



Timber Supply

Though the region is relatively untouched by the Mountain Pine Beetle epidemic that decimated interior forests, the concern consistently expressed by prospective investors is lack of a guaranteed timber supply. As part of municipal policy, the NRRM opposes the harvesting and removal of local timber for processing elsewhere, and this was the central theme of a series of face-to-face meetings held between the NRRM and FLNRORD Minister Donaldson in September 2017. The Minister learned about growing interest in the Northern Rockies in the face of increasing demand for wood products and decreasing availability of fibre resulting from beetle kill and wildfire, with subsequent reductions in the Allowable Annual Cut in BC. Minister Donaldson appreciates the crucial importance of renewed local forest manufacturing to the future of the Northern Rockies.

Tenure

Seventy-five percent of the allowable cut volume in the Fort Nelson Timber Supply Area (TSA) is licensed to an inactive tenure-holder, in the form of a Forest License and a Pulpwood Agreement (PA 14), without any harvesting having taken place since 2008. With PA 14 due to expire in 2019 and 16 million cubic metres (m³) of undercut accumulated over the past 10 years, the NRRM encouraged Minister Donaldson to consider creative ways in which sufficient fibre volume could be found to make new investment attractive. In the Legislative Assembly on October 17th, the Minister stated, “We made it clear that if there is a viable business opportunity, our senior staff (is) made available to speak with the investors ... about potential fibre supply for that. We’re really anxious and keen to hear from the investors about their potential business investment.”

Timber Supply Review 4

Another area of uncertainty regarding timber supply relates to the overdue Timber Supply Review 4 (TSR4) for the Fort Nelson Timber Supply Area. In TSR4, BC’s Chief Forester will establish allowable harvest levels intended to ensure the sustainability of the forest resource. The NRRM is concerned that the delay of a final decision well into 2018 will further undermine the Northern Rockies’ economic situation.

For more information visit our website at:

www.NorthernRockies.ca/Forestry

or contact:

Jack Stevenson, Special Projects Officer
E: jstevenson@northernrockies.ca
250.774.2541 extension 2041

Mike Gilbert, Regional Development Officer
E: mgilbert@northernrockies.ca
P: 250.774.2541 extension 2043