



TREE FARM LICENSE SCHEDULE 'A' LANDS

The recent announcement by the Minister of Forests about private forest land removal from a Tree Farm License on Vancouver Island is quite significant. Without public discussion, it is unclear about the advisability or overall public benefit. Some of the questions needing an answer are:

- Does a forest company or the Minister of Forests have the legal authority to remove the private land component (Schedule A) from a TFL? Before the License term expires?
- Should the remaining Crown land portion be advertised for competition?
- Does a forest company pay lower taxes over time if their private land is in a TFL?
- Does the company pay the same stumpage charges for private land logging?
- Are the resource stewardship requirements (fish, wildlife, water, recreation, biodiversity) reduced if the land is removed?
- What happens to the investments the Crown has made in roads, plantations, etc?
- What impact is there upon traditional public uses?
- If the private land is removed, is the License null and void?

This change to the TFL traditional agreement, which was intended to foster long term forest management, may be the most significant change in the past 50 years. It would be appropriate for the Minister (or the Premier) to hold public discussions in several of the affected communities before any final decisions are made.

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