

This brochure describes your opportunities to participate in the preparation and review of Forest Stewardship Plans (FSPs).

These plans enable you to inform forest licensees (including BC Timber Sales) about your interests within specified areas of public lands before roads and cutblocks are located. By law, forest licensees must give First Nations, other resource users, and the public a chance to review and comment on FSPs.

The Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) and its regulations govern how forest and range licensees operate in British Columbia. FRPA, which replaces the Forest Practices Code, is designed to protect various forest values, while making the planning process more efficient.



Be Heard: Get Involved in Forest Stewardship Plan Review

About Government Objectives

Under FRPA, the results and/or strategies in FSPs must be consistent with government objectives, which address values such as cultural heritage resources, soils, water, fish, wildlife, biodiversity, timber, forage, recreation, resource features, and visual quality. These objectives are established through regulation and land use plans such as Land and Resource Management Plans. It is through publicly developed land use plans that some areas are set aside as parks and protected areas, and others for resource development, including forestry.

For more information

You can get more information about FRPA and FSPs at:
www.for.gov.bc.ca/code/

To find the location of BC Forest Service offices, go to:
www.for.gov.bc.ca/mof/regdis.htm



ROLE OF FSP IN FOREST MANAGEMENT



FRPA was designed to avoid overlap with other statutes such as the *Heritage Conservation Act* and the *Drinking Water Protection Act*. Licensees must continue to address legal requirements in other applicable statutes.



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What are Forest Stewardship Plans ?

FSPs identify areas within which road building, forest harvesting, and silviculture activities are proposed. FSPs do not need to show the actual locations of future roads and cutblocks.

An FSP must include a map and provide results or strategies that are consistent with government objectives for forest values.

Once the FSP is approved, licensees and resource professionals can innovatively manage to achieve the results or deliver the strategies. Areas covered by an FSP may be large and some FSPs may be prepared by more than one licensee.

FSPs have a term of up to five years and can be periodically amended.

FRPA normally requires public review and comment opportunities whenever a new FSP is

being prepared or an existing FSP is being

amended (except for minor amendments). Your comments help to ensure that the plan preparers are aware of your views and interests when planning forestry activities.



How to Get Involved

Participation in forest planning is important. Even if an FSP has not yet been prepared, contact forest licensees who operate in an area where you have interest in the forest land. This can help build positive relationships. Be as specific as possible in explaining your interests and uses so that resource professionals can consider them as they develop their plans. If you're uncertain about which licensee to contact, ask your local BC Forest Service office.



How and When Can You Review and Comment on FSPs?

You have the right to provide written comments. Forest licensees must:

- publish one or more notices in the local newspaper stating when and where the plan can be reviewed and the address where written comments are to be submitted;
- make reasonable efforts to meet with First Nation groups affected by the FSP to discuss the plan or amendment;
- give you a reasonable opportunity to review the plan if the FSP might affect your government-granted rights; and
- make the FSP, or an amendment to an FSP, publicly available for review and comment before submitting the plan or amendment to the BC Forest Service for approval.

Normally, you'll have 60 days from the date of the first notice in the newspaper to review the plan and provide written comments. These tips will help ensure your interests are fully considered:

- identify interests, uses, and attributes in specified areas within the FSP that are important to you;
- identify your concerns about how forest development could affect those interests, uses, and attributes;
- provide any other information you feel the forest licensee needs to be aware of; and
- include your contact information.

If you miss the deadline, still send written comments because the licensee may be able to address your interests.



What Happens to Your Comments?

A forest licensee must consider any written comments that are relevant to the FSP and were received during the review period. When submitting the FSP to the BC Forest Service for approval, the licensee must include a copy of the published notice and a copy of written comments received. Licensees must describe:

- their efforts to gather input and comments on the plan; and
- how they changed the plan due to such comments.

The Forest Service, before considering a plan for approval will determine whether the licensee has met the obligations above. Once satisfied that these obligations have been met, government will assess the plan to see if it meets criteria for approval.

Comments that do not relate to the FSP may still be important. For example, the comments about specific areas may be more useful and can be considered when licensees prepare site level information, design cutblocks and roads, and prescribe reforestation treatments. These site plans are available for viewing from the licensee upon request.