

## **5.4 Timber Indicator 3. Sustained Flow of Timber to Local Mills**

### 5.4.1 Background:

Maintaining a sustained flow of timber harvest over time to local mills is a key factor in maintaining the economic stability of forest-dependant communities, such as those present within Bulkley Timber Supply Area (TSA).

One can assess whether or not the volume of timber harvested in a timber supply area is sustainable, by determining if harvest is at or below the Allowable Annual Cut level established by the Chief Forester through Timber Supply Reviews conducted every 5 years. One can also determine if the volume of timber harvested in the TSA contributes to the stability of communities present in the TSA, by assessing what proportion is processed by local mills.

### 5.4.2 Measures:

1. Volumes harvested<sup>1</sup> and billed to cut control<sup>2</sup> in Bulkley TSA versus volumes permitted for harvest under the Allowable Annual Cut.
2. Volumes harvested and billed to cut control in Bulkley TSA versus volumes processed by local mills.

### 5.4.3 Results and Discussion, Measure 1:

As Figure 32 illustrates, the billable volume of wood harvested in the Bulkley Timber Supply Area (TSA) for the years 1987 to 2002 was essentially at or below the Allowable Annual Cut (AAC) level set by the Chief Forester.

There has been a trend to less harvest in Bulkley TSA since 1996 as a result of:

- closure of local mills, including Skeena Cellulose, Seaton Lumber, and Alpine Cedar Products;
- trade tariff issues with the United States: the primary market for local wood products

To address the mountain pine beetle epidemic affecting the northwest region of the province, Bulkley's major licensees (Pacific Inland Resources and BC Timber Sales) have transferred the bulk of their operations to Lakes and Vanderhoof TSA's. As Figure 32 indicates, there was a significant drop in volumes harvested in Bulkley TSA in 2002 as a result of this shift.

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<sup>1</sup> Volumes are reported for harvest under replaceable and non-replaceable forest tenures and forest service reserve. Harvested volumes from woodlots and private land are excluded.

<sup>2</sup> Under the terms of license agreements for major forest tenures, harvested volumes are required to be within 10% of apportioned volume targets at the end of the "cut control" period, which is generally set at 5 years. The license also establishes specifications for what grades are billed to cut control – most licenses require mandatory utilization of sawlog grade (grade "blank"), and dry sawlog (grade 3) if harvest is for salvage of timber killed by fire or pests. Some licenses require mandatory utilization of all log grades (i.e. grades "blank", 3, 4, 5 and 6).

A summary document of Bulkley licenses and apportioned volumes can be downloaded from:  
<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/hth/external/!publish/apportionment/bulkley.pdf>

#### 5.4.4 Results and Discussion, Measure 2:

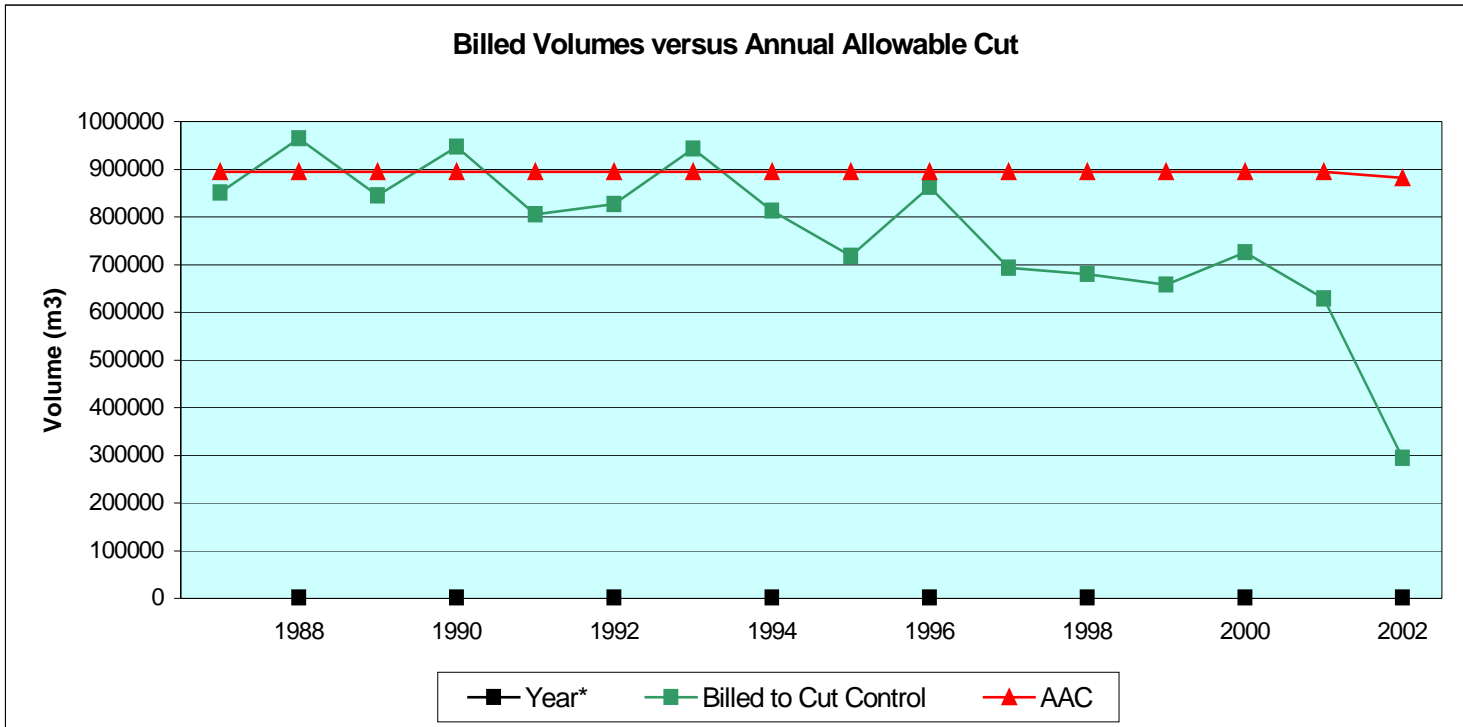
Figure 33 illustrates (for 1994-2002) what proportion of timber harvested and billed to cut control in Bulkley TSA was processed at local mills, versus what was processed at mills outside the TSA. On average more than 70% is processed at local mills, which indicates that Bulkley timber contributes significantly to sustaining local forestry employment.

Local mills also process a significant volume of timber from other TSA's each year. Figure 34 illustrates for a sample year (2000) what proportion of timber processed at local mills was from sources outside the TSA.

#### 5.4.5 Sources:

Ministry of Forests Harvest Billings Data Base

**Figure 32**



**Figure 33**

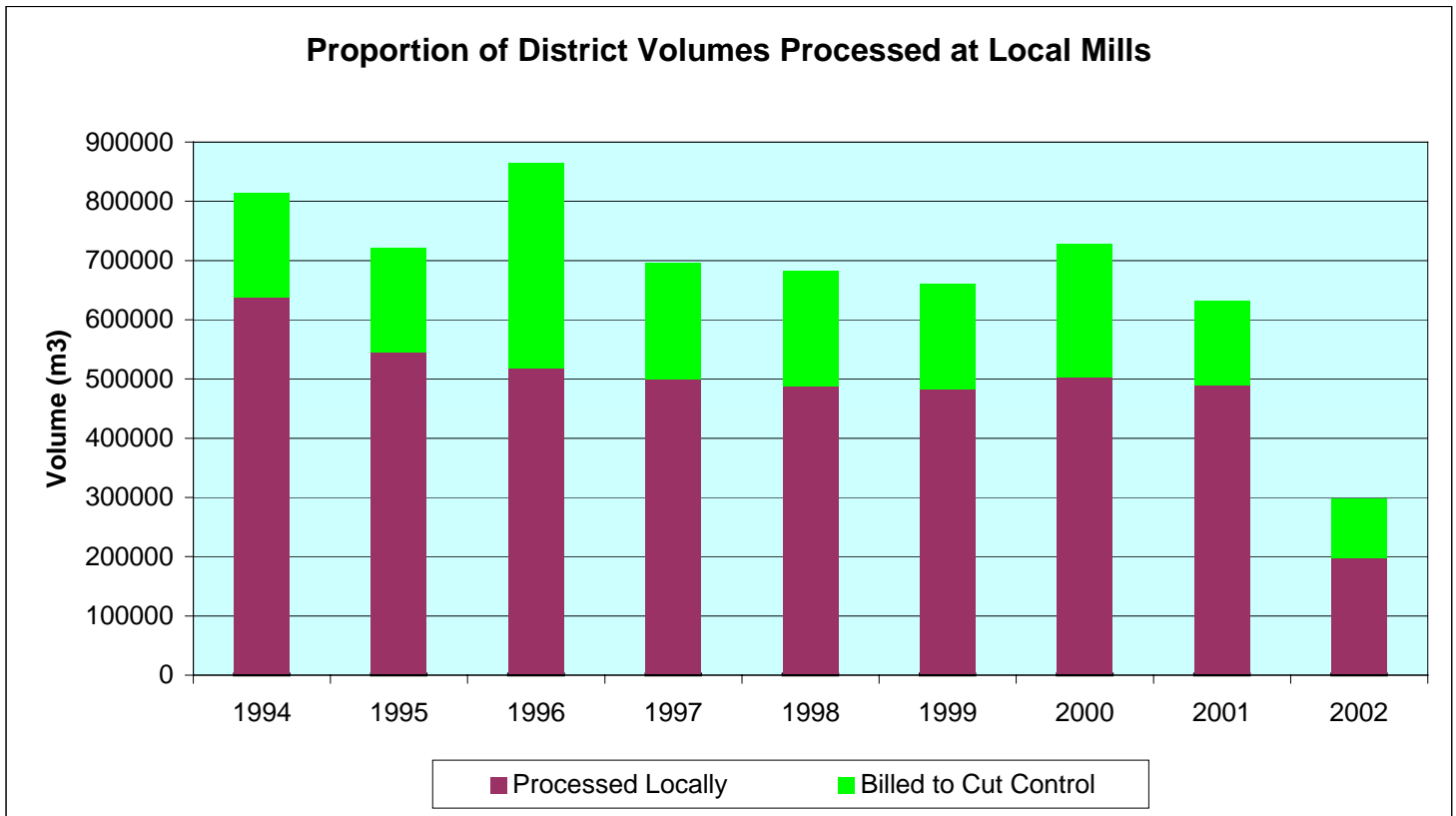


Figure 34 Bulkley TSA Timber Processing Status, 2000

