

FOREST LANDSCAPE PLAN PILOT PROJECTS: AN INFORMATION BULLETIN

What is a Forest Landscape Plan?

A new Forest Landscape Plan (FLP) document is proposed to replace the current Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) as part of changes to British Columbia's forest management regime. Forest landscape planning is the process of establishing clear objectives and outcomes for the management of forest resource values over a defined area. The new regime will enable a consolidated approach to forest planning and management at the landscape-level (e.g. timber supply area, tree farm license or large area-based forest tenure) and help to facilitate upfront collaboration between government, Indigenous Nations and licensees, with input from stakeholders, communities and the public.

FLPs will be consistent with higher-level strategic planning direction, such as existing Land Use Plans (LUPs), and will include measurable outcomes to support the following objectives:

- the production and supply of timber;
- Indigenous interests and values;
- conservation and protection of the environment;
- local communities' values; and,
- forest health.

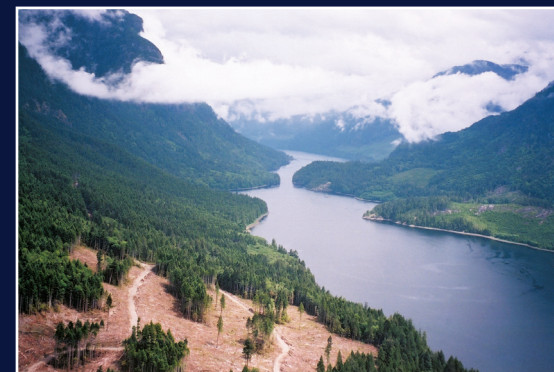
FLPs will not set new land use direction, but rather will help to align forest management direction from LUPs to the conditions and associated emerging issues specific to the plan area. FLPs may also include recommended planning guidelines to achieve outcomes associated with each of the plan's objectives. FLPs are intended to be iterative with a term of approximately 10 years.

Why participate in an FLP pilot project?

The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is initiating several pilot projects across the province to ground-test the creation of an FLP and to help inform the development of related regulations and ministerial policy. The pilots do not require the enactment of legislative amendments to get underway but are anticipated to be among the first FLPs established by government once the required legislative framework is approved and in place.

The new FLP regime will provide the following benefits:

- **Clear direction to licensees** – creates ability to prioritize values, rather than asking licensees to manage for all values 'everywhere, all the time'.
- **Accountability** – government sets direction, and licensees commit to it in their operational plans.
- **Collaboration** – new streamlined opportunities for collaboration between government, Indigenous Nations and licensees; one clear process within a management area, rather than many processes for multiple licensees.
- **Efficiency** – reduced operational costs as forest planning and management becomes less fragmented. A consolidated approach is expected to create efficiencies in management, administration, reporting and monitoring.
- **Adaptation** – provides a framework for continuous re-examination and management adjustments to address current and future risks, while embracing uncertainty over time.



Who is involved in developing an FLP?

Engagement will be an ongoing process throughout the duration of the FLP process. The FLP is intended to be a collaboration between government, Indigenous Nations and forest and range licensees with input from stakeholders, local communities and the public at each of the various milestones of the planning process. Once complete, FLPs are established — given effect — by government.



How will FLPs be implemented on the ground?

Once an FLP is established, forest licensees will each be required to develop a Forest Operations Plan (FOP). The FOP must be consistent with the direction set out in the FLP with respect to forest practices, silviculture systems and stocking standards and must also meet any prescribed requirements. The plan will undergo Indigenous consultation and a public review and comment period and must be approved by government before any harvesting or road construction activities can begin. A FOP is anticipated to have a 5-year term.



Ministry of
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WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR DEVELOPING A FOREST LANDSCAPE PLAN?

● Engage/input Indigenous communities and stakeholders ● Consult/engage Indigenous communities and stakeholders ● Opportunity for public input

1 INITIATE

Prepare & Plan

Ministry staff to engage with Indigenous Nations about the FLP process and opportunities to work together. An 'FLP planning team' is assembled that includes key ministry staff, forest and range licensees, and Indigenous Nation representatives. Establish a 'stakeholder review and input group' (SRIG) for those who have a known interest in forest management in the area. Training to review the context, intent, process, and outputs for an FLP.

2 DEVELOP

a). Assess Conditions ● ●

Explore and understand the current condition of the plan area, including issues, opportunities and expectations by government. Work with Indigenous Nations to explore Indigenous land use and the current conditions and objectives associated with those uses.

b). Determine Outcomes ● ●

Build a vision for the desired future landscape conditions and determine what success will look like in the future. Analyse scenarios for landscape strategies to determine the best options to meet objectives and priorities over time.

c). Design Regimes ●

Design management regimes for subunits across the area to most effectively and efficiently meet the desired outcomes and intent of landscape strategies over time. Intended to provide clear direction to operational layout and silviculture staff at the stand level.

3 DRAFT

Review, Revise & Establish ● ●

Assemble a draft of the plan, including a strategy for monitoring and reporting, and conduct a public review of the draft. Final review to be with Indigenous Nations and SRIG. Respond to key concerns and submit the final FLP for review and establishment by government.

4 ALIGN

Forest Operations Plans ● ●

Individual forest licensees will prepare operational plans that are consistent with the strategies and desired outcomes in the FLP. Licensees to conduct a public review for each FOP and consult Indigenous Nations. Submit the final FOP for review and approval by government.

5 IMPLEMENT

Apply 'On the Ground' ● ●

Conduct implementation monitoring, auditing, and effectiveness monitoring on an ongoing basis. Learnings should be discussed with the FLP planning team, Indigenous Nations and stakeholder groups to ensure everyone learns together over time.

6 ADAPT

Continuous Learning ●

To prepare for the new planning cycle, the FLP planning team should review results of implementation and new emerging changes and influences on the landbase.