

FOREST INVESTMENT PROGRAM

General Standards

November 2024



Ministry of
Forests

OVERVIEW

These standards are applicable to all activities carried out under the Forest Investment Program (FIP). These General Standards are the overarching standards and definitions that apply to all FIP activity standards and therefore to all investments funded by FIP.

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1 Definitions and Interpretation

Definitions

1.1 In this document, these words have the following meanings:

“**administrator**” means the administrator referred to in a recipient agreement;

“**annual operating plan**” means those activities funded and approved by FIP for that specific year.

“**best practices**” means those practices that will, at reasonable cost, best achieve the intended results while not causing or resulting in damage;

“**damage**” means

- (a) damage to property,
- (b) slumping or sliding of land, landslides, adverse gully processes, snow avalanches, destabilized alluvial fans, or any similar event,
- (c) soil disturbance in excess of allowed limits,
- (d) a reduction in ability to meet the visual quality objectives of a known scenic area,
- (e) any action inconsistent with a general wildlife measure or an objective applicable to a known wildlife habitat area or an ungulate winter range, or

- (f) damage to or change in the environment of a wildlife tree or resource feature that, in the opinion of the district manager, unacceptably impairs the functionality, use or enjoyment of the feature or tree;

“delivery partner” means a funding recipient or government proponent who is approved to receive forest investment program funds to complete a specified activity.

“district manager” are government officials who review and approve resource development under the Forest Act on public land and include persons authorized by the district manager to carry out a power, duty or function conferred on the district manager.

“FRPA” means the Forest and Range Practices Act, regulations and standards made under the Act;

“ministry” means the Ministry of Forests;

“ministry representative” means the ministry personnel appointed to serve as the primary contact between the province and the contractor or recipient.

“ministry activity standards” means a document issued by the ministry containing requirements of specifications for the carrying out of specific type of activity funded by FIP;

“ministry standards” means the requirements and specifications contained in this document, in the ministry activity standards documents, and other applicable standards;

“province” means his majesty the king in right of the province of British Columbia.

“recipient” means a person that is eligible to apply for and receive program funding and to enter into a recipient agreement with the contractor;

“recipient agreement” means the contract between an administrator and a recipient for performance of the work;

“specified” means, as the context so requires, specified in the annual operating plan, a ministry standard, treatment plan or work plan or by a district manager.

“technical contact” means the person named as the technical contact for a particular activity such as on the Ministry website;

“treatment plan” means an overall plan or prescription setting out measurable objectives desired to be achieved on specified work areas, together with one or more silviculture or forest health treatments necessary to achieve the objectives, and as further described in the, FIP standards, ministry standards;

“work” means the approved activities funded by the FIP;

“work area” means the areas or locations where work is to be undertaken or any area of public land occupied for purposes of the work;

“work plan” means a detailed operational plan for the carrying out of an individual silviculture or forest health treatment, and as further described in the FIP standards, or ministry standards.

Interpretation

- 1.2 The terms *resource feature, riparian management area, riparian management zone, riparian reserve zone, scenic area, ungulate winter range, visual quality objective, wildlife habitat area, and wildlife tree* -as defined under FRPA.
- 1.3 A word defined in the FIP general standards has the same meaning in the FIP activity standards or other applicable standards.
- 1.4 Where a word or abbreviation, which has a well-known technical or trade meaning, is used in ministry standards, it has that recognized meaning.
- 1.5 The headings in this document have been inserted for reference only and unless otherwise stated do not define, limit, alter or enlarge the meaning of any provision.
- 1.6 Any reference to ministry standard includes every amendment to or substitute for them published from time to time.

2 Standards Applicable to Every Activity

- 2.1 The standards in this article apply to every activity under FIP.

General

- 2.2 All work must be performed to the ministry standards applicable to the type of work and in compliance with the laws of Canada and British Columbia applicable to the work and the work area.
- 2.3 Work must always be conducted with the standard of care, skill and diligence normally exercised and observed by people engaged in the performance of activities similar to the work.
- 2.4 Work may only be performed during biological and weather conditions appropriate to:
 - (a) ensuring high efficacy of the work, and
 - (b) attainment of ministry standards.
- 2.5 A work area must be unencumbered public land and not the subject of a research installation or other authorized activity with which a FIP funded activity may conflict.

First Nations Requirements

- 2.6 Where an activity occurs on a First Nations' territory and is outside of a review process required under FRPA or the Integrated Pest Management Act and Regulation, the delivery partner must carry out a process of information sharing with potentially affected First Nations.
- 2.7 The results of this process must be presented to the district manager prior to work being initiated. The district manager will consider the information provided and may require further consultation, mitigative measures, other activities, or may disallow the work based on issues brought forward in relation to First Nations' interests.

Protection of Property and the Environment

- 2.8 In carrying out the work, the contractor must not cause, or create conditions that are likely to cause, either directly or indirectly, damage or risk to human life, safety, or the environment.
- 2.9 If the contractor causes harm contrary to section 2.8, or if the delivery partner reasonably believes that carrying out the work will result in a breach of section 2.8 the delivery partner must:
- (a) immediately stop the work in the area affected;
 - (b) prevent any further damage;
 - (c) immediately notify the district manager and the administrator (in the case of a recipient); and
 - (d) take any remedial measures that the district manager requires.
- 2.10 Work that has been stopped under section 2.9 may be resumed when:
- (a) it can be resumed without breaching section 2.8; and
 - (b) any remedial measures required under section 2.9 have been carried out to the satisfaction of the district manager.
- 2.11 Work areas must be kept free from any accumulation of waste products or debris resulting from the work.
- 2.12 In addition to the notification requirements in section 2.9, a delivery partner must immediately notify the district manager as well as the administrator, when applicable, when any contravention of legislation occurs or is observed.

Practices

- 2.13 Trees in a riparian reserve zone must not be felled or modified unless the felling or modification has been specified in a treatment or work plan.

- 2.14 Slash or debris capable of damaging fish habitat or reducing water quality must not be placed in or around aquatic environments, or in a location where natural forces may subsequently transport the slash or debris into an aquatic environment.

Record Keeping

- 2.15 The delivery partner must retain on its own files for a period of not less than seven years all data, reports, photographs and maps required to be produced by ministry standard.

3 Standards Applicable to Silviculture and Forest Health

- 3.1 The standards in this article apply to eligible ministry funded silviculture and forest health activities funded by FIP that correspond to work areas identified in the annual operating plan.

Treatment and Work Plans

- 3.2 Except as provided for in section 3.12, a work area must correspond to the annual operating plan and have a treatment plan and work plan in effect before work commences on that area.

- 3.3 A treatment plan and a work plan

- (a) must be consistent with
 - i) FIP standards, or ministry standards,
 - ii) the use of best practices,
 - iii) general wildlife measures applicable to a wildlife habitat area,
 - iv) the objectives, priorities and activities expressed in higher level plans, forest stewardship plans, or silviculture or forest health strategies, and
 - v) all applicable legislation.
- (b) are not in effect until signed by a registered professional forester (RPF);
- (c) are not required to be submitted to a district manager unless required under a pest management plan or requested by the district manager; and
- (d) are public documents and must be made available to a person on request.

- 3.4 A treatment plan or work plan that is not consistent with FIP Standards or ministry standards is not in effect unless the inconsistent part of the plan is approved in writing by the district manager or technical contact as appropriate.

- 3.5 If at any time a treatment or work plan appears unsuitable or not in compliance with applicable legislation, particularly as a result of forest health factors, any portion of the work affected by the unsuitable or non-compliant aspect of the work must immediately be suspended and both the district manager and the administrator notified, when applicable.
- 3.6 All work must meet or exceed the requirements of the applicable treatment and work plans for each work area.

Treatment Plans

- 3.7 An approved backlog silviculture prescription or stand management prescription may constitute a treatment plan for the purposes of these standards, provided an RPF deems the prescription is still valid.
- 3.8 In addition to the requirements of section 3.3, a treatment plan must:
- (a) include a map with spatial data showing the work areas and treatment units that are subject to the treatment plan;
 - (b) set out measurable objectives that are desired to be achieved on the treatment units;
 - (c) set out a schedule of silviculture or forest health treatments appropriate to achieving the objectives, and
 - (d) where not effectively already referred through another planning or approval process, be referred to any government resource agency or person that, in reasonable foresight, may be materially affected by the proposed plan, and to any agency or person as directed by the district manager.
- 3.9 Except for surveys, where a treatment plan schedules a series of treatments to be carried out, work may only commence on the first treatment in the series where there is reasonable expectation that sufficient funding will exist in the future to carry the treatment plan to completion.
- 3.10 A treatment plan not carried to completion must have a file note in the Reporting Silviculture Updates and Land Status Tracking System (RESULTS) as to the reasons why treatments were terminated.

Work Plans

- 3.11 In addition to the requirements of section 3.3, a work plan must:
- (a) be consistent with the treatment plan for a work area;
 - (b) be appropriate and specific to the silviculture activity to be carried out on a work area; and
 - (c) have, at a minimum, the contents for a work plan specified in a FIP activity standards document or ministry standards document.

- 3.12 A work plan is not required where all the specified requirements for a work plan are met within the treatment plan, and in such cases every reference in the FIP standards, or ministry standards to a work plan shall mean the treatment plan.

Activity Reporting

- 3.13 All planned and completed FIP activities must have activity accomplishment reports and maps prepared and submitted as specified in the RESULTS Interim Information Submission Specifications FIP Edition located at this site: [RESULTS business and policy documentation - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](#).

4 Occupation and Safety

Occupation

- 4.1 The recipient will occupy the public land specified by the administrator solely for the purpose of carrying out the ministry funded FIP and approved activities and only for so long as the recipient is in compliance with the recipient agreement.

Safety

- 4.2 As occupier of lands used as a workplace, the delivery partner acknowledges that they are an owner as defined in Workers Compensation Act Section 106.
- 4.3 As owner of the workplace, the delivery partner acknowledges that, in relation to a multiple-employer workplace, the delivery partner will be the prime contractor or designate a prime contractor.
- 4.4 Where the delivery partner has designated a prime contractor, the delivery partner must notify the district manager, or in the case of a recipient, also the administrator the name of the contractor who they have entered into a written prime contractor agreement with.
- 4.5 The delivery partner must ensure that, on all multi-employer workplaces, a worksite sign in a format prescribed in ministry standards is posted on all access points to the worksite.

5 Miscellaneous

Monitoring by the Province

- 5.1 The ministry or administrator reserves the right to monitor and examine, at all times during the term and without notice to the recipient, any work performed. Monitoring and examinations are conducted for the sole benefit of the ministry or administrator, and do not release the recipient or any other party required to carry out quality control from the responsibility of providing quality control measures to assure that the work strictly complies with ministry standards.

Method of Measurement

- 5.2 Unless otherwise specified, all linear and area measurements are measured on the horizontal plane.

Ownership of Work or Improvements

- 5.3 Despite any work or improvements on public land that may be performed or made by the recipient, the sole ownership of all work areas and any improvements remains with the province.

Recipient Agreement

- 5.4 The recipient must abide by all the conditions in a signed recipient agreement.

Non-Waiver

- 5.5 A waiver of a Forest Investment Program standard or a waiver of a recipient's breach of a Forest Investment Program standard is effective only if it is in writing and signed by the director of the Forest Investment and Reporting Branch or administrator.