



June 14th, 2016

To: All Licensees

Dear Licensees:

On November 16th, 2016 the Haida Gwaii Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) is set to expire. The intent of this letter is to provide early expectations regarding new information that may be considered in the Statutory Decision Making process when determining a replacement or extension to your FSP.

As you know, the Chief Forester has provided recent Provincial guidance with respect to FSP replacement that addresses key elements of the 2015 Forest Practices Board Special Investigation Forest Stewardship Plans. I have reflected on these recommendations and have determined that certain aspects are applicable to natural resource management on Haida Gwaii. It is my perspective that your success in implementing comprehensive strategies under a complex legislative framework over the last four years has been exemplary, but I would like you to consider the following information as you move into the next planning cycle.

New Information:

Since November 2011, several new pieces of information have been made available to prescribing and reviewing practitioners. Future FSP submissions should clearly demonstrate how information such as Cedar Stewardship Areas, Climate Change guidance, Species at Risk, Visual Quality Management, effectiveness monitoring results, applicable Forest Practices Board reports, ABCFP guidance and public feedback have been considered. Some of these data sources may not find their way into your results and/or strategies, but it may be pertinent for you to show how they were considered in your supporting documentation.

Measurability/Verifiability of Results and Strategies:

During the course of this plan I was encouraged to see measurable practices like Annual Reporting, Cultural Feature Identification and the Inter-Governmental Process manifest and foster dialogue among prescribing and reviewing practitioners. There is, however, some room for improvement and I would like to have a wider discussion on the verifiability of mature/old forest recruitment provisions, cultural wood management and invasive plant measures.

Page 1 of 2

Innovation:

It is recognized that the prescriptive nature of the Haida Gwaii Land Use Objectives Order has limited the choices available to the prescribing professional, but with greater understanding of operational limitations I would expect a higher level of innovation in your replacement Plan. For example, I believe it is important to discuss habitat augmentation in second growth Wildlife Tree Retention Areas and I would like to better understand why intermediate stocking standards are not being applied to promote harvest opportunity in LUOO management zones.

Public Engagement:

In 2010, many of us believed that a holistic ecosystem-based management regime that considered a complex array of local values would lead to greater social acceptance of natural resource management on Haida Gwaii. The most compelling and locally applicable finding from the Forest Practices Board Report (that was later affirmed by the Chief Forester) was that forest practitioners in British Columbia need to do a better job in engaging the public, who have a vested interest in the implications of natural resource development on public land.

Forest development without adequate communication of road and harvest areas of interest has been an ineffective approach to natural resource management. Engagement should not be relegated to 60 day every 5 years. Engagement should be early and often and needs to utilize innovative approaches to gather meaningful feedback. It's my expectation that you will lead this engagement piece as it will assist me in determining the adequacy of public review as per the *Forest Planning & Practices Regulation*.

As previously indicated, there is a significant need to revisit strategies and results outlined in your current FSP as it approaches expiry. I would appreciate the opportunity to sit down and discuss these expectations in greater detail in the next month. Please coordinate a time that works for you and your FSP author and I will have my staff adjust their schedules accordingly. If you have any questions or if further clarification is needed, please contact Sean Muise, Stewardship Officer, at 250-559-6200 (Sean.Muise@gov.bc.ca).

Yours truly,



Leonard Munt
District Manager

Page 2 of 2