



NSC 2019 Winter Conference: Silviculture Practices for Changing Forest Landscapes, Values, and Expectations

February 26-27, 2019

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SEEDLING SUPPLY DILEMMA

2019 NSC Winter Conference
Feb 26th/27th 2019 – Prince George

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Outline

What's driving current seedling demand?

Current seedling supply crunch effect on:

- 1. Licensee/BCTS**
- 2. Nursery**
- 3. Government programs**

Potential solutions and challenges

Factors Driving Increased Demand

- **BC nursery industry operating near capacity**
 - Record sowing requests
- **Previous strong licensee harvest levels**
- **Drought (Climate Change)**
- **Wildfires - Section 108**
- **Forest Carbon Initiative**
- **MPB Downfall**
 - Less pine, more species greenhouse grown
 - Harvest higher elevations = summer plant = greenhouse

Current Situation

Licensee/BCTS

- ❑ **Potential of not being able to obtain full sowing request**
- ❑ **No takers for “difficult” to grow species**
- ❑ **Increasing seedling price**

Nursery

- ❑ **Not enough capacity to fulfill all orders**
- ❑ **Getting back to “fair” prices**

Government (Provincial/Federal)

- ❑ **Not being able to spend money allotted to reforestation**
- ❑ **Lost opportunity for renewed investment if not successful**

Timeframe?

**Best guess short term bubble
(i.e. 3-5 years)**

- **Federal/provincial funding must be spent within short window**

Best guess long term trend

- **Reduced harvesting in the interior due to the MPB downfall**



Solutions

Increase nursery capacity

- **Outdoor compound “relatively” easy to expand**
 - 1+0 spring plant pine
 - 2+0 summer plant spruce
- **Greenhouse more difficult - capital: higher costs and recovery period**
 - Two new nurseries Mt. Ida and Purple Springs
- **Nurseries reluctant to expand due to:**
 - Short term spike in seedling demand
 - Expansion likely to result in significant over capacity when current seedling bubble passes
 - Until recently, seedling price stagnant last 20 years
 - Labour shortage

Now and Then

1995

\$2.77



Now

\$5.99

Increase of 116%

Now and Then

1995

\$6.50 - \$7.00



Now

\$12.65

June 1st \$13.85

Increase of 94% – 113%

Now and Then

1995

20.8¢



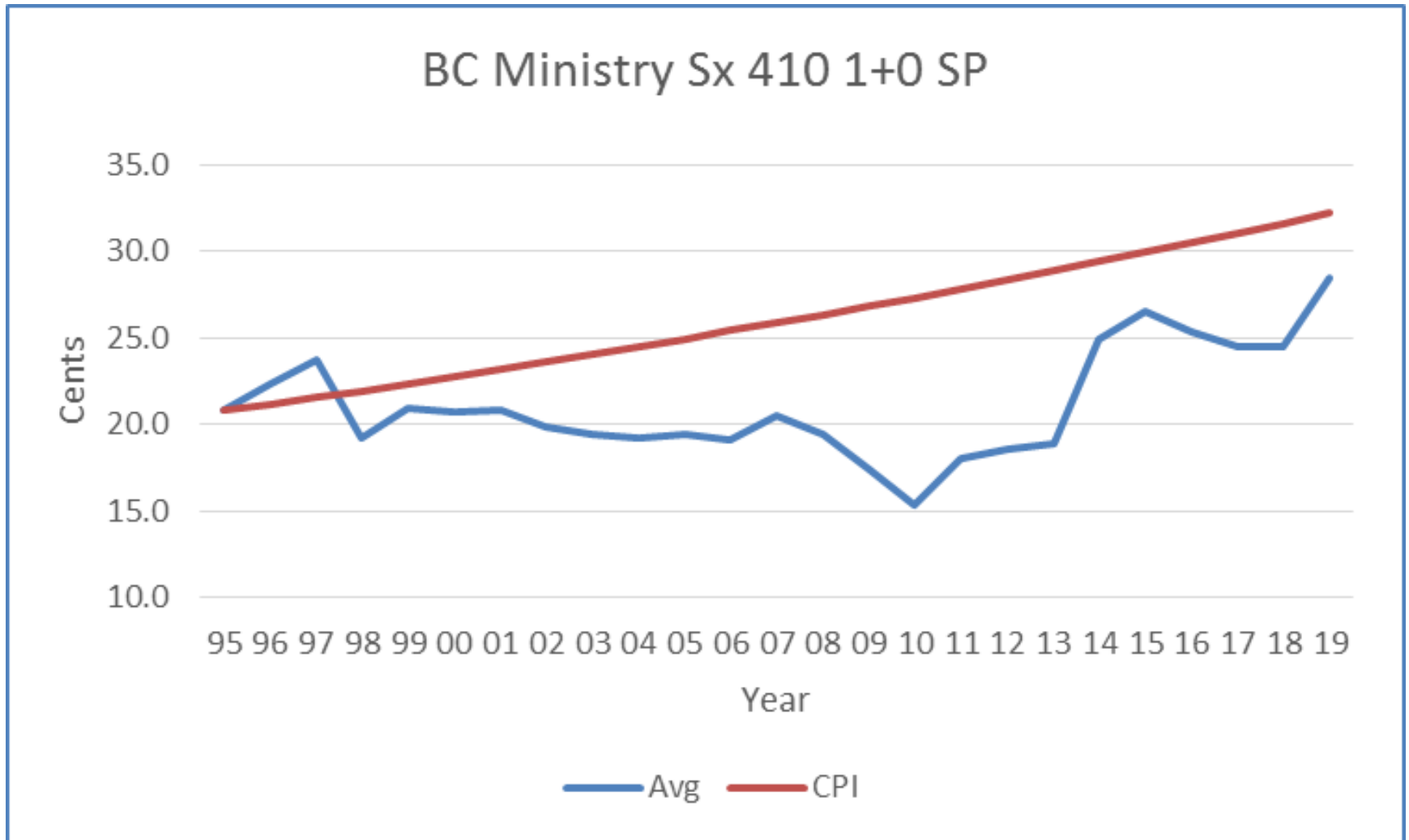
Now

28.5¢

Sx 410A 1+0 SP

Increase of 37%

SEEDLING PRICE COMPARED TO CPI



Solutions Continued

- **Source seedlings out of province**
 - Markets outside BC also experiencing increased seedling demand
- **Reduced specifications – “extractable plug”**
 - Small % increase = lots of seedlings
- **Smaller stock sizes**
 - Depends —What you are currently using?
 - Smaller seedling but more site prep and/or brushing
 - 512A to 412A to 410A to 310B
 - *Alternative sizes if available*
 - *Overall seedling cost reduced with fewer stock types*

Solutions Continued

- **Order large requests**
- **Multi-year contracts**
 - Commits nursery space earlier
 - Doesn't solve problem
- **Improved forecasting of seedling demand**
 - Hold annual workshop in fall with licensees, government, nurseries and planting contractors
- **Is it possible to delay some planting projects?**
 - Fire blocks (Section 108)?
 - *Natural regen*
 - Low veg blocks?

Is It Possible to Extend Govt Funding

- Organizations such as the WFCOA have lobbied for years for increased silviculture spending in BC
- Last year BC allocated money from Federal govt for forest carbon projects
 - Short term (5 years?) funding
- If BC feels there is inadequate resources to sow and plant additional trees, will allocate money to other projects
 - Money “lost”
- A successful program
 - May invite longer term investment
 - Renewal of funding

Questions

