

June 24, 2021

Ms. Joanne Sweeney
Director
Environmental Assessment Division
Department of Environment, Climate Change and Municipalities

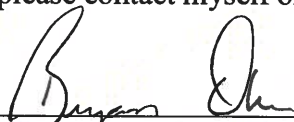
**RE: 5 Year Operating Plan for Crown Managed Lands, Forest Management
District 04, 05, 06 & 08 (Forest Management Planning Zone 03).**

Pursuant to Section 49 of the *Environmental Protection Act* (2002), the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture is pleased to submit for registration as an undertaking, the 5 Year Operating Plan for Crown managed lands in Forest Management Planning Zone 03, for the period of January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2026. Three copies of the Plan (2 paper and 1 digital) have been forwarded to you under separate cover.

This Plan represents the culmination of many months of preparation by Forestry Branch staff, including consultations with other government departments and engagement with known local stakeholders. In an attempt to minimize conflicts during the Environmental Assessment process, we have placed increased focus on known stakeholder values. Chapter 4 of the plan highlights the value structure, critical elements and guiding principles. For those values of Outfitting, Mining, Water Resources and Wildlife (caribou..etc), we have reached out to applicable personnel in each department to help develop and incorporate into each plan. Attempts at mitigating potential concerns / issues are presented in the corresponding documentation.

This Plan outlines in considerable detail the forestry activities to be undertaken during the upcoming five year period. The Plan is compliant with the Forestry Act (1990) and the Sustainable Forest Management Planning Regulations.

If you have any questions regarding this registration, please contact myself or Dave Poole.



Bryan Oke
Director – Forest Ecosystem Management
Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture

cc. S. Balsom
D. Poole

REGISTRATION FORM
PURSUANT OF PART 10, ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
SECTION 49 OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT

Name of Undertaking: Forest Management Districts 04, 05, 06 & 08 (Planning Zone 03) Five Year Operating Plan 2022-2026

Proponent: (i) Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture

(ii) Assistant Deputy Minister

Mr. Stephen Balsom
Forestry and Wildlife Branch
(709) 637-2269

(iii) Principal Contact Person

Mr. Bryan Oke
Forest Ecosystem Management Director
(709) 637-2296

The Undertaking: (i) Nature of Undertaking

To conduct forestry activities (harvesting, silviculture, and primary road construction) from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2026 in Forest Management Planning Zone 03.

(ii) Purpose/Rationale/Need for Undertaking

This undertaking will enable the Forest and Wildlife Branch to schedule both commercial and domestic harvesting opportunities, and apply silvicultural prescriptions for appropriate forest renewal.

This undertaking is necessary to maintain and/or expand the existing commercial forest industry and facilitate domestic harvesting of fuelwood for home heating. Overall, the plan proposes to make available approximately 1,590,430 cubic meters (softwood) and 60,955 cubic meters (hardwood) for either commercial or domestic harvest.

Description of Undertaking: (i) Geographic Location

Forest Management Planning Zone 03 extends from Seal Bay in the northwest, easterly along the coast to New-Wes-Valley in the northeast, then southerly to Terra Nova National Park in the east and then west along the northern edge of the Bay Du' Nord Wilderness Area to the general area of the Bay D'Espoir Highway near Great Gull Lake.

(ii) Physical Features

The area contains a diversity of terrain types with general rolling topography dissected by several large valleys including: Southwest Gander River, Northwest Gander River, and the Gander River Valleys.

(iii) Operation

Forest harvesting activities will be undertaken commercially (utilizing either manual or mechanical methods) or domestically (usually manually and wood extracted using either snowmachines or ATV's).

Resource Roads are constructed by approved construction techniques with Excavators or Bulldozers.

Silviculture prescriptions utilize brushsaws, pottiputkis, shovels, scarifiers or prescribed burning tools.

All buffer requirements and operations will be carried out in accordance with applicable legislation and the Environmental Protection Guidelines for Ecologically Based Forest Resource Management.

(iv) Occupants

Mechanical Harvester Operators, Forwarder Operators, Skidder Operators, Truck Drivers, Mechanics, Silviculture workers, Domestic users, Sawmill Industry Operators, Forest Technicians, Enforcement Officers

Approval of the Undertaking:

Commercial and Domestic harvesting activities will be scheduled in accordance with the approved five year plan and applicable cutting permits.

Schedule:

This plan will commence upon approval and end on December 31, 2026.

June 24, 2021 Bryan De
Date Director FEM

Cc Stephen Balsom
Dave Poole