

FEB 28 2018

Reg No. 1938

Mr. Francis Skeard  
Director, Forest Ecosystem Management  
Department of Fisheries and Land Resources  
Box 2006, Fortis Bldg.  
Corner Brook NL A2H 6J8

Dear Mr. Skeard:

**Re: Crown Zone 5 Five-Year Forestry Operating Plan (2016-20) Amendment**

Your proposal has been reviewed by an interdepartmental screening committee and an opportunity to comment has been provided to the public as required by the Newfoundland and Labrador *Environmental Protection Act*, SNL 2002, cE-14.2. Upon consideration of the comments received, please be advised that this undertaking is released from further environmental assessment subject to the following condition:

- The proponent must maintain a minimum 30-metre naturally vegetated buffer along all watercourses, waterbodies, and wetlands to protect sensitive riparian and aquatic species and their habitat.

The Tourism and Culture Branch of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation recommend that you consult outfitters near the amendment area, such as those located on Victoria River, prior to start of the project and on an annual basis to minimize negative effects on outfitting lodges. In particular, to consider ways to reduce traffic near a lodge and on timing of forestry operations to avoid conflict with the hunting season. For further information, please contact Mr. John Angelopoulos, Manager, Sector Development, Tourism and Culture Branch, at (709)729-4518 or [johnangelopoulos@gov.nl.ca](mailto:johnangelopoulos@gov.nl.ca).

The Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment supports Environment and Climate Change Canada's recommendation that in order to avoid nest destruction and to accommodate the breeding season of migratory songbirds and waterfowl, operations should consider nesting locations between April 15<sup>th</sup> and August 15<sup>th</sup> in this region. However, as some species protected under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act (MBCA)* do nest outside of this time period, it is the responsibility of the proponent to ensure that project activities are in compliance with the MBCA and associated regulations. For further information, please contact Mr. Joshua Mailhiot, Canadian Wildlife Service, at (709)772-2154 or [Joshua.Mailhiot@canada.ca](mailto:Joshua.Mailhiot@canada.ca)

In February 2017, as a condition of release for four Crown Five-Year operating plans, a draft document that details a plan for the development and implementation of best management practices for avifauna management relative to forestry operations in Newfoundland and Labrador was required. I understand the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources has drafted and is implementing this plan. The best management practices developed under this planning process should be applied to this five-year operating plan amendment.

Although the undertaking, as proposed, is released from further environmental assessment, it is still subject to other legislative requirements. Also, the terms and conditions provided to you on the Five Year Plan and other amendments submitted for Zone 5 apply to this area as well. A detailed summary of the comments received from government agencies during the review is attached to provide an indication of likely applicable permits, approvals and legislative requirements. Please note that you must comply with all relevant legislation and obtain all necessary permits and approvals. You are required to inform this Department of any proposed significant changes to the undertaking.

If you have any questions concerning these matters, please contact Dr. Susan Squires, Director, at (709)729-0673 or [susansquires@gov.nl.ca](mailto:susansquires@gov.nl.ca).

Sincerely,



**EDDIE JOYCE, MHA**  
District of Humber – Bay of Islands  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment

Attachment

cc: Hon. Gerry Byrne, Minister  
Fisheries and Land Resources

Hon. Christopher Mitchelmore, Minister  
Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation

Hon. Allan Hawkins, MHA  
District of Windsor-Buchans