

Kootenay Boundary Region Forest Stewardship Plan Expectations
May, 2016

As delegated decision makers responsible for administration of Forest Stewardship Plans (FSP's) in the Kootenay Boundary Region, the undersigned are sharing information we consider to be of weight and relevance to the preparation and adjudication of replacement FSP's.

In conjunction with the Chief Forester's recent guidance regarding Forest Stewardship Plans we would like to provide further direction and clarification for those licensees operating in the Kootenay Boundary Region.

This document is meant to encourage deliberate, early dialogue with the undersigned decision makers before professionals commence development of plan content. A focus solely on the matters addressed herein, in the absence of expected dialogue, may not be sufficient to ensure that many core forest resource stewardship factors are fully considered when preparing replacement FSP's.

Changes to Provincial Forest Lands and Societal Values

Forest resources and public expectations for how government manages them have changed in the past 12 years. Since the initial FSP's, there have been many circumstances impacting the forest sector that require us to adapt the ways in which we manage our forests. As FSP preparers in a professional reliance regime, license holders are required to be and/or collaborate with subject matter experts with intimate knowledge of; resource values, best management practices, monitoring results and emerging initiatives within their forest development units.

As the District Managers in the Kootenay Boundary Region we consider the following factors¹, taken together or in combination, to be significant and worthy of consideration in the development of replacement FSP's;

- The interests of other affected stakeholders and the public
- First Nations Aboriginal interests and government's objective of reconciliation
- The ability of overlapping tenure holders to exercise their rights and meet obligations
- The effects of climate change on forest ecosystems
- The effects of emerging forest health issues on forest ecosystems
- New monitoring information applicable to the values listed under FRPA
- Species at Risk requirements in federal recovery strategies or provincial implementation plans
- The importance of collaborative planning across watersheds or within TSA's to address landscape level values and objectives
- Factors in timber supply reviews that influence FSP results and strategies
- Landscape Fire Management Plans
- Operational access management considerations for various values
- The objective to mitigate the spread of invasive plants

Furthermore, we are receptive to considering new and innovative ideas that can be used to account for these, and other factors, that impact resource management strategies.

¹ The above-mentioned factors are not legally-binding and do not address all considerations relevant to FSP preparation. These factors should be considered by licensees to the extent that they inform FSP content requirements in the *Forest Planning and Practice Regulation*.

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Replacement FSP's

We expect replacement FSP's to be written where they are due for expiry and are not consistent with the expectations outlined in this document. Short term extensions may be provided in some situations but will be time bound and subject to conditions. First Nations consultation will be required for both an extension and/or new FSP. For new FSP's, our Ministry will be conducting a 60 day consultation period so please take this into consideration when developing a timeframe for your submission.

Measurable and Verifiable Results, Strategies and Measures

The Forest Practices Board has identified particular concerns with the Results, Strategies and Measures of a sample of currently approved FSP's. The Board's investigations provide relevant information for continuous improvement of plan content through FSP replacement. As delegated decision makers, we consider that the Forest Practices Board's findings in respect of FSP Results, Strategies and Measures apply within the Kootenay Boundary Region.

Default practices listed in the *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation (FPPR)* must be either followed as-written, or alternative results and/or strategies that better meet local conditions should be proposed. Self-exemption scenarios or situations where default practices will not be followed should not be proposed.

We expect FSP submissions to demonstrate that Results and Strategies comply with all legal requirements and describe how "Results" and "Strategies" for each objective comply with the definition of these terms, as set out in the FPPR and, how proposed measures will be effective and enforceable.

Forest Development Units (FDU's)

The overlap of FDU's should be minimized and/or a single multi-signatory FSP should be proposed that covers the management unit to which it applies. The challenge in having multi-signatory FSP's with multi-licensee FDU's is that we expect an improved, higher level of stewardship commitments which will require significant collaboration and effort. Strategized FDU's and multi signatory FSP's will help reduce management complexity, streamline approval and amendment procedures, and help facilitate public and stakeholder understanding and involvement.

We expect that shared landscape units with multiple FSP's will require well defined (verifiable and measureable), collaboration based Results and Strategies to meet value objectives.

Stakeholder and Public Consultation

FSP holders should indicate how they will identify and meaningfully work with affected parties throughout the duration of the proposed FSP. Maps included in an FSP should clearly illustrate to stakeholders and the public how the FSP relates to their area(s) of interest.

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Information Sources

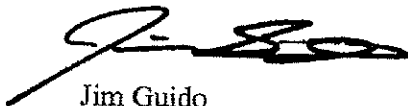
Since the inception of FSP's there have been numerous documents that have been developed and/or updated that should be considered when revisiting your FSP. Some of these include:

- Administrative Guide to Forest Stewardship Plans
- Guidance to C&E Program Staff on the Assessment of Measurable or Verifiable Results or Strategies within a Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP)
- Forest and Range Evaluation Program (FREP) and Multi resource value assessments
- Forest Practices Board Reports such as, but not limited to;
 - FSP's: Are They Achieving Expectations
 - Mitigation of Forestry Impacts to Natural Range Barriers
 - Community Watersheds: From Objectives to Results on the Ground
- FRPA bulletins
- Stocking Standards, including;
 - Fire Management Stocking Standards Guidance,
 - Guidance for assessing FSP stocking standards alignment with addressing immediate and long-term forest health issues
 - Climate-Change Related Stocking Standards
- Land Use Legal Direction Index
- Best practices documents related to specific values and objectives such as, but not limited to, Visuals, Invasive Plants, Ecosystem Restoration and Natural Range Barriers
- Honorable Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, March 8, 2016 letter: The renewal of forest stewardship plans and; Diane Nicholls, Chief Forester, FLNRO, March, 2016 document: Guidance on the Replacement of Forest Stewardship Plans.

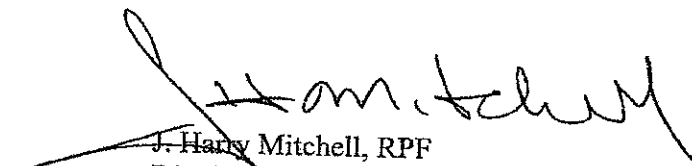
Conclusion

This expectations document is the first step in building the critical lines of communication to inform preparation and adjudication of replacement FSP's, and to continuously improve forest resource stewardship in the Kootenay Boundary Region. All forest licensees, BC Timber Sales and our region's community of qualified professionals are expected to engage in and contribute to the subsequent conversations this document is meant to promote.

Sincerely,



Jim Guido
A/District Manager
Selkirk Forest District



J. Harry Mitchell, RPF
District Manager
Rocky Mountain Forest District