British Columbia’s Approach to Collaborative Forest Management in Allowable Annual Cut Determinations

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Overview of BC Forests

- 95% is Crown (public) land managed by the provincial government
- 95 million ha total area
- 55 million ha forested
- 22 million ha available for harvest
- ~200,000 ha harvested every year
Forest Management in BC

- *Forest and Range Practices Act*, a professional reliance framework

- Government sets objectives, licensees set the path

- Government and licensees share the obligation for First Nations consultation and public engagement

- Government issues licenses to cut and sets the harvest level
Timber Allocation in BC

- 13 forms of timber licenses under the *Forest Act*
- Non-replaceable licenses for short-term objectives
- Replaceable licenses (20 to 25 years)
  - Volume-based (38 Timber Supply Areas)
  - Area-based (35 Tree Farm Licenses)
Chief Forester determines an allowable annual cut at least once every 10 years.

Must consider:
- sustainable rate of timber production
- short- and long-term implications of alternative rates of timber harvesting
- the economic and social objectives of the government
- abnormal infestations and major salvage programs
- First Nations consultation
- land use plans and public input
Public, Stakeholders and First Nations Consultation

- British Columbia provides many opportunities for engagement
- Government has a legal duty to consult First Nations commensurate with strength of claim
- Chief Forester must consider and, where appropriate, accommodate First Nations interests in determining allowable annual cut

- Interests include:
  - wildlife
  - fish
  - monumental cedar and culturally modified trees
  - medicinal plants
  - sacred sites
  - timber rights and employment
  - access in traditional territory
  - drinking water
  - traditional use (e.g., trapping)
Collaboration to Meet Future Timber Supply Challenges

- wildlife habitat requirements
- cumulative effects of all land base activities
- climate change
- First Nations treaty negotiations
- losses from forest health and wildfire
QUESTIONS