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October 1, 1999

All Licensees
in the Chilliwack Forest District

Dear Sir or Madam:

The intent of this letter is to clarify licensees obligations regarding scenic area management within the Chilliwack Forest District.

According to Section 1 of the *Operational Planning Regulations* (OPR) "Scenic Areas" are identified through a Visual Landscape Inventory (VLI) or specific planning process. In the absence of higher level plans, the Chilliwack Forest District will use its VLI to identify "Scenic Areas".

Further to the above, Section 1 of the OPR requires that scenic areas be identified and made known at least four months prior to a Forest Development Plan (FDP) submission.

The known scenic areas within the boundaries of the Chilliwack Forest District are the viewsheds associated with:

- Highway 1 - TransCanada
- Highway 3 - Hope-Princeton
- Highway 5 - Coquihalla
- Highway 7 - Lougheed
- Highway 9 - Agassiz-Rosedale



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Ministry of
Forests

Chilliwack Forest District

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Rosedale

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- Highway 11 - Abbotsford-Mission
- Alouette Lake
- Pitt Lake
- Stave Lake as far north as Cypress Point
- Chehalis Lake
- Jones Lake
- Harrison Lake
- Nahatlatch drainage as far east as Mehatl drainage
- Chilliwack Lake Road
- Areas that attract people should be given special consideration. This includes, but is not limited to, local communities, meeting places, parks, sport facilities, shopping malls, rest stops and tourist attractions.

Chilliwack Forest District recently updated its Visual Landscape Inventory to Resource Inventory Committee (RIC) standards. This update included the development of recommended Visual Quality Classes for the *known* scenic areas. The requirements for managing known scenic areas without established VQOs under the Code are as follows:

Proposed Category A cutblocks in scenic areas in a FDP must specify measures that will be carried out to protect forest resources, which include scenic values. (Forest Practices Code Act (FPC) Section 10(1)(c)(ii)). Therefore, a Category A proposed cutblock within a scenic area must be identified on the Mapsheet Cutblock Summary of the FDP as requiring a visual assessment. Recommended visual quality classes (rVQC's), while not legally binding under the FPC, provide an indication of the level of activity that would be acceptable to manage and conserve visual values in known scenic areas.

In order to be satisfied that proposed cut-blocks will adequately manage and conserve the visual resource, I am requesting that visual assessment packages be submitted to this office in support of all Silviculture Prescriptions submitted for cut blocks in *known* scenic areas. However, visual assessment packages must accompany the FDP submissions when the proposed alteration (cut block(s)) approaches or exceeds the alteration percent, in perspective view, for the recommended Visual Quality Class for the viewshed. Reference (FPC Act Section 41(2)).

The content of a visual assessment package will vary depending on the visual sensitivity class, recommended VQC and visual concern for the area. A visual simulation is the preferred method

to confirm that the visual values are being adequately managed and conserved. Acceptable methods include, but are not limited to, sketching, photo manipulation, computer simulation, Digital Terrain Modelling, video imaging or hybrid simulations. In general, high sensitive viewsheds will require the more intensive simulation modelling. The design of the proposed block(s) must consider the visual lines of force present in the landscape, the prescribed percent alteration guidelines for the rVQC and the basic definition for the rVQC.

Please ensure this information reaches the appropriate personnel. Copies of the inventory maps and information are available from the IRM Section of the Chilliwack District Office. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ken Langdale, Recreation Supervisor, at 794-2100.

Yours truly,



G. L. (Jerry) Kennah, RPF
District Manager
Chilliwack Forest District