

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

- Name of Undertaking:** Amendment to the Forest Management District 2 2007-2011 Five Year Operating Plan: Harvest Block 215 Amendment.
- Proponent:**
- (i) **Newfoundland and Labrador Forest Service**
P. O. Box 8700
St. John's, NF
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 - (ii) **Chief Executive Officer**

Mr. Len Moores
Chief Executive Officer
Newfoundland and Labrador Forest Service
Dept. of Natural Resources
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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 balsam fir 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 25% of their annual allocation in these “priority” stands of older balsam fir. This amendment is required to provide a revised access route to such a priority area (Operating Area 215). In addition, the revised route will access additional harvestable timber that was not identified in the Five Year Operating Plan.

It should be noted that in the approved Five Year Operating Plan, an access route into Operating Area 215, namely the White Hills Ski Resort access road, was identified. However, since the plan was drafted and subsequently released from environmental assessment requirements, a local group has come forward to express concerns about the use of this road. The “White Hills Ski Resort Committee” has objected to the use of the resort’s access road for logging operations, suggesting that it would lead to safety concerns and permanent road damage. To mitigate this concern, DNR has identified an alternate route which involves accessing Operating Area 215 by extending an existing primary forest access road (Dark Hole Brook resource road) in nearby Operating Area 216 by 3.1 km.

In addition, the new route will provide access to 3,000m³ of additional harvestable timber located in previously isolated forest stands between the two operating areas and southwest of Long Lew Pond. These stands are proposed to be harvested during the planning period (2007-11). However, the District’s sustainable harvest level will not be exceeded and any wood cut here will be

offset by reduced harvesting elsewhere in the District.

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.

Operating Area 215 is located on unalienated Crown land approximately 7 km west of the town of Clarenville. The proposed access road and harvest area amendments are located immediately west of the approved operating area. The attached 1:50,000 scale topographic map (2 D/1) and 1:20,000 scale forest inventory map identify the geographic location of the amendment area.

(ii) Physical Features

(iii) Operation

(a) Road Development/ Reconstruction:

3.1 km of new primary road will be constructed. The proposed route will connect the Dark Hole Brook forest access road with the White Hills forest access road.

One bridge will be required on the new section of primary forest access road. The bridge will be installed at the western end of Long Lew Pond.

(b) Harvesting

As noted above, the new road will provide access to an additional 3,000m³ of harvestable timber in previously isolated forest stands west of Long Lew 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 conventionally forwarded to roadside. Road and bridge construction will be carried out with excavators and manual labour.

(iv) Occupations

These operations will create approximately 100 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.

Approval of the Undertaking:

- (i)** Commercial operating permits from the District 2 (Clareville) Forest Management Office.
- (ii)** Stream/River crossing permits from Water Resources Division, Dept. of Environment and Conservation.
- (iii)** Stream/River crossing permits from the 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