

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

- Name of Undertaking:** Amendment to the Forest Management District 4, Five Year Operating Plan: Southwest Gander Amendment
- Proponent:**
- (i) Newfoundland and Labrador Forest Service
 - (ii) P. O. Box 8700
St. John's, NF
A1B 4J6
 - (iii) 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
 - (iv) Principal Contact Person

Mr. Basil English
Supervisor of Strategic Planning
Newfoundland and Labrador Forest Service
Dept. of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 2006, Corner Brook,
NL, A2H 6J8
(709) 637-2343
- The Undertaking:**
- (i) Nature of Undertaking

Amendment to Crown Five Year Operating Plan for Forest Management District 4 for timber harvesting and road and bridge construction.
 - (ii) Purpose/Rationale/Need for Undertaking

This amendment is required to provide additional harvesting opportunities for District 4 Crown operators so that they can fill their 2006 and 2007

permits. The allocated five year blocks for these operators are either completed now or will be completed during 2006. The targeted stands in the new operating area are generally of low merchantable volume and over-mature.

Description of Undertaking:

(i) Geographic Location

Forest Management District 4 generally comprises the watersheds of the Terra Nova and Gambo Rivers and extends south to the Bay Du Nord Wilderness Reserve. The only community is the Town of Terra Nova in the far east of the district.

The amendment area is located at the Southwest Gander River in District 4, approximately 50 km south of the Town of Glenwood. The attached 1:50,000 topographic map outlines the area.

(ii) Physical Features

The Southwest Gander Operating Area encompasses approximately 1,100 ha of productive forest stands within a total area of approximately 4,700 ha. The intent is to harvest approximately 25,000 m³ of merchantable Class I softwood and 10,000 m³ of Class III softwood over a two year period (approximately 17,500 m³ per annum). The area has been partially harvested in the past by Abitibi Consolidated and now consists of many fragmented, overmature stands, spread over a considerable area. There is an extensive abandoned road network throughout much of the operating area: some of this will be upgraded and additional roading added. The operating area will be accessed by connecting to the access road networks coming from Glenwood in the north and the Northwest Gander River along the Bay D'Espoir Highway in the west.

(iii) Operation

(a) Road Development/ Reconstruction:

19 km of existing road will be reconstructed to

primary standard, and approximately 7 km of new primary road will be constructed. Two bridges are required to be reconstructed at historical crossing points on the Southwest Gander River. The first bridge, at Larson's Falls to the north of the operating area, will be approximately 34 m in length. The second bridge, to be approximately 25 m in length, will be constructed at a crossing point on the Southwest Gander River approximately 24 km south of Larson's Falls, at the same location as a bridge that was recently decommissioned by Abitibi Consolidated. The road construction and bridge installation activities will create approximately 150 person weeks of employment.

(b) Harvesting (+ road and bridge construction)

These are integrated sawlog/pulpwood harvesting operations. The timber will be felled mechanically and conventionally forwarded to roadside. Road and bridge construction will be done with excavators and some manual labour. These operations will create approximately 500 person weeks of employment and help sustain approximately 50 year round sawmilling jobs.

(iv) Occupations

There will be approximately 14 equipment operators, and 3 foreman employed in this area over the two year period, covering all aspects of the operations.

(v) Project Related Documents

Upon approval, this proposal will become part of the Crown's Forest Management District 4 Five-Year Operating Plan, released November 6, 2000.

Approval of the Undertaking:

- (i) Commercial operating permits from the District 5 (Gambo) Forest Management Office.
- (ii) Stream/River crossing permits from Water Resources Division, Dept. of Environment and Conservation.
- (iii) Stream/River crossing permits from Dept. of

Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

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