General Bulletin

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Excavated or Bladed Trails

Background

Section 68 of the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act* (Act), requires an excavated or bladed trail to be identified for silviculture prescription, logging plan, range use plan or special use permit before the trail is constructed. This section applies to grandparented operational plans or operational plans approved after June 15, 1995.

Recommendation

The following recommendations are for district managers to consider and should ***not*** be interpreted as Ministry policy or a legal interpretation.

1. Any excavated or bladed trail construction approved after June 15, 1995, must be identified in either a silviculture prescription *or* logging plan *or* range use permit *or* special use permit.

2. Exemptions for logging plans should not be provided if excavated or bladed trails will be constructed.

3. In the case of grandparented operational plans where bladed or excavated trails will be constructed the following process is recommended:

    - If the district standard operating procedure prior to June 15, 1995, required identification of trail then nothing further is required.
    - Issue a notice for major licensees and woodlots detailing the need for identification of trails before construction commences and provide the minimum standard for identification.
    - For SBFEP operations, complete a review of logging plans or silviculture prescriptions for grandparented plans and harvesting authorities where government has completed the logging plan to ensure trails are identified. Issue a notice to SEFEP operators who have completed their own logging plans providing the above information.

- If not already identified, for both SBFEP and major licenses, before construction of trails commences, the licenses must submit an amended logging plan that identifies the trails for approval by the district manager.
- In the event that operations are ongoing, but the trails are not identified, the district manager must assess the risks associated with allowing the operations to proceed while the requirement is being satisfied.

4. Identified means: "the location is described in sufficient detail, using a map or the prescription, to determine where the trail can be constructed within the block."

Contacts

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