

FSP#771 Amendment #10

Rational for adding Selkirk District FDUs to the alternate visual strategy in wildfire damaged scenic areas and to include forest health damaged stands in the strategy, Section 4.13

Extensive wildfires and forest health incidents in recent years within BCTS Okanagan-Columbia Operating areas have caused widespread damage to timber within several designated scenic areas. In 2022, FSP #771 was amended to include an alternate strategy for wildfire-damaged scenic areas within the Okanagan TSA and TFL 49.

This amendment is to include TFL 56, Golden TSA, Revelstoke TSA, Block 4 of the Cascadia TSA in the Selkirk Natural Resource District as part of this strategy, and to include forest health damage where timber salvage and/or treatment options cannot be practicably addressed without exceeding the established visual objectives.

Applying the approved strategy to wildfire and forest health damaged scenic areas in the Selkirk and Okanagan Shuswap District FDUs will allow BCTS to action wildfire-damaged and forest health affected timber in a more efficient timeframe while continuing to use design principles which include natural design elements that are not linear or geometric in shape.

This amendment commits salvage activities in the Selkirk District TSAs to achieving a maximum of large-scale alterations that are one level above the scale and acuity levels, consistent with FPPR 1.1 categories of visually altered forest landscape and as described in Section 4.13.3 and Table 4.13.1.

*The highlighted sections below reflect the proposed additions and changes to the existing Results and Strategies.

4.13 Visual Quality-Scenic Areas and Visual Quality Objectives

Legal Reference: FRPA Section 181 and FPPR 1.1

Objective: *The objective set by government for Visual Quality in scenic areas are the established Visual Quality Objectives, applied in accordance with FPPR section 1.1 (Categories of visually altered forest landscapes).*

HLP Objective or GAR Objective:

The Selkirk Natural Resource District

The District Manager has made a declaration under the FPC to establish either visual quality objectives or visual scenic classes. These Declarations are grandfathered objectives under Section 181 of the Act as well as under GAR section 7 notice “Establishment of Scenic Areas and Visual Quality Objectives within the Columbia Forest District (January 31, 2007)” and 17 “Visual Quality Objective Order (November 20, 2014)”.

Okanagan TSA

The Okanagan Shuswap Land and Resource Management Plan (April 11, 2001 non HLP) defines “Zone 1” areas. These areas have been declared as “scenic areas” with established VQO’s under the FPC and are grand parented as objectives by government.

Applicable FDUs: Adelphi, Anstey, Banting-Kettle, Barton, Big White, Blackwater Ridge, Bluewater, Bolean, Branchflower, Cascadia, Celistra, Chase Harper, Chum, Coldstream, Cooke, Crazy, Currie, Drimmie Creek, Eagle River, Echo, Esplanade, Frisby Ridge, Glen Lake, Graystokes, Harris,

Hlina, Hunter Blurton, Ireland, Jackpine, Jumping Creek, Kal Slopes, Kwikoit, Lamberton, Long Ridge, Mara-Sicamous, Mellin Windy, Mission, Mt. Ida, Mt. Rev. Prov. Park, Mt. Seven, Mugford, Naramata, Old Dave, Paxton, Priest Creek, Rose-Swanson, Ross, Sicamous North, Skaha, Skimikin, Smokeyhouse, Stuart Terrace, TFL 33-BCTS, TFL 49, TFL 56, TFL 59-BCTS, Wall Creek, Wetask Lake, White Lake, Whitehead, Yard Creek, Okanagan, Revelstoke, Golden (All FDU where scenic areas apply).

Applicable FDUs for 2021 Fire-damaged stands within the Okanagan Shuswap and Selkirk Natural Resource Districts: Adelphi, Blackwater Ridge, Mara- Sicamous, Paxton, Skaha, TFL 49 (All FDUs where scenic areas apply within 2021 fires in Okanagan TSA and TFL 49 where development will meet VQOs to the extent practicable in respect to the VLI polygons listed in Table 4.13.1).

Applicable FDUs for 2023 Fire-damaged stands within the Okanagan Shuswap Natural Resource District: Lamberton, Hlina, Chum, Okanagan, TFL 49 (All FDUs where scenic areas apply within 2023 fires in Okanagan Shuswap and Selkirk Natural Resource Districts where development will meet VQOs to the extent practicable in respect to the VLI polygons listed in Table 4.13.1).

Applicable FDUs for Forest Health-impacted stands within the Okanagan Shuswap and Selkirk Natural Resource Districts: Cascadia, Echo, Mara Sicamous (All FDUs where scenic areas apply and forest health salvage development will meet VQOs to the extent practicable in respect to the VLI polygons listed in Table 4.13.1).

Results and Strategies

When constructing a road or when exercising timber harvesting rights under this FSP within areas having established Visual Quality Objectives (VQO), the agreement holder will meet the VQO at the completion of harvesting or road building by implementing the following strategies:

1. Prior to authorization of primary forest activities, ensure a *QP* carries out a Visual Impact Assessment (VIA), and designs cutblocks and roads such that the visual alteration on the ground is consistent with the applicable category that corresponds to the VQO described in FPPR sec 1.1 Categories of Visually Altered Forest Landscapes, by
 - a) assessing the proposed visual alteration from one or more significant public viewpoints, located on water or land, that provides a viewing opportunity and has relevance to the landscape being assessed; and
 - b) utilizing the guidance for predicting VQOs in:
 - i. FRPA Visual Impact Assessment Handbook, May 2022 including Table 2 and 6; and/or
 - ii. the Protocol for Visual Quality Effectiveness Evaluation Procedures and Standards, FREP, 2008; and estimating the likely resulting VQO using the descriptive categories of visually altered forest landscape as defined in FPPR Section 1.1.

2. Where road construction and/or timber harvesting is planned and may not fully meet the established VQO given the specific circumstances or conditions of a particular area, prior to entering into an agreement that authorizes the timber harvesting or road construction, the agreement holder will submit an amendment for visual results and strategies for these specific situations as appropriate, notwithstanding the following section that applies to **large-scale wildfire salvage and significant forest health incidents**.
3. Within scenic areas where cutblock and road construction is proposed to recover timber that has been damaged, threatened, significantly reduced in value, lost or destroyed due to the effects of **the White Rock Lake Fire (K61884), Thomas Creek Fire (K51794), Two-Mile Creek Fire (K42078), and Blackwater Ridge Fire (N41804) in 2021; the Bush Creek East Fire (K21633) in 2023; significant forest health incidents**; or other future large-scale fires, the FSP holder will:
 - a) Follow section 1 to the extent practicable by ensuring a *QP* carries out a Visual Impact Assessment of the altered forest landscape that will result from the cutblock harvesting or road construction, while considering the circumstances or conditions brought on by the wildfire **or forest health damage** that have impacted or damaged or threatened the timber in the scenic area; and
 - b) Where a *QP* determines that it is not practicable to be consistent with scale and acuity attributes of the established VQOs when recovering the damaged or timber **and/or conducting forest health mitigation activities**, the *QP* is to ensure to the extent practicable, within each VLI polygon, that the altered forest landscape that results from the cutblock harvesting or road construction:
 - i. Is natural in appearance, and not rectilinear or geometric in shape, and
 - ii. Does not exceed the levels of scale and acuity that are specified in Table 4.13.1.
 - iii. Additions to Table 4.13.1 are restricted in respect to scale and acuity allowable extents of a one level increase to FPPR 1.1 categories of visually altered forest landscape as a minor amendment.
 - iv. Additional FDUs, wildfires, **forest health incidents**, and VLI polygons may be added to table 4.13.1 as a minor amendment for approved **BCTS Okanagan-Columbia** FDUs located within the Okanagan Shuswap **and Selkirk Natural Resource Districts**;
 - c) **For the purposes of this strategy, significant forest health damage will require a minimum of 12% green/red attack in the total merchantable stand volume, or a minimum of 25% green/red/grey attack, dead, &/or downed timber in the total merchantable stand volume for each affected cutblock in the VLI polygons to which**

this strategy is applied. Timber harvesting within those VLI polygons affected by a significant forest health incident will be limited to the extent required to conduct an operationally practicable salvage and/or forest health mitigation treatment that minimizes the effect on the visual resource, with the support of and in consultation with a Ministry forest health specialist;

- d) For wildfire salvage to be considered for application of this strategy, the salvage harvest blocks must contain a minimum amount of 25% of the total merchantable stand volume that has been killed or destroyed as a result of the fire and/or subsequent forest health damage, or is at imminent risk of mortality in the opinion of a Qualified Professional for each affected cutblock in the VRI polygons to which this strategy is applied;
- e) This strategy may be adopted for activities that are prescribed for the purpose of mitigating the impacts on the visual quality of VLI polygons listed in Table 4.13.1 through visual rehabilitation measures;
- f) The altered visual scale and acuity levels specified in Table 4.13.1 are applicable only to cutblock harvesting and road construction for the purposes of meeting salvage and forest health mitigation goals, or to activities prescribed for the purpose of mitigating the impacts on the visual quality of VLI polygons listed in Table 4.13.1 through visual rehabilitation measures. Subsequent harvesting and road construction that is not intended to meet a salvage, forest health, or visual mitigation goal will abide by the requirements of section 1 using the approved Visual Quality Objective scale and acuity guidelines.

Table 4.13.1 *** Note: additional FDUs, wildfires, forest health incidents, and VLI polygons may be added to this table as a minor amendment within the Okanagan Shuswap and Selkirk Natural Resource Districts.

FDU/ Operating Area/ TFL	Wildfire Identification/ Forest Health Vector	VLI Polygon	Established VQO	Scale (allowable extent)	Acuity (allowable extent)
Adelphi/ TFL 49	K61884	1606	Retention	Medium in scale	Easy to see
TFL 49	K61884	1863	Retention	Medium in scale	Easy to see
TFL 49	K61884	1675	Partial Retention	Large in scale	Very easy to see

Mara-Sicamous	K42078/ Douglas-fir Bark Beetle (IBD)	2931	Partial Retention	Large in scale	Very easy to see
Mara-Sicamous	K42078	2939	Partial Retention	Large in scale	Very easy to see
Paxton	K61884	1597	Partial Retention	Medium to Large in scale	Very easy to see
Paxton	K61884	1599	Partial Retention	Large in scale	Very easy to see
Paxton	K61884	1613	Partial Retention	Large in scale	Very easy to see
Skaha	K51794	794	Retention	Large in scale	Very easy to see
Skaha	K51794	749	Partial Retention	Large in scale	Very easy to see
Lamberton	K21633	2759	Partial Retention	Large in scale	Very easy to see
Lamberton	K21633	2685	Modification	Very Large in Scale	Very easy to see
Hlina	K21633	2796	Retention	Medium in scale	Easy to see
Hlina	K21633	2786	Partial Retention	Large in scale	Very easy to see
Hlina	K21633	2777	Partial Retention	Large in scale	Very easy to see
Hlina	K21633	2784	Modification	Very large in Scale	Very easy to see
Chum	K21633	2901	Partial Retention	Large in scale	Very easy to see
Chum	K21633	2919	Modification	Very large in Scale	Very easy to see
Blackwater Ridge	N41804	222	Modification	Very large in Scale	Very easy to see
Blackwater Ridge	N41804	205	Modification	Very large in Scale	Very easy to see
Cascadia	Douglas-fir Bark Beetle (IBD)	759	Partial Retention	Large in scale	Very easy to see
Cascadia	Douglas-fir Bark Beetle (IBD)	770	Partial Retention	Large in scale	Very easy to see
Echo	Douglas-fir Bark Beetle (IBD)	1929	Retention	Medium in scale	Easy to see