



Communiqué No. 2022-02

BCTS – Riparian Spatial Data Management

Standard Process

AUDIENCE: BCTS LRM Users

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this communication is to inform all LRM users of required changes to the management of LRM Riparian spatial data.

BACKGROUND:

Most LRM spatial data is represented in a single feature class in either the managed or non-managed dataset, however, riparian spatial data currently appears in up to five different feature classes depending on how it is created/imported in LRM. In March 2020, the GIS Leadership Team (GISLT) identified this inconsistency in business processes as a priority area for standardization. Recognizing the need for business area input, the GISLT presented the issue to the various provincial working groups and leadership teams. As an outcome, the GISLT assembled a provincial task team in March 2021 to further review the issue and set forth standardized management of riparian spatial data in LRM.

ISSUE:

Having riparian spatial in five different feature classes makes it difficult to represent the data correctly and confidently on Provincial Map Templates and creates challenges where riparian data is required for reporting and analysis.

While the issue is clear from a spatial perspective, the core of the issue appears to reside with the tabular data where the records are being generated. Current business processes result in riparian spatial data being created in:

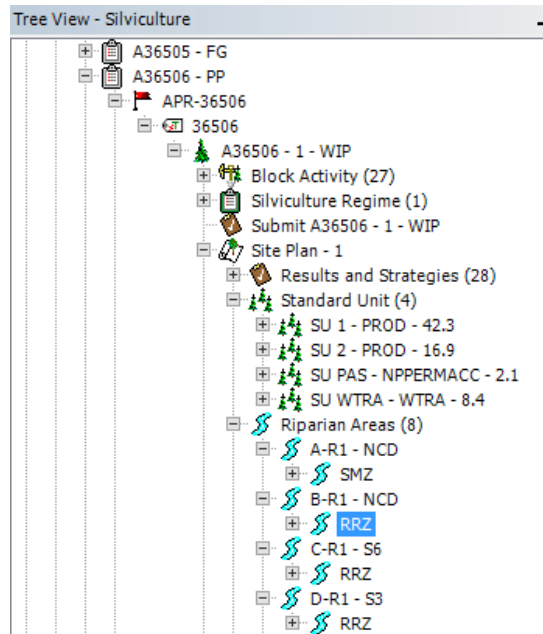
- **Riparian** feature class [RIPARIAN_ZONE_SHAPE] under the Site Plan in the Silviculture Module
- **Harvest Strategy** feature class [BLOCK_HARV_STRATEGY_SHAPE] in the Blocks Module
- **Harvest Unit** feature class [HARV_UNIT_SHAPE] through manual entry (i.e. not generated through the Populate process)
- **Standard Unit** [SU_SHAPE] under the Site Plan
- **Layout Polygon** (non-managed) feature class [LAYOUT_POLY] where the riparian feature exists outside the block boundar



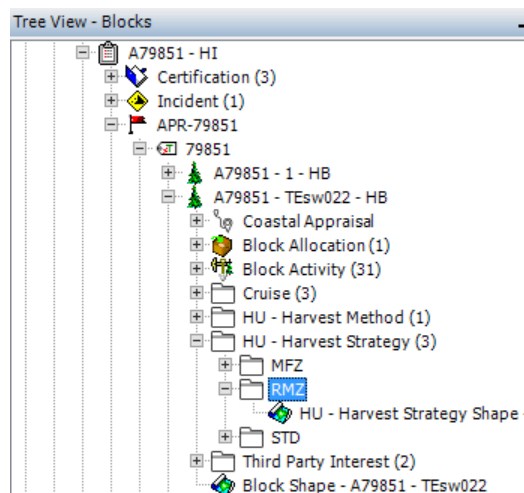
SOLUTION:

The Riparian Task Team is implementing the following standard for riparian data management.

1. **Mandatory – Riparian Zone Shape [RIPARIAN_ZONE_SHAPE]:** All in-block RMZs and RRZs should be spatially linked to the riparian zone tabular under the Site Plan in the Silviculture module.



2. **Optional – Harvest Strategy Shape [BLOCK_HARV_STRATEGY_SHAPE]:** Where a riparian shape is required to inform harvesting (no harvesting or conditional harvesting), then a redundant entry into the Harvest Strategy is recommended (i.e. one spatial record in Riparian Zone Shape and the same spatial record in the Harvest Strategy Shape)



ACTION:

One: implement the above standards for riparian spatial data management moving forward.

Two: it is strongly recommended that the following two practices stop immediately:

1. **Standard Unit Shape:** Riparian should not be captured as a Standard Unit (SU) shape. As the Standard Unit shape is a generalized feature class typically indicating productive and non-productive areas. Use of this feature class to inform of riparian zones should be discouraged as riparian data cannot be exclusively defined as productive or non-productive (ie Machine Free Zone – productive with limitations; Riparian Reserve Zone – non-productive zone).
2. **Harvest Unit Shape:** Harvest Units are built from the HU – Critical Season, HU – Harvest Method, HU – Harvest Strategy, and HU - Silviculture Strategy during the Populate of the Harvest Unit Inventory process (see the [Populate Harvest Units workflow](#)). Some BAs have a common practice to bypass this process and manually create a Harvest Unit Shape with just the riparian area.

FAQ:

What does this mean?	We will have standard riparian spatial data management across the organization.
How does this affect me?	Changes to current riparian spatial data management practices will be required for some business areas/field teams.
What are the next steps in the process?	Update Business Area GIS Data Standards, communicate changes to contractors and update LRM map templates.
When is this happening?	Transition to the new practice to be completed by March 31, 2023.
Where can I find additional information?	SDE Feature Class Documentation

CONTACTS:

Further details and direction regarding this communication are available from:

BC Timber Sales Headquarters GIS: BCTS.GIS@gov.bc.ca

Document Change Control

Date of Issue	Author(s)	Brief Description of Major Changes
February 1, 2022	A. Upshaw	Communication created