

REGISTRATION FORM
PURSUANT OF PART 10, ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
SECTION 49 OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT

Name of Undertaking: Forest Management Planning Zone 8. District 17 & 18
Five Year Operating Plan 2013-2017 (Amendment)

Proponent: (i) Forestry and Agrifoods Agency
Forestry Services Branch
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(ii) Chief Executive Officer

Mr. James Evans
Chief Executive Officer
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(iii) Principal Contact Person

Mr. Robert Sutton
Senior Management Planner (A)
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The Undertaking: (i) Nature of Undertaking

Domestic timber harvesting amendment to the
Five-Year Operating Plan for Forest Management
Districts 17 & 18; which is Forest Management
Planning Zone 8.

(ii) Purpose/Rationale/Need for Undertaking

Over the past three years, the Northern peninsula
has experienced extreme wind storms. This has
resulted in significant areas of blown down timber
within the domestic forest landbase. This
amendment will open significant areas of blow
down for domestic harvesting.

For the most part, areas included in this amendment
have no roads and can only be accessed by ATV or
snowmobile. On the Northern peninsula,

approximately 90 % of domestic harvesting occurs when the ground is frozen and snow covered.

Due to a mild winter and lack of snow in 2016, the Port Saunders harbour did not freeze over and snowmobile access was limited to the Sandy Cove-Flat Brook domestic cutting block on the southern side of Tom Taylors Pond. The town council of Port Saunders submitted a written request (enclosed) for an extension of this cutting block on the southern side of Tom Taylors Pond. This proposed extension will provide residents of Port Saunders with easy access to a supply of fuelwood and sawlogs. The proposed extension on the northern end of this block was requested by the town council of Port Au Choix (letter attached). This proposed extension will provide residents from the communities of Port Au Choix and Eddies Cove West access to additional low volume and blow down timber as fuelwood.

The proposed extension to the Scaffold marsh domestic cutting block (D17-10) and the burnt Head domestic cutting block (D17-11) was requested by the town council of River of Ponds (letter enclosed). These two additions will provide better natural boundaries on the existing domestic cutting blocks and open significant areas of blowdown for harvesting.

The proposed extension to the Log Pond domestic cutting block (D18-33), Bide Arm Neck domestic cutting block (D18-35) and Hancock's Pond domestic cutting block (D18-36) were requested by the town council of Bide Arm-Roddickton (letter attached). These proposed additions will provide residents of Bide Arm-Roddickton and Englee with additional fuelwood and sawlogs closer to the communities.

Description of Undertaking:

(i) Geographic Location

Forest Management Planning Zone 8 encompasses Forest Management Districts 17 & 18. It extends from Gros Morne National Park in the south to the community of St. Anthony in the north. This

harvesting amendment covers six domestic cutting blocks. The Sandy Cove/Flat Brook domestic cutting block is situated between the communities of Port Saunders, Port Au Choix and Eddies Cove West on the Northern Peninsula. This block has been used for domestic fuelwood and sawlog requirements since the communities were settled. The Scaffold Marsh domestic cutting block (D17-10) is adjacent to the eastern end and Burnt Head domestic cutting block (D17-11) is adjacent to the western end of River of Ponds on the Northern Peninsula. The Log Pond domestic cutting block (D17-33), Bide Arm Neck domestic cutting block (D18-35) and Hancock's Pond domestic cutting block (D18-36) is within the Roddickton- Bide Arm municipal planning boundary on the Northern Peninsula. The attached 1:50 000 topographic maps give a general overview of the area and exact location of the proposed amendments.

(ii) Physical Features

The Sandy Cove-Flat Brook amendment covers 1,341 hectares of productive forest land and will provide access to an additional 38,798 m³ of timber. The Scaffolds Marsh amendment covers 127 hectares of productive forest land and will provide access to an additional 6,726 m³ of timber.

The Burnt Head amendment covers 118 hectares of productive forest land and will provide access to an additional 4,466 m³ of timber. The Log Pond amendment covers 162 hectares of productive forest land and will provide access to an additional 7,467 m³ of timber. The Bide Arm Neck and Hancock's Pond amendment covers 598 hectares of productive forest land and will provide access to an additional 16,844 m³ of timber.

(iii) Operation

These areas will be harvested by domestic cutters for fuelwood and sawlogs. Most of the harvesting and all of the extraction will take place by snowmobile during the winter months. Based upon yearly domestic permit sales, the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency estimates that approximately 12,804 m³ of softwood and 1,280 m³ of hardwood

will be harvested in these areas over the duration of this five year operating plan.

(iv) Occupants

There will be approximately 291 domestic wood cutters operating in these six domestic cutting blocks.

(v) Project Related Document

Forest Management District 17 & 18 Five Year Operating Plan; January 1, 2013 - December 31, 2017.

(vi) Public Meetings

After receiving verbal and written request from the councils of Port Saunders, Port Au Choix, River of Ponds and Roddickton-Bide Arm, staff from the Forestry Services Branch in Roddickton and Port Saunders met with councils to discuss their concerns.

Approval of the Undertaking:

Domestic Cutting Permits from the Forestry Services branch district offices in Roddickton and Port Saunders.

Schedule:

If approved, some of these activities are planned to commence January 1st 2017. The Newfoundland Forest Service requests a decision within 45 days after the Minister of Environment receives the completed registration form.

Date

June 6, 2016

Ivan Downton
Chief Executive Officer