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CLIFF 256523

June 11, 2020

Douglas Daugert, Chair
Misty Isles Economic Development Society
PO Box 652
113 Oceanview Drive
Queen Charlotte, British Columbia
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Dear Douglas Daugert:

Thank you for meeting on Haida Gwaii on February 6 and 7, 2020, to further discuss your concerns with the community forest opportunity first extended to Misty Isles Economic Development Society (MIEDS) on December 15, 2017.

At the meeting, we discussed many outstanding concerns and issues that MIEDS has with the current community forest agreement (CFA) offer including the operating area and details of the partnership with BC Timber Sales. One issue that we agreed would be helpful is an understanding of the new allowable annual cut (AAC) and how it may affect the proposed CFA.

On May 5, 2020, the Haida Gwaii Management Council announced a new AAC for Haida Gwaii of 804,000 cubic metres, which represents a reduction of 14 percent of the AAC for Haida Gwaii. The Chief Forester will now determine a new AAC for the subset of the Haida Gwaii land base managed as Timber Supply Area (TSA) 25. The TSA 25 includes the area in which MIEDS was invited to apply for a CFA in 2017 based upon the last apportionment made for the TSA. A new AAC determination for the TSA will trigger the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (the Minister) to determine a new apportionment for the TSA.

With the AAC reduction for Haida Gwaii by the Haida Gwaii Management Council, the lower estimated AAC contribution of the currently invited CFA area, and the significant issues MIEDS has raised in writing and during our meetings, I believe it is necessary at this time to wait until the Minister has finalized a new apportionment for the TSA prior to re-engaging with regards to your areas of concern.

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Douglas Daugert, Chair

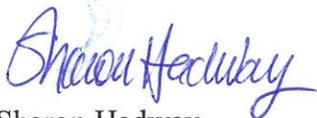
The apportionment of a new AAC for a TSA is a significant decision which will include consultation with the Council of Haida Nation. There will also be engagement with existing tenure holders and key stakeholders, such as the island communities. Prior to the formal start of the apportionment process, I encourage you to continue discussions with Stacey Gould, Timber Sales Manager, Chinook Business Area, to explore potential options for working together to support market pricing and meeting community objectives. This exploration of options can help inform the Minister during his apportionment decision.

In making the apportionment decision, the Minister will have to balance many competing TSA stakeholders' interests. Although I am sure the Minister will carefully consider community interests in making the decision, it is not clear how the Minister's decision may impact the CFA opportunity for MIEDS.

I understand the importance of a CFA for the communities on Haida Gwaii and I encourage you to participate in the apportionment process to help inform the Minister of the communities' ideas on how the reduced AAC on Haida Gwaii could be apportioned to support the community's tenure interests.

For further details on how you can put forward your interests so that they are included by the Minister in the upcoming TSA apportionment decision on Haida Gwaii, please contact Steven Rogers, Forest Tenures Section Head, by phone at (250) 739-8387 or via email at steven.rogers@gov.bc.ca.

Yours truly,



Sharon Hadway
Regional Executive Director
West Coast Natural Resource Region

pc: Jason Alsop, President, Council of Haida Nation
Janine North, Executive Director, Misty Isles Economic Development Society
Leonard Munt, District Manager, Haida Gwaii Natural Resource District
Stacey Gould, Timber Sales Manager, BC Timber Sales, Chinook Business Area
Steven Rogers, Section Head, Coast Area Forest Tenures