

Truth about stumpage

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Editor:

I am writing to set the record straight on the stumpage rates charged for Crown timber affected by mountain pine beetle referenced in your recent article "Softwood rhetoric heats up."

The article leaves the impression that stumpage rates in the beetle-infested areas are only 25 cents per cubic metre and are set that low to encourage harvesting. In fact, 25 cents is the charge on the lowest-quality timber

Stumpage rates are based on factors including quality, species and market value.

Yet most of the trees being harvested as part of the beetle epidemic are not dead - many are green or red-attack stage trees. The price on this timber is higher because its value in the market is higher.

Average stumpage billings in beetle-infested areas range from \$10 to \$22 per cubic metre.

These figures show that the price paid by licensees for beetle wood is much higher than a nominal 25 cents per cubic metre.

Rich Coleman
Minister of Forests and Range
and Minister Responsible for Housing

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