

Chapter 2: Road Layout

Access is a primary consideration in planning forest development. Although the principles for determining road locations apply to both main and secondary Forest Service Roads (FSRs), secondary roads are more site-specific to the harvesting system and the equipment used. Decisions made during access planning (defined as preceding road layout and typically identifying route corridors, selecting life expectancies of various roads types, and establishing intended road users and vehicle types) and road layout may have significant effects on road construction and maintenance costs, user safety, and other resources. Select and locate routes to meet the objectives of higher-level plans within the constraints of any approved operational plans or permits. Road layout is a process of route selection and field marking based on pre-field investigation and field reconnaissance to determine a site-specific road location. The level of detail and the type of information required for road layout depends on the required road design standards, the complexity of terrain, the size and complexity of stream crossings, and the need to consider other resource values.

This chapter presents the ministry's mandatory procedures and best practices related to professional responsibility, pre-field and field investigation, and to the associated outputs. It is intended to provide the reader with enough detail to be able to understand the processes and expected mandatory procedures, as well as ensuring that the road meets the regulatory requirements related to safety and protection of other resources.

2.0.1 Policy

The location of a proposed Forest Service Road will be consistent with the outcomes of a Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) or other applicable planning process, and will:

- optimize operational needs;
- maximize safety;
- minimize cost; and
- minimize environmental impacts.

2.1 Mandatory Procedures & Best Practices

2.2 Road Layout Professional Responsibilities & Considerations

2.3 Pre-Field Investigation

- 2.3.1 Road Layout
- 2.3.2 Maps & Air Photos
- 2.3.3 Visual Impact
- 2.3.4 The Working Map

- 2.3.5 Land Alienations
- 2.3.6 Government Interests

2.4 Field Reconnaissance

- 2.4.1 Field Reconnaissance Procedures & Records
- 2.4.2 Specific Concerns
- 2.4.3 Drainage Structures
- 2.4.4 Harvesting Requirements
- 2.4.5 Use of Appropriate Professionals

2.5 Reconnaissance Report

2.6 Resources & Suggestions for Further Reading

2.7 Appendices