

**REGISTRATION FORM
PURSUANT TO SECTION 49 OF
THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT**

Name of Undertaking: Amendment to Forest Management District 2's 2007-2011 Five Year Operating Plan: Harvest Block 234.

Proponent: (i) **Newfoundland and Labrador Forest Service**
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(ii) Chief Executive Officer

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(iii) Principal Contact Person

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The Undertaking: (i) **Nature of Undertaking**

Amendment to Crown Five Year Operating Plan for Forest Management District 2 for commercial timber harvesting and forest access road construction.

(ii) Purpose/Rationale/Need for Undertaking

As described in the EA-approved 2007-2011 Five Year Operating Plan for District 2, the

harvest strategy for the District requires a focus on the harvest of old and decadent stands before they pass the point of commercial viability. Consequently, commercial timber harvesters in District 2, operating under a Crown cutting permit, are required to harvest their annual allocation in these stands. This amendment is required to provide a revised access route to such an area (Harvest Block 234). In addition, the revised route will access an additional 240 ha's of forested land and 13,400 m³ of harvestable timber that has been heavily disturbed through past practices of hygrading for sawlogs and is in need of remedial harvesting, but was not identified in the Five Year Operating Plan.

The proposed amendment will not mean an increase in Forest Management District 02's harvest level. The District's sustainable harvest level will not be exceeded and will be balanced by reduced harvesting elsewhere in the District.

It should be noted that in the approved Five Year Operating Plan, an access route into Harvest Block 234, was identified. However, since the plan was drafted and subsequently released from the environmental assessment requirements, ground truthing has revealed the need to reconstruct 4.7 kms of access road prior to constructing the 2 kms of approved access. In addition, the combination of new/reconstruction would require bridging of two major streams. The proposed alternate access would reduce total construction from 6.7 kms to 3 kms and negate the necessity of stream crossings, thus mitigating concerns for water quality degradation.

Description of Undertaking: (i) **Geographic Location**

Forest Management District 2 generally comprises the Bonavista Peninsula, as well as areas on both sides of the Trans Canada Highway from the eastern entrance of Terra Nova National Park to the community of Sunnyside.

Harvesting Block 234 is located on Crown Land approximately 6 kms south of the town of Lethbridge and within the Agriculture Development Area. Access to the general area is via an existing forest access road locally known as Lethbridge Access Road. The proposed access road and harvest area amendments are located immediately east of the approved operating area. The attached 1:75,000 scale and 1:30,000 scale maps identify the geographic location of the proposed amendment.

(ii) Physical Features

(iii) Operation

(a) Road Construction:

3.0 km of new primary road is proposed to be constructed. The proposed route will branch from an existing forest access road (locally known as Big Pond Branch off Lethbridge Access Road) and proceed in a general westerly direction. Construction will be to Class C Standard as delineated by the Forest Engineering and Industry Services Division of the Department of Natural Resources. No stream crossings are required.

(b) Harvesting

As noted above, the new road will provide access to an additional 13,400m³ of harvestable timber north of Big Pond. All timber, including that harvested from the access road right of way, will be harvested

to utilize the maximum amount of fibre. The timber will be felled mechanically and forwarded to roadside by conventional means. Harvesting is expected to exceed the life of the current 5-Year Forest Management Plan for Forest Management District 02 (2007-11) and will be carried forward to the next planning period.

(iv) Occupations

These operations will create approximately 250 person weeks of employment as well as help sustain approximately 300 year round jobs in the timber harvesting / sawmilling / pulpwood industries.

(v) Project Related Documents

Upon approval, this proposal will become part of the Crown's Forest Management District 2 Five-Year Operating Plan, January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2011. Harvesting is expected to exceed the life of the current plan and will be carried forward to the next planning period.

Approval of the Undertaking: (i) Commercial harvesting permits from the District 2 (Clarenville) Forest Management Office.

Schedule: The Newfoundland and Labrador Forest Service requests a decision within 45 days after the Minister of Environment and Conservation receives the completed registration form.

Date

Chief Executive Officer