) as being subject to this section.
- (3) A person is exempt from the requirements of section 29 (1) and (2) [*free growing stands*] of the Act in respect of an area if timber harvesting is restricted to one or more of the following:
- (a) harvesting timber to eliminate a safety hazard;
 - (b) harvesting timber to facilitate the collection of seed, leaving an opening not greater than 1 ha;
 - (c) removing felled trees from landings and road rights of way;
 - (d) harvesting trees on land that is, or will be, exclusively used for harvesting hay or grazing livestock in accordance with an agreement under the *Range Act*;
 - (e) harvesting timber for experimental purposes if, in the opinion of the minister, the harvesting will be carried out under controlled scientific or investigative conditions;
 - (f) clearing areas for or within a recreation site or recreation trail;
 - (g) felling and removing trees that have been or will be treated to facilitate the entrapment of pests;
 - (h) commercial thinning, removal of individual trees, or a similar type of intermediate cutting;
 - (i) harvesting special forest products other than woodchips or hogged tree material.
- (4) A person who harvests timber for the reasons referred to in subsection (3) (h) and (i) must ensure that, for a period of 12 months after completion of harvest, the area on which timber harvesting was carried out conforms to the stocking standards specified in section 16 (4) for the area.

^v *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation*

86 Annual reports

(1) In this section and in section 86.1:

"location" means the approximate location;

"reporting period", in respect of the year in which the report referred to in subsections (2) to (5) is to be furnished, means the 12 month period beginning on April 1 of the immediately preceding calendar year.

(2) Repealed. [B.C. Reg. 104/2008, s. 1 (a) (ii).]

(3) Before June 1 of each year, an agreement holder must report to the district manager

- (a) for each area in which timber harvesting was completed during the reporting period and to which section 29 of the Act applies or to which section 44 (4) of this regulation applies, the following information:
 - (i) the area in which the harvesting occurred;
 - (ii) the amount of area that was harvested;
 - (iii) an update of the forest cover inventory;
 - (iv) the location and approximate size of all associated wildlife tree retention areas,
- (b) the location of any resource feature or wildlife habitat feature in or contiguous to a cutblock or road of which feature the holder is aware during the reporting period if
 - (i) the holder has not, in a previous reporting period, reported the resource feature or wildlife habitat feature, and
 - (ii) the order establishing the resource feature or wildlife habitat feature requires the location of the resource feature or wildlife habitat feature to be reported under this section,
- (c) the pertinent information about seeds used during the reporting period to grow seedlings planted by the holder in cutblocks on the land to which the agreement pertains,
- (d) an update of the forest cover inventory for each area in which during the reporting period
 - (i) the requirements for the regeneration date have been met,
 - (ii) the requirements for the regeneration date have not been met but the regeneration date has passed,
 - (iii) a free growing stand has been declared under section 97 or 97.1 of this regulation or the requirements of section 46.11 (2) (b) of this regulation have been met, or
 - (iv) a free growing stand has not been established, but the free growing date has passed, and
- (e) a summary of any silviculture treatments that were carried out during the reporting period.

^{vi} The RESULTS application tracks silviculture information by managing the submission of openings, disturbances, silviculture activities, and obligation declarations as required by the forest and range practices legislation.

^{vii} **Wildfire Act - Hazard assessment and abatement** - Section 7 (1) of the *Wildfire Act* states “In prescribed circumstances and at prescribed intervals, a person carrying out an industrial activity or a prescribed activity on forest land or grass land or within 1 km of forest land or grass land must conduct fire hazard assessments.”

Wildfire Regulation - Hazard Assessment - Section 11(3) of the *Wildfire Regulation* states “Subject to subsection (3.1) of this section, the prescribed intervals, at which persons described in section 7 (1) of the Act must conduct fire hazard assessments, are

- (a) 6 month intervals during the period during which the persons, in any area other than the area described in subsection (2), are carrying on the industrial activity or the prescribed activity, and
- (b) the shorter interval between the most recent 6-month interval and the date on which the activity ceases for an expected period of 6 months or more.”



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