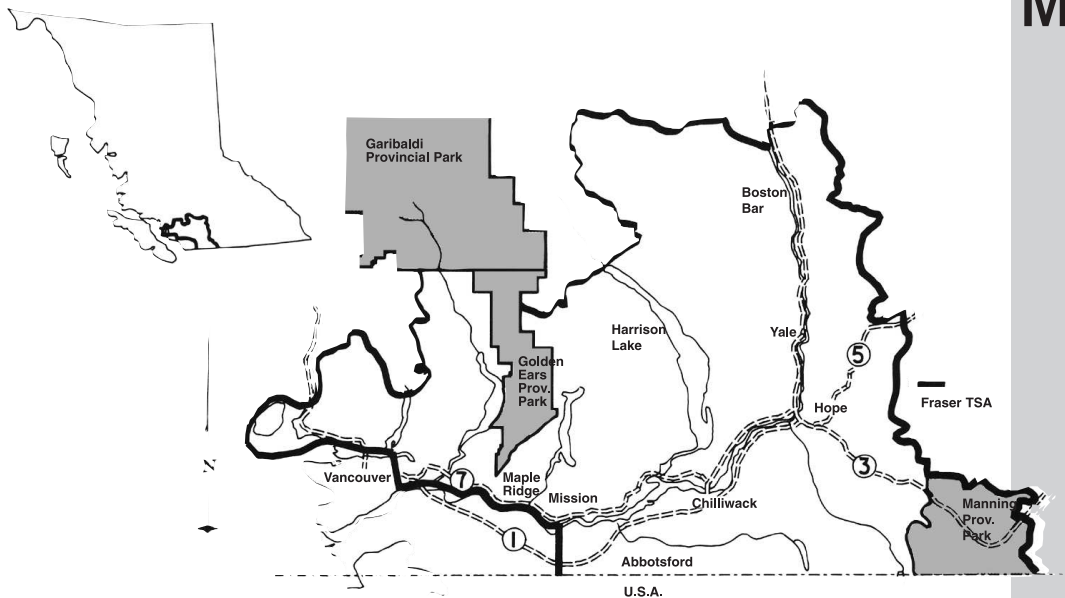


Timber Supply Review

Fraser Timber Supply Area Information Report

May 1997



Introduction

The British Columbia Forest Service is required by law to formally review the timber supply* in all timber supply areas* and tree farm licence areas* in the province. A review of each of the areas is completed at least once every five years. The main objectives of the five-year reviews are to:

- identify the economic, environmental and social information that reflects the current forest management practices*— including their effects on the short- and long-term timber supply
- identify where improved information is required for future timber supply forecasts
- provide the chief forester with information to make any necessary adjustments to the allowable annual cuts* for the next five years

* Throughout this document, an asterisk at the end of a phrase or word indicates a definition can be found in the margin.

Objective of this document

The objective of this document is to provide an opportunity for public review of the draft data and management assumptions that will be applied in reviewing the timber supply for the Fraser timber supply area. This document represents the early stages of the timber supply review process and is intended to provide a non-technical overview of the draft data and management assumptions that will be used in the upcoming *Fraser Timber Supply Area Analysis Report*.

The *Fraser Timber Supply Area Analysis Report* will be one of the documents that the chief forester will consider in making the allowable annual cut determination under Section 8 of the *Forest Act*. Public input is encouraged in order to ensure the best information is used in determining allowable annual cuts.

This report contains a general description of the data assumptions and current forest management practices related to timber supply for the Fraser timber supply area. For the purpose of this timber supply review, current practice can be defined as the set of land-use decisions and forest management practices that are currently implemented and enforced. Future forest management objectives that may be established, but are not currently implemented and enforced, are not included.

The draft data and management assumptions are summarized on pages 7 - 9. For a more detailed description of the information, please contact the Chilliwack Forest District Office and request a copy of the data package. The public will have 30 days to review and comment on the information report and data package. A response form at the end of this document will assist you in providing your comments. Written comments will be accepted until June 30 1997.

Timber Supply Review Process

In British Columbia, a process of determining allowable annual cuts has been in place since the late 1940s. However, the process has changed significantly since then. More recently, the process has had some minor revisions designed to improve efficiency and encourage earlier public review through the release of this report.

Figure 1 (next page) illustrates the five-step process that has been developed for the Timber Supply Review for timber supply areas. The diagram indicates the current status of the timber supply review for the Fraser timber supply area, and the estimated time required for each step.

The process for reviewing the timber supply and establishing the allowable annual cut for tree farm licence areas is based on similar principles; however, the process takes 30 months from start to completion.

Timber supply

A harvest level that is forecasted to be available over time, under a particular management regime.

Timber supply area

An area of Crown land defined in accordance with the *Forest Act*, primarily based on an established pattern of wood flow from the forest to the primary timber-using industries.

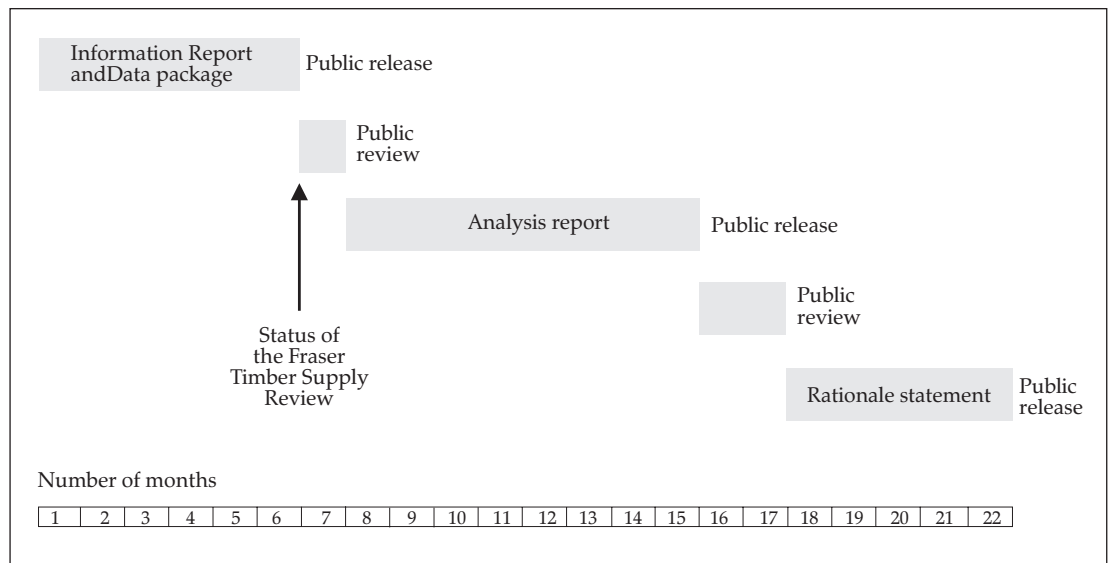
Tree farm licence

An agreement entered into with the provincial government which provides for the establishment, management and harvesting of timber by a private interest on a defined area of Crown land in accordance with the *Forest Act*.

Timber Supply Review

in the Fraser TSA

Figure 1. Review process for the Fraser timber supply area.



The chief forester's responsibility

Determining the allowable annual cuts for Crown forest lands in British Columbia is the responsibility of the province's chief forester. It is one of the chief forester's most important responsibilities since it affects the local and provincial economies and environment—now and in the future. Section 8 of the *Forest Act* requires the chief forester to consider the following factors to determine allowable annual cuts for timber supply areas and tree farm licence areas:

- a) the rate of timber production that may be sustained from the area, taking into account:
 - the composition of the forest and its expected rate of growth
 - the time in which the forest will become re-established
 - silvicultural treatments, including reforestation
 - standards of timber utilization
 - constraints on the amount of timber produced from the area due to use of the forest for purposes other than timber production
 - any other information which relates to the capability of the area to produce timber

- b) the short- and long-term implications to the province of alternative rates of timber harvesting from the area
- c) the nature, production capabilities and timber requirements of established and proposed processing facilities
- d) the economic and social objectives of the Crown for the area, the region and the province, as expressed by the minister of forests
- e) abnormal insect or disease infestations and major salvage programs planned for the timber on the area

Some of these factors can be measured and analyzed—others cannot. Ultimately, the chief forester's determination is an independent, professional judgement based on the best information that is available. Information that is relevant to the factors listed above is provided to the chief forester by government agencies, the minister of forests and the public.

One of the objectives of the Timber Supply Review is to incorporate change arising from new information, new practices and new government initiatives that may have an impact on timber supply. In the event of significant change, the allowable annual cut may be reviewed in less than the required five years.

Following the release of the allowable annual cut determination by the chief

Allowable annual cut

The rate of timber harvest permitted each year from a specified area of land, usually expressed as cubic metres of wood per year.

forester, the minister of forests apportions the cut to the various licences and programs.

Principles of the Timber Supply Review

In determining allowable annual cuts—in addition to the requirements outlined in Section 8 of the *Forest Act*—the following principles have been developed for the Timber Supply Review:

- is a decision-making process for establishing the allowable annual cut for tree farm licence areas and timber supply areas by the chief forester on a maximum five-year cycle, as required under Section 8 of the *Forest Act*. **It is not a process for making land-use or management decisions**
- incorporates the best information available including all relevant current practices, and identifies where new information is needed
- reflects the results of implemented plans and land-use decisions, and provides a benchmark for future planning processes
- involves other agencies, affected groups, and the public

Description of the timber supply area

The Fraser timber supply area is situated in the southwest portion of the province. The unit is bounded by the United States border to the south, the Straits of Georgia to the west, the community of Keefers in the Fraser Canyon to the north and Manning Provincial Park to the east. Administered by the Chilliwack Forest District office in Rosedale,

this timber supply area covers approximately 1.17 million hectares.

The community

The Fraser timber supply area includes the most densely populated area in the province, encompassing the major population centres of the lower mainland and Fraser Valley. In addition, there are a number of smaller resource-based rural communities in the outlying areas. In 1996, there were approximately 2.05 million people in the region, a 15 per cent increase over the 1991 population. The population is distributed among two regional districts: Greater Vancouver and Fraser Valley. The growth in the regional population which has occurred over the last decade is expected to continue.

The regional economy

The region's economy is well diversified with business and consumer services, manufacturing and the public sector predominate. Figure 2 shows employment by industry sector for the Fraser timber supply area. The figure suggests that the

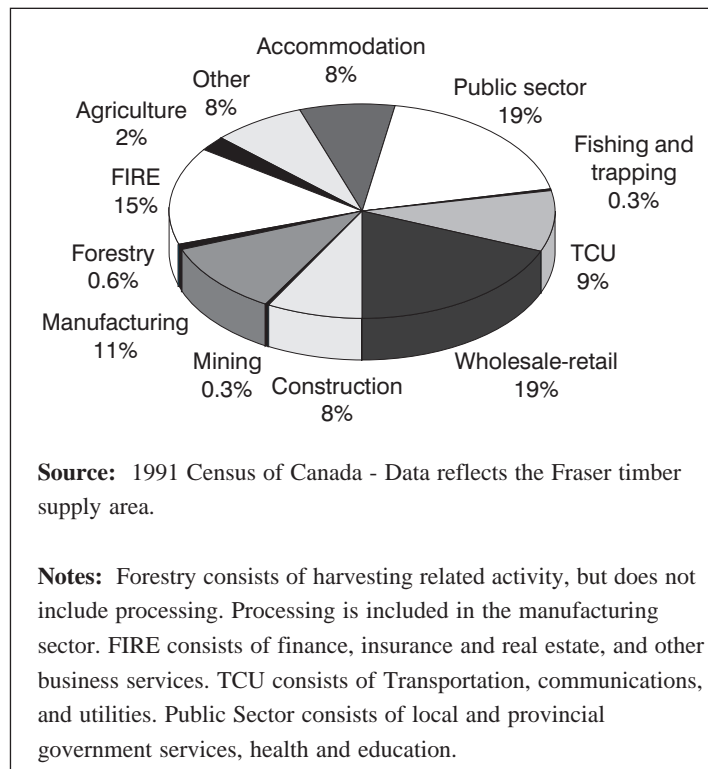


Figure 2. Employment by industry sector, 1991

**Protected Areas
Strategy**

A provincial initiative to protect representative ecosystems and special features on a regional basis.

region's economy has a very minor dependence on forestry (forestry in Figure 2 consists of harvesting and other woodlands related employment). However, other direct and indirect forestry related activities are included in the transportation, business services, and manufacturing sectors. Research by the Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations indicates that, in 1991, direct and indirect forestry activity (including harvesting, processing, transport, and the forest industry supply and service sector) supported five per cent of the area's basic labour force.

The forest land resources

There are numerous natural forest resources associated with the Fraser timber supply area. Wildlife habitat, botanical forest products, recreation and forest products highlight the wide range of values and uses found in the Fraser timber supply area.

The forest products industry is an important source of employment and revenue in the Fraser timber supply area. From 1993 to 1996, the annual harvest in the Fraser timber supply area averaged approximately 1.5 million cubic metres, much of which was processed in the Fraser timber supply area. Many of the forest-related jobs in Fraser Valley communities are from the primary and manufacturing sectors. Less evident are the significant number of jobs generated by forestry firms in administration, marketing, log-handling and forest service sectors, all of which contribute to the Greater Vancouver and provincial economies.

The forest industry also contributes to provincial government revenues through stumpage payments, and other industry and employment related taxes. In 1996, forest companies in the Fraser timber supply area paid 19.6 million dollars in stumpage and rents to the provincial government. The province received a further eight million dollars from the forest industry in the form of logging, corporate income, sales, property and electricity taxes. As well, employees of forestry firms paid income tax and other taxes to the provincial government.

The manufacturing of forestry products accounts for roughly 15 per cent of manufacturing employment in the Vancouver region. Over 100 primary timber processing facilities and over 100 secondary value-added manufacturers operate in the Fraser timber supply area. While the Fraser timber supply area contributes only a portion of the wood processed at these facilities, it is an important source of fibre for the various mills located in the lower mainland and the Fraser Valley.

Tourism and recreation are also important in the Fraser timber supply area. This area provides easily accessible recreation opportunities to population centres in the lower mainland. Recent decisions as a result of the Lower Mainland Protected Areas Strategy* have increased the amount of areas protected in the Fraser timber supply area. The visual quality and value of the forest landscape is an important consideration in managing forest activities, especially along major highways and waterway corridors within the timber supply area.

The commercial harvesting of a number of various botanical forest products, such as wild mushrooms, salal and moss, is also an important activity in the Fraser timber supply area. However, the management of this resource is currently unregulated and there are many unanswered questions about the appropriate degree of regulation that might be applied in the future.

The environment

Despite the extent of urban and rural development and resource-use activities, the Fraser timber supply area still contains one of the richest and most diverse arrays of wildlife in Canada. More than 300 species of migratory and resident birds, 45 species of mammals and 16 species of amphibians and reptiles range throughout the area. Native mammals in the Fraser timber supply area include important species such as the mule and black-tail deer, black bear,

grizzly bear, pine marten and other fur-bearing species. The Northern spotted owl is designated as an endangered species in Canada. There are currently an estimated 100 pairs in southern British Columbia, most of which are in the Fraser timber supply area.

The rivers, streams and lakes of the lower Fraser Valley are inhabited by at least 87 species of resident, semi-resident migratory finfish and shellfish. The lower Fraser River and its tributaries are spawning and rearing grounds and migration corridors for commercially valuable chinook, chum, coho, pink and sockeye salmon. In addition, cut-throat, steelhead, Dolly Varden char, and white sturgeon are valuable fish species in the lower Fraser River.

First Nations

A large number of First Nations communities exist within the timber supply area: 34 individual bands and five tribal organizations have traditional territory in the area. Together they represent over 12,000 band members; this does not include non-status or aboriginal peoples from other areas currently living in the timber supply area. To date, seven statements of intent to negotiate land claims—that include parts of the Fraser timber supply area—have been filed with the Treaty Commission. It is expected that most of the First Nations in the area will enter the treaty commission process.

Cultural heritage inventory studies, which may identify special management areas, are currently underway in the timber supply area. When these studies are complete any necessary adjustments to the information used in determining the allowable annual cut will be made.

History of the allowable annual cut

On April 1, 1995 the chief forester reduced the allowable annual cut to 1,550,000 cubic metres from 1,765,000 cubic metres, a reduction of approximately 12 per cent. The harvest level includes a component of up to 57,000 cubic metres per year for deciduous (broad-leafed) tree species. At that time, the Spotted Owl Management Strategy and Protected Areas Strategy were not complete and only preliminary results of an inventory audit were available. As a result, the chief forester could not speculate on the potential impacts to timber supply from these three issues.

As part of the 1995 determination, the chief forester gave direction to resolve uncertainties with respect to the timber supply in the Fraser timber supply area. In preparation for the next allowable annual cut determination, the following issues were to be examined:

- **spotted owl management and protected areas strategy** - over the last few years it has become increasingly difficult to plan harvestable cutblocks in some parts of the timber supply area due to uncertainties about areas affected by the spotted owl management strategy, the protected areas strategy, and also by public sensitivity with respect to areas that border the urban communities and forest harvesting areas.

Since the April 1995 allowable annual cut determination, there have been many analyses and reports done with respect to the areas impacted by the spotted owl management and protected areas strategies. In June 1995, the Pinecone-Burke Protected Areas decision was announced. In August 1996, the Lower Mainland Protected Areas Strategy was announced and all the remaining study areas not designated as protected areas were removed from the list of candidates. The areas designated as protected will be removed from the timber harvesting land base* for the Fraser timber supply area.

Timber harvesting land base

Crown forest land within the timber supply area that is currently considered feasible and economical for timber harvesting.

**Integrated resource
management**

The identification and consideration of all resource values, including social, economic and environmental needs, in resource planning and decision-making.

Forest Practices Code

Legislation, standards, and guide books that govern forest practices and standards, with heavy penalties for violators. Implementation of the Code began on June 15, 1995.

More recently, the decision by government for the management of Northern spotted owl was released May 1997. As a result of the decision, new spotted owl management guidelines will be incorporated into the timber supply analysis.

- **estimates of existing forest volumes** - at the time of the last allowable annual cut determination, preliminary findings from an inventory audit indicated a likelihood that the existing forest volumes were overestimated.

In July 1996, the British Columbia Forest Service released the final results of the inventory audit which compared actual volumes measured in the field to the projected volume estimates. The audit results indicated an overestimation of volume (by approximately 23 per cent) for forests older than 60 years that are located in the timber harvesting land base.

A project team has developed a methodology for incorporating the audit results into the timber supply analysis. The report documenting the methodology, *Incorporation of the Inventory Audit in the Fraser Timber Supply Area, Timber Supply Review*, is available upon request from the Ministry of Forests offices listed at the back of this report.

- **visually sensitive areas**- in the 1993 timber supply analysis, 26 per cent of the timber harvesting land base was subject to forest cover requirements for visual sensitivity. It was noted in the last determination that the actual harvesting in these visually sensitive areas was less than was assumed in the timber supply analysis. As a result, licensees were encouraged to harvest permissible timber supplies within visually sensitive areas.

Since the previous allowable annual cut determination there has been a shift towards better distribution of planning and harvesting activities within these areas. It is expected that this trend will

continue based on recently submitted forest development plans. As a result of this improvement, no special measures will be applied in the timber supply analysis for this issue.

Note: For more information on these points, please refer to the Fraser Timber Supply Area Rationale for Allowable Annual Cut Determination, March 1995.

**Current Timber
Supply Review**

Public forest lands in British Columbia provide recreational enjoyment, fish and wildlife habitat, water supplies, timber resources and many other benefits. The Ministry of Forests manages the timber, range and recreation resources on public lands, while the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks is responsible for management of fish, wildlife and water resources and parks. Both agencies subscribe to the principle of integrated resource management*, where all resources are considered when making forest management decisions.

The data and management assumptions that will be used in the timber supply analysis will be based on the existing land-use designations and current resource management practices that are approved and implemented in the Fraser timber supply area. The chief forester will also consider any new information, based on implemented changes, at the time of the allowable annual cut determination.

The Forest Practices Code* is now law and is being implemented in the timber supply area. The Code will be fully implemented by June 15, 1997 and as a result, forest management practices are changing in order to meet the new requirements. These new practices may influence both the short- and long-term timber supply.

Draft data and management assumptions for public review

The public is encouraged to review the data and management assumptions for completeness and accuracy. In determining an allowable annual cut, the chief forester will be considering the assumptions as required by Section 8 of the *Forest Act*. The following general outline contains *some* of the more pertinent information that will be used in the timber supply analysis and subsequently, in the chief forester's allowable annual cut determination for the Fraser timber supply area. More detailed information can be found in Appendix A: Data Package. This appendix is available upon request from the Ministry of Forests offices listed at the end of this report.

Land base factors

- **Operable area** - is the forested area that is physically accessible for timber harvesting. A recent review and update of the operability mapping—which is one of the main criterion for defining the timber harvesting land base—for the Fraser timber supply area has been conducted. The results of this review will be incorporated into the timber supply analysis.
- **Low sites** - in addition to the above, forest types that are not considered available for harvesting due to forest characteristics such as low timber volumes and/or low forest productivity are deducted from the timber harvesting land base. Criteria developed for this purpose will be based largely on past harvesting performance in these forest types.
- **Environmentally sensitive areas*** - are areas classified as environmentally sensitive due to soil sensitivity, high avalanche hazard or serious regeneration problems and therefore 90 to 100 per

cent of these areas are excluded from the timber harvesting land base.

- **Protected areas** - since the 1995 allowable annual cut determination, a number of new parks have been created in the Fraser timber supply area. The total gross area of the new declared areas is approximately 80,000 hectares and this area will be excluded from the land base. The new protected areas are: Mehatl Creek, Liumchen, Chilliwack Lake, Mystic Lake, Nahatlatch, Garry Oak, Sumas Mountain, Pinecone-Burke, and Indian Arm.
- **Forest roads** - harvesting and road construction follow regional and provincial guidelines. Currently, it is estimated that there are 7,500 kilometres of roads approximately 15 metres wide within the timber harvesting land base, for a total of 11,250 hectares. An additional 3,400 hectares is estimated for existing trails and landings. Also, it is estimated that an additional one per cent of the mature timber harvesting land base will be lost over time to future roads.

Inventory factors

- **Forest inventory** - the current forest inventory has been updated to early 1996 for disturbances such as harvesting and reforestation.
- **Estimates of existing forest volumes** - as discussed earlier in this report, an inventory audit has shown that the volume estimates for existing forest volumes have been overestimated by approximately 23 per cent. To account for this in the timber supply analysis, adjustments will be made to the forest ages, heights and volume estimates.
- **Minimum harvestable ages** - for the purposes of timber supply analysis, a minimum harvestable age is defined as the earliest age at which a forest reaches the minimum required volume per hectare before timber harvesting is considered. For the Fraser timber supply

Environmentally sensitive areas

Areas identified as requiring special management to protect important recreation and scenic values, fisheries resources, sensitive soils and unstable slopes.

Cutblock

A specific area, with defined boundaries, authorized for harvest.

Green-up

The time required for regenerated forests to reach a desired condition (usually a specific height) after harvesting to meet specific management objectives and allow harvesting to take place in adjacent areas.

Riparian habitat

The stream bank and flood plain area adjacent to streams or water bodies.

analysis, the ages are based on achieving a minimum volume of 150 to 350 cubic metres per hectare depending on tree species and growth productivity.

Forest re-establishment factors

- **Basic silviculture** — British Columbia laws require areas that are harvested and expected to produce timber in the future must be reforested with ecologically acceptable species within a specified time frame. The most common silvicultural practice is to harvest; then, if necessary, prepare the site for reforestation; reforest by planting with a mix of species or by relying on natural regeneration; and control competing vegetation. For the Fraser timber supply analysis, once harvested, areas are assumed to be reforested between two to four years on average, depending on the tree species and growth productivity.

Timber utilization factors

- **Timber utilization** - volume estimates are based on the utilization of all trees which meet or exceed the current standards of a minimum 10-centimetre top diameter, a maximum 30-centimetre high stump, and a minimum diameter of 17.5 centimetres at a ground height of 1.3 metres, except pine and interior spruce which is a minimum diameter of 12.5 centimetres.

Infestations, devastations and salvage of timber

- Each year a portion of the forests in the Fraser timber supply area is damaged by natural factors such as fire, wind, insects and disease. A large proportion of the timber affected by these factors is salvaged and contributes to the timber supply. However, a reduction to the timber supply is required to account for the estimated average volume of timber that is not salvaged. Currently the estimate is approximately 18,425 cubic metres per year, attributable to the following main sources:

- wildfires -15,925 cubic metres
- wind damage - 2,500 cubic metres

Factors to be considered for purposes other than timber production

Forest management guidelines used to manage for forest resources such as biodiversity, scenic values, wildlife habitat and water quality will be included in the timber supply analysis through the use of forest cover requirements, volume reductions, and land base reductions. Forest cover requirements specify the minimum proportion of older forests that must be maintained to manage for values such as biodiversity or wildlife habitat and the maximum proportion of young, recently harvested forests that will be allowed and still meet management objectives for values such as water quality or visual sensitivity.

- **Forest cover requirements** - in the general integrated resource management zone, under current practices, cutblocks* must achieve green-up*, with a young regenerating forest, before adjacent areas are permitted to be harvested. To account for this requirement in the timber supply analysis, a maximum of 25 per cent of the timber harvesting land base in this zone will be allowed to be harvested and regenerated with forests less than three metres tall, at any time.
- **Visual sensitive areas** - are areas where the maintenance of scenic landscapes is a priority for recreation and tourism management, particularly in areas that are adjacent to major travel corridors and waterways. Road construction and logging within these areas are planned and implemented to minimize visual impacts. The current practice in these scenic areas is that harvested areas must be reforested with trees that are at least five metres tall before adjacent areas can be harvested. Areas with recommended visual quality objectives will have forest cover requirements that vary according to the degree of visual sensitivity and will permit a maximum, of between three

to 20 per cent, of a landscape unit to be less than five metres tall at any time.

- **Riparian habitat*** - to meet the requirements of the Forest Practices Code, approximately five per cent of the timber harvesting land base will be excluded to account for forested riparian reserve areas required along streams. In addition, to account for the riparian management areas, the volume of timber assumed to be harvested from each cutblock will be reduced by 4.2 per cent to account for the trees that must be retained after harvesting to buffer streamside reserves.
- **Community watersheds** - forest management guidelines for the 83 designated community watersheds in the Fraser timber supply area will be met by limiting the rate of harvest in these areas to a maximum of five per cent of the watershed can be less than five years old at any time. This assumption is based on Forest Practices Code guidelines for community watersheds.
- **Northern spotted owl** - to reflect the forest practices required in the special resource management zones for the northern spotted owl, the timber supply analysis will require a minimum of 67 per cent of each of these zones to be covered with forests at least 100 years old at any time.
- **Deer winter range** - Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks has identified approximately 18,000 hectares of suitable deer winter range. This area will not be excluded from the timber harvesting land base, but rather accounted for by maintaining the existing percentage of mature forested deer winter range in the short to long term.
- **Biological diversity** - or biodiversity, is the full range of living organisms, in all their forms and levels of organization, and includes the diversity of genes, species and ecosystems and the evolutionary and functional processes that link them. The Forest Practices Code requires that biodiversity be

examined at both the stand- and landscape-level.

Leaving wildlife tree patches for stand-level biodiversity is a current practice in the Fraser timber supply area. This practice will be accounted for by reducing the average volume per hectare. The biodiversity guidebook requires 12 per cent retention of old-growth for wildlife tree patches. It is assumed that in coastal forests, 75 per cent of this requirement is met from areas outside of the timber harvesting land base. As a result, volume estimates that contribute to the timber supply will be reduced by three per cent.

Considerations for landscape-level biodiversity will be accounted for by applying the low biodiversity emphasis option to all areas of the timber supply area. The low biodiversity emphasis is applied because at this time more detailed landscape-level biodiversity objectives have not yet been established in the Fraser timber supply area.

- **Water quality and quantity** - The Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks are concerned about potential and cumulative impacts on watersheds from timber harvesting. Both agencies are participating in watershed assessments within the Fraser timber supply area; however, the assessments will not be completed in time to be included in the current timber supply analysis. Until the watershed assessments are complete and implemented, it is unknown if the results will change current management in these areas.

Other factors that may affect timber supply

- **Harvest profile** - In the timber supply analysis, older forests are harvested first. In the near future, harvesting will likely occur in both old and younger forests. The implications of harvesting more from younger forests in the short term will be tested in a sensitivity analysis*.

Sensitivity analysis

Examines how uncertainty in data and management assumptions affect timber supply.

Timber Supply Review

in the Fraser TSA

Base case forecast

The timber supply forecast which illustrates the effect of current forest management practices on the timber supply using the best available information.

Person-year

One person working the equivalent of one full year. If someone works full-time for six months, he or she accounts for 0.5 person-years.

Implications of alternative rates of harvesting

- **Alternative rates of harvesting** - there are many alternative harvest forecasts that can be produced for a given set of forest conditions and management assumptions. Each alternative usually represents a trade-off between the harvest level in the short term and the subsequent rate of decline to the long-term harvest level. For the projected base case* forecast, the initial harvest forecast will be based on trying to achieve the current rate of harvest in the short term without compromising the long-term harvest level. The timber supply implications of alternative rates of harvest will be tested in sensitivity analyses.
- **Implications related to community dependence** - the impact of timber supply adjustments on local communities and the provincial economy is an important consideration in the Timber Supply Review. There are various communities within the Fraser timber supply area that rely on the forest industry.

The 1994 *Fraser Timber Supply Area Socio-economic Analysis* identified over 2,000 harvesting, processing and related person-years* associated with the Fraser's allowable annual cut. Over 75 per cent of these person years accrued to residents of the Fraser timber supply area.

The forest industry also generates "spin-off" economic activity through company purchases of goods and services and through forestry employee spending on consumer goods and services. Research by the Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations found that in the Fraser timber supply area for every 100 direct full-time forestry jobs (harvesting and processing) another 40 to 110 jobs were created in the area.

The socio-economic section of the upcoming analysis report will examine the potential socio-economic effects associated with alternative rates of harvesting. To provide an updated profile of the forest industry in the Fraser timber supply area and to examine potential changes in forestry's role in the area, new information will be gathered from licensees, processing facilities and the Forest Service.

Indirect and other related employment at both local and provincial levels will also be estimated using employment multipliers provided by the Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations. To examine the implications of alternative rates of harvest, employment coefficients, reported in person years per 1,000 cubic metres, will be developed and used to estimate changes to employment levels now and in the future from any potential harvest level changes.

Timber processing facilities

- The Fraser timber supply area supplies approximately 12 per cent of the wood processed by mills allocated within the TSA. In 1995, 40 lumber mills operated in the Fraser timber supply area and produced approximately nine million cubic metres of lumber. Also, there are two pulp and three paper mills that produced approximately 180,000 metric tonnes and 380,000 metric tonnes of pulp and paper, respectively. Over 1.2 million square feet of plywood, veneer and panel board were produced by eight veneer mills. A further 35 shake and shingle, 10 log home, five chip, and four pole mills also operated within the Fraser timber supply area. While the Fraser timber supply area provides only a portion of the wood processed in the TSA, it is nonetheless an important contributor to local mill fibre supplies and community stability.

Economic and social objectives of the Crown

- The Minister of Forests has expressed, in a letter and a memo to the chief forester, the Crown's economic and social objectives for the province. The provincial objectives are consistent with those applied in the timber supply analysis (see above, Alternative rates of harvesting). In addition, economic and social objectives for the area and for the general region are derived from public input received during the public review period which follows the release of the timber supply analysis.

Your input is needed

Establishing the allowable annual cut is an important decision which requires well-informed and thoughtful public input. Feedback is welcomed on any aspect of this *Information Report, the Data Package Appendix* and other topics related to the timber supply in the Fraser timber supply area. The response form at the end of this document will assist you in preparing your comments. As well, Forest Service staff would be pleased to discuss questions or concerns that may help you prepare your response.

Please mail the completed response form and your comments to the Chilliwack Forest District Manager at the address below. Your comments will be accepted until June 30, 1997.

After receiving the public input, the Forest Service will finalize the data and management assumptions that will be applied in the timber supply analysis. The timber supply analysis will be complete and available for public review in the late summer or early fall of 1997. You may also wish to participate in the second public review period, which will follow the release of the *Fraser Timber Supply Area Analysis Report*.

Following the second public review period, the chief forester will examine all the information available in order to review the timber supply for the Fraser timber supply area. The chief forester will then establish the allowable annual cut based on his consideration of the factors as required under Section 8 of the *Forest Act*.

You may identify yourself on your response if you wish. If you do, you are reminded that responses will be subject to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and may be made public. If copies of the responses are requested, personal identifiers will be removed before the responses are released.

For more information contact and/or mail your comments to:

District Manager
Chilliwack Forest District
9880 South McGrath Road
Rosedale, B.C.
V0X 1X0

Phone: (604) 794-2100
Fax: (604) 794-2124

Fraser Timber Supply Area Timber Supply Review

Information Report Response Form

The *Forest Act* requires the chief forester to consider the following factors to determine the allowable annual cut for timber supply areas and tree farm licence areas in the province, as follows:

- the rate of timber production that can be sustained from the area;
- the short- and long-term implications to the province of alternative rates of timber harvesting from the area;
- the nature, production capabilities and timber requirements of established and proposed timber processing facilities;
- the economic and social objectives of the Crown for the area, the general region, and the province, as expressed by the minister of forests, and;
- abnormal insect or disease infestations and major salvage programs planned for the area.

We welcome your review to ensure the best available information is considered for the Fraser timber supply area. Please provide your comments on this form, or in another format. Input will be accepted until June 30, 1997.

A. Economic and social objectives

Please use the space below to provide your comments regarding the economic and social information contained in this report or other information that you believe should be considered in completing the social and economic analysis for the Fraser timber supply area.

B. Reviewing the draft data and management assumptions

Please use the space below to provide your comments regarding the draft data and management assumptions contained in this report or other information that you believe should be considered in the timber supply analysis for the Fraser timber supply area.

Name (optional): _____

Address (optional): _____

Mail your comments to:

District Manager
Chilliwack Forest District
9880 South McGrath Road
Rosedale, B.C.
V0X 1X0

or fax to: (604) 794-2124

or electronically mail to: LLEROUX@MFOR01.FOR.GOV.BC.CA

APPENDIX A
Data Package
Description of Data Inputs and
Management Assumptions

APPENDIX B
Incorporation of the Inventory Audit
in the Fraser TSA Timber Supply Review

The appendices are available upon request from the
Ministry of Forests.

Offices are located at:

Chilliwack Forest District
9880 South McGrath Road
Rosedale, B.C.
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(604) 794-2100

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Victoria, B.C.
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