

Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) Amendment Rose Swanson Sensitive Area Results and Strategies

Source of Objective – Rose Swanson Order to Establish a Sensitive Area and Objectives

Objectives:

- a) Maintain and enhance trail network for use by recreationists.
- b) Protect visual quality of area.
- c) Maintain recreation values by limiting timber harvesting to low impact silvicultural systems.
- d) Protect against vandalism and timber theft.

Applicable Forest Development Unit (FDU): Rose Swanson

Definitions for the purpose of this strategy:

“Objective” means the objective established for the Rose Swanson Sensitive Area.

“Rose Swanson Sensitive Area” means the sensitive area established by the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development April 30, 1997.

“Zone 1 recreation trail” means a recreation trail established pursuant to the Objective as of the legislative planning date and indicated on Appendix H1 on the [Rose Swanson Sensitive Area FSP amendment map](#) with sensitive areas Zone 1 and Zone 2.

Note: Zone 1 has been expanded outside of the Sensitive area to accommodate and buffer one of the main recreation loop trail areas in the Eastern most section of the Rose Swanson FDU. Zone 1 Results and Strategies will apply to this area.

“Zone 2 recreation trail” means a recreation trail established on an old road or previous harvesting trail that is now used predominately for recreational purposes, and is indicated on Appendix H1 on the [Rose Swanson Sensitive Area FSP amendment map](#) with sensitive areas Zone 1 and Zone 2.

Note: Zone 2 has been expanded outside of the Sensitive area to accommodate and further enhance the recreational experience for the recreational trails on the Northern most section of the FDU accessed from Chamberlaine road. Zone 2 Results and Strategies will apply to this area.

“Low impact silviculture system” means silviculture systems that are non-clearcut and will include: retention systems, group selection and single tree selection systems as defined in the *Silviculture Systems Handbook for British Columbia*, March 2003. Any fuel mitigation mechanical treatments proposed within the Rose Swanson Sensitive area will utilize the retention silviculture system to meet management objectives for fuel reduction.

Results and Strategies

The FSP holder will:

1. Maintain and enhance the trail network for use by recreationists by committing to referring plans to the Recreation Officer, confirming any identified stakeholders, referring timber harvesting, road construction and deactivation plans, and allowing reasonable timeframes for review and comment of plans with the opportunity for input. As part of our public engagement process for the Rose Swanson Sensitive Area, we will advertise our harvest plans through local media outlets to facilitate the public review and comment period.

Enhancement of the trail system will include the opportunity to increase water control measures on trails suitable for recreational purposes and are within a reasonable distance from harvest activity and are easily accessed. Enhancement will include increasing potential recreational trails by harvesting with the intention of meeting suitable recreation opportunities through design and input from stakeholders and provide interpretive signage for educational opportunities for forest operations and ecosystems present. To further maintain and enhance trail use by recreationists, the objective for timber harvesting will be to harvest under 5% of the Sensitive Area timber harvesting land base in any ten-year period unless damage from a significant forest health concern, windthrow, fire salvage or fuel mitigation projects proposed to meet community goals are required.

2. Where harvesting or road construction overlaps with a Zone 1 recreation trail or Zone 2 recreation trail, the FSP holder will:
 - a) For **Zone 1 recreation trails** – establish a 100-metre management zone on the outer perimeter of the trail system. The entire area inside the Zone 1 trail system is included in the management zone.
 - b) For **Zone 2 recreation trails** – establish a 15-metre management zone on each side of the trail (30 metres total width).
3. If there are no significant forest health factors, windthrow or fire salvage, harvesting under this FSP within trail management zones will consist of:
 - a) Zone 1 management zone will be treated as a reserve zone.
 - b) Zone 2 management zone – single tree/group selection or retention harvesting ($\geq 50\%$ basal area retention).
 - c) Zone 2 harvesting, understory non-merchantable trees with good form, health and vigor will be retained where available and to the extent practicable.
4. Harvesting outside of the Zone 1 and Zone 2 trail management zones will be limited to the following low impact silviculture systems: retention systems, group selection and single tree selection systems. Alternative silviculture systems may be utilized for fuel mitigation purposes to meet management objectives if relevant stakeholder groups bring proposals forward.
5. If timber is damaged by a significant forest health factor, windthrow or fire, timber harvesting within the management Zones 1 and 2 will be limited to the extent required to harvest the affected timber.
6. No new permanent roads will be constructed across a Zone 1 recreation trail.

7. Roads that cross Zone 1 or Zone 2 recreation trails will be rehabilitated to maintain the integrity of the recreation trail.
8. If Zone 2 recreation trails are used for harvesting purposes, widths will be minimized to the extent practicable to allow safe harvesting practices.
9. When constructing a new road or using existing roads, where the road is not necessary on an ongoing basis, access will be restricted, so it is non-passable to a four-wheel drive pickup truck, within six months of harvest completion.
10. Should a road be reactivated on a short-term basis for silviculture activities, access will be restricted, so it is non-passable to a four-wheel drive pickup truck within three months of the conclusion of the silviculture activity.
11. Zone 2 recreation trails within or immediately adjacent to harvesting activities are to have appropriate water control measures applied and to be re-established and cleared of debris to allow for maintained recreational opportunities. This is to be completed within six months of harvest completion or seasonally maintained prior to freshet.
12. Complete all reforestation of disturbed and rehabilitated temporary roads and skid trails within one to two years of harvest completion with exception to any trails identified in paragraph (1) above.
13. The licence holder will be limited to harvesting during the timeframe of November 1 to March 31 and under appropriate site conditions for harvesting.
14. Notify the identified stakeholders and the Recreation Officer prior to active industrial harvesting or hauling that crosses recreation trails a minimum of two-weeks notice prior to commencement of any activities including the posting of signage at Rose Swanson hiking area parking lots. The holder of the FSP will also post signage indicating duration and timing of industrial activity at appropriate locations to ensure public safety.
15. If under paragraphs (2), (3), (4) and (5) above impacts occur to existing recreational infrastructure or trails as a result of harvesting timber or road construction, the holder of the FSP will repair or mitigate the damage to the pre-harvest condition.

Supporting Document: Trail Management Zones and Silviculture Systems for the 2018 – 2023 BCTS Okanagan-Columbia Rose Swanson Forest Stewardship Plan Amendment Results and Strategies

The Rose Swanson Sensitive Area Results and Strategies included in the amended Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) for BC Timber Sales Okanagan-Columbia Business Area refers to two trail management zones and several silviculture systems.

Zone 1 trail areas are recreation trails that were established in accordance with the Rose Swanson Order to Establish a Sensitive Area and Objectives and are included in the Rose Swanson Sensitive Area Management Strategy. To date, planning for the Mount Rose Swanson area has honoured the spirit and intent of the order.

Zone 2 trail areas are recreation trails established on former harvesting access roads or skid trails and are included in the Rose Swanson Sensitive Area Management Strategy or Sensitive Area. There is a further network of trails at the end of Chamberlaine Road, in the most northern section of the Rose Swanson operating area, located outside the Sensitive Area, which will be treated with Zone 2 Results and Strategies.

Under the proposed Forest Stewardship Plan Amendment Results and Strategies for Rose Swanson, the Zone 1 management zone and recreation trails will be managed as a reserve zone unless there are significant forest health factors present. Reserves are forested areas retained during harvesting to provide for habitat, scenic, biodiversity, recreation or other values. This means the trails will not be altered and are protected by a 100-metre buffer unless a significant forest health factor, windthrow or fire salvage requires actioning due to the inherent risk of further loss of trees or are a potential safety risk to public. A significant forest health factor might be a mountain pine beetle infestation or Douglas-fir beetle infestation that has an imminent and significant risk to damaging the timber. In these circumstances, salvage operations may be used to harvest timber in a way that honours the spirit and intent of the Order. Zone 1 has been updated to reflect the currently known inventory of trails, which was updated post 1997, after the establishment of the Rose Swanson Sensitive Area Order and Management Strategy. This includes a loop section of trail outside the Sensitive Area.

Under the Proposed Forest Stewardship Plan Amendment Results and Strategies for Rose Swanson, harvesting will occur in Zone 2 recreation trail areas and will utilize single tree selection, group selection, or retention harvesting. Where available and to the extent possible, understory, non-merchantable trees with good form, health and vigor will be retained. Recreation trails in Zone 2 have a 15-metre management zone on either side of the trail (30 metres total), in which a minimum of 50 percent of the basal area or stems will be reserved. The intent of this management zone is to provide for more retention adjacent to the recreation trails to aid in protecting the visual quality of the area when viewing from the trails.

Visual quality in the Rose Swanson Sensitive Area has an objective of meeting partial retention for the vast majority of the area and a smaller portion having the objective of retention. A very small portion has an objective of modification, which BC Timber Sales intends to manage to [partial retention visual quality objective](#).

The harvesting methods and silviculture systems used outside of the Zone 1 and Zone 2 management zones will be limited to:

Retention systems maintain a level of stand structure, complexity and diversity to support ecological forest conditions and processes. Individual trees or groups of trees are retained to maintain structural diversity over the area and leave more than half the total area of the cut block within one tree-height from the base of a tree or group of trees.



Retention system block currently being harvested.



Retention system block 6 months to 1 year old.



Retention system block 1 to 2 years old.



Retention system block 2 to 3 years old.

Group selection harvests small groups or gaps of trees of up to 0.5 hectares from an area over short intervals to develop at least three age classes throughout the stand. The management area becomes a multi-aged mosaic of aged groups that eventually develops into an uneven-aged forest. The removal of small groups of trees minimizes the visual impact of harvesting.

Single tree selection harvests individual trees and small clumps of trees of all size classes, more or less uniformly throughout the stand, to achieve or maintain a balanced, regulated and uneven-aged stand structure. Regeneration should occur throughout the life of the stand with pulses following harvesting entries.

In Zone 2, lowest impact to the recreation trails will be evaluated when determining whether to use existing Zone 2 recreation trails for log transport or constructing a new skid trail. Input will be sought from stakeholder groups regarding this. Timber access will include the potential to establish new recreation opportunities through design. In Zone 2, if the decision is to utilize recreation trails for harvesting purposes such as skidding or hauling logs, right of way widths will be minimized to the extent practicable.

BC Timber Sales Okanagan-Columbia Business Area has initiated a public review and comment period for the draft Sensitive Area Results and Strategies. Adjustments to the proposed Sensitive Area Results and Strategies may be made as a result of comments received. Written comments can be submitted by email or mail via the contact information below by 4:30 p.m. on November 19, 2021.

The proposed FSP Rose Swanson Results and Strategies amendment and maps can be viewed:

- Online at www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/bc-timber-sales/updates
- By appointment, Monday to Friday 8:30-12:00 and 1:00-4:30 at the BC Timber Sales Okanagan-Columbia Office, 2501 - 14th Avenue, Vernon, B.C., V1T 8Z1.

To view the proposed FSP amendment for Rose Swanson Results and Strategies in person, obtain further information or provide comment, contact:

Grace Chomitz, Planning Forester

Forests.OkanaganColumbiaTimberSalesOffice@gov.bc.ca

250 558-1700 or write to the address noted above.

Note: All FSPs are subject to consultation with First Nations and to review and comment from stakeholders and the public prior to being approved by government.