



File: 19460-20/MIEDS

January 26, 2018

Andrew Merilees  
Chair  
Misty Islands Economic Development Society  
PO Box 652  
113 Oceanview Drive  
Queen Charlotte, British Columbia  
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Dear Andrew Merilees:

On December 15, 2017, Sharon Hadway, Regional Executive Director, sent a letter to you inviting MIEDS to apply for a Community Forest Agreement (CFA) pursuant to the *Forest Act* and *Community Tenures Regulation*. This letter contained a map of the area proposed for the CFA, which is a subset of the Haida Gwaii Timber Supply Area (TSA). There have been several discussions regarding the area identified, the estimated Allowable Annual Cut (AAC) it can support, and the data used to estimate this. I feel it is necessary to clarify several points.

In late 2013 and early 2014, ministry staff, along with MIEDS representatives, prepared a map of a potential CFA area that could support the proposed AAC of 80,000 cubic metres (m<sup>3</sup>), based on the current timber supply analysis, as per the Minister's direction. The areas chosen considered their proximity to the communities of Haida Gwaii, access, comparability to other units in the TSA, and the needs of other licensees given the considerable fragmentation of the TSA following the implementation of the Strategic Land Use Agreement.

Our Ministry's Forest Analysis and Inventory Branch (FAIB) has worked on analyses and area assessments for MIEDS since 2014. The analyses carried out by FAIB for the CFA were supplemental to the overall timber supply review (TSR) that supported the Haida Gwaii Management Council's first AAC determination for all of Haida Gwaii in 2012. The 2017 polygons overlap the 2014 polygons by approximately 80%. With this high level of correlation and the supplemental analyses done by FAIB in 2017, I am confident that the area presented in the invitation is representative of the TSA, is fair, and will support an estimated AAC of 80,000 m<sup>3</sup> following the same management assumptions of the 2012 AAC determination.

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**Ministry of Forests, Lands,  
Natural Resource Operations &  
Rural Development**

Haida Gwaii  
Natural Resource District

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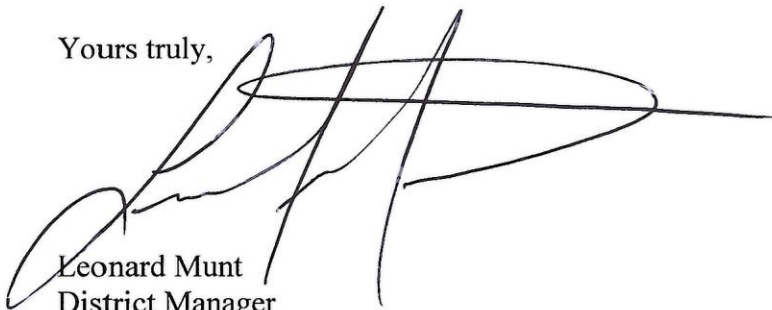
MIEDS must now prepare and submit an application for the CFA including a Management Plan and proposed AAC for my review and consultation at the Haida Gwaii Solutions Table. The management plan template companion document that is accessed from links in the application requirements, describes generic requirements for the CFA applicant to address in proposing an AAC. In addition the licence document allows the District Manager some flexibility regarding inventories and information they require to determine an AAC.

To this end, MIEDS has a number of options with regard to the inventories and information included in the management plan to support the proposed AAC:

- a. Use the work completed by FAIB to date that shows the area will support an AAC of 80,000 m<sup>3</sup>;
- b. Perform its own analysis, using the 2010 inventory information that your consultant can access from the ministry data warehouse; or
- c. Perform its own analysis using a preliminary 2017 inventory dataset that FAIB can provide. Be advised that this input dataset is different than those that have been used to determine an area thus far (and to estimate a supportable AAC of 80,000m<sup>3</sup>) as presented in the December 2017 invitation. No further area will be forthcoming if your analysis or other management assumptions contained in your management Plan propose an AAC less than 80,000m<sup>3</sup>.

As described in the management plan template companion document, it is important that the person preparing the Management Plan meet with ministry staff prior to embarking on any timber supply analysis that will support the proposed AAC. To arrange a meeting , or if you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter or the preparation of a Management Plan, please contact Mark Salzl, Authorizations Officer, at 250-559-6206.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leonard Munt', written over a horizontal line.

Leonard Munt  
District Manager  
Haida Gwaii Natural Resource District

Cc Sharon Hadway, Regional Executive Director, West Coast Natural Resource Region