



Fact Sheet 10

Harvesting sustainably

This fact sheet provides information on the determination of sustainable harvest levels for Yukon forests. If you require further information, please contact the Forest Management Branch.

How much timber can be harvested sustainably in any given region?

Yukon's Forest Resources Act requires that timber harvesting is sustainable in the long term. Each forest region within Yukon has a maximum harvest level known as an annual limit. The annual limit set for harvesting in the various forest regions of Yukon is generally set relative to historic harvest levels.

The Forest Management Branch will make annual allowable cut determinations for forest regions with approved forest resources management plans.

An annual allowable cut determination is a rigorous process that models the forested land base, forest management practices, and other assumptions to determine a sustainable harvest each year. A timber supply analysis may be completed by a technical committee before the annual allowable cut is determined.

What is a timber supply analysis?

A timber supply analysis determines how much timber is potentially available for harvesting in a forest region and examines how the forest changes over time due to disturbances such as fire, insects and harvesting.

What information do we need to complete a timber supply analysis?

A timber supply analysis considers many factors including:

- forest resources management plans;
- harvesting activities;
- the size of the land base;
- forest vegetation inventory; and
- growth rates.

A timber supply analysis also considers how the forest changes over time due to events such as:

- fire;
- insect outbreaks; and
- harvesting.

Various scenarios also predict how different forests will grow back after a disturbance, such as fires or harvesting.

Government of Yukon Yukon.ca

Energy Mines and Resources

Forest Management Branch

Mile 918 Alaska Highway
Ph: (867) 456-3999
Toll-free: 1-800-661-0408 local 3999
Email: forestry@yukon.ca

Land Management Branch Land Use

Ph: (867) 667-5215
Toll-free: 1-800-661-0408 local 5215
• Land Use Permits

Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections

Dawson
Ph: (867) 993-5468
Haines Junction
Ph: (867) 634-2256

Mayo

Ph: (867) 996-2343

Carmacks

Ph: (867) 863-5271

Whitehorse

Ph: (867) 456-3877

Teslin

Ph: (867) 390-2531

Watson Lake

Ph: (867) 536-7335

Ross River

Ph: (867) 969-2243



How is a timber supply analysis completed?

A timber supply analysis committee prepares the technical information for a region. The timber supply analysis committee includes representatives from the Government of Yukon, First Nations, and Renewable Resources Council(s).

Tasks include:

- ensuring the analysis is consistent with the Forest Resources Act and any applicable forest resources management plans;
- gathering information from forest vegetation inventory such as tree species, age, volume, height, and condition;
- analysis of the land base which involves excluding areas that are not available or appropriate for harvesting. These areas can include parks, private property, non-forested areas;
- reviewing current forest management practices that influence harvesting such as forest retention; riparian reserves or timber merchantability limits; and
- ensuring that the public is informed throughout the timber supply analysis process.

The information collected during the timber supply analysis is entered into a timber supply model to evaluate various harvest scenarios and the sensitivity of harvest levels to certain events such as wildland fire for example. These model runs provide information within a region that describe the amount of timber available for harvest.

The results are then compiled in a draft timber supply analysis discussion report. The report forms the basis

for input from First Nations, the public, and stakeholders about proposed timber harvest levels. Once the timber supply analysis committee gathers input, it finalizes the report and presents it to the Director of the Forest Management Branch. Then the process of deciding the annual allowable cut begins.

What is an annual allowable cut?

An annual allowable cut is the maximum amount of timber that may be available each year for harvesting within a region on public lands within a forest resources management plan area.

Who determines the annual allowable cut?

The Director of the Forest Management Branch makes the annual allowable cut decision on public lands. The annual allowable cut decision considers the timber supply analysis, relevant legislation and policy as well as social, economic and environmental factors. Public, stakeholder and First Nations input is also considered. First Nations may decide to do an annual allowable cut decision for their Settlement Lands at the same time.

How can the public participate?

Public input is important during the timber supply analysis and the annual allowable cut determination. During both timber supply analysis and annual allowable cut determination processes, there are opportunities for the public to attend meetings, review report results, and provide input.

If you are interested in providing input during the timber supply analysis or annual allowable cut determination processes, you can contact the Forest Management Branch or visit Yukon.ca.

Community Services
Corporate Affairs
Ph: (867) 667-5314
Toll-free: 1-800-661-0408
local 5314

- Business Registration

Highways and Public Works
Transportation
Maintenance Branch
Ph: (867) 667-5644
Toll-free: 1-800-661-0408
local 5644

- Access Permits

Other Agencies

Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board
Ph: (867) 667-5645
Toll-free: 1-800-661-0443

Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board
Ph: (867) 668-6420
Toll-free: 1-866-322-4040

City of Whitehorse
Ph: (867) 668-8346
• Harvesting Fuelwood
• Business Licence