



GUIDELINES FOR PROFESSIONAL COORDINATING MEMBER ROLES/RESPONSIBILITIES – FOREST CROSSINGS

In the event of any discrepancy between these guidelines and contractual, legal, and/or regulatory requirements related to forest practices or safety, the contractual, legal or regulatory requirements shall prevail.

This document provides guidance for TSL holders on the practice of professional forestry and the roles & responsibilities of the Coordinating Registered Professional (CRP) under the Professional Practice Guidelines titled “Professional Services in the Forest Sector: Crossings”

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

In 2018, the *Professional Governance Act (PGA)* and *Forest Professional Regulation (FPR)* was created in response to recommendations made in an independent professional reliance review. The *PGA* and *FPR* implements a portion of the review’s recommendations by legislating best practices for professional governance and providing consistent government oversight of the professional regulators. This includes the practice of professional forestry and the professional regulator “*Forest Professionals BC*” (*FPBC*).

Section 1 of the FPR defines “practice of professional forestry” as:

“Advice or services in relation to trees, forest lands, forest resources, forest ecosystems or forest transportation systems...”

Section 4 of the FPR defines “reserved practice” as:

“...the practice of professional forestry,...requires the experience, or technical knowledge of a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) or Registered Forest Technologist (RFT), is a reserved practice that may only be carried out by or under the supervision of an RPF or RFT”

The FPR definition also says that ‘reserved practice’ includes the practice of professional forestry within the meaning of the Forester’s Act as it read immediately before its appeal, which amongst other practices, includes planning, locating and approving forest transportation systems including forest roads.

[Professional forestry practice areas](#) are subsets within the general practice of professional forestry and include work, activities, and tasks which can only be undertaken by registered forest professionals. Professional forestry practices areas applicable to TSLs include but are not limited to:

- ✓ Forest Harvest Planning
- ✓ Forest Harvest Operations Management and Oversight
- ✓ Forest Roads and Transportation
- ✓ Forest Certification
- ✓ Stand Level Forest Planning and Management (Site Plans)

- ✓ Supervising, Directing and Advising Forest Plans, Practices and Professionals
- ✓ Auditing, Inspecting, Monitoring and Verifying Forest Operations, Plans and Practices
- ✓ Wildfire and Forest Fuel Planning and Management
- ✓ Wildfire Rehabilitation Management and Assessments
- ✓ Wildfire Prevention, Protection and Suppression.

STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

FPBC sets standards that every registered forest professional must follow, the violation of which, if proven, may be deemed to constitute an offence, professional misconduct, or the incompetent performance of duties undertaken while engaged in the practice of professional forestry:

- ✓ [Standards of Ethical & Professional Conduct](#) (independence, conflict of interest, due diligence, integrity, forest stewardship, safety, professionalism, reporting);
- ✓ Standards of competence, both as a general competence conduct standard, and a competency standard for select forest resource activities; and
- ✓ Practice standards for select forest resource activities, including forest crossings.

Refer to the [FPBC Bylaws](#) and the [Professional Services in the Forest Sector: Crossings](#) for further information.

ROLE OF THE COORDINATING REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL (CRP)

FPBC requires that, for crossing projects (that fall under the practice of professional forestry), there must be a CRP who takes professional responsibility for the work. The role of CRP may be transferred or handed off as necessary, where more than one CRP is needed during the lifespan of the project.

Where BCTS has provided plans for forest crossings to a TSL holder, and the TSL holder is implementing those plans, BCTS must provide for a CRP during the preparation of the plans and ensure the transfer of professional responsibility to the TSL holder. The TSL holder in accordance with FPBC requirements must, in turn, provide for a CRP who will take professional responsibility for the forest crossing moving forward.

TRANSFER OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

As part of the project prework, BCTS will facilitate the transfer of professional responsibility to the TSL holder by providing the following, where applicable:

- ✓ Stakeholder inputs
- ✓ Downstream resources
- ✓ Crossing location and type rationale
- ✓ Site risk factors
- ✓ General arrangement bridge design drawings including:
 - Historical data or observations
 - Subsurface conditions
 - Site hydrology estimation methodology
- ✓ Fabrication records and quality assurance documents
- ✓ Specialist designs or prescriptions
- ✓ Underlying design assumptions where not listed on design drawings or prescriptions.

The TSL holder is expected to provide for a CRP who will take professional responsibility of the forest crossing moving forward. TSL holders must have their CRP attend the prework held by BCTS.

At the project prework, the “*Coordinating Registered Professional – Transfer of Professional Responsibility Statement*” from the [Professional Services in the Forest Sector: Crossings](#) guidelines can be used to document the transfer of professional responsibility from BCTS’ CRP to the TSL holder’s CRP.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TSL HOLDER’S CRP

- ✓ Work, activities and tasks that fall within [professional forestry practice areas](#) should be overseen by the CRP.
- ✓ The CRP should play an active role in ensuring BCTS’ EMS/SFI forest certification standards are being met.
- ✓ The CRP must ensure they meet all of their obligations under the [Professional Services in the Forest Sector: Crossings](#) guidelines, **or**; provide a written rationale where they deviate from the guidelines **and** that rationale must be consistent with the [Standards of Ethical & Professional Conduct](#)
- ✓ If an activity that falls under the practice of professional forestry will be conducted in a way that is different from what is described in the plan prepared by BCTS, the CRP should carry out and/or coordinate the plan amendment.

INFRINGEMENT OF PRACTICE OF PROFESSIONAL FORESTRY

Professional forestry is a reserved practice, which means the advice and services provided can only be done by a registered forest professional.

It is an offence under the [Professional Governance Act](#) (PGA) to undertake reserved forestry practice, or use a reserved title, if not registered with FPBC. Such offences carry a maximum fine of \$200,000 and/or a two-year prison sentence.

Having a CRP take professional responsibility reduces environmental risks and operating risks as well as other liabilities involved in forest management. The CRP must have the right education, skills, and experience to ensure that legal and professional standards are met when managing or implementing forestry-related work.