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August 26, 1996

SBFEP
Major Licensees
Woodlot Licensees
Lakes Forest District

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is a copy of the Forest Development Plan Policy which will form the content requirements for Forest Development Plans prepared by or submitted to me for approval. The procedures contained within the policy are intended to assist in my decision that each Forest Development Plan ensures adequate management and conservation of the forest resource. These procedures will also provide guidance to licensees for FDP submission requirements and to build consistency among those submissions which will aid in the review and referral processes.

This policy applies to major licence holders, woodlot licence holders, and the Small Business Forest Enterprise Program. It is expected that all Forest Development Plan submissions will meet the requirements outlined in this policy within 4 months of the approval date.

Please contact my Major Licence/Woodlot Licence staff with any questions or concerns.

Yours truly,

R.A. Murray
District Manager
Lakes Forest District

Enclosure: (1)



Lakes Forest District

Policy - Forest Development Plan Guidelines

This policy is developed within the context of Section 41 (1) of the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act*.

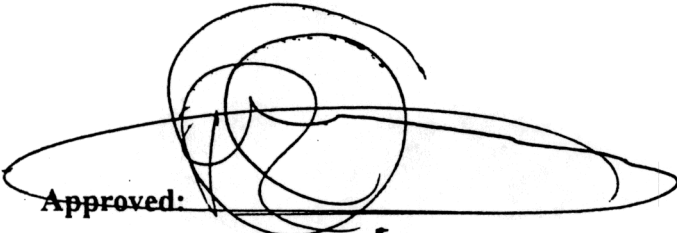
Section 41 (1) of the *Act* states:

"41(1) The district manager must approve an operational plan or amendment submitted under this Part if

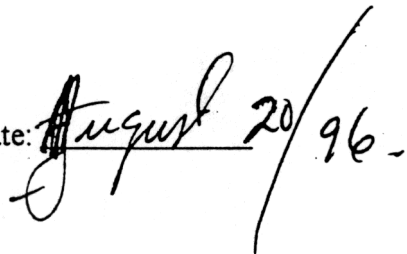
- (a) the plan or amendment was prepared and submitted in accordance with this Act, the regulations and the standards, and
- (b) the district manager is satisfied that the plan or amendment will adequately manage and conserve the forest resources of the area to which it applies."

Policy Statement:

"It is the policy of Lakes Forest District that the attached Procedures form the content requirements for Forest Development Plans prepared by or submitted to the District Manager for approval. These procedures will apply to holders of forest licences, holders of woodlot licences and the Small Business Forest Enterprise Program. The district manager will evaluate each forest development plan on its' own merits and where circumstances warrant (or under exceptional circumstances) may vary from this policy."

Approved: 

District Manager

Date:  20/96

Procedures - Forest Development Plan Guidelines

Introduction

The procedures outlined herein were developed using the *Forest Development Plan (FDP) Guidebook*, Ministry of Forests directives and past District practices in respect of 5 - Year Development Plans. These procedures are intended to primarily assist the district manager in his/her decision that the FDP ensures adequate management and conservation of the forest resource. These procedures will also provide guidance to licensees for FDP submission requirements and build consistency among those submissions.

These procedures have been established using the *FDP Guidebook* (December, 1995) as the parent document. In general, Lakes Forest District is in agreement with the *Guidebook*. The listed procedures within this policy will simply refer to the *Guidebook*, reiterate key points or specify any changes. The contents appear in the same order as the *FDP Guidebook*. It is imperative that the *Guidebook* be used as a reference when utilizing these procedures. The procedures are written so that each main topic heading in the *Guidebook* also appears in these procedures and brief explanations for each outline the District's expectations.

These procedures apply to major licence holders, woodlot licence holders and the Small Business Forest Enterprise Program. It is expected that all Forest Development Plan submissions will meet the requirements outlined in this Policy within 4 months of the approval date.

General Forest Development Plan Requirements - Page 3 of Guidebook

This section is revised and should read:

"- Address an area sufficient in size to include all the area affected by the timber harvesting and road construction or modifications to operations being proposed.

- Major Licence holders, SBFEP: cover a period of at least 5 years.
Woodlot Licence holders: cover a period of at least 20 years.

- Provide a written submission of those actions and objectives for the area under the plan that are not shown on maps.

- Map submission consisting of an optional key map (1:250,000 scale); development plan maps (1:50000) and a set of larger scale maps (1:10000 - 1:20000) for specific areas under the plan. (See "Mapping Requirements, page 11)

- Be consistent with any higher level plan that is in effect when the FDP is approved or given effect under the *Forest Practices Code of B.C. Act*. There are no officially designated higher level plans within Lakes Forest District. However, there are local resource use plans and other plans that have been approved by the district manager and should be incorporated into forest development plans and other operational plans. Such plans currently in effect include:

Interim Recreation Management Plan - 1994-1996
Klaytahnkut, Tildesley Riparian Zone Timber Harvesting Guidelines
Management Guidelines for the Tweedsmuir Entiako Caribou Herd
Migration Corridor
Sutherland LRUP Draft Report - June 1990 (endorsed)
Approved Licensee Management Plans

The Attachments and Administration sections apply as outlined in the *Guidebook*.

Referrals

Each licensee will be responsible for referral of their draft Forest Development Plan during the 60 day review and comment period as required by legislation. Agencies/parties to whom the plan should be referred include Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources (1:50,000 maps only) and First Nations who have interest within the respective area of development. Other agencies should be made aware that the FDP is available for public review. These include Department of Fisheries and Oceans, grazing lease holders, trappers and guides. The person who will be submitting the plan to the district manager must include a copy of each written comment received, how it was addressed and a summary of all revisions made.

Approval

This section applies as outlined in the *Guidebook*.

Streams, wetlands and lakes

The first paragraph of the statement is changed to read:

"The forest development plan must state or show the riparian class for each stream, wetland and lake in the area affected by the proposed operations **for Years 1 and 2 (Woodlot Licence holders: Years 1 - 5)**, and describe the measures taken to protect the water and associated resources within a riparian management area."

The second bullet on page 6 refers to the classification of lakes greater than 5 hectares and that this will be supplied by the district manager. This classification will be supplied to licensees after the release of the *Lakes Classification and Lakeshore Management Guidebook*. Until such time that the district manager supplies the information, licensees should refer to the *Operational Planning Regulation* and use proper judgement in the protection of unclassified lakes.

A chart similar to the one appearing as an example in Figure 1 on page 7 shall be used to provide information on streams, wetlands and lakes on a block-by-block basis.

Cultural Heritage Resources

Aboriginal Rights

This section is revised and should read:

"Address aboriginal rights in the forest development plan through the following actions:

contact all those affected First Nations whose asserted traditional territories fall within or adjacent to the forest development plan area; provide information about the plan and encourage comment and involvement in preparing the plan regarding aboriginal use

incorporate information into the plan regarding location of aboriginal rights; this is or will be available from the District Office. Copies of Traditional Use Study maps may be made available through the district office for use in the planning process. This is dependant on the conditions of confidentiality imposed by each First Nation. Lakes District staff should be consulted by each licensee for First Nation information specific to their license area.

provide documentation to the district office regarding any consultation that takes place with the First Nations regarding aboriginal rights.

Archaeological Sites

This section applies as outlined in the *Guidebook*

The Ministry of Forests will be responsible for conducting archaeological overview assessments (AOA) over the Timber Supply Area. These assessments will help determine where archaeological impact assessments (AIA) need to be carried out. The district manager will inform the Licensee of AIA requirements. It will be the license holder's responsibility to conduct AIA's and incorporate recommendations into the operational plans prior to harvest.

Terrain Stability

This section applies as outlined in the *Guidebook*

Forest Health

This section applies as outlined in the *Guidebook*

With respect to management strategies, licence holders should ensure that strategies are outlined for the high risk forest health problems (i.e. mountain pine beetle) in their respective licence areas. Strategies should include how the problem will be controlled or eradicated and its associated timeframe. Minor forest health problems may be identified and addressed at the stand level or silviculture prescription stage.

Range

This section applies as outlined in the *Guidebook*.

Forest Recreation

This section applies as outlined in the *Guidebook*.

Visual Landscape Management

Page 17 is revised and should read:

"The forest development plan must identify the location of known scenic areas, and describe the measures to be carried out to manage or protect the visual features. When operations are proposed in areas where visual quality objectives (VQO's) have been established as **retention**, **partial retention** and **modification** a visual impact assessment (VIA) must be completed. The purpose of the VIA is to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the district manager how the proposed operations will achieve the VQOs for the area. The results of the assessments must be included with the forest development plan.

<p>General objective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- To show how the forest landscapes will be managed to achieve the VQOs set for the area.	
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Initially, operations in scenic areas must be planned in a sequence as outlined in Figure 5. As well, various site-specific issues raised during the referral and public review processes may require licensees to address visual landscape management issues in the forest development plan.

Visual landscape management concerns should be recognized as early as possible in the planning process to allow for visual impact assessments to be completed and made available for public review before the submission of silviculture prescriptions and road permit applications. The recommended steps and time frame for preparing and reviewing a forest development plan requiring visual landscape management are given in Table 1."

For Forest Licence holders, SBFEP;

"Persons proposing operations in areas with established VQOs are not required to prepare a visual impact assessment for newly proposed blocks or roads in Year 5 of the forest development plan. This assessment is, however, necessary for Year 4, 3, 2 and 1 of the plan. **As a transitional measure, for the period of 2 years after approval of this policy, Lakes Forest District will accept visual impact assessments on those blocks requiring VIAs for Years 3, 2 and 1 only.** The information may be shown on maps or in cutblock summary tables."

For Woodlot Licence holders;

"Persons proposing operations in areas with established VQOs are not required to prepare a visual impact assessment for newly proposed blocks or roads in Year 4 - 20 of the forest development plan. This assessment is, however, necessary for Year 3, 2 and 1 of the plan. **As a transitional measure, for the period of 2 years after approval of this policy, Lakes Forest District will accept visual impact assessments on those blocks requiring VIAs for Years 2 and 1 only.** The information may be shown on maps or in cutblock summary tables."

The remainder of the section dealing with Visual Landscape Management applies as outlined in the *Guidebook*. This includes Figure 5 and Table 1, appearing on pages 18 and 19, respectively. With respect to this Table 1, Woodlot Licence holders should use the Years of the plan as outlined above.

Watershed Management

This section applies as outlined in the *Guidebook*. Lakes Forest District does not contain any community watersheds at this time. The need for any watershed assessments in areas with significant downstream fisheries values or other watersheds will be determined by the district manager.

Biodiversity

This section applies as outlined in the *Guidebook*. District staff are presently reviewing the *Biodiversity Guidebook* and a formal policy will be developed outlining the requirements. Once the Biodiversity Policy is established, these procedures will be revised accordingly. Objectives surrounding biodiversity must be included within the FDP.

Wildlife Management

This section applies as outlined in the *Guidebook*.

As mentioned, the *Managing Identified Wildlife Guidebook* should be referenced when creating forest development plans; however, in its absence, other available information should be researched and incorporated, if applicable. Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks has developed maps depicting biological ecosystem networks for the Lakes TSA. These are available through the Lakes District Office. This BENs mapping contains information about weak and strong wildlife habitat linkages and should be referenced when building forest development plans. At this time, the BENs mapping should be considered as a tool enabling the licensee to identify areas where important wildlife habitat exists and build on these during the stand level prescriptions.

Protection

This section applies as outlined in the *Guidebook*.

Harvesting

Landscape level planning

This section applies as outlined in the *Guidebook*. With specific reference to Green-up, Lakes Forest District will establish a policy surrounding minimum height and adjacency requirements prior to harvest.

Stand level planning

This section is revised and should read:

"Stand level planning should be initiated as soon as possible but **no later than Year 2** of the forest development plan. Stand level planning must build on information collected and decisions made at the landscape level.

Some factors to consider are:

- stand management to maintain biodiversity (refer to *Biodiversity Guidebook*)
- wildlife values (refer to *Managing Identified Wildlife Guidebook*)
- riparian areas and their management
- the results of assessments conducted in accordance with Section 25 to 32 of the *Operational Planning Regulation*
- windfirmness (refer to the *Windthrow Handbook for B.C.*, research paper 9401, 1994, Ministry of Forests Research Branch)
- topography.

Decisions to be made are:

- silvicultural system to be used (refer to *Silvicultural Systems Guidebook*)
- the harvest method to be used
- size and shape of the proposed cutblock to achieve the desired impact
- road, landing locations and block boundaries (silviculture prescriptions or logging plans)
- reserve strategies for biodiversity, wildlife trees and riparian management areas."

Forest Road Engineering

This section applies as outlined in the *Guidebook*. This includes the charts depicted as Figure 9, 10 and 11 on pages 33, 35 and 37, respectively. Although the chart configuration in the forest development plan may be altered according to personal preference, all information should appear.

Community Watersheds

This section is not relevant to Lakes TSA at this time. This section will be revised upon the establishment of community watersheds.

Mapping Requirements

This section is revised and should read:

"The forest development plan maps must provide an accurate visual representation of the existing physical features, the planned harvesting and road constructions, and resource detail that has been collated for the area under the plan. All maps should comply with the Ministry of Forests' cartographic standards, as documented in the *Visual Identifier Standards Guide*.

Key or overview map

This 1:250000 map is optional. See section within *Guidebook* for details.

Development plan maps

The forest development plan maps should use a forest cover map as the base, with a scale of 1:50000 (Woodlot licences - 1:20000). Information tables may be attached to the maps to reduce the number of maps and clutter of information.

Forest development plan maps should be neat, legible and colour coded. The following detail, at a minimum, must be shown on the base maps and/or an overlay system.

SBFEP and other licensee operating areas within or directly adjacent to the licensee's operating areas. Cutblock locations of other licensees directly adjacent to the licensee's operating area should be mapped (**linear distance of approximately 10 kilometers for Major Licensees, SBFEP; linear distance of approximately 1 kilometer for Woodlot Licensees**)
licensee's administrative boundaries by operational areas.
foreshore leases (such as for log dumps and camps)
main permanent access roads within the operating area
cutting permit locations
topography and natural features of the area under the plan
proposed timber harvesting and road construction or modification operations, and the scheduling, for each area under the plan

known locations of:

areas of aboriginal sustenance, cultural, social, and religious activities associated with traditional aboriginal life. Disclosure of locations should only occur with agreement of the local First Nations.

protected areas and deferred areas

wilderness areas

sensitive areas

community watersheds, community water supply intakes, and related water supply infrastructures

wildlife habitat areas

✓ forest ecosystem networks (when available)

scenic areas

private property

transmission lines, gas and oil pipelines, and railways on Crown land

forest cover, and whether the harvest areas adjacent to the proposed cutblocks are greened-up and/or free-growing

location and nature of areas with unstable or potentially unstable terrain

silvicultural system proposed - i.e. partial cut, clearcut (may appear on a separate table)

harvest method proposed - i.e. cable, aerial or ground-based (may appear on a separate table)

location of the existing road access, the location of roads to be constructed or modified in each year of the plan including, where applicable, the linkages to the public road system, processing plants or log dumps, locations of bridges and major culverts. All roads should have an identifier listed on the map which can then be referenced to an accompanying chart (i.e. figures 9,10 and 11 of the *Guidebook*) outlining road status.

classification of lakes provided by the district manager

location and extent of deactivation of roads

Appendix 3 of the *Guidebook* shows a sample map legend. A tabular summary, also depicted, is also to be included, detailing information cross-referenced to individual cutblocks.

Detailed block maps

Detailed block-by-block maps are required for Years 3, 2 and 1 of the forest development plan for forest licence holders and SBFEP. Detailed block maps are required for Years 2 and 1 of the forest development plan for woodlot licence holders. These are required since larger scale maps will provide more detailed resolution which will aid in the approval process. These maps should use forest cover maps as the base, with a minimum scale of 1:20000. Existing silviculture prescription (PHSP/SP) maps are good examples. The following detail, at a minimum, must be shown on the maps:

- block boundary and important adjacent features
- topography and natural features
- silvicultural system(s) proposed
- harvest method(s) proposed
- location and classification of each stream, wetland and lake, in or adjacent to the block for Years 1 and 2.

Public consultation and advertising

Advertising

This section applies as outlined in the guidebook

Time frame for advertising

Division 1 (Notice, Review and Comment) of Part 2 of the *Operational Planning Regulation* should be followed

Advertising format

This section is revised and should read:

"It is not necessary to advertise 5 - year silviculture plans and access management plans simultaneously with the forest development plans at this time. This may, however, be advantageous to the licensee.

The newspaper advertisement for forest development plans should contain at least the following information:

- forest licence number, woodlot licence number or Small Business Forest Enterprise Program - district
- geographic location (distance and direction from nearest community)
- purpose of the plan review
- location, date and time of public viewing
- an indication of whether other strategic and operational plans will be available for viewing at the same time
- an indication that a licensee representative will be on to answer questions
- licensee contact name and phone number for more information

Refer to the *Public Consultation Guidebook* for the specific presentation format of an advertisement.

Submission to the district manager

This section applies as outlined in the *Guidebook*

Public Viewing

This section applies as outlined in the *Guidebook*

Consolidating forest development plans

This section is revised and should read:

"The consolidation of all forest development plans will be the responsibility of Lakes Forest District. This TSA consolidated plan will be used for referral processes as required. The district manager will specify format and other requirements for forest development plan submissions."

Appendices

Appendix 1

Use as reference only. The District will not specify an outline format at this time. It is expected, however, that the information shown appear in the document.

Appendix 2

Use as reference

Appendix 3

The Mapping/Design section within Lakes Forest District will provide guidance with respect to depiction of map details. Contact: Land Information Officer or Mapping/Design Technicians.

Colours

Method 2 - Calendar Year as outlined in the Guidebook was chosen as the preferred method.

A ten year colour scheme has been adopted. A single colour is matched to the last digit of the scheduled year for the planned activity.

The initial colour scheme with RGB values has been derived by the Mapping/Design Technician. The scheme includes ten colours for each of the ten years. Please contact the Mapping/Design section for the colour scheme.

Year for the purpose of scheduling will be based on the "season of operation" year or summer/winter split (freeze-up). As an example, in this system, the year "1996" will be the following calendar days:

1996 Planning Year = November 15, 1995 to November 14, 1996.

Winter 1996 = Nov. 15 1995 to April 15, 1996

Summer 1996 = April 16, 1996 to Nov. 14, 1996

****The intent of this schedule is to link the seasonal schedule of operations more directly to each season (winter or summer)**

Appendix 4

This appendix applies as outlined in the *Guidebook*

Appendix 5

Use as reference.