

Frequently Asked Questions (and Answers)

- 1. Who is the North West BC Forest Coalition (Coalition)?** The Coalition is a group of forest tenure holders and the Ministry of Forests and Range within the North West region of British Columbia.
- 2. Why was the Coalition formed?** As a result of the closure of primary sawmill manufacturing facilities in the NW region tenure holders have been left with minimal markets in which to sell their fibre allocations. The Coalition was formed to strategize and network on revitalizing the market interest for this under committed volume as well as drawing attention to the underutilized infrastructure assets that, as a package, may attract significant outside investors to this region.
- 3. What sort of investment is the Coalition hoping to attract?** The ideal investment would be a variety of processing facilities able to utilize the full range of timber species and wood fibre qualities available across the large geographic area that the Coalition represents. The Coalition realizes that this sort of investment is unlikely to come from a single investor and is prepared to work with multiple parties to encourage synergies and maximize benefits to the NW region as a whole.
- 4. What is unique about what the Coalition has to offer?** The Coalition has a large volume of fibre under tenure that is available to offer to prospective investors through fibre supply agreements. Potential investors will not have to address tenure responsibilities such as consultation, timber development, access, harvesting or reforestation.
- 5. How does the Coalition govern its activities?** The Coalition meets regularly and provides a single point of contact for parties interested in the fibre available from the NW region. The Coalition members market their timber resources, community connections and local forest management expertise and encourage government partners to respond to policy issues faced by the local industry. The Coalition networks cooperatively with local municipalities, First Nations (businesses, communities and leaders), Regional Districts and other economic development advocates.
- 6. Is the Coalition a single contact with which to negotiate fibre supply agreements?** No, each tenure holder of the Coalition reserves the right to negotiate the terms of its own fibre supply agreements. The Coalition will coordinate meetings with interested investors and will share NW Regional information, (See Question 5).
- 7. The Coalition indicates that it has 2.7 million cubic meters of fibre available; what does this mean?** The total annual volume that the members of the Coalition are making available to supply long term fibre supply contracts is 2.7 million cubic meters of sawlog and interior pulpwood grades. This volume is available from a variety of established tenures:
 - Evergreen/renewable tenures such as Forest Licenses or a Tree Farm License represent 1.4 million cubic meters.
 - Non-Replaceable Forest License to Cut tenures represents 0.3 million cubic meters.

- There is 1.0 million cubic meters available annually from short term Timber Sale Licenses auctioned by BC Timber Sales.

The total of 2.7 million cubic meters does not include a large volume of biomass which is also available to potential investors; this fibre is of lower quality than that of the interior pulpwood grade.

- 8. Is this volume from environmentally responsible and sustainable sources?** Yes, all volume harvested from crown land in British Columbia is subject to stringent environmental stewardship laws and regulations. All harvested areas must be reforested within prescribed time periods with species and characteristics capable of supporting sustainable forest operations. In addition, the BC Timber Sales volume (1 million cubic meters annually) is third party certified as coming from sustainable operations. Other Coalition members are moving towards forest certification.
- 9. What is the available volume within two hours travel time of the major centers within the NW region and what is the delivered fibre cost of that volume?** There is no single answer to support this question. The available volume and delivery costs depend on the type of fibre sought. The Coalition is fortunate to have computer modeling capabilities to assist in preparing custom responses to serious inquiries. Preliminary calculations indicate 31 million cubic meters available within two hours of Terrace and within 300 meters of existing roads. More specific information regarding delivered wood costs will be prepared in the near future.
- 10. What groups are currently seeking working relationships with the Coalition?** Thus far the Coalition has met with a number of proponents representing bio-energy industries, [engineered wood products, domestic and export pellets (both residential, commercial and torrefication), bio-diesel, co-generation etc.].
- 11. Does the Coalition support log exports?** Yes, members of the Coalition view log exports from the NW region as an important component of the economic viability of their individual business and the forest industry. The Coalition views log exports as one of three long term marketing pillars necessary to successfully harvest timber in the Northwest. The other two pillars are primary manufacturing (sawlog and value added opportunities) tertiary manufacturing (pulp, wood chip and bio-fuel/energy). A healthy industry is one where the customer base is as diversified as the timber profile so as to maximize the delivery of “the right log to the right customer for the right price”. This philosophy provides local jobs to harvest sector worker, contractors and the supply chain of the regional economy as well as allowing for maintenance and investment of industrial infrastructure (roads, bridges, sort yards etc).

NOTE: All timber exported from the region is verified as surplus to local needs.

- 12. What is the involvement of First Nations in the Coalition?** A significant portion of the Coalition membership is made up of First Nations affiliated tenure holders. These tenure holders work directly with the local First Nations bands. Additionally, all harvesting on British Columbia Crown land requires full consultation and accommodation of First Nations rights and title prior to harvesting.