

Summary of TSL Operational Requirements

From Amendment #5 to the BCTS 2017 to 2022 Forest Stewardship Plan #601

The following is an abbreviated summary of new operational requirements arising from Amendment #5 to the BCTS Kootenay (TKO) 2017 to 2022 Forest Stewardship Plan #601, approved December 2nd, 2020.

Prospective bidders on Timber Sale Licences (TSLs) should be aware that these requirements are the obligation of the TSL holder to comply with for TSLs awarded after December 2nd, 2020.

FSP Section 5.1 - Soils

- A TSL holder may not construct excavated or bladed trails or roads that were not identified in a 'plan' (i.e., site plan, support document, harvest plan, or terrain stability assessment) at the time of the TSL award, if:
 - i. a Qualified Professional (QP) has determined that soil conservation is at risk; or
 - ii. slopes exceed 60%; or
 - iii. a review by a QP identifies a risk to a 'value' (FRPA or other high value element).
- If the TSL holder wishes to construct a trail or road in circumstances ii. or iii. above, the holder must:
 - i. engage a QP to complete an evaluation, prior to trail or road construction, using the BCTS TKO *Terrain Stability Management Model Practices Document* to determine whether a site review or terrain stability assessment is warranted;
 - ii. prepare an amended plan and notify the Timber Sales Manager (TSM) in writing, with a copy of the amended plan if requested; and
 - iii. follow the amended plan.

FSP Section 5.3.1.5 - Water, Fish, Wildlife and Biodiversity within Riparian Areas

- Slash and debris introduced into any stream channel must be removed concurrent with harvesting (prior to spring freshet or demobilization of equipment, whichever is earlier). Channel cleaning measures are described in this section.
- Designated stream crossing trails must incorporate specific measures during installation and deactivation and must be removed as soon as they are no longer required.
- Additional conditions and measures are described within the above noted section of the FSP (available at the link provided at the end of this summary document).

FSP Section 5.3.1.7 - Wildlife and Biodiversity - Stand Level

- Wildlife Tree Retention Areas (WTRAs) may not be harvested or have their boundaries or locations altered by a TSL holder, unless:
 - i. the TSM provides written confirmation that a WTRA location is not required to protect or manage a resource value or to meet a stakeholder commitment; and
 - ii. the TSL holder engages a Qualified Registered Professional (QRP) to conduct a field assessment to identify a replacement WTRA area, which meets all the requirements specified for WTRAs in this FSP section.

FSP Section 5.3.1.8 - Wildlife and Biodiversity - Coarse Woody Debris

- In addition to the default amount of coarse wood debris (CWD) required by regulation to be left on all harvest sites, within the IDF and MS Biogeoclimatic Zones, additional CWD of specified sizes and characteristics must be left if available (i.e., minimum of 1.24 m³/ha, 4 logs/ha, 2 metres long, and 20 cm in diameter at one end).

- To reduce Douglas-fir and spruce bark beetle susceptibility and spread, CWD is to be selected from dead/dry material and from species other than Douglas-fir or spruce, and stumps must be cut as low to the ground as possible.

FSP Section 5.3.2.5 - Encounters with Wildlife Habitat Features

- TSL holders must conduct their operations in accordance with measures prescribed in plans (e.g., site plan, support document, harvest plan) to protect identified wildlife habitat features. (For the list of wildlife habitat features refer to the FSP at the link provided at the end of this summary document.)
- Where a previously unknown wildlife habitat feature is encountered, the TSL holder must undertake actions which may include stopping work, reporting the feature, consulting best management practices, engaging a QRP (usually a biologist), amending project plans, and documenting decisions and actions taken.

FSP Section 5.8.2 - Road Deactivation

- TSL holders must carry out deactivation of all roads under a TSL, which includes:
 - i. preparing a *Road Deactivation Plan* in advance by a QRP;
 - ii. supervision of road deactivation work by a QP; and
 - iii. preparing a *Statement of Road Deactivation Conformance* by a QRP, including providing a copy to the TSM if requested.
- Detailed definitions of road deactivation, a *Road Deactivation Plan* and a *Statement of Road Deactivation Conformance* are provided in this FSP section.

FSP Section 5.8.3 - Revegetation following Road Construction and Deactivation and

FSP Section 6.1 - Measures to Prevent the Introduction or Spread of Invasive Plants

- The above two FSP sections contain revised requirements for TSL holders to grass seed exposed mineral soils on all new roads, trails, landings, and deactivated areas except if the areas are to be planted (by BCTS) with trees and they are not a high hazard for soil erosion. Areas to be planted with trees are identified within the TSL Site Plan as “net area to reforest” (NAR).
- When acquiring grass seed, the TSL holder must obtain a *Certificate of Analysis* that confirms that invasive plant seeds are not present in the grass seed mix and provide a copy to the TSM upon request.

Note: The entire Consolidated 2017-2022 BC Timber Sales Kootenay Business Area Forest Stewardship Plan is available at:

<https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/TKO/external/!publish/FSP/Amendment%235/>