



Advisory Bulletin No. 2015/09/22 – Having a plan

Purpose

This bulletin provides information to staff and registrants regarding the requirement to have a plan while carrying out primary forest activities on a timber sale licence (TSL).

Definition

For the above purpose, *primary forest activities* as defined in section 1 of the Forest Planning and Practices Regulation, means one or more of the following:

- a) timber harvesting;
- b) silviculture treatments; or
- c) road construction, maintenance and deactivation.

Requirements

Before BC Timber Sales (BCTS) can auction a TSL or construct roads to access that TSL, the *Forest and Range Practices Act* requires a Timber Sales Manager (TSM) to first prepare and obtain approval of a Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP). Although there can be some variation between plans, all FSPs must specify the results and strategies that a TSM must prepare to meet the objectives set by government for applicable resource values (for example, for soils, timber, wildlife, etc.).

Once the FSP is in place the results and strategies are used to inform the layout and design of cut blocks and one or more Site Plans that must be prepared for every TSL. Site Plans identify the approximate location of the cutblocks and roads and identify how the intended results and strategies described in the FSP apply to the TSL. This last point is very important for TSL holders since section 106.2 of the Forest Planning and Practices Regulation (FPPR) requires the holder of a TSL who carries out primary forest activities on the cutting authority area to ensure that those activities are consistent with the intended results and strategies identified by the TSM and that relate to the TSL as described in the applicable FSP and Site Plan.

Pursuant to section 22 (g) of the Forest Act (i.e., general authority for a TSM to include terms and conditions in a TSL), TSLs now impose further planning-related requirements on the holder of the agreement. More specifically, in accordance with the requirements set out in the agreement, the TSL holder must have a plan when carrying out primary forest activities and the TSL holder must provide the TSM with a copy of that plan, including any amendments to the plan, if requested.

New Plan-related TSL clauses

The following clauses have been added to all newly issued TSLs:

- 4.10 The Licensee must have a plan that covers primary forest activities on the cutting authority area prior to commencement of primary forest activities.
- 4.11 The Licensee must amend the plan referred to in paragraph 4.10 before the Licensee intends to conduct primary forest activities in a way that is different from what is described in the plan.
- 4.12 The Licensee must submit the plan or amendment referred to in paragraphs 4.10 or 4.11 if requested by the Timber Sales Manager.

Plans

BCTS prepares other “plans”, for example harvest plan, harvest plan map, site plan supporting information, and a road layout and design (if applicable), which are made known as part of the tender package that contain recommendations regarding how the TSL holder could conduct primary forest activities in a manner that will likely achieve the intended results and strategies.

It is a recommended best practice that TSL holders use the information in the Site Plan, Harvest Plan, Harvest Plan Map and road plans/profiles (if applicable) that BCTS provides in the Tender Package as their “plan” for conducting primary forest activities. If the TSL holder chooses to not follow the “plans” provided, it is recommended that the TSL holder seek advice from a qualified person on how to plan for and to carry out primary forest activities consistent with the identified results and strategies.

The TSL holder’s plan should contain sufficient amount of detailed information (in written and map format) to provide guidance to the workers on how to carrying out primary forest activities for the area. The content of “plans” should include all the elements necessary to allow harvesting rights to be undertaken to meet the legislative, regulatory and results and strategies for the area.

Contacts

Further details regarding this bulletin; please contact your local timber sales office.