



Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 441 Columbia Street  
Kamloops, BC  
V2C 2T3

October 24, 2011

Regarding: Nicola-Similkameen Innovative Forestry Society Forestry Plan 3 and AAC Uplift Request to Extend Merritt TSA Innovative Forestry Practices Agreements

Dear Mr. Kevin Dickenson,

The Nicola-Similkameen Forestry Society (NSIFS) Board of Directors is submitting the attached Forestry Plan 3 and analysis in support of our request for an increase in the Allowable Annual Cut (AAC) for the NSIFS member licensees and the BC Timber Sales (Kamloops Business Area).

After further analysis of inventory projects completed by the NSIFS, and our follow up to the Chief Foresters Uplift Conditions, the NSIFS Board of Directors hereby requests an increase of 570,000 m<sup>3</sup> in the AAC as per Section 59.1 (7) of the Forest Act. In addition, we request an opportunity for a permanent arrangement of any AAC increase award to Merritt TSA IFPA Licensees.

The NSIFS has been committed to project investments as per our approved Forestry Plans, the first plan approved January 12, 2001. Since then many of our projects focused on timber supply (ie. VRI Phase II/NVAF Adjustments, Site Index Adjustments and Change Monitoring Inventory) have provided some new information that we feel strongly supports our position for an AAC increase. The NSIFS and First Nations have completed projects that significantly enhance managing environmental and cultural-heritage resource values over the Merritt TSA. Working with our member First Nation bands to incorporate plant and wildlife species accounts into our sustainable forest manage model is just one of the ways we co-manage our forest resources together.

Our IFPA program and increase in AAC will directly benefit Industry and First Nations in the Merritt TSA by:

- Supporting and maintaining forest sector jobs.
- Providing new investment opportunities and new jobs in the TSA.
- Supporting and maintaining First Nations growth and capacity through increased forest economic opportunities.



Nicola-Similkameen Innovative Forestry Society

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Over the course of the current IFPA Uplift in the Merritt TSA, 96,234 First Nation employment days of work has been generated in pre-harvest, engineering, logging, and post-harvest type activities as a result of the uplift volume. Another 16,475 First Nation days of employment has been generated for First Nation's involvement on NSIFS projects, including TSA-wide archeology overview assessment, cultural and ecological modeling, sustainable forest management strategies and ecosystem restoration work.

Stuwix Resources Joint Venture holds a replaceable forest license created in conjunction with the IFPA uplift award and Share Agreement between IFPA members. Approximately 47% of all First Nation days of employment resulting from the uplift volume are generated through Stuwix Resources operations.

The NSIFS is committed to informing and inviting input from the public on our forest management direction supported by our Forestry Plan 3. We will provide opportunities for input from local stakeholders, First Nations, government agencies and other public interests groups about the request for AAC uplift in the Merritt TSA.

Should you have any questions or would like more information regarding our uplift request, Forestry Plan 3 or the uplift analysis, please contact me 250-832-3366 or Jerry Canuel, Chairman, NSIFS at 250-315-4236.

Sincerely,

Glenn Thiem, ASCT, RFT  
CEO, Mgr  
On behalf of the NSIFS BoD