

**REGISTRATION FORM
PURSUANT TO PART X, SECTION 49 OF
THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT (2002)**

Name of Undertaking: Amendment to the Forest Management District 19A 2008-2012 Five Year Operating Plan: Proposed Planting Areas - Muskrat Falls Burn.

Proponent: Forestry and Agrifoods Agency
Department of Natural Resources
P. O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL
A1B 4J6

Chief Executive Officer: Mr. Len Moores
Chief Executive Officer
Newfoundland and Labrador Forest Service
Dept. of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 2006
Corner Brook, NL
A2H 6J8
(709) 637-2339

Principal Contact Person: Mr. Craig Coady
District Ecosystem Manager
Forestry and Agrifoods Agency
Dept. of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 429
North West River, NL
A0P 1M0
(709) 497-8481

The Undertaking:

(i) **Nature of Undertaking**

Amendment to the Crown Five Year Operating Plan for Forest Management District 19A to plant a poorly regenerating burn in the Muskrat Falls area with black spruce seedlings near the Town of Happy Valley Goose Bay.

(ii) **Purpose/Rationale/Need for Undertaking**

The Crown Five Year Operating Plan for Forest Management District 19A (2008-12)

was released from the environmental assessment review process in May 2009. During the summer of 2009, while looking for suitable planting sites in the Grand Lake Road area it was found that access to such sites was lacking. Also based on assessments of previous plantation in the area providing access to such areas was determined to be unrealistic based on costs and future returns. As a result other alternatives were explored for planting in the district. A burn located at the Muskrat Falls area just south of the Trans Labrador Highway was surveyed. Based on readily available access and insufficient regeneration since disturbance it was decided to switch the planting focus area in the 5 year plan.

Description of Undertaking:

(i) Geographic Location

Forest Management District 19a (FMD19a) is approximately 2.2 million hectares in size. FMD 19a is generally referred to as Central Labrador. The location of the silviculture amendment is approximately 45 km west of the town of Happy Valley Goose Bay along the Trans Labrador Highway. The area is located north of the Churchill River. The attached 1:50,000 maps outline the exact location.

(ii) Physical Features

This amendment covers 600 ha of proposed planting area. Site descriptive characteristics include sandy loam soil type with few stones/boulders and good drainage. Duff thickness is less than 8 cm with rooting depth less than 30 cm. The topography is classified as rolling and vegetative competition is less than 25%. Ground vegetation types include Blueberry, Partridge Berry, Dwarf Birch, Caribou Moss, and Ground Pine.

(iii) Operation

The proposed silviculture activity will consist of the manual planting of greenhouse-reared, containerized black and white spruce tree seedlings. The seedlings were grown at DNR's Happy Valley Goose Bay Tree Nursery from a local seed source. The planting operation is expected to take approximately four weeks per year to complete.

(iv) Occupations

This operation will help sustain approximately 10 seasonal jobs each year.

(v) Project Related Documents

Upon approval, this proposal will become part of the Crown's Forest Management District 21 Five-Year Operating Plan, January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2011.

Approval of the Undertaking:

- (i)** ILUC review.
- (ii)** Operating permit available from District 19 Forest Management Office.
- (iii)** Stream/River crossing permits from the Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Schedule:

The Forestry and Agrifoods Agency requests a decision within 45 days after the Minister of Environment and Conservation receives the completed registration form. Planting will commence in early summer, 2010, if the amendment is approved.

Date

Chief Executive Officer