



Province of
British Columbia
Ministry of
Forests

Prince George
REGION
Standard Operating Procedure
Number: 5-1

SUBJECT:

Local Resource Use Plans

CHAPTER
5

Resource
Planning

SECTION

1. Introduction

The number of Local Resource Use Plans (LRUPs) initiated in the Prince George Forest Region has increased greatly. An LRUP refers to a plan that covers a small part of a Forest District. The focus is usually more on integrated resource use rather than land-use. LRUPs include integrated watershed management plans, recreation studies, corridor plans etc. All LRUPs are produced by inter-agency and public working groups using consensus based negotiations. Land use recommendations and resource management guidelines contained in these LRUP's will eventually constitute an Option, or Part of an Option within the Land and Resource Management Planning (LRMP) process, as well as provide direction to lower level plans. It is important that the LRUP process be consistent with Provincial, Regional and Sub-regional (LRMP's) Plans.

The planning process and public involvement methods vary widely between Districts. There is a need for systematic exchange of ideas between Districts, and for uniform technical content in public documents. An earlier version of this Standard Operating Procedure introduced the requirement for Regional review of LRUP's prior to their release to user groups and the general public.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this S.O.P. is to:

- a) Clarify the responsibility of District and Regional staff in the development of these plans.
- b) Ensure that land-use and resource management decisions are made at the appropriate planning level.
- c) Outline the referral and approval process for LRUP's.
- d) Identify the required technical content of these plans.
- e) Ensure that the implementation of these plans is reflected in the annual allowable cut.

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3. Responsibilities

- a) District staff develop LRUP's in conjunction with relevant staff from other agencies. This includes preparation of documents, public involvement, referral and approval. The District Manager approves the Terms of Reference and the Final Plan.
- b) Regional staff provide advice and analytical support. This includes timber supply analysis and socio-economic analysis. The Regional Manager, in consultation ;with the Interagency Management Committee (IAMC), approves the need for the LRUP, and ensures resources are made available for its completion.

4. Referral and Approval Process

- a) The Draft Terms of Reference (TOR) will be sent to the Regional Manager for staff advice from Region prior to public review.
 - The Resource Planner, as the Regional contact, will circulate copies of the Draft TOR to Section Heads. Comments over the Regional Manager's signature will be sent back to the District within ten working days.
 - The Terms of Reference will then be modified, if necessary, and signed off by the District Manager.
 - Formal presentation to the Regional Manager will not be required.
- b) The Draft Options Report will be presented to the Regional Manager by the District Manager, prior to public review. Depending on the nature of the issues, the Draft Options Report may also be presented to the Executive or to the IAMC.
 - The Resource Planner, as the Regional contract, will circulate copies of the Draft Options Report to selected Section Heads prior to the District's presentation to the Regional Manager.
 - At least ten working days will be allowed for the Draft document to circulate in the Regional Office prior to the scheduled presentation to the Regional Manager.

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- Comments over the Regional Manager's signature will be sent back to the District within five working days of the presentation.
- c) The Draft Plan will be presented to the Regional Manager by the District Manager prior to public review. Again, depending on the nature of the issues, the Draft Report may also be presented to the Executive or to the IAMC.
- The Resource Planner, as the Regional contact, will circulate copies of the Draft Plan to selected Section Heads for comment prior to the District's presentation to the Regional Manager.
- At least ten working days will be allowed for the Draft document to circulate in the Regional Office prior to the scheduled presentation to the Regional Manager.
- Comments over the Regional Manager's signature will be sent back to the District within five working days of the presentation.

5. Technical Content of Plans

All LRUP's which have been developed to address land-use and resource management issues must meet the objectives stated in the TOR. In addition, the following criteria must be met:

- a) New LRUP's must not be developed to address large Protected Areas Strategy (PAS) Study Areas. (i.e. greater than 1000 hectares).
- b) All LRUP's must have a timber supply impact analysis.
- c) All LRUP's must have at least two options; the current approved option from the approved LRMP/RMP (Resource Management Plan), and the proposed management option. It is preferred that the proposed management option be a consensus option.
- d) A socio-economic analysis will be required for LRUPs if it appears that the proposed management options will have significant economic impacts.

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6. Plan Implementation

Implementation of LRUP's may occur directly, through direction provided to operational plans, or indirectly, through adoption as an option in a LRMP prior to operational implementation.

Depending on the scope of the issues addressed in the LRUP, and the supporting timber supply analyses, the District and Regional Managers will decide if a special Timber Supply Review is merited along with a report to the Chief Forester, to adjust the AAC.

In all cases, the approved direction in the LRUP will be brought forward to the next scheduled Timber Supply Review.

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