



File Number: 17730-20 LAKN

March 7, 2017

Dear Lakes North SRMP Licensees:

Attached you will find an amended Order for the Lakes North SRMP area, signed under authority of *Section 93.4 of the Land Act, Land Use Objectives Regulation (B.C. Reg. 357/2005)*.

The following points will serve to guide the implementation of the Order:

- The order is interim until an alternative objective that meets the intent of maintaining habitat connectivity is approved
- The order allows for the salvage of dead pine trees
- The order allows for activities required to address forest health issues (see attached Sections 25-27 of *Forest and Range Practices Act*)
- The timber supply impact is a maximum of 0.2%
- The consequence of the order is a deferral of harvesting for 10-20 years in some cases, rather than a loss of Timber Harvesting Land Base
- At the risk of losing habitat connectivity, it is not appropriate to delay the order while shadow timber supply analyses are being conducted

To address your concerns about spruce beetle, Section 26 of the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (attached) allows for forest licensees to submit a proposal to control or dispose of the pest. If the proposal is approved, and if necessary, Forest Stewardship Plan holders may be exempted from complying with an FSP where an FSP commitment is not consistent with beetle control requirements.

Given your concerns about timber supply impacts, I am committing to extending the seven-year timeframe identified in the 2009 Lakes North SRMP to engage in a process to develop an appropriate management strategy for habitat connectivity. Upon successful completion of that process, I will review and potentially amend the attached Order.

Finally, note that all holders of a Forest Stewardship Plan must propose and submit for approval any amendments to their FSP to make its results or strategies consistent with the order within six months of the date that the order takes effect.

Yours truly,



Eamon O'Donoghue
Regional Executive Director
Skeena Region

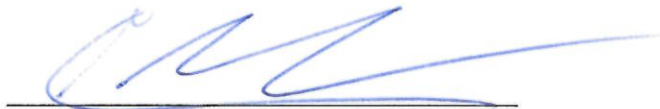
cc: Jevan Hanchard, District Manager, Nadina Natural Resource District
Agathe Bernard, Forest Stewardship Officer, Nadina Natural Resource District
Laura Bolster, Land and Resource Specialist, Skeena Region

Attachments: Ministerial Order to Amend Objective 4 of the 2009 Lakes North SRMP
Forest and Range Practices Act, Division 3 — Forest Health, Sections 25-27

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

**Ministerial Order to Amend Objective 4
LAKES NORTH
SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN ORDER (2009)**

- I. Pursuant to Section 93.4 (1) of the *Land Act*, objective 4 of the Lakes North Sustainable Resource Management Plan (2009) is cancelled and replaced with the following objective for the area shown on Map 3. Any map referenced in the objective is an integral part of the objective.
- II. This Order takes effect on the date the notice is posted in the Gazette.
- III. Pursuant to section 8(2) (b) of the *Forest and Range Practices Act*, the holder of a Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) must propose and submit for approval amendments to the FSP within six months of the date that the order takes effect.



Signed this 8th day of March, 2017
Eamon O'Donoghue, Regional Executive Director, Skeena Region
Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Objective 4: Maintain habitat connectivity within the landscape connectivity matrix (LCM) shown on Map 3 and in accordance with (a), (b), (c) and (d):

- (a) Maintain each LCM in a contiguous mature and old forest condition. Each LCM is in a contiguous mature and old forest condition if:
 - i. At least 70% of the forested area within each LCM is greater than 100 years old (SBS) or 120 years old (ESSF) at any time; and
 - ii. Cutblocks are spatially distributed as follows within each LCM:
 - a. A new cutblock cannot be adjacent to an existing cutblock unless at least 70% of the net area to be reforested on the existing cutblock has developed attributes that are consistent with a mature seral condition and
 - b. Harvesting must not result in a condition where more than 30% of the width of a LCM is younger than mature and old.
- (b) Retain 100% of the forested area within the red and blue-listed ecological communities identified in Table 1.

Table 1. Red- and Blue-listed Ecological Communities

SBSdk 04, 08, 81, 82
SBSmc2 81, 82

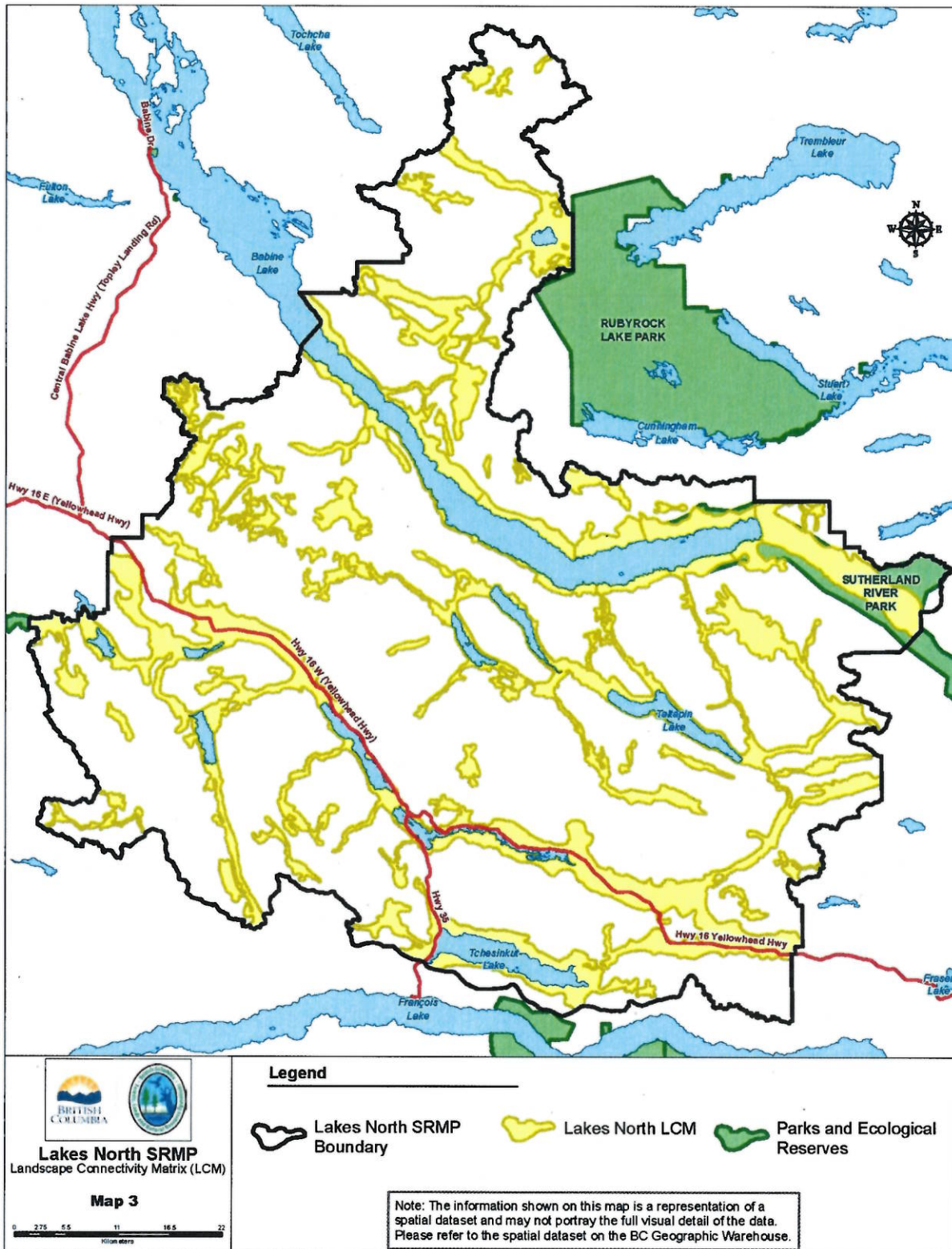
- (c) Retain 100% of the hydro-riparian ecosystems identified in Table 2.

Table 2. Hydro-Riparian Ecosystems

SBS dk – 04, 07, 08, 09, 10
SBS mc2 – 07, 09, 10, 12
ESSF mc – 07, 08, 09, 10
ESSF mv1 – 04, 05
ESSF mv3 – 07

- (d) Despite a) above:
 - i. Roads may be constructed where no practicable alternatives exist and must be deactivated once primary forest activities are complete; and
 - ii. Live stems and non-merchantable understory in a stand must be retained where the salvage of dead pine trees within an LCM occurs. Salvage may only occur where 50% or more of the total mature and old stems are composed of dead pine trees, and only where harvesting of these dead pine trees maintains connectivity.

Map 3. Lakes North Landscape Connectivity Matrix



Division 3 — Forest Health

Sanitation exemption

- 25 The minister may exempt a person in writing from specified provisions of this Act, the regulations or the standards if the minister considers it necessary or desirable so that the person may follow a course of action specified by the minister for the purposes of limiting or mitigating or both limiting and mitigating the spread of forest pests.

Control of insects, diseases, animals or abiotic factors

- 26 (1) If the minister determines that a forested area on private land is being damaged by insects, diseases, animals or abiotic factors, the minister, by written notice given to the owner, may require the owner to submit, for that forested area, a proposal that conforms to subsection (3) to control or dispose of the insects, diseases, animals or abiotic factors.

(2) If the minister determines that on a forested area on Crown land that is subject to

- (a) a forest stewardship plan,
- (b) a woodlot licence plan, or
- (c) another prescribed operational plan

there are insects, diseases, animals or abiotic factors that are causing damage to the forest, the minister, by written notice given to the holder of the plan, may require the holder to submit, for that forested area, a proposal that conforms to subsection (3) to control or dispose of the insects, diseases, animals or abiotic factors.

(3) An owner required under subsection (1), or a holder required under subsection (2), to submit a proposal must

- (a) submit the proposal to the minister within the period specified by the minister,

(b) in the proposal, specify reasonable measures to be carried out for that forested area by the owner or holder, as the case may be, to control or dispose of the insects, diseases, animals or abiotic factors, and

(c) state the time frame within which the measures are to be completed.

(4) The minister may approve or reject a proposal received in response to the minister's written notice given under subsection (1) or (2).

(5) If the minister approves a proposal under subsection (3), the owner or holder who made the proposal must carry out the measures specified in the proposal.

(6) By order, given to

(a) an owner of private land referred to in subsection (1),
or

(b) a holder of a plan referred to in subsection (2)

who does not submit a proposal as required under subsection (1) or (2) or who does not comply with subsection (5), the minister may require the owner or holder to carry out measures specified in the order by a date specified in the order.

(7) If the minister

(a) approves a proposal submitted under subsection (3),
or

(b) makes an order under subsection (6),

and considers it necessary or desirable to facilitate the carrying out of the proposal or order, the minister may exempt the affected owner or holder from complying with one or more provisions of this Act, the regulations, the standards, an agreement under the *Forest Act*, a forest stewardship plan or a woodlot licence plan.

(8) If the minister makes an order under subsection (6) that is inconsistent with a provision of this Act, the regulations, the standards, an agreement under the *Forest Act*, a forest stewardship

plan or a woodlot licence plan, the minister, in making the order, must exempt the owner or holder from that provision.

(9) If a proposal approved, or an order made, by the minister under this section requires the holder of an agreement under the *Forest Act* to carry out a measure other than timber harvesting, then to the extent provided in the regulations, the expenses of the measure are to be paid by the government.

Forest health emergency

27 (1) If the Lieutenant Governor in Council considers that a forest health emergency exists in an area of Crown land or private land, he or she may designate the area by regulation as a forest health emergency management area.

(2) The minister may order

(a) the holder of an agreement under the *Forest Act* that authorizes timber harvesting in the emergency management area, or

(b) the timber sales manager

to carry out measures in the emergency management area, limited in the case of the holder, to the area of the holders agreement, to prevent, contain or limit the spread of forest health factors.

(3) An order under subsection (2) must specify

(a) the measures to be carried out,

(b) the date by which the measures must be completed, and

(c) the person's right to a review under section 80 or to an appeal under section 82.

(4) A person is exempt from any provisions of this Act, the regulations, the standards, an agreement under the *Forest Act*, a forest stewardship plan or a woodlot licence plan that, if complied with, would prevent the person from carrying out the measures referred to in subsection (2).

(5) If an order made by the minister under this section requires the holder of an agreement under the *Forest Act* or the timber sales manager to carry out a measure other than timber harvesting, then to the extent provided in the regulations, the expenses of the measure are to be paid by the government.