



To Our Valued Community Members and Partners:

The timber supply analysis and draft management plan (#6) for Tree Farm Licence 44 have been completed and are available for public review. TFL 44 is held by Tsawak-qin Forestry Limited Partnership (C'awak ʔqin Forestry), a partnership between Huu-ay-aht First Nations-owned Huumiis Ventures Limited Partnership and Western Forest Products Inc. You can find these documents on C'awak ʔqin Forestry's website at tsawak-qin.com/forest-stewardship.

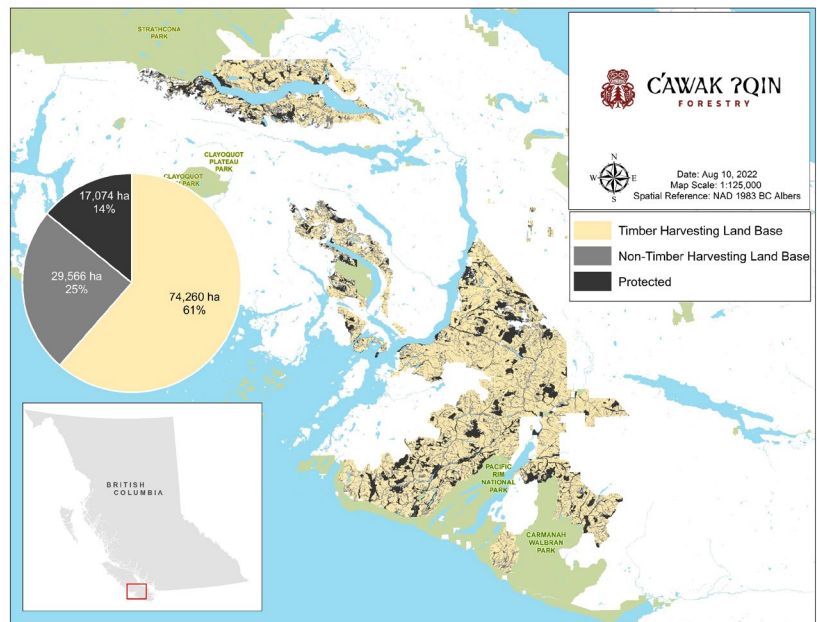
These documents form the basis on which British Columbia's Chief Forester will determine the allowable annual cut (AAC) for the TFL. We welcome your review, input and questions regarding this process. This letter outlines important considerations.

Context:

In British Columbia, the Timber Supply Review (TSR) process began 30 years ago. Since then, there have been substantial regulatory changes, improved data and most importantly, greater recognition of Indigenous sovereignty where First Nations are both decision makers and stewards of the land.

Nowhere is this transition more apparent than in TFL 44, where today C'awak ʔqin Forestry is co-ordinating a new Indigenous-led approach to develop an Integrated Resource Management Plan (IRMP) for forest and ecosystem management. The TFL 44 IRMP will combine the teachings, wisdom and input of the Nations' ancestors, elders and citizens alongside the latest data, science and technology to create a common vision and direction for government-to-government land and resource management decisions. ***As such, when the IRMP is complete C'awak ʔqin Forestry will ask the Provincial Chief Forester to reopen the TSR so that it reflects this important Indigenous planning work.***

The current AAC was set at 800,000 cubic metres in 2011¹. In 2015, the AAC was reduced by 6,400 cubic metres to 793,600 cubic metres due to tenure boundary changes². In 2020, at the request of the TFL 44 Limited Partnership (now C'awak ʔqin Forestry), the Province's Chief Forester partitioned the AAC by economic operability and age (less than 121 years old)³. Specifically:



¹ https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/forestry/stewardship/forest-analysis-inventory/tsr-annual-allowable-cut/tree-farm-license/44tfa11_final.pdf

² <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/managing-our-forest-resources/timber-supply-review-and-allowable-annual-cut/allowable-annual-cut-tree-farm-licences>

³ https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/forestry/stewardship/forest-analysis-inventory/tsr-annual-allowable-cut/tree-farm-license/44tfa_2020_partition.pdf



- 535,000 cubic metres of the AAC is attributed to the economic land base⁴; and
- 110,000 cubic metres is attributed to the economic land base in stands younger than 121 years.

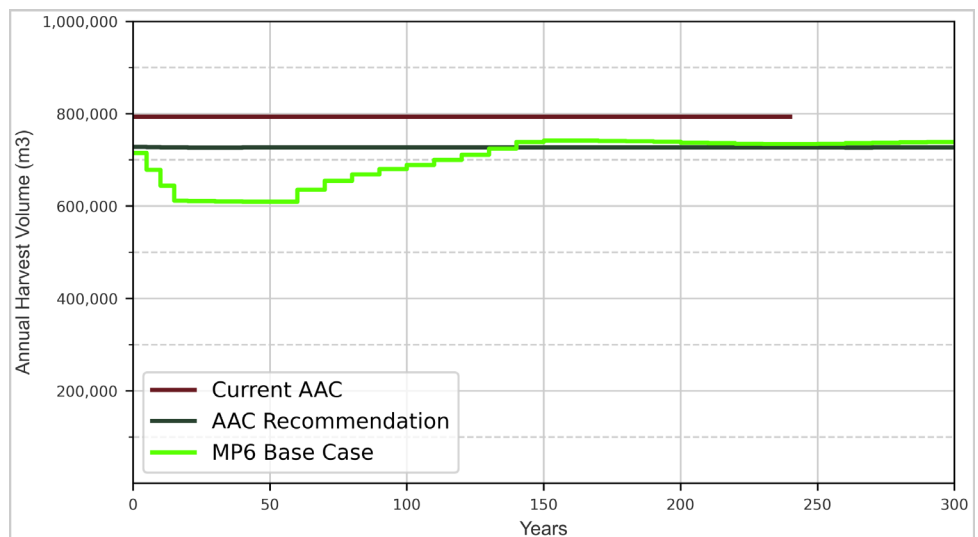
Your input into the TSR process is important and will also be reviewed from the context of the IRMP and other processes being co-ordinated by C'awak ʔqin Forestry, including expanding protection of tall trees, considering the outcomes from the Anacla Old-Growth Summit, and new developments through the Hišuk ma c'awak Manufacturing Initiative (HMI) which aims to position the business to be climate positive by 2030. You can read more about these initiatives on our website, tsawak-qin.com.

Given the timber supply analysis forecasts a steady rate for the next 300 years and the ongoing Indigenous-led processes underway in the TFL, C'awak ʔqin Forestry requested that the BC Government postpone the TSR until those processes could be completed. However, this request was denied. While we recognize that the Province's Chief Forester generally reviews the AAC every 10 years, it is the IRMP that will ultimately reflect the true condition of the forest today and the practices and harvest levels that will support for the needs and interests for generations to come. We simply cannot solve today's challenges with yesterday's approaches, and therefore it will be important to revisit the TSR as soon as the IRMP is completed.

The analysis and recommendations below are based on current practice. We expect that a subsequent TSR will be required to reflect the outcome of the IRMP process.

Highlights from the current analysis:

- Since 2011, there have been improved data (e.g., LiDAR), practices (e.g., spatial modelling), information (economic partition) and land use changes (e.g., increased conservation).
- As a result, the analysis proposes an AAC of 727,200 m³ for TFL 44 for the next ten years. This proposed AAC is higher than the Base Case analysis in the original data information package which did not reflect the LiDAR inventory data and changes to minimum harvest ages.
- Further, the proposed AAC is a constant harvest rate of 727,200 m³ for the next 300 years.
- As harvesting of current old stands occurs in the timber harvesting land base, the total productive area in the oldest age class gradually declines, but then increases to more than 48,400 hectares by Year 300.



⁴ Based on the analysis from Western Forest Products Inc. (2020). *TFL 44 Economic Analysis For Partition Recommendation*. Campbell River: Western Forest Products Inc. This analysis uses forest inventory data (including LiDAR) and current economic data. The economic land base is derived by comparing the estimated timber value (market prices for species-specific log sorts) minus estimated haul costs and average phase costs of projected harvest blocks in TFL 44.



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- Currently, 32% of the forests in TFL 44 are old growth (older than 250 years) with this number expected to increase over the next 300 years to reach 39%, reflecting the fact that in the long-term, the extent of land base managed for timber and other resource values is 74,058 ha (61% of the productive forest) while 46,912 ha (39%) is conserved for non-timber values. These forests are expected to contribute significantly to biodiversity conservation and complement protected areas within and adjacent to the TFL.
- Currently three-quarters of the old growth in the TFL is protected or outside of the timber harvesting land base.

The timber supply analysis also reflects the intent of the economic partition to manage the transition from old growth to second growth over the next two decades, and to ensure the sustainable management of timber supply. The partition analysis projects that in the first 5 years, 53% of the harvest will occur in stands greater than 120 years old, decreasing to 25% in the following 5 years.

In summary:

An AAC determination reflects a moment in time. As C'awak ʔqin Forestry, we intend to invest our efforts to supporting the ground-breaking work happening across the TFL and Nations' territories through IRMPs. While the AAC is volume driven, our focus is on value – the value we get from working together toward a sustainable future. The Indigenous-led processes we are investing in today not only cover all values -- such as old growth, big trees, fisheries, culture and climate change -- but also incorporate the research and advice of leading experts that Indigenous governments have retained in forestry, fisheries and ecosystem management.

Together, these processes provide clear, Indigenous-led direction to provincially-legislated approaches to forest landscape plans, old-growth management and on-the-ground operational planning, while ensuring long lasting socio-economic, environmental and cultural benefits for everyone across the area. You can find out more about our work and the current TSR at tsawak-qin.com.

We are on an important journey – one that respects the sovereignty of Indigenous Peoples while building a stronger future for all. Thank you for your support.

Yours truly,

Cawak ʔqin Forestry Limited Partnership

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