

Alaska Canada Rail Link Project WPA2b :: Outbound Traffic Data Development :: Forestry Resources Yukon

Sources:

- Government of Yukon, Department of Energy Mines and Resources, Forest Management Branch
- PriceWaterhouseCoopers, *Economic Assessment of the Forest Industry in Southeast Yukon*, August 2005

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Date: December 30, 2005, updated January 4, 2006

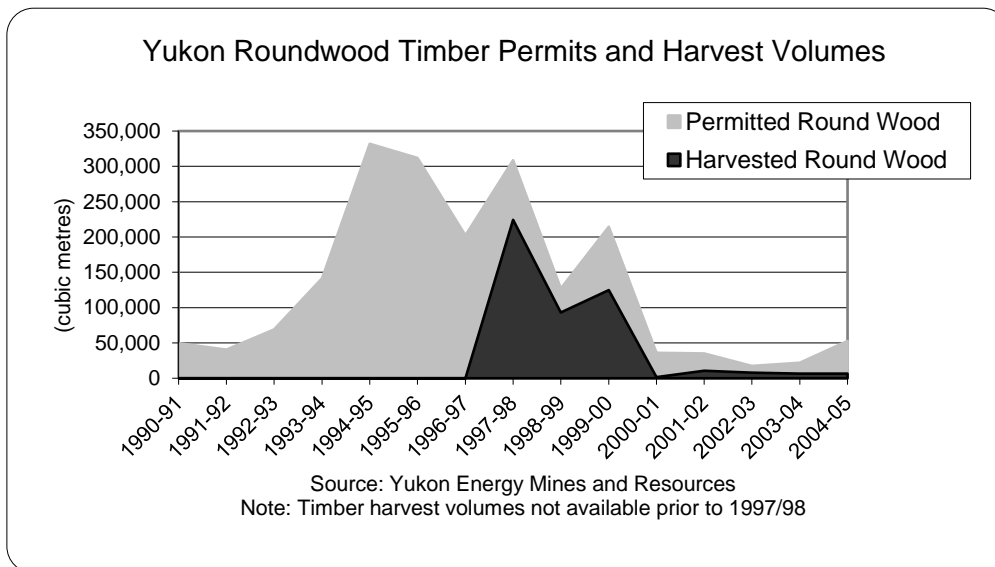
Yukon Roundwood Timber Permits and Harvest Volumes

(cubic metres)

	Permitted Round Wood	Harvested Round Wood
1990-91	49,657	n/a
1991-92	40,388	n/a
1992-93	69,111	n/a
1993-94	141,773	n/a
1994-95	331,906	n/a
1995-96	311,686	n/a
1996-97	202,315	n/a
1997-98	308,571	224,280
1998-99	127,176	92,975
1999-00	214,580	124,560
2000-01	35,765	1,535
2001-02	35,158	10,744
2002-03	17,551	8,013
2003-04	21,927	6,310
2004-05	52,771	6,591

Source: Government of Yukon, Department of Energy Mines and Resources (January 4, 2006)

Notes: Round wood includes permits for saw logs and building logs; year is April 1 to March 31



As can be seen from the figure above, very little round wood forest harvesting activity has taken place in the Yukon in recent years. Most of current harvest is from Watson Lake area and supplies niche operations (e.g., cove siding). With regard to traffic capability (and associated rates), the absence of a commercial forest industry means that the current capability of an associated forest resource trucking industry is correspondingly very limited.

Analysis undertaken by PriceWaterhouseCoopers (*Economic Assessment of the Forest Industry in Southeast Yukon*, August 2005, page 20) indicates that benchmark transportation costs for the movement of final goods out of the Yukon (\$90/Mfbm) are 64% higher compared to costs in Alberta (\$55/Mfbm) and 45% higher compared to costs in British Columbia (\$62/Mfbm).

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Annual Allowable Cut - Yukon

Sources:

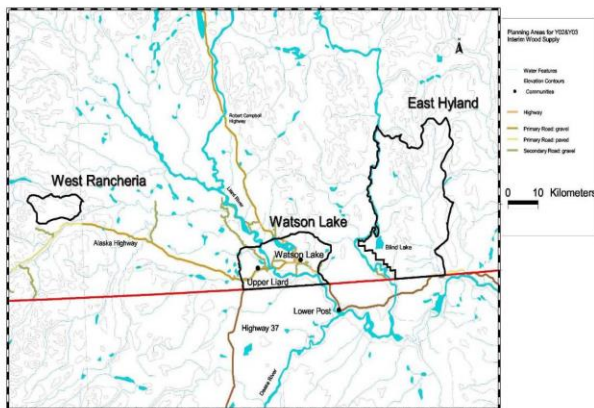
- PriceWaterhouseCoopers, *Economic Assessment of the Forest Industry in Southeast Yukon*, August 2005
 - Government of Yukon Forest Planning Branch, *Environmental Assessment Screening Report: Interim Wood Supply for the Kaska Traditional Territory*, May 2005
 - *Strategic Forest Management Plan for the Teslin Tlingit Traditional Territory (DRAFT)*, September 2005.
 - *Strategic Forest Management Plan for the Champagne and Aishihik Traditional Territory*, December 2004.
 - personal communication with Ed Van Randen, Yukon, Energy Mines and Resources, December 9, 2005 and January 6, 2006.
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While scant timber harvesting activity is taking place in the Yukon at the present time, three regions are considered to hold potential - Southeast Yukon (Watson Lake), Teslin and Southwest Yukon (Haines Junction). As a proxy for potential forestry activity, and corresponding potential traffic volumes, allowable annual cut (AAC - the sustainable volume of timber that can be harvested from a given area in one year) estimates were researched for the Yukon. AAC's have not yet, however, been established for any of the three regions. By way of illustration, PriceWaterhouseCooper's noted that "...detailed and multi-disciplinary regional forest management planning has not been conducted in the Southeast Yukon. As such, sustainable annual allowable harvest levels have not been finalized as various stakeholders attempt to reconcile conservation with commercial development" (page 6). In the absence of "official" AACs, provisional AACs are in use at the operational level as follows:

SE Yukon (Watson Lake and area)

- the Kaska Forest Resources Stewardship Council recommended in February 2003 that an interim wood supply of 128,000 cubic metres per year be established for three years in the East Hyland, Watson Lake and West Rancheria planning areas
- the PriceWaterhouseCoopers analysis was predicated on an AAC of 500,000 cubic metres per year and states that "...total delivered fibre costs in the Yukon are not competitive with other jurisdictions due to resource constraints (e.g., size and density per hectare of trees). Logging to roadside costs as well as silviculture and reforestation costs are the main contributors to this disadvantage" (Page 17).

Planning Areas for Interim Wood Supply Plan



Map source: Government of Yukon Forest Planning Branch, *Environmental Assessment Screening Report: Interim Wood Supply for the Kaska Traditional Territory*, May 2005.

Teslin

- 25,000 cubic metres per year has been identified as a provisional interim annual wood supply volume

SW Yukon (Haines Junction and area)

- an annual allowable cut, provisional or otherwise has not been established for the SW Yukon which has experienced high levels of conifer mortality as a result of extensive spruce bark beetle infestations
- as a consequence of the high levels of spruce beetle killed wood in the SW Yukon, the focus of resource management efforts in this region is on forest renewal and salvage of the existing resource