

District Manager's Interim Policy on Archaeological Survey Requirements for Cultural Heritage and Archaeological Resources in the Bulkley Timber Supply Area

I. Scope

To date, the Bulkley TSA does not have an Archaeological Overview Assessment (AOA) for operational purposes. There is an ongoing effort to collect archaeological information in a manner consistent with the Archaeology Branch's AOA agreement, however, this will take time. In the interim, this policy will apply.

This policy will allow the District Manager to determine where Archaeological Impact Assessments are required using the Bulkley TSA's Cultural Heritage and Archaeological Resources Inventory or (C.H.A.R.I.). This inventory is based upon areas identified as having traditional and in some cases archaeological importance as well as physical features likely to have attracted and/or capable of sustaining human activity.

This Policy will become effective on October 1st 2000, and will be reviewed by licensees, First Nations and the Ministry of Forests twelve months subsequent.

This policy applies to the Ministry of Forests and licensees within the Bulkley Cassiar Forest District. The application of this policy may be superseded by a treaty or court decision concerning aboriginal rights or title.

II. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide operational procedures to ensure cost effective and informed management of areas considered to have archaeological resource potential based on the best available information.

III Forest Practices Code Requirements

The *Forest Practices Code* (Code) recognizes "cultural heritage resources" and assists the Ministry in protecting these resources by requiring the license holder to include "known information" about these resources in their Forest Development Plans and identify how they intend to mitigate any possible disturbance to these resources. The Code also requires the license holder to carry out an AIA in situations where the district manager is satisfied that the assessment is necessary to adequately manage and conserve archaeological sites in the area. (Section 37(1)(e), Operational Planning Regulation).

The Code also provides protection for archaeological sites in situations where the location of an archaeological sites is not known or where an AIA may not have been required. Section 51(2) of the Code provides for protection of previously unidentified resource features which may be located during actual operations. If encountered, a licensee must stop work and promptly notify the district manager of its existence and location.

IV Background

An Archaeological Overview Assessment (AOA) determines the archaeology resource potential of an area proposed for forest management activities, and generally covers an entire TSA. The

AOA is designed to predict archaeological site locations and guide subsequent impact assessment and management studies. These assessments rely primarily on existing archaeological inventory information regarding the distribution of known archaeological sites. The Archaeology Branch has developed standards and procedures for conducting AOAs.

The Bulkley TSA does not have sufficient archaeological inventory information to produce an AOA that is useful for operational purposes. There is an ongoing effort to collect archaeological information in a manner that can later be used to develop an AOA consistent with Provincial standards. In the interim the district has compiled available information on both archaeological sites and traditional use to assist in determining where further archaeological work may be required.

The Bulkley Cultural Heritage and Archaeological Resource Inventory (CHARI) includes available information on traditional use and archaeological sites, fishable streams, deciduous major sites, waterfalls, ridges, meadows, wetlands, and any other features known to have attracted human use in the past. The inventory will be updated on an ongoing basis. The inventory is a living document, as is this Policy, and will attempt to help the government, public, industry, archaeological professionals, and First Nations in their efforts to develop a better picture of past human endeavours in the Bulkley Timber Supply Area in a reasonable fashion.

Cultural heritage resource potential ratings were developed by compiling known traditional use and archaeological information in conjunction with the Landscape Unit Planning process information, as well as physical features such as cliffs and waterfalls, which are known to have traditional, perhaps prehistoric traditional significance, an *inventory of known* cultural heritage and archaeological resources was developed.

The *potential ratings* were developed using a *concentric zone view*; as such, the further away from the centre of a known activity site (TUS or archaeological), the less likely we are to find evidence of that activity. **High:** Starting with known sites/areas of past human use, (amalgamating those which proximity and geography or landscape dictate direct relationships), resulting in a picture of high archaeological potential. **Moderate:** Moving away from these “high zone”, again using geography or topography, and proximity to other sites, travel corridors etc... we create a moderate potential zone. **Moderate-low** potential features become those which are too numerous to require mandatory intensive survey, but nevertheless require rudimentary surface inspection for CMT’s, depressions, or any evidence of human habitation and thus help determine whether or not further research is needed. **Low:** The remainder of the landbase within the TSA is thus considered to have low potential.

The features identified in this inventory, the extent of the zones and method of arriving at them are subject to change as further inventory information is gathered.

The CHARI and its associated cultural heritage resource potential ratings are intended to assist the district manager in determining where AIAs may be required as set out in Section 37(1)(e) of the Operational Planning Regulation.

V. Definitions

Cultural Heritage Resource: Forest Practices Code definition...“an object, a site or the location of a traditional societal practice that is of historical, cultural or archaeological significance to the Province, a

community or an aboriginal people.” The term is used to include both traditional use sites, and archaeological sites.

Cultural Heritage and Archaeological Potential:

High Cultural Heritage and Archaeological Potential Areas. Known archaeological sites, clusters of archaeological sites, known traditional use sites, clusters of traditional use sites and features associated with those sites, such as lakes, are classified as having high archaeological potential. Also, campsites and creek crossings of major trail, pre-1846 CMTs and/or more than 50 contiguous CMTs will be considered to be high archaeological potential.

Moderate Cultural Heritage and Archaeological Potential Areas. Areas surrounding and linking high potential zones, and 200m around the following features: major trails (as defined through consultation with First Nations and historical document review), salmon bearing streams/rivers, creeks (double line), fishable creeks as defined by consultation with first nations, wetland/meadow complexes, connectors between TUS and/or archaeological sites/clusters of sites, large lakes (> 3 ha), cliffs, ridges, waterfalls, steelhead streams, alpine areas, and any CMTs. These features and 200m adjacent to them will be considered to have moderate archaeological potential.

Moderate-Low Cultural Heritage and Archaeological Potential Area. 150-m either side of any trail, and 50 m either side of or adjacent lakes smaller than 3 ha, and smaller, isolated wetlands (meadows, marshes and/or swamps), and deciduous major sites (cottonwood, birch, red alder and/or aspen > 10 % of a stand or polygon).

Low Cultural Heritage and Archaeological Potential Areas. The remainder of the TSA, or, that area not covered by any of the above in the CHARI, will be subject to the Bulkley Cassiar Forest District District Manager’s Policy for Culturally Modified Trees, May 4th, 1999.

Level of Survey:

Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA):

Conducted by an archaeologist under permit from Archaeology Branch.

AIAs are designed to provide the fullest possible understanding of archaeological resources that would be affected by land altering activities. AIAs identify and evaluate archaeological resources in the project area, assess potential impacts, and recommend management options in light of identified impacts. Archaeology Branch monitors the work to ensure it is done to provincial standards.

Preliminary Field Reconnaissance (PFR):

Conducted by an archaeologist with or without a permit from Archaeology Branch.

PFRs gather additional information on the archaeological resource potential of an area through a cursory field inspection. Permits are not routinely required, however, a permit is advisable because if the PFR confirms a high archaeological potential for the area, an AIA will be required. The AIA could then be completed while the archaeologist is still in the field.

Native or Knowledgeable Local Person Field Consultation:

Conducted in conjunction with the CHR or AIA, should be arranged with the help of the band office, consultation coordinator when involving first nations, and involve the person most knowledgeable about the site/area; usually a native elder, Chief, but possibly a non-native trapper, etc... Their names should be lent to the inventory database, as well as any names associated with

the site. Any features alluded to whether found or not should be recorded, as well as any found features.

Cultural Heritage Resource Recce:

Conducted by trained forestry/engineering crews, First Nations and/or district staff. It is strongly recommended that conducting personnel participate in a cultural heritage resource recognition workshop to be sponsored by the district. The recce focuses on identifying indicators of archaeological site potential in the field to supplement information contained in the CHARI, and aid with archaeologists' assessments. It is recommended that such recces be conducted during preliminary cruising and layout to allow for licensees to assess areas with high archaeological potential in order to determine the need for further archaeological research.

CMT Survey:

Conducted by trained forestry staff and assesses type, numbers, age, density and configuration of culturally modified trees. Refer to CMT handbook and District Manager's Policy for Culturally Modified Trees, May 4th, 1999.

VI. Management Procedures

- The Bulkley Cultural Heritage Resource Inventory will be provided to licensees and will be considered "known information" under the Code. Licensees are expected to include the inventory information in their Forest Development Plans, and demonstrate how they intend to mitigate any potential disturbances to the known cultural heritage resource features.
- This inventory will be updated yearly by the Aboriginal Liaison Officer, Bulkley Cassiar forest District and distributed via ftp depository.
- An AIA will be required wherever there is a known archaeological site recorded in the Provincial Heritage Resource Database maintained by Archaeology Branch.
- The district manager will consider the following information when determining whether an AIA is required:
 - whether the area falls within a High potential zone, as identified in CHARI, and is within 500m of a known TUS or archaeological site or a CHR recce results are positive
 - consultation with First Nations
- Wherever an AIA is required by the district manager, a PFR may be conducted first to confirm the high potential rating before proceeding with a full AIA. The PFR may conclude that the area is not high potential and that no further work is required.
- In Moderate potential zones, it is recommended that licensees conduct cultural heritage resource recces, where a significant cultural heritage resource, i.e. a *trail, village site, campsite etc...* is identified in the CHARI, and where First Nations have raised concerns with respect to impacts on traditional use features within the area proposed for development. Whenever possible, these recces should be conducted for the licensees by a First Nation's assessment crew, where such a team is in place.
- As per Section 51(2) of the Code, if a previously unidentified resource feature (including CMT's), is located during forest operations, it must be reported immediately to the district manager and work suspended. Based on the significance of the resource feature and the

mitigative measures proposed in the SP, the district manager will determine the need for additional First Nation consultation.

- It is recommended that licensees include a clause in all AIA contracts that the contractor will consult local First Nations and make every effort to hire local First Nation field assistants wherever possible.

_____ Approved _____ Date
Barry Smith
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Bulkley Cassiar Forest District