

Land Use Planning in British Columbia: *Frequently Asked Questions*



The B.C. government is modernizing land use planning (LUP) to ensure responsible stewardship and management of land and resources that includes the unique values, perspectives, and knowledge of First Nations. Land use planning supports preservation of cultural values, healthy ecosystems, and economic opportunities by setting high-level strategic direction for plan areas — providing clarity for ‘what’ can occur ‘where’ on land and water. It is a transparent and inclusive process that can be modified over time to address changing needs.

Who is Involved?

Land use planning involves the B.C. government partnering with First Nations rights holders to develop a shared vision for the future of resource management and stewardship. The partnership model aligns with B.C.’s [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#), and with B.C.’s commitment to reconciliation and a shared approach to land stewardship.

Collaboration and engagement with local government, stakeholders, industry, communities, and the public occurs throughout the LUP process as identified by project-specific LUP teams.

Where will it Occur?

Land use planning will occur in areas prioritized in partnership with First Nations and through engagement with local governments, stakeholders, and communities. The geographic area for which planning occurs is dependent upon the location of the opportunities and/or issues requiring attention and could range from comprehensive large-scale planning to more focused issue specific plans based on the needs identified. Land use plans will not include federal lands and water, private lands, or provincially designated Agriculture Land Reserve lands.

Existing Strategic-level Plans:

Existing land use plans cover over 90 per cent of provincial public land in B.C. Most were completed in the 1990s and early 2000s and require updates and modifications to reflect the current state of ecosystems and socio-economic landscape, and to include First Nations perspectives. Modernizing land use plan outcomes are intended to identify current and future land use objectives including those for reconciliation, environmental stewardship, and a sustainable economy. In addition, modernizing land use plans consider modern land use challenges such as climate change adaptation.

Engagement in LUP Projects:

Engagement in LUP is the process of seeking interests, ideas, and perspectives from various groups including stakeholder groups, organizations, and the public. It occurs periodically throughout a project to ensure input is understood and considered in planning-related decisions and directions.

The B.C. government is committed to anti-racism and diversity, equity, and inclusion strategies to ensure all processes are free from discrimination. Racist or discriminatory comments received by planning teams throughout land use planning engagement periods will not be tolerated nor considered in the final planning outcomes.

Interim Measures in LUP Projects:

Interim measures (IMs) generally involve a temporary pause of new and expanded resource use tenures and permits where risk to environmental or other values may occur. IMs are considered where time is required for engagement to occur to arrive at new management direction. IMs are considered on a case-by-case basis and involve analysis of risks and protection of values during planning work.

Implementing the Outcomes of LUP:

The last stage of the LUP process involves building a strategy for how the plan will be implemented over time. This includes applying the legal designations required to give effect to select management direction, implementing the governance structure that will oversee implementation of the plan, and beginning the monitoring framework that will track plan effectiveness. The development of each land use planning project's approach to implementation will vary based on the projects parameters and options developed through the planning process. Engagement on the plan's final options and draft implementation plan will occur as part of the process.

Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA):

An Indigenous protected and conserved area (IPCA) is a First Nation's vision and plan for lands and waters in their territory. The land use vision expressed by First Nations in an IPCA can help identify land use conflicts and set priorities where government-to-government land use planning can occur towards shared goals. The

Province and the Nation may choose to enter into a land use planning process where there is a shared interest in enacting the IPCA under both sets of laws and where such a partnership can meet both governments' needs.

Forest Landscape Planning (FLP):

Forest landscape planning takes strategic land use planning direction to a specific forest management area and provides more detail and direction for 'where' and 'how' forest activities can occur. FLPs will result in deeper engagement and greater transparency with local governments and interest groups. The B.C. government will join with First Nations governments, communities, and other interested parties to develop forest landscape plans in B.C.

Learn more at [Managing Forestry Activities on Provincial Public Land in British Columbia \(PDF\)](#).

Water Sustainability Planning (WSP):

Water is an important consideration in land use planning. Planning for water sustainability can be incorporated into strategic and landscape-level planning. Learn more at [Water Planning and Strategies](#)

Integrated Planning:

Over time, various planning programs have been developed, such as land use planning, forest landscape planning, water and watershed planning, species at risk and habitat planning. The Province recognizes this suite of planning can be confusing to understand, and difficult to identify which planning approach is needed for values of concern.

The Province is moving towards a more integrated approach to planning, which may result in a coordinated process to achieve various planning objectives. In discussions with partner First Nations, and with information from stakeholders and communities to advance more custom planning approaches. This approach will support uniting or combining aspects of different planning processes into a single process. This has the benefit of transitioning from individual planning programs into more comprehensive "planning for lands and waters" that spans scale and levels of direction.

Learn More Online At:

www.gov.bc.ca/landuseplanning