

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

- Name of Undertaking:** Amendment to Forest Management District 2's 2012-2016 Five Year Operating Plan: Harvest Block C0224.
- Proponent:**
- (i) **Newfoundland and Labrador Forest Service**

P. O. Box 8700
St. John's NL A1B 4J6
 - (ii) **Chief Executive Officer**

Mr. Jim Evans
Chief Executive Officer
Newfoundland and Labrador Forest Service
Dept. of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 2006, Corner Brook,
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 - (iii) **Principal Contact Person**

Mr. Ivan Downton
Director of Forest Ecosystem Management
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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 2012-2016 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 continued access to such an area (Harvest Block C0224). It will provide access to an additional 178 ha's of forested land and 15,170 m³ of harvestable timber that has been heavily disturbed through past practices and is in need of remedial harvesting, and 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.

The amendment represents an extension to an approved operating area. The commercial operator has increased his harvesting capacity beyond what was planned in the five year planning process necessitating an increase in his operating area. The amendment will allow the operator to take continued advantage of current road infrastructure for harvest block C0224. It will also mean completion of harvesting in this general area allowing future road decommissioning.

It should be noted that to access this area will require 3.2 kms of road construction with 0.5 kms of this in an area previously approved through the Five Year Planning process.

It should also be noted that the proposed area falls within the Agriculture Development Zone and has been identified as a high priority area in the new Agriculture Area of Interest. Timber harvesting is

anticipated to facilitate agricultural development in this area.

Description of Undertaking:

(i) Geographic Location

Forest Management District 2 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 C0224 is located on Crown Land approximately 6 kms south of the town of Lethbridge. Access to the general area is via an existing forest access road locally known as Lethbridge Access Road. The proposed harvest area amendment is located immediately west of of approved operating area. The attached 1:75,000 scale map identifies the geographic location of the proposed amendment.

(ii) Physical Features

(iii) Operation

(a) Road Construction:

3.2 km of new primary road is proposed to be constructed. The proposed route will extend from an existing forest access road (locally known as Big Pond Branch off Lethbridge Access Road) and proceed in a general westerly direction. A 500 m branch road will be required. 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 proposed extension to Harvest Block C0224 will provide access to

an additional 15,170m³ of harvestable timber northwest 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 be completed during the life of the current 5-Year Forest Management Plan for Forest Management District 02 (2012-16).

(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, 2012 to December 31, 2016

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