

one submission
from DWEB

Operational Cruise Results

Timber Licence Application. – FA001828

South Slave Regional Forest Management

An original Timber Cutting Licence was filled in approx. July 4, 2000 for 50,000 m³ of White Spruce sawlogs in the Pine Point and the Little Buffalo River Area. The application was incomplete and further details were requested of the applicant. Additional mapping detail was made available on September 21, 2000. An operational cruise was requested by Yellowknife and this was accomplished by the Forest Development office about November 4, 2000. The summary report of this work and copies of the tally sheet are attached.

Copies of my own evaluation of the cruise data is attached. We have treated the plots as an evaluation of one forest type . The data was therefore averaged.

We have used the applicants estimation of 99 hectares of proposed forest blocks. The estimate of Forest Development is approx. 193 m³ per hectare. Our averaging approach estimates the level at closer to 129 m³ per hectare. Due to the apparent highly variable nature of these stands the actual mathematical value may lie somewhere in between. The stands seem to be made up of medium sized sawlog White Spruce with an average diameter of 22 to 24 centimetres. We have used an average stand height of 20 metres and have used a standard merchantable White Spruce volume table developed for the Northwest Territories.

Using these value we estimate that the area volume identified in Blocks 1 to 9 is approx. 12,000 to 13,000 cubic metres. Again the highly variable nature of these stands make the estimates tentative. Area volumes centre around the 26 to 30 DBH classes.

It is clear that this type of licence proposal will remove area resources in very short order. Even taking the best case scenario the resource will only last 5 to 10 years ; and that only if all the mature White Spruce resource is removed. This would not be the best support of the sustainable yield concepts. These areas may be better kept as part of the North Slave resource base to support possible Fort Resolution operations. Winters too warm to support operations along the Slave River could be supported by these type of areas.

We have no adequate mapping or survey information for this area so any long term disposition of area resources would be inappropriate. The long term Licence proposal would clearly not be within any estimate of an AAC; sustainable cut value.

A yearly permitting of volumes is the most that should be considered. Even though this will also be too high a harvest ; at 10,000 m³ , for the area ; the yearly allocation will at least allow the department to bring a stop to harvesting if area damage to the environment becomes apparent. We believe that overcutting of the mature forest represents an environmental damage and should not be permitted. We must certainly not commit the Department to such a possibility in the long run through the issuance of long term renewable licences.

Small scattered stands of mature White Spruce may also represent a wildlife support function important to the area. This question should be particularly brought to the attention of the wildlife section.

Conclusion ; FA001828.

We believe that the application as such; 50,000 m³ over 5 years, should be rejected as excessive in volume request for this area.

If required to issue a cutting authorization it should be no more than a one year permit which makes it clear that a continuing assessment of suitability will be made each year. The current AOP application could be used to support this approach.

A permit; if issued should be for the indicated blocks only. There will be no mid season shifting to unsurveyed areas.

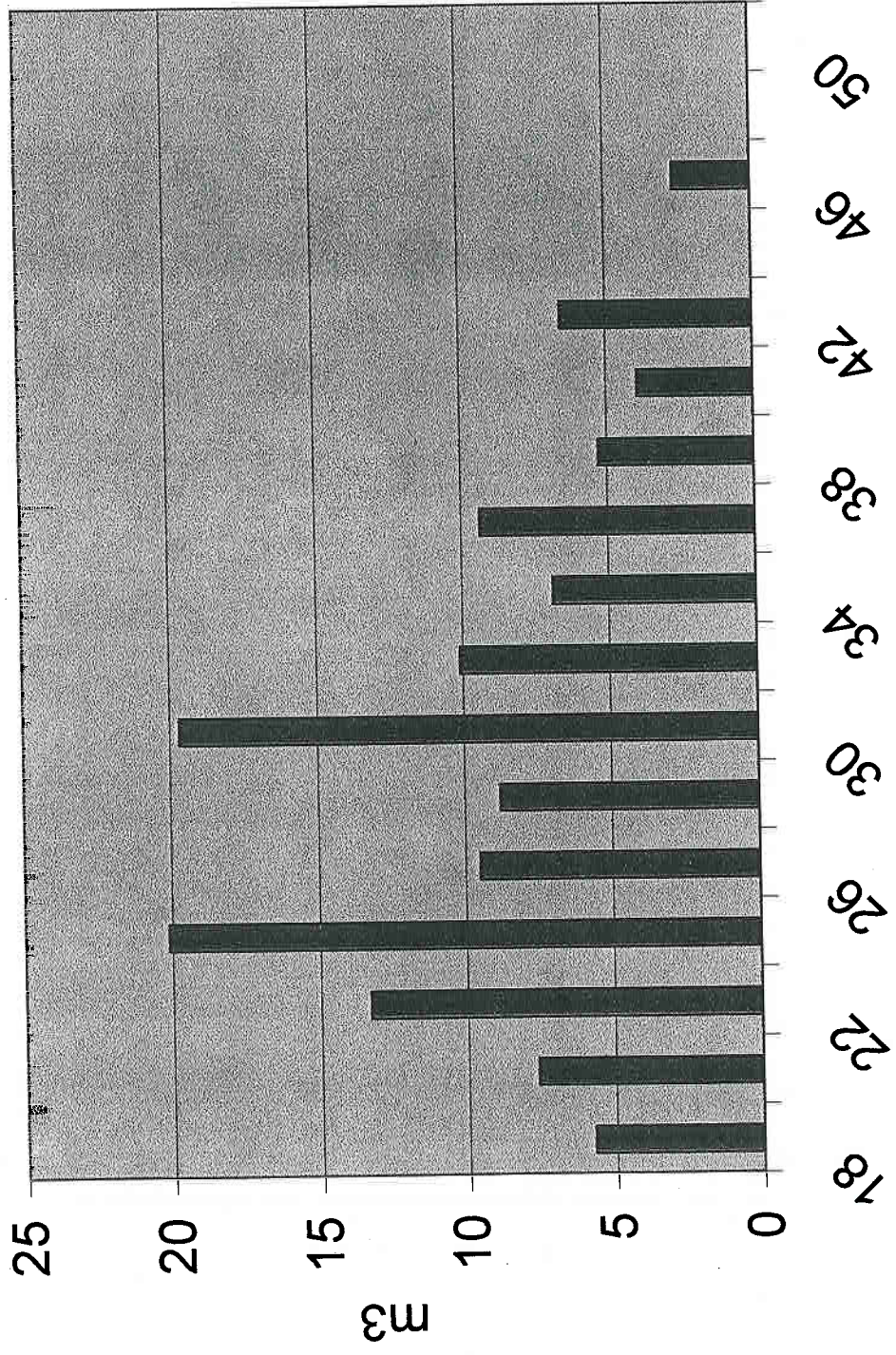
Area support to Fort Resolution workers and the community should still be a requirement.

Harvest buffers will have to be in place at all critical area; including low lying areas. This may result; in this area, with a great many buffers. These shall be the responsibility of the permittee ; to both flag and paint these.

Further studies should be undertaken to evaluate the appropriateness of including the Little Buffalo River Area stands in the North Slave AAC. The area is too small to stand alone.

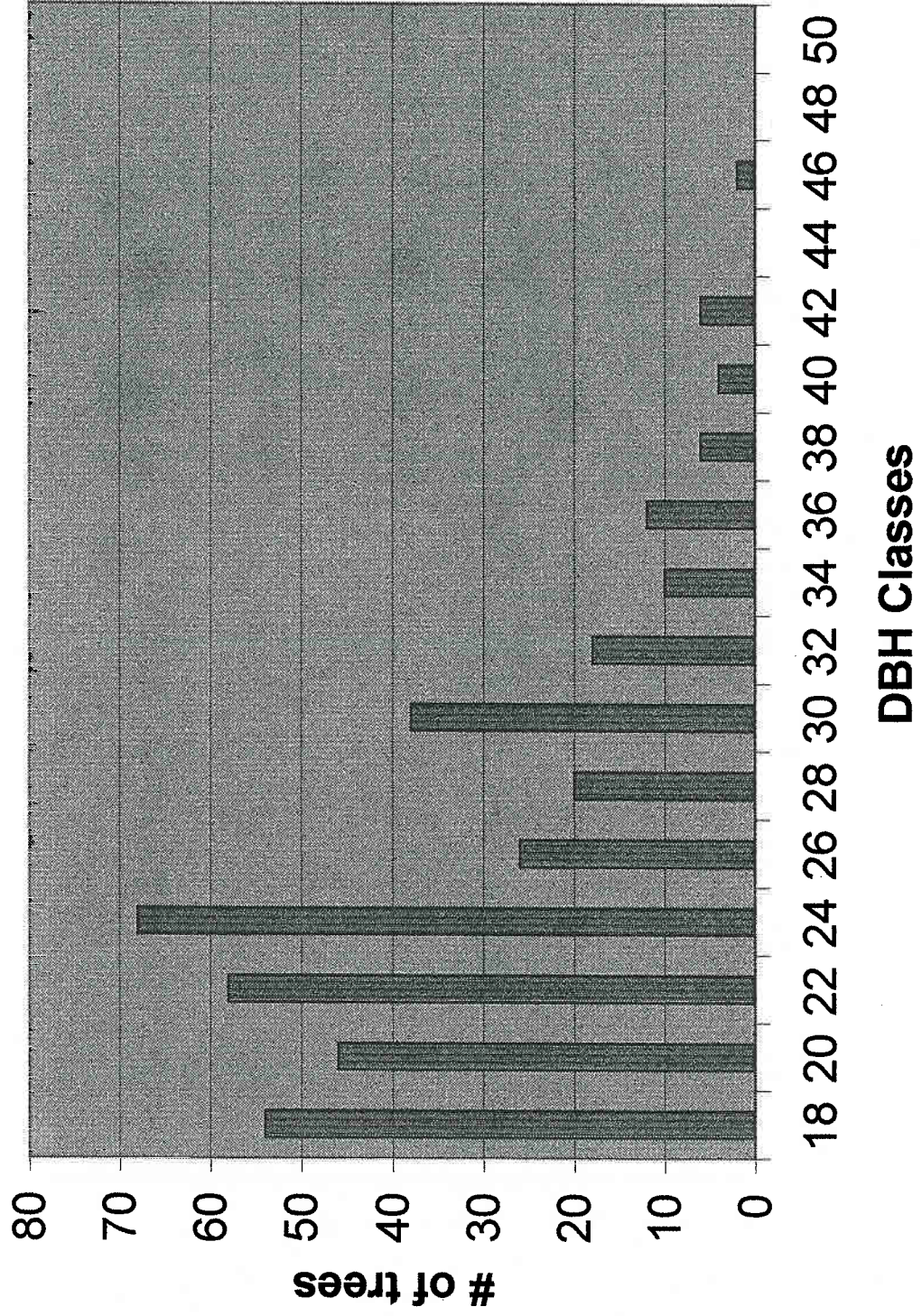
Christopher R. Carlisle,
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Volume m3 Merch / Ha



Merch m3

Diameter Distribution/Ha



■ Stems/Ha

Index Map BUFFALO RIVER AREA Forest Inventory Mapping

