



FRPA ADMINISTRATION BULLETIN

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Guidance on Administrating a Transition Forest Stewardship Plan

Introduction

A number of licensees and BCTS timber sales managers are considering the use of a “transition forest stewardship plan (FSP)” as described in revised *Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA)* General Bulletin Number 2. The following guidance and administration process is provided for your consideration in administering one of these plans, should this occur in the district.

Content Requirements/Applicability of FRPA

Content requirements and the applicability of FRPA for a transition FSP are covered in FRPA General Bulletin Number 2: *Managing Through Transition – FSP*, available on the Provincial FRPA Implementation Team’s website at:

<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/rco/pfit/Bulletins.htm>

Term of the Plan:

The use of these types of plans is to facilitate the transition from the FPC to FRPA. Therefore, it is envisioned that the term of these plans be of a limited timeframe, probably no longer than one year; ample time in which a licensee can develop a regular FSP. For NRFL’s the term may vary due to individual circumstances such as the remaining term of the licence.

Acceptability of Cut Block and Roads:

Cut blocks and roads submitted under the proposed plan must conform to the requirements stated under *Section 196(1) of FRPA*.

For further information on the acceptability of cut blocks and roads please refer to FRPA General Bulletin Number 7: Interpreting Section 196 of FRPA for Major Licences and BCTS available on the Provincial FRPA Implementation Team's website at: <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/rco/pfit/Bulletins.htm>

Administrative Process:

Note: This process is designed for Transition FSP's that solely contain *FRPA*, Section 196 cut blocks and roads and is being used as a tool to facilitate transition from *FPC* to *FRPA*.

- Discuss with licensees to determine if anyone will be using this tool.
- Confirm the term of the plan with licensee.
- Ensure the FSP will be a Transition FSP. This advice applies to those plans. Other factors and questions will come into play if the licensee plans to submit a regular FSP composed of a mix of Section 196 cut blocks and FDU's. Advice regarding this type of plan will be addressed under a different cover.
- These FSP's have already been considered to have received minister's approval, however, these FSP's must be submitted to the district and need to be formally "acknowledged" by the district manager before licensees proceed with any activities under this plan.
- This acknowledgement comprises of the verification of plan content, etc. and a letter sent to the licensee confirming this acknowledgement. An example letter is included as Appendix Number 1 to this bulletin.
- Once the acknowledgement letter has been sent to the licensee then cutting authorities may be processed and issued.

Further Information:

Additional information regarding *FRPA* and of the administration of FSP's may be found in the Administrative Guide to Forest Stewardship Plans (AGFSP) on the Resource Tenures and Engineering website at: <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hth/timten/AGFSP/index.htm>

Contacts:

If there are any questions about this bulletin, please contact:

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APPENDIX 1: EXAMPLE ACCEPTANCE LETTER

Dear [representative of plan proponent]:

The forest stewardship plan (FSP) submitted by [insert name of plan proponent] on [insert date] in respect of [identify the licence agreement] is hereby acknowledged to have been received by the [insert name of Forest District] on [date].

By operation of Section 196(1) of the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA), an FSP must be considered to have received the minister's approval under Section 16(1) of FRPA for the parts of the FSP that are:

- (a) a cut block, if the cut block has been included in a forest development plan, with the assessments required in Sections 16, 17, 36.1 and 37 of the Operational and Site Planning Regulation shown as completed, and
- (b) a road, if the road has been included in a forest development plan, with the assessments required in Section 5 of the Forest Road Regulation shown as completed.

As the FDUs in this transition FSP consist entirely of approved Category “A” cut blocks and approved roads included in the [identify the FDP] forest development plan (FDP) with all necessary assessments shown as completed, the areas covered by the FSP’s FDUs meet the requirements of Section 196(1). Those parts of the FSP must, therefore, be considered to have received the minister's approval under Section 16(1) of FRPA.

The term of the FSP is [#] years, as specified in your FSP submission. The term of the FSP begins on [insert date] and ends on [insert a date no longer than five years past the beginning date].

I have considered the First Nations consultation that was undertaken on the [identify the FDP] in relation to the approved Category “A” cut blocks and approved roads forming the FDUs in this FSP, and the consultation undertaken by the Ministry of Forests and Range prior to entering into the licence agreement [identify licence agreement]. I am satisfied that no further consultation was required for the purposes of this transition FSP. [OR, I am satisfied that further consultation was required and has now been completed to my satisfaction]. However, at the road permit and/or cutting permit application stage of authorizing operations under [identify the licence], I may determine that further consultation with first nations concerning aboriginal interests may be necessary prior to issuing any cutting permit(s) or road permit.

If you need clarification on any aspects of this letter, please contact [identify contact person, title and office] at [phone number].

Yours truly
[DDM signature]