

**Registration Pursuant of Part 10, Environmental Assessment,
Section 49 of the Environmental Assessment Act**
June 27, 2002

Name of Undertaking: Black Ridge and Sops Lake Harvesting Amendments (Amendment to Forest Management District 9 Five Year Operating Plan. FMD 9 (Springdale) for Operating Period September 1, 2000 - March 31, 2005.)

Proponent: Department of Forest Resources & Agrifoods
P. O. Box 220
Springdale, NL A0K 1T0

Chief Executive Officer: Mr. Allan Masters, Deputy Minister, P.O. Box 2006, Corner Brook, NF. A2H 6J8, 637 - 2627

Contact Person: Mr. Ivan Downton, Director of Ecosystem Management, P.O. Box 2006, Corner Brook, NF. A2H 6J8, 637 - 2285

Nature of Undertaking: Amendment to Forest Management District 9 Five Year Harvesting Plan

Purpose/Rationale: To harvest 10 000 m³ of softwood from 130 ha of mature and overmature softwood stands in the Sops Lake area and 2000 m³ from 40 ha in the Black Ridge area as outlined on attached maps. This amendment is necessary to provide an operating area and employment to local operators and loggers from the Springdale and Middle Arm areas. This amendment is being submitted by the Forest Service on behalf of the operators seeking to harvest softwood sawlogs and pulpwood to achieve their yearly allocation. The additional harvest volume proposed in this amendment will be credited against the current Crown Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) for the district. Despite this amendment, the AAC will not be exceeded. A road infrastructure is already in place however the operators intend to build 3.5 km of operational road in the Sops Lake area and 2.5 km in the Black Ridge operating area. No additional primary road will be constructed.

Geographical Location: The Sops Lake Amendment area is approximately 8 km south east of the community of Roberts Arm (National Topographic Series Maps Roberts Arm 2E5) and Black Ridge is approximately 6.5 km south west of the community of Middle Arm on the Baie Verte Peninsula (National Topographic Series Maps Kings Point 12H9).

Physical Features: The topography in the areas is undulating with some steep slopes. The softwood stands to be harvested are all mature and overmature.

(i.e., 80 years of age or older). This area is characterized by forest land, bogland and barrens. Among the marsh and bogland are stands of timber that cannot be accessed and as well timber on some slopes will not be harvested due to operational constraints.

Operation: Conventional/mechanical 2.5 meter and tree length timber harvesting using forwarder and/or skidder. All operations and buffer requirements will be carried out in accordance with the Environmental Protection Guidelines for Ecologically Based Forest Resource Management and The Forestry Act. Operations will commence upon approval of undertaking and continue yearly until 2005.

Occupations: Loggers, equipment operators and truckers

Documents: Forest Management District 9 Five Year Operating Plan

Schedule: April 2004 - March 2005

Other Comments: Commercial softwood sawlog and fuelwood operation employing 4-8 people harvesting 4000 m³ annually in the Sops Lake area and 1000 m³ annually in the Black Ridge area. All access will be by existing primary and new secondary forest access roads. There are no known resource conflicts for this area. Softwood logs will be sold to an integrated sawmill and material not suitable for sawlogs will be used as pulpwood. Commercial operators will be operating under Crown land cutting permits and as such will be bound by its conditions and the regulations imposed under the Forestry Act. As well contractors will be operating under the Environmental Protection Guidelines for Ecologically Based Forest Resource Management.

Date

Chief Executive Officer