



File: 19720-01  
Reference: 282543

June 24, 2026

All Woodlot Licensees:

### **Re: Discretionary Decision Making on One Cutting Permit Applications**

The One cutting permit (One CP) policy was implemented on woodlot licences (WLs) on January 31, 2011, as an administrative efficiency. I am writing to communicate certain operational changes regarding the consideration of One CP applications as a result of *Forest Act* (Bill 41- 2023) amendments. This letter replaces the January 31, 2011, letter from Dana Hayden regarding requirements for a One CP.

*Forest Act*, Part 3.1 for Cutting Permits and Part 8 for Road Permits provide the delegated decision maker or District Manager with the following statutory discretion for the issuance of CPs and road permits (RPs):

- mandatory considerations for deciding whether to issue CPs and RPs;
- circumstances for mandatory refusal of a CP or RP application;
- increased authority to collect and require information to inform the decisions;
- and
- authority to add conditions to a CP or RP that are consistent with and more stringent than what is required by forestry legislation, the agreement, and the Woodlot Licence Plan (WLP).

The Ministry of Forests has made the discretionary decision to accept One CP applications for WLs. However, One CP applications may no longer provide sufficient information for the District Manager to properly assess the new mandatory considerations noted above. Please refer to [Forest Act Bulletin Number 15](#) for more information on CP/RP discretion and the following website for further information including an application form specifically designed for woodlots:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/forest-tenures/timber-harvesting-rights/cutting-permit-road-tenure-administration>.

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## **Current Challenges with One CP**

In particular, the blanket harvest areas provided under the One CP application present the following challenges:

1. One CPs may limit the ability of First Nations to provide meaningful feedback in consultation referrals when harvest areas are not specified and spatialized.
2. Managing One CP in the current FOR systems has been challenging. District staff cannot complete status and clearance reviews to confirm the location of planned cut blocks in relation to critical habitat, previously recorded *Heritage Conservation Act*-protected heritage sites, and other Crown authorized uses.
3. One CPs also challenge district staff from being able to properly consider cut control position which is an important consideration for sustainability and cumulative impacts. District Managers may choose not to issue a One CP where there has been a history of exceeding or high potential of exceeding cut control limits.
4. One CP may challenge the District Manager to fully consider the legislative considerations under Section 52.03 of the *Forest Act* and in consideration of non-spatial reserves and special forest management considerations not specified in the WL Plan (WLP).
5. Inconsistent practices related to post-harvest silviculture reporting are creating inefficiencies when the ministry has a need to confirm RESULTS submissions.

## **Proposed Solutions**

District Managers may consider using One CP in the following circumstances as determined by their local knowledge of the challenges above:

1. Status quo when the above barriers are minimized by local knowledge and WLP detail that would sufficiently provide the information that at-risk values and resources are protected. The WL holder would need to demonstrate that they have a good relationship with First Nations and a history of compliance with the operations and administration of their tenure.
2. WL holders apply for a One CP and submit a forest operation map (FOM) as set out in Section 15.1 of *Forest and Range Practice Act* (FRPA) and in Part 3.1 of the *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation*. This may better satisfy the consideration of forest and cultural heritage resources. This includes advertising the FOM to the public that describes the approximate size, shape, and location of planned cut blocks and roads. It would also include sharing the approximate size, shape, and location with First Nations. Currently, woodlot licensees are not legally required to complete a FOM; however, District Managers may advise that submitting a FOM requirement or an acceptable alternative is a requirement for their consideration for the use of a One CP.

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3. WL holders submit modified harvest areas under the One CP application or report reserve areas in RESULTS to identify to the District Manager where forest harvesting will not occur to protect critical habitat, archaeological/cultural heritage resource, old growth, or other identified objectives or values.

Where a District Manager does not have the confidence that a One CP will meet the legislated tests, or where past performance is not satisfactory, WL holders will be advised to submit a standard CP. District Managers may also invoke Section 81 of the *Forest Act* to refuse the issuance of a CP if operations or administration (reporting or cut control) of their tenure does not meet the agreement or legislative requirements. Ministry of Forests staff will be working towards modelling a modified administrative process over the next six months. This will potentially provide changes to systems and reporting including potential notification requirements and/or application standards.

Government is committed to streamlining permitting and creating efficiencies for licensees, and the One CP is an advantage that has been extended to licensees who are demonstrating good performance and working relationships with First Nations. As the decision to issue a One CP is solely discretionary by the District Manager, understanding local expectations and challenges will determine both potential obstacles and/or efficiencies of your One CP application. Over the long-term, many strategic planning decisions are anticipated to be made through the forest landscape planning process, and the Forest Tenure Branch will continue to work with Woodlots BC to ensure greater efficiency and certainty within the Woodlot Licence Program.

If you have specific questions or concerns regarding this policy, you may contact Emma Neill, Senior Tenures Forester with Forest Tenures Branch, by email at [ForestTenuresBranch@gov.bc.ca](mailto:ForestTenuresBranch@gov.bc.ca). The Forest Tenures Branch leads the Woodlot Licence Program on behalf of the ministry and is responsible for regulatory and policy oversight.

Sincerely,



Makenzie Leine, M.B.A., R.P.F.  
Deputy Minister

pc: Ian Meier, Associate Deputy Minister of Forests  
All Assistant Deputy Ministers  
All Regional Executive Directors  
All District Managers  
Patrick Russell, Director, Forest Tenures Branch  
Amanda Fouty, A/Director, Timber Pricing Branch  
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