



File: 280-30  
Ref: 236685  
March 14, 2018

To: Licensees, Regional Executive Directors, District Managers and District Geo-technicians

From: Office of the Chief Forester Division

Re: Consultation on Ministry Permanent Sample Plots

Permanent Sample Plots (PSPs) provide long-term re-measurement data primarily used to develop growth-and-yield models that support timber supply analysis and forest management decisions. For more information about PSPs and other inventory programs visit the [website](#).

We request that PSPs be considered when planning activities such as harvesting, salvage logging, roads, and pipelines that would impact these installations and their buffers. Two main updates have occurred related to PSP consultation:

1. Due to increased interest in modelling forest recovery after natural disturbances, PSPs with any type or amount of natural damage (insects, disease, windthrow, fire, snow, or animal damage) may now be protected and re-measured.
2. The authoritative source for active PSPs is the BC Data Catalogue [Growth-and-Yield Samples- Active Status](#) layer.

If a PSP in your area of development, please contact the Forest Analysis and Inventory Branch (Gary Johansen [Gary.Johansen@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Gary.Johansen@gov.bc.ca) or Anya Reid [Anya.Reid@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Anya.Reid@gov.bc.ca) ) with the Sample ID number, a map, GPS coordinates, and, if possible, a picture of the plot. The plot(s) in question will be analyzed against a standard procedure to determine whether protection or release is required and to determine the size of windfirm buffer needed (more detail in Appendix A).

Thank you for your cooperation in protecting the province's valuable PSP assets.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Diane Nicholls", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Diane Nicholls  
Assistant Deputy Minister, Chief Forester



## Appendix A. Additional information

### Other plot types

PSPs are one component of a larger coordinated ground-sampling effort that provides information needed to make management decisions. Experimental Plots (EPs) also require consideration and can be found in the BC Data Catalogue Forest Research Installations layer. Please contact Keith Thomas ([Keith.Thomas@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Keith.Thomas@gov.bc.ca)) if an EP is in your area of development. The Provincial Monitoring Program (CMI, YSM and NFI plots) are *not* protected because their goal is to monitor change on the landscape. Vegetation Resource Inventory Program (VRI) temporary plots are also *not* protected because they are a one-time measurement to validate photo interpretation.

### Authoritative source for PSP location

The BC Data Catalogue [Growth-and-Yield Samples- Active Status](#) layer is the authoritative source for PSP location. The Map Notation layer was used in the past but cannot be updated; therefore, is out-of-date and incomplete. FAIB will be working with the Forest Tenures Branch Business Application Manager to address this issue by removing PSPs from the Map Notation layer making it necessary to check the Growth-and-Yield layer for PSP location.

### Procedure for consideration

The PSPs will be reviewed to determine whether,

1. Protection is required (and if so, the buffer size),
2. Release is granted after a final re-measurement, or
3. Release is granted without a final re-measurement.

This determination is based on a set of standardized procedures using ranking criteria and matrix cells to ensure plots of the highest value are protected in a range of stand and ecosystem conditions.

A 50m or 100m windfirm buffer is required, in addition to the plot radius itself, depending on the plot is in the interior or coast, and the level of certainty on the coordinate information.

### Data requests

PSP data is compiled and summarized by FAIB. Data requests can be directed to Rene De Jong at [Rene.DeJong@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Rene.DeJong@gov.bc.ca).