



Ministry of
Forests, Lands, Natural
Resource Operations
and Rural Development

Policy 8.8

Woodlot Licence Program –

Private Land Removal

April 2018

1.1 Scope

This policy is about the removal of private land from woodlot licences (*Forest Act* s. 47.1(2)(b)). It applies to all woodlot licences in the Province of British Columbia.

The Woodlot Licence Private Land Removal Guidelines provide further details on the application of this policy.

1.2 Policy

It is the policy of this Ministry that:

1. The prior written consent of the Minister (or delegate) is required to remove private land from a woodlot licence (WL);
2. Private land that was voluntarily added to the woodlot licence after it was awarded, must be removed at the request of the WL holder with no considerations, limitations or restrictions imposed, and;
3. A request to remove private land that was contributed at the time the WL was awarded must be evaluated using the criteria below:

The WL is in good standing with government, specifically that the Minister (or delegate) is satisfied that;

- All payments to government (stumpage, waste, annual rent) are up to date.
- There are no unresolved compliance and enforcement actions or contraventions of the *Forest Act*, the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act*, the *Forest and Range Practices Act*, or the *Wildfire Act* on Schedule B lands or any Schedule A lands remaining in the WL.
- That there is an adequate commitment in place to address any outstanding obligations on the Schedule B portions of the WL.
- The WL has been held by the same licensee or family member if the licence has been transferred, for a period of at least 10 years.
- Documentation showing that the WL has had private land included for a minimum of ten years.
- The WL holder has provided notification and advertised their intention to remove the private land from the WL and has satisfied the decision maker that all inquiries directly pertaining to the private land proposed for deletion have been adequately addressed.

Other considerations:

- Any ongoing road access implications from the proposed removal of private land to the remaining WL schedule A and B lands have been adequately addressed. See Section 4.5 of the Woodlot Licence Private Land Removal Guidelines.
- The licence holder has been informed and understands that any private land removed from an existing WL held by a person, partnership, or corporation cannot be included in an application by that person, partnership, corporation, the spouse or immediate family of that person, or a partnership or corporation affiliated with the original owner for a new WL.
- A request to remove private land that has been impacted by catastrophic natural events such as a wildfire, flooding, blowdown, severe insect or disease attack, etc. will be processed as expeditiously as possible, following the criteria stated above.
- Following the removal of private land, the licence document may be amended to reflect the changes.
- The decision maker may consider and decide if a new or amended Management Plan and/or Woodlot Licence Plan is needed to account for the area being removed.

Questions or comments should be directed to:

Forest Tenures Branch, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
ForestTenuresBranch@gov.bc.ca

References

- [Forest Act](#), s. 47.1
- [Other Woodlot Licence Resources](#)
- [Guidelines for Policy 8.8 Woodlot Licence Program Private Land Deletions](#)