

FOREST LANDSCAPE PLANS: AN INFORMATION BULLETIN

What is a Forest Landscape Plan?

A Forest Landscape Plan (FLP) is a new type of plan that will provide vital direction for the management of healthy, resilient forests in BC. Introduced through recent changes to the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (2021), FLPs will provide clear objectives and direction for the management of forest resource values at a landscape and stand level, including approaches to managing for biodiversity and ecosystem resiliency in the face of climate change and increasing natural disturbances.

FLPs will be developed in partnership with First Nations and collaboration with forest licensees, communities and stakeholders for defined forest management areas such as timber supply areas or First Nations territories - enabling deeper local engagement and transparency in forest management.

FLPs will translate existing higher-level strategic planning direction, such as Land Use Plans (LUPs), into defined measurable outcomes for forest management in each area to support the following objectives:

- managing the values placed on forest ecosystems by First Nations;
- managing the values placed on forest ecosystems by local communities;
- supporting the protection and conservation of the environment;
- supporting the production and supply of timber in the forest landscape area;
- preventing, mitigating and adapting to impacts caused by significant disturbances to forests and forest health, including wildfire, insects, disease and drought.

Over time, FLPs will be developed across the province and will have a term of roughly 10 years. Monitoring will be undertaken to evaluate the achievement of plan outcomes, and to support adaptive management and updates to plans.

Why participate in an FLP project?

The Ministry of Forests, has four pilot projects underway across the province to ground-test the creation of an FLP and to help inform the development of FLP related regulations, policy and guidance. Discussions are also occurring to undertake eight new FLPs across the province over the next three years, with more to follow.

The new FLP regime provides the following benefits:

- **Clear direction to licensees** – creates ability to prioritize values, rather than asking licensees to manage for all values ‘everywhere, all the time’.
- **Accountability** – government sets direction, and licensees commit to it in their operational plans.
- **Collaboration** – new streamlined opportunities for collaboration between government, First Nations and licensees; one clear process within a management area, rather than many processes for multiple licensees.
- **Efficiency** – reduced operational costs as forest planning and management becomes less fragmented. A consolidated approach is expected to create efficiencies in management, administration, reporting and monitoring.
- **Adaptation** – provides a framework for continuous re-examination and management adjustments to address current and future risks, while embracing uncertainty over time.



Who is involved in developing an FLP?

Engagement will be an ongoing process throughout the duration of the FLP process. The FLP is intended to be collaboratively developed by government, First Nations and forest licensees, with structured engagement from local communities, stakeholders and the public at key milestones in the planning process. Once complete, FLPs will be established — or given legal effect — by government.



How will FLPs be implemented on the ground?

Once an FLP is established, forest licensees will each be required to develop a Forest Operations Plan (FOP). The FOP must be consistent with the direction set out in the FLP with respect to forest practices, silviculture systems and stocking standards and must identify proposed cut-blocks and roads. The plan will undergo First Nations consultation and a public review and comment period and must be approved by government before any harvesting or road construction activities can begin. An FOP is anticipated to have a 5-year term.



Ministry of
Forests

WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR DEVELOPING A FOREST LANDSCAPE PLAN?

1 PRE - PLANNING

Prepare

Ministry staff engage with First Nations to develop government-to-government agreements on how to undertake collaborative planning and manage the FLP process. An 'FLP planning team' is assembled that includes key ministry staff, forest licensees, and First Nation representatives. Establish a stakeholder review and input group for those who have a known interest in forest management in the area. Training to review the context, intent, process, and outputs for an FLP.

2 VALUES ID AND ASSESSMENT

Identify Values and Assess Conditions

Identify forest values in the plan area. Explore and understand the current condition of identified values, including issues, opportunities and expectations for forest management defined by First Nations, local communities, stakeholders and the provincial government.

3 PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Determine Outcomes

Build a vision for the desired future landscape conditions and determine what success will look like in the future. Analyse forest management scenarios to determine the best options for meeting desired future forest conditions.

Design Regimes

Design management regimes for subunits across the area to most effectively and efficiently meet the desired outcomes and intent of landscape strategies over time. Intended to provide clear direction to operational layout and silviculture staff at the stand level.

4 PLAN ESTABLISHMENT

Review, Revise & Establish

Assemble a draft of the plan, including a strategy for monitoring and reporting. Conduct a public review of the draft, and final review with First Nations and the stakeholder review and input group. Respond to key concerns and submit the final FLP for review and establishment by the Chief Forester.

5 IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

Forest Operations Plans

Individual forest licensees will prepare operational plans that are consistent with the outcomes and planning guidelines defined in the FLP. Licensees to conduct a public review for each FOP and consult First Nations. Submit the final FOP for review and approval by government.

Apply 'On the Ground'

Conduct implementation and effectiveness monitoring on an ongoing basis. Learnings should be discussed with the FLP planning team, First Nations and stakeholder groups to ensure everyone learns together over time.

Continuous Learning

To prepare for the new planning cycle, the FLP planning team should review results of implementation and new emerging changes and influences on the landbase.