



Special Use Permit (SUP) Assignments

April 2023

The information contained within this interim guidance is provided for SUP holders, intended recipients and district managers. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, the guide is only intended to provide an overview of the administrative requirements pertaining to SUP assignments. It should not be interpreted as legal advice, and it should not be used in place of the Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act (Act), the Forest Act, their associated regulations or in place of advice of your solicitor.

For additional information please refer to the Special Use Permit (SUP) Manual: [Special Use Permit - Forestry - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](#).

Special Use Permit Purpose

The Provincial Forest Use Regulation (PFUR) allows district managers to issue a special use permit to a person for an ancillary purpose to manage Crown land in a Provincial Forest for:

- a) construction and maintenance of a road, including construction and maintenance of bridges and other drainage structures;
- b) sand pits, gravel pits, rock quarries and other quarries that provide materials for road construction, modification or maintenance authorized under the *Forest Act*;
- c) a communications site;
- d) logging camp and associated facilities, including a waste disposal site;
- e) a log dump or dry land sort
- f) disposal of organic debris from a remote log dump or dry land sort;
- g) a short term timber processing site;
- h) a lookout;
- i) a weather station;
- j) an airstrip, helipad or other air transportation landing site;
- k) educational or research purposes;
- l) weigh scales;
- m) silviculture treatments and associated facilities, including camps and waste disposal sites;
- n) wildlife habitat enhancement and associated facilities, including camps and waste disposal sites.

Special Use Permit Assignments and Closures

The following options exist for potential SUP recipients to acquire existing rights to use SUP sites required to conduct forestry operations in the Provincial Forest:

1. Assignment of a SUP under section 10 of the PFUR requires the approval of the district manager. SUPs will not be approved to be assigned if the existing SUP is to be used for a different purpose, the SUP is not compliant with the authorized use and conditions of the SUP, or the existing SUP holder does not provide a signed agreement from the recipient. Following



the assignment, the new SUP holder assumes all liabilities on the site including any future rehabilitation requirements.

2. Closure of a SUP requires the rehabilitation of the site in accordance with the SUP or SUP plan, and a final report of completion is submitted to the District Manager. If the site has been used for any activities listed in the Contaminated Sites Regulation schedule 2 then a site disclosure and/or site investigation under the *Environmental Management Act* will be required. Once closed, the SUP site can be applied for by an incoming forest tenure holder for a SUP of the same or different purpose.
3. Closure of a SUP with an amended clean-up plan approved by the district manager. The district manager may ask for a site disclosure or a site assessment as a component of the SUP closure as described in option 2. Once closed the SUP site can be applied for by an incoming forest tenure holder for a SUP of the same or different purpose.

Option 1 is recommended for SUP sites with low risks, and where the incoming tenure holder needs the SUP in the short term for continued operations.

Option 2 or 3 is recommended for a SUP where another party is applying for the same area for a new SUP or a SUP with a different purpose. This reduces the risks to the incoming SUP holder, however these options can result in delays in SUP issuance due to site remediation (less in option 3) and the administration required to issue a new SUP.

Requirements to apply for and to issue a new SUP can be found in the above referenced SUP manual.

Risk Assessment or Environmental Assessment

To lessen the potential unauthorized use of Crown land or environmental risks, an assessment may be requested prior to the decision to assign a SUP. The intended recipient is responsible for their own due diligence and actions when making their decision to accept the SUP. If an assessment is completed, this information should be shared with all parties involved in the assignment.

Assessments may describe environmental and human health risks associated with the movement and concentration of hydro carbons or sewage. This includes the nature and extent of contamination, and potential impact to the site and surrounding areas based on the site geology and hydrogeology, and site proximity to living organisms. Additional information that may be considered in an assessment include:

- *Environmental Management Act*, Contaminated Sites Regulation schedule 2 site disclosure or site investigations report.
- List of additional permits, approvals or authorizations associated with the SUP.
- Estimated costs for site clean up, remediation or road deactivation.
- Inventory of all structures, fixtures or chattel on site.
- A declaration the site is in conformation with the SUP plan and permit.



Risk Associated with Special Use Permits based on Use

The following table summarizes the potential for higher environmental risks that may be found on a SUP site, based on use. This is a general guide; local knowledge and assessments completed by qualified professions should be used to determine the actual risk related to the specific site, current condition and use.

Type of Use	Potential Risk
Communications, repeater site, weather stations, lookout or helipads	Low
Logging Camp and associated facilities including a waste disposal site	Very High
Dryland sort, log dump & weigh scales (higher risks are associated with water or foreshore operations)	Moderate to Very High
Disposal of organic debris	High
Sand and gravel pits, rock quarries	Low
Construction or maintenance of roads or bridges or other drainage structures (higher risks are associated with high terrain hazard and stream crossings)	Moderate to high
Any Schedule 2 activities under the Contaminated Sites Regulation including any fuel storage facilities	Moderate to High

The most common Schedule 2 activities associated with SUPs include, industrial wood waste disposal, sewage or septic tanks storage or disposal, waste storage or disposal, automotive vehicle maintenance and repair, or hazardous waste storage, treatment, or disposal. If the site is believed to be contaminated, then the *Environmental Management Act* and associated Contaminated Sites Regulation may apply. For more information on contaminated sites please see [Identifying sites that may be contaminated - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](#).