

KAL[≡]SNIKOFF

TIMBER INSPIRES

FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN #875

2022 to 2027

The Forest Stewardship Plan is a requirement of the Forest Range and Practices Act (2004). The Forest Stewardship Plan is a landscape level plan, which is focused on establishing strategies and results for conserving and protecting timber and non-timber resource values for forest management activities over the life of the plan.

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1.0 SIGNATURES

1.1 Signature of Person Required to Prepare a Forest Stewardship Plan



Kalesnikoff Lumber Company Ltd.

Name: SLSL
Ken Kalesnikoff, CEO

Date: Jan 25, 2022

1.2 Signature of Preparing Forester

Preparing Forester

Name:  
Tyler Hodgkinson, RPF #3984

"I certify that the work described herein fulfills the standards expected of a member of the Association of British Columbia Forest Professionals."

Date: January 24, 2022

2.0 APPLICATION OF THE FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN

This Forest Stewardship Plan applies to Kalesnikoff Lumber Company Ltd. Forest Licence A20194 and A30172.

The provisions of this Forest Stewardship Plan do not apply to the extent necessary to allow the licence holder and its employees, servants, agents, contractors and sub-contractors to carry out fire control or suppression in accordance with the enactment.

2.1 Forest Stewardship Plan Holder and Licence

This Forest Stewardship Plan applies to each Cutting Permit and Road Permit issued or granted to the licence holder:

- a) after the term of this Forest Stewardship Plan commences,
- b) within approved Forest Development Unit boundaries and
- c) under or in respect of the licences listed in Table 2.1.1.

Table 2.1.1 Licences

Timber Supply Area	Licence
Arrow	A20194
Kootenay Lake	A30172

3.0 TERM OF THE FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN

The term of this Forest Stewardship Plan:

- a) shall be, as per Forest and Range Practices Act section 6(1)(a), 5 years,
- b) may be terminated earlier than 5 years if the Forest Stewardship Plan holder chooses to replace it with another approved Forest Stewardship Plan,
- c) as per Forest and Range Practices Act section 6(2), may be extended by the minister pursuant to applicable Acts and Regulations and,
- d) is to commence on the day the Delegated Decision Maker grants approval to the document.

4.0 OTHER PLANS

4.1 Kootenay Boundary Higher Level Plan Order

The licence holder is required to act in a manner that is consistent with the objectives established in the Kootenay Boundary Higher Level Plan Order, which came into effect on October 26, 2002 along with its subsequent variances.

4.2 Operating Areas

The Arrow and Kootenay Lake Timber Supply Areas are currently subdivided into operating areas for each forest licensee and British Columbia Timber Sales. They are a commercial arrangement between forest licensees and British Columbia Timber Sales to facilitate efficient land management and logging activities. Whereas the operating areas are integral to the licence holder's primary forest management activities, operating areas are not considered part of the legal realm of the Forest Stewardship Plan.

Relates to: [11.1](#) of this document.

Operating areas are located on the licence holder's website; follow the download *FSP597 Detail Wall Maps* link to view operating areas.

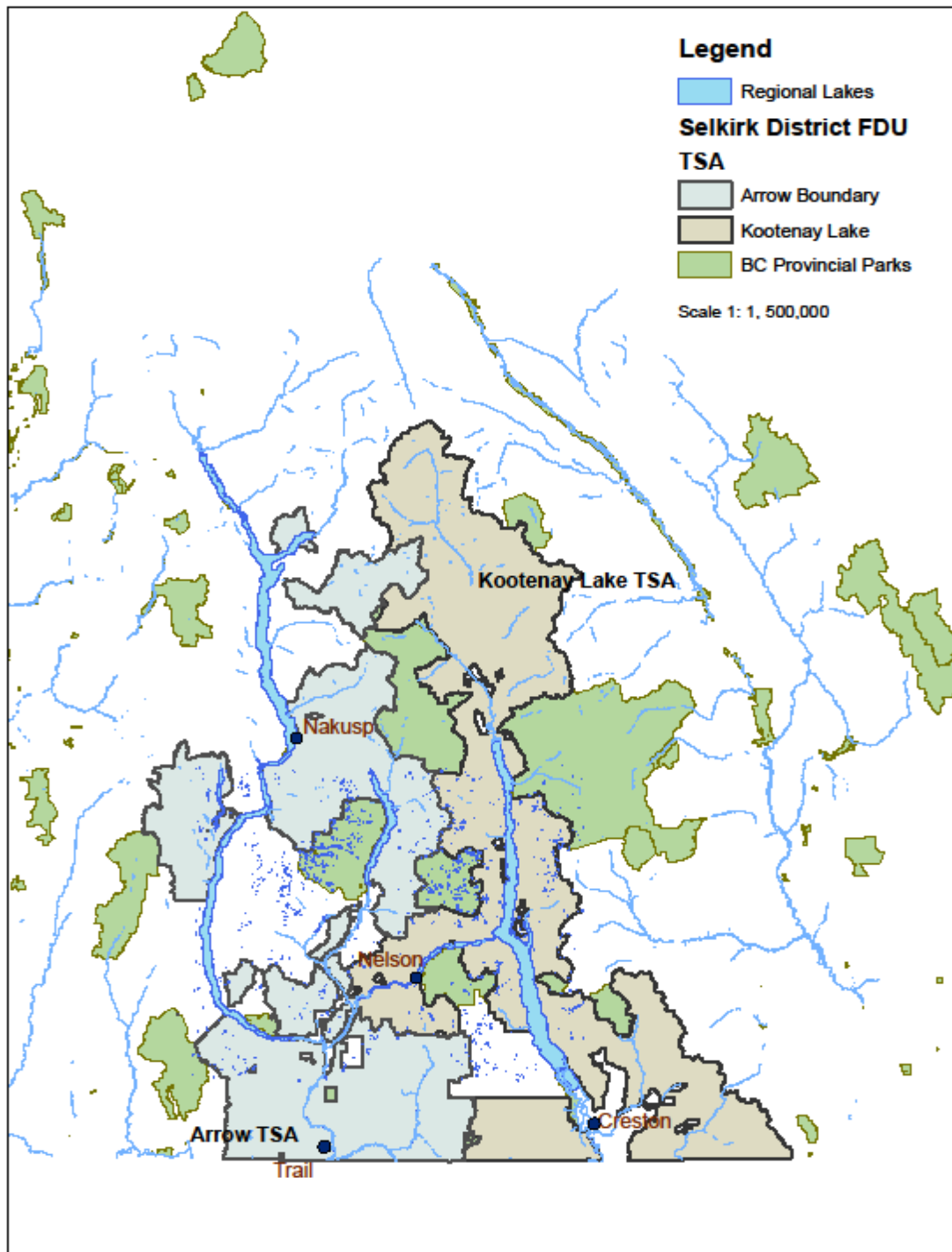
<https://www.kalesnikoff.com/sustainable-forest-stewardship>

5.0 AREA

The Forest Stewardship Plan Forest Development Units cover the entire area of Arrow and Kootenay Lake Timber Supply Area, while excluding all private land, parks and actively managed area-based tenures including Woodlots, Community Forests and Tree Farm Licences.

5.1 Overview Maps

The following map shows the boundaries of the two Forest Development Units the Forest Stewardship Plan covers.



5.2 Forest Development Unit Maps

A detailed map of the Arrow Forest Development Unit is in [Appendix A](#).

A detailed map of the Kootenay Lake Forest Development Unit is in [Appendix B](#).

6.0 STRATEGIES AND RESULTS IN RELATION TO OBJECTIVES

This section describes the set of legal objectives established through legislation, regulations and the Kootenay Boundary Higher Level Plan Order. Practice requirements results or strategies in relation to set objectives are specified as they pertain to all of the area subject to the plan.

6.1 Objectives Set by Government

6.1.1 Land Use Objectives

The area under this Forest Stewardship Plan is within the scope of the Kootenay Boundary Higher Level Plan Order effective October 26, 2002, and all approved variances to it. Where there is a conflict between the Kootenay Boundary Higher Level Plan Order and objectives set by Forest and Range Practices Act and its regulations, the Kootenay Boundary Higher Level Plan Order objectives and strategies will prevail to the extent of the discrepancy.

6.1.1.1 Biodiversity Emphasis

Objective: *To contribute to the conservation of biodiversity, through the assignment of biodiversity emphasis to each landscape unit.*

Relates to: [6.1.2.6](#) of this document.

Practice Requirements – Strategy:

The licence holder will comply with objective 1 of Kootenay Boundary Higher Level Plan Order and any enacted legal variance that pertains to the objective.

6.1.1.2 Mature and Old Forest

Objective: *To maintain mature forests and old forests to levels indicated in the Kootenay Boundary Higher Level Plan Order.*

Relates to: [6.1.2.6](#) of this document.

Practice Requirements – Strategy and Result:

The licence holder will comply with Objective 2 of Kootenay Boundary Higher Level Plan Order and applicable variances.

Old Forest Strategy:

Old Forest targets are achieved with Old Growth Management Areas, where the Old Growth Management Areas are used as a surrogate to aspatial Old Forest targets. The entire area of the crown forest land base contained within Old Growth Management Areas is considered Old Forest irrespective of stand age.

The Old Forest located outside of Old Growth Management Areas does not contribute to the Old Forest targets, except if the Old Growth Management Areas do not meet the targets. If Old Forest targets are not met by the Old Growth Management Areas then the target deficits will be met aspatially with Old Forest outside of Old Growth Management Areas. In this circumstance harvesting will not take place in Old Forest located outside of Old Growth Management Areas unless the combined amount of Old Growth Management Area and Old Forest exceeds the target. The Kootenay-Boundary Higher Level Plan Order Selkirk Reporting Suite will be used for tracking Old Forest targets.

The Old Growth Management Area geographic information systems data layer to be used will be the British Columbia Geographic Warehouse, which is updated from time to time.

WHSE_LAND_USE_PLANNING.RMP_OGMA_NON_LEGAL_CURRENT_SVW

<https://catalogue.data.gov.bc.ca/dataset/old-growth-management-areas-non-legal-current>

No harvesting will take place in Old Growth Management Areas or Ancient Forests¹, except:

- a) for access requirements, if no other alternative location exists, or where another location would result in greater risk to one or more Forest and Range Practices Acts values;
- b) to carry out wildland urban interface forest fuel reduction treatments;
- c) to remove damaged timber where an Old Growth Management Area is rendered ineffective² by natural damaging agents including wind, fire, insects or disease³;

¹ Ancient Forest Stands defined from the Land Management Handbook #25 as >400 years for NDT 1, 2, 4 and >250 years for NDT 3.

² Rendered ineffective means, in the opinion of a Biologist or Ecologist, damaged to a degree that the Old Growth Management Area no longer has the biological value of mature or old forest considering the factors identified in footnote 'k' of Kootenay Boundary Higher Level Plan Order Objective 2 (5). When evaluating the factors in footnote 'K' the score card found in [Appendix C](#) will be used.

³ Insects or disease as they relate to threatening the sustainability and resiliency of the forested ecosystems within the Old Growth Management Area, where strategies and/or tactics will be implemented to minimize losses from damaging insects and diseases.

- d) for operational or safety reasons⁴.

When timber is harvested from an Old Growth Management Area a Registered Professional Forester will document the decision within a Site Plan or Supporting Document. Additionally, where the harvest area is mappable (greater than 0.25 hectares), a Registered Professional Forester will prepare a written rationale, indicating the reasons for harvesting the timber from the Old Growth Management Area and spatially identify replacement area of at least the same size that provides equal or greater biological value consistent with the requirements of Objective 2 (5) of the Kootenay Boundary Higher Level Plan Order, including the factors identified in footnote k. Other factors the professional will identify and consider:

- 1) Maintaining or improving interior forest habitat conditions, presence and current use of Old Forest attributes and stand and landscape level connectivity.
- 2) Is the best Old Forest identified as Old Growth Management within the relevant biogeolimatic zone subzone/variant of the landscape unit in question?⁵
- 3) Priority for establishing replacement area will focus on Ancient Forests, rare ecosystems⁶, or old stands first.

If an amendment or replacement is to be done, and the amendment or replacement is not incidental⁷, it will be assessed by a biologist or ecologist⁸.

As part of the information sharing package sent to First Nations, the licence holder will include the written rationale, biologist or ecologist assessment (if applicable), and spatially identified replacement area(s) pertaining to the Old Growth Management Area amendment or replacement.

Changes to the boundaries or locations of the Old Growth Management Areas will be updated and tracked within the licence holders feature data sets. Annually the feature data sets⁹ will be submitted to Ministry of Forest, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development upon their request.

Mature plus Old Forest Requirement Strategy:

In order to maintain Mature plus Old Forest to the target levels indicated in the Kootenay Boundary Higher Level Plan Order, and prior to applying for a cutting permit or road permit, the licence holder will conduct analysis using the Selkirk Reporting Suite confirming the distribution of the Mature plus Old Forest. Analysis will be completed within any Landscape Unit where the

⁴ This would be related to timber development adjacent to an Old Growth Management Area where there is no other alternative to operationally or safely harvest the timber. This applies to these situations: yarder halos where the tail holds or guy line tiebacks would infringe on an Old Growth Management Area, or for the removal of danger trees. Danger tree means any tree that is a hazard to people.

⁵ Due to the commercial arrangement of operating areas, it is best to try and keep potential amendments or replacements confined to the licence holders' charts. Otherwise, consultation must be carried out with the forest licensee or British Columbia Timber Sales to which an amendment or replacement impacts their operating area.

⁶ A rare old forest ecosystem has an unusual composition of species, or structure of forest cover that may be threatened by human activities. It can also be composed of flora that would not normally be found in its bioclimatic domain.

⁷ Incidental is considered areas <0.26ha.

⁸ Where a professional determines that a forest stand has sufficient biological value to be an Old Forest that professional will be a Biologist or Ecologist.

⁹ Feature data sets will include Old Growth Management Area additions and reductions.

licence holder is proposing a cutting permit or road permit. The target for Mature plus Old Forest must come from Old Growth Management Areas, Parks and connectivity corridors where they exist in the Landscape Unit. If the target cannot be met from these areas, then the deficit must be met outside of these areas and no harvesting will be proposed within connectivity corridors. When there is still a deficit for Mature plus Old Forest within the Old Growth Management Areas, Parks and Connectivity Corridor, the licence holder will prepare a recruitment strategy for the Landscape Unit to meet the target in the shortest time frame. An alternative recruitment strategy, other than shortest time frame, can be utilized provided a Qualified Registered Professional assesses and documents how the alternate strategy maintains or improves benefits for Old Forest conservation, better meets Kootenay Boundary Higher Level Plan Order objectives 2, 5, 8, 9 or conserves Caribou habitat. These values are to be considered when preparing an alternative recruitment strategy, and are not to be prioritized, or used to supersede the importance of a connectivity corridor.

Collaborative Planning:

When planning timber development in a shared landscape unit where Mature plus Old Forest is to be managed, and prior to applying for a cutting permit or road permit, the licence holder will share information with other Forest Licence holders in the landscape unit to ensure that the development does not cause Mature plus Old Forest targets to not be met.

If a recruitment strategy is developed for either Old Forest or Mature plus Old Forest, and the strategy pertains to a shared landscape unit, the licence holder will share the recruitment strategy with other Forest Licence holders in that landscape unit. The information will include a written rationale accompanied with a map spatially representing the forest stands involved.

6.1.1.3 Caribou

Objective: *To retain seasonal habitats for Mountain Caribou in order to contribute to maintaining viability of the existing subpopulations according to forest cover requirements in the Kootenay Boundary Higher Level Plan Order.*

Relates to: [6.1.2.2.2](#) of this document.

Practice Requirements – Result:

Pursuant to section 93.4 of the Land Act variance order 09 amends the Kootenay Boundary Higher Level Plan Order, thereby cancelling Caribou Management Zones established in objective 3.¹⁰

¹⁰ The Caribou habitat management objective (objective 3) was cancelled in 2009 to eliminate duplication or conflicts with the 2007 Mountain Caribou Recovery Implementation Plan, as well as caribou ungulate winter range and wildlife habitat areas designated under the Government Actions Regulation of the Forest & Range Practices Act.

6.1.1.4 Green-up

Objective: *To establish green-up heights.*

Relates to: [6.1.2.6](#) of this document.

Practice Requirements – Result:

The licence holder will comply with Objective 4 of Kootenay Boundary Higher Level Plan Order, which establishes the green-up height as 2.5 meters for areas adequately stocked and 3.0 meters for areas not adequately stocked, except in:

- a) community watersheds;
- b) visually sensitive areas;
- c) Enhanced Resource Development Zones; and
- d) the specified fire-maintained ecosystems.

6.1.1.5 Grizzly Bear Habitat and Connectivity Corridor

Objective: *To maintain mature and/or old forests adjacent to important grizzly bear habitat and within connectivity corridor.*

Relates to: [6.1.2.2.3](#) of this document.

Practice Requirements – Strategy and Result:

The licence holder will comply with Objective 5 of Kootenay Boundary Higher Level Plan Order.

Where applicable, mature forest targets must be used to address this objective if connectivity corridors and/or grizzly bear habitat have been identified. In addition, old forest targets should be used to address this objective unless other conservation values such as protection of rare or under represented old growth forests would be adversely affected. Protected areas must first be used to reduce the mature or old forest targets where available within the biogeoclimatic unit.

6.1.1.6 Consumptive Use Streams

Objective: *To reduce the impacts of forest development on streams licensed for human consumption.*

Relates to: [6.1.2.3](#) of this document.

Practice Requirements – Strategy and Result:

The licence holder will comply with Objective 6 of Kootenay Boundary Higher Level Plan Order.

For each S5 and S6 stream where the 30-meter streamside management zone applies, the licence holder will implement primary forest activities only if in the opinion of a Qualified Registered Professional the activity will not cause material that is harmful to human health to be deposited in or transported to water that is diverted for human consumption. The licence holder will comply with practice requirements described in section [6.1.2.3](#) 'Water, Fish, Wildlife and Biodiversity within Riparian Areas' as a measure to safeguard water licensed for human consumption. When timber is harvested from a streamside management zone a Registered Professional Forester will document the specific measures to safeguard water within a Site Plan.

6.1.1.7 Enhanced Resource Development Zones - Timber

Objective: *To support intensive forest management.*

Practice Requirements – Strategy:

The licence holder will comply with Objective 7 of Kootenay Boundary Higher Level Plan Order.

6.1.1.8 Fire-Maintained Ecosystems

Objective: *To restore and maintain the ecological integrity of fire-maintained ecosystem components in NDT 4.*

Practice Requirements – Strategy and Result:

Objective 8 of Kootenay Boundary Higher Level Plan Order is not in effect as it relates to fire maintained ecosystems over an area described by a map. This map has not been made available or legally established through the Kootenay Boundary Higher Level Plan Order as of the submission date of this Forest Stewardship Plan.

6.1.1.9 Visuals

Objective: *To conserve the quality of views from communities, major waterways and major highways by establishing areas known as scenic areas.*

Relates to: [6.1.2.8](#) of this document.

Practice Requirements – Strategy and Result:

In accordance with Government Actions Regulations section 7; scenic areas identified on Map 9.1 of the Kootenay Boundary Higher Level Plan Order have been replaced with new scenic areas in which visual quality objectives have been established. The licence holder will comply with scenic areas and Visual Quality Objectives established under the Government Actions Regulations section 7 orders.

6.1.2 Objectives prescribed under Forest and Range Practices Act s. 149

The Lieutenant Governor in Council made regulations prescribing objectives in relation to the following:

6.1.2.1 Soils

Legal reference: Forest Planning and Practices Regulation section 5 and 12.1(1)

Objective: *The objective set by government for soils is, without unduly reducing the supply of timber from British Columbia's forests, to conserve the productivity and the hydrologic function of soils.*

Practice Requirements – Result:

The licence holder will comply with Forest Planning and Practices Regulation section 35 and 36.

6.1.2.2 Wildlife

Legal reference: Forest Planning and Practices Regulation section 7 and Government Actions Regulations section 9 to 13

Objective: *The objective set by government for wildlife is, without unduly reducing the supply of timber from British Columbia's forests, to conserve sufficient wildlife habitat in terms of amounts of area, distribution of areas and attributes of those areas, for the survival of species at risk, the survival of regionally important wildlife, and the winter survival of specified ungulate species.*

6.1.2.2.1 Species at Risk

Pursuant to section 7(3), the licence holder is exempt from the obligation to prepare results or strategies in relation to the objective set out in section 7(1) of the Forest Planning and Practices Regulation given the established Wildlife Habitat Areas are intended to address the amount of area required to meet habitat requirements and specify general wildlife measures to maintain the identified wildlife within those areas. The Coeur d' Alene Salamander and Flammulated Owl are the exception, where the required amount and distribution of Wildlife Habitat Areas have not been satisfied.

The strategies for training, reporting and practice listed below detail how the licence holder will ensure its staff and contractors¹¹ are able to identify and manage potential wildlife habitat of species at risk, regionally important wildlife and specified ungulate populations. This will include both listed vertebrate and invertebrate species as well as listed plant species and plant communities.

Forest Planning and Practices Regulation section 7 notices are tracked through the following website:

<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/frpa/notices/sar.html#ab>

Species at risk that reside in the licence holders operating area, for which the licence holder will provide special management are listed as Red or Blue by the Ministry of Environment, or as Endangered, Threatened or Special Concern (listed on Species at Risk Public Registry Schedule 1) by the committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Schedule 1 can be found at the following website:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry.html>

Practice Requirements – Strategy and Result:

Training:

Annual training will be conducted by the licence holder to educate their staff and contractors in identifying species at risk. This will include both listed vertebrate and invertebrate species as well as listed plant species and plant communities, along with wildlife habitat features, reporting requirements and best management practices. The British Columbia Species and Ecosystem Explorer Tool will be incorporated into the training and utilized to generate information on species and ecological communities, including conservation or legal status, and spatial distribution.

<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/atrisk/toolintro.html>

¹¹ Contractors include: timber development, logging, road building, tree planting and silviculture contractors.

Reporting:

Should any of the species at risk be observed outside of known occurrence sites, the licence holder will notify the Conservation Data Center within 30-days of discovery and inform the Conservation Data Center of the occurrence.

The British Columbia Conservation Data Centre Data Submissions website will be utilized to submit observations of species at risk.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/conservation-data-centre/submit-data>

Practice:

During the timber planning process, the licence holder will review known species at risk occurrences and their proximity¹² to development areas of interest. If a species at risk is identified through this review and that species at risk could potentially have their habitat impacted by timber development, best management practices as found within the British Columbia Species and Ecosystem Explorer Tool will be used, while balancing Forest and Range Practices Act values to reduce the impacts that proposed timber development could potentially have on that species habitat.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/conservation-data-centre/explore-cdc-data/species-and-ecosystems-explorer>

In addition, the general wildlife measures documented in Accounts and Measures for Managing Identified Wildlife – Southern Interior Forest Region will be used while balancing Forest and Range Practices Act values.

http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/frpa/iwms/documents/Accounts_and_Measures_South.pdf

When there is a known species at risk in proximity to a development area, the licence holder will:

- a) refer the development plan to a Qualified Professional Biologist and carry out a field assessment if the Biologist deems it necessary;
- b) conduct primary forestry activities consistent with the recommendations of the Qualified Professional Biologist to the extent practicable while balancing pertinent Forest and Range Practices Act values;
- c) conduct primary forestry activities consistent with any requirements in Wildlife Habitat Area orders;
- d) plan and carry out timber development in compliance with various legislation, regulation and policies;
- e) strive to retain, restore, or enhance key habitat features; and

¹² Proximity will depend on the species habitat requirements and how primary forest activities could impact that habitat.

- f) seek the advice of a Qualified Professional Biologist or Ecologist if attempting to restore or enhance habitat.

The licence holder will document the known species at risk and how they addressed best management practices for that species within a Site Plan or Supporting Document. Information on the species at risk and the best management practices to be followed will be provided to contractors during per-works.

If an unknown species at risk is encountered during operations, activities will be halted immediately and will not resume until a Qualified Professional Biologist has assessed and provided recommendation. Continuance of operational activities is to be consistent with the recommendations of the Qualified Professional Biologist to the extent practicable while balancing pertinent Forest and Range Practices Act values.

6.1.2.2.2 Caribou

Legal reference: *Government Actions Regulations section 9(2) and 12(1)*

Relates to: [6.1.1.3](#) of this document

Practice Requirements – Strategy and Result:

The licence holder will comply with Ungulate Winter Range Order U-4-012, U-4-013 and U-4-014.

6.1.2.2.3 Grizzly Bear

Legal reference: *Government Actions Regulations section 9(1)*

Relates to: [6.1.1.5](#) of this document.

Practice Requirements – Strategy and Result:

The licence holder will comply with General Wildlife Measure order 8-373 and 4-180.

6.1.2.2.4 Ungulate Winter Range

Legal reference: *Government Actions Regulations section 9(2) and 12(1)*

Practice Requirements – Strategy and Result:

The licence holder will comply with Ungulate Winter Range Order U-4-001.

Collaborative Planning:

When planning timber development in a shared Ungulate Winter Range Management Unit, and prior to applying for a cutting permit or road permit, the licence holder will share timber development plans with other Forest Licence holders in the management unit to ensure that the planned development does not cause the targets to not be met.

6.1.2.2.5 Wildlife Habitat Areas

Legal reference: *Government Actions Regulations section 9(2) and 10(1)*

Objective: *The minister responsible for the Wildlife Act by order may establish an area as a wildlife habitat area if satisfied that special management has not otherwise been provided for under Government Actions Regulations or another enactment, and the area is necessary to meet the habitat requirements of a category of species at risk or regionally important wildlife.*

Practice Requirements – Strategy and Result:

The licence holder will comply with Wildlife Habitat Areas that have been established to meet the habitat requirements of identified wildlife.

During the timber planning process, the licence holder will review Wildlife Habitat Areas in proximity to development areas of interest by utilizing the Ministry of Environment species at risk approved Wildlife Habitat Areas website:

http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cgi-bin/apps/faw/wharesult.cgi?search=show_approved

The website currently lists the following Wildlife Habitat Areas which the licence holder will comply with: 4-011, 4-012, 4-013, 4-014, 4-015, 4-016, 4-017, 4-018, 4-019, 4-020, 4-021, 4-022, 4-023, 4-024, 4-025, 4-026, 4-027, 4-028, 4-029, 4-030, 4-031, 4-033, 4-036, 4-064, 4-093, 4-094, 4-095, 4-096, 4-097, 4-098, 4-104, 4-105, 4-107, 4-113, 4-180, 4-205, 4-209 and 8-140.

The licence holder will conduct primary forest activities consistent with the general wildlife measures documented in Wildlife Habitat Area orders. The general wildlife measures will be documented within a Site Plan or Supporting Document and provided to contractors during per-works.

6.1.2.2.6 Wildlife Habitat Features

Legal reference: *Government Actions Regulations section 11 and Forest Planning and Practices Regulation section 70*

Objective: *An authorized person who carries out a primary activity must ensure that the primary forest activity does not damage or render ineffective a wildlife habitat feature.*

Practice Requirements:

Government Action Regulation Order M 213, establishes wildlife habitat features within the Kootenay Boundary Region:¹³

- a) a nest of a Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)
- b) a nest of an Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)
- c) a nest of a Flammulated Owl (*Psilosops flammeolus*)
- d) a nest of a Western Screech-Owl *macfarlanei* subspecies (*Megascops kennicottii macfarlanei*)
- e) a nest of a Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*)
- f) a nest of a Lewis's Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*)
- g) a nest of a Williamson's Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus thyroideus*)
- h) an American Badger burrow (*Taxidea taxus*)
- i) a Grizzly Bear den (*Ursus arctos*)
- j) a significant mineral lick
- k) a significant wallow
- l) a bat hibernaculum
- m) a bat nursery roost
- n) a hot spring or thermal spring

Strategy:

The licence holder will follow the guidance for managing wildlife habitat features described in the Wildlife Habitat Features Field Guide (Kootenay Boundary Region) in order to ensure that these features are protected and remain functional. The licence holder will not damage or render ineffective a wildlife habitat feature, and will annually report locations of new features encountered during routine forest activities. Primary forest activity timing windows and measures for managing wildlife habitat feature will be documented within a Site Plan or Supporting Document and provided to contractors during pre-works.

¹³ The current list for the Kootenay Boundary Region may be amended from time to time to reflect new information.

6.1.2.3 Water, Fish, Wildlife and Biodiversity within Riparian Areas

Legal reference: Forest Planning and Practices Regulation section 8, 12(3) and 12.1(2)

Objective: *The objective set by government for water, fish, wildlife and biodiversity within riparian areas is, without unduly reducing the supply of timber from British Columbia's forests, to conserve, at the landscape level, the water quality, fish habitat, wildlife habitat and biodiversity associated with those riparian areas.*

Relates to: [6.1.1.6](#) of this document.

Practice Requirements – Strategy and Result:

The licence holder will comply with Forest Planning and Practices Regulation section 47 to 52(2) and 55 to 58.

Temperature sensitive streams:

No temperature sensitive streams have been designated within the forest development units covered by this FSP. The licence holder will comply with Forest Planning and Practices Regulation section 53 if a temperature sensitive stream is designated.

Riparian Strategy:

A Qualified Registered Professional will conduct an assessment on each riparian feature within or adjacent to a proposed harvest area to determine the classification, minimum riparian management zone¹⁴ and site-specific management regimes. If a riparian feature is adjacent to a proposed harvest area, and the feature is greater than 50-meters from that harvest area, an assessment of that feature will not be required.

With the exception of designated machine crossings, stream channel integrity and bank stability will be maintained on all classifiable riparian features by establishing a minimum 5-meter machine free zone. Designated machine crossings will be constructed in a manner such that deposition of construction waste and overburden will be disposed outside the riparian reserve zone or a minimum of 5-meters from the stream edge whichever is greater. Within the riparian management area, designated crossings widths will be kept to a minimum in order to retain as much understory vegetation as practicable, while meeting operational and safety objectives for the crossing structure and its approaches. This includes, designing and constructing approaches as close to perpendicular to the watercourse as possible, minimizing loss or disturbance of riparian vegetation, thereby reducing impacts to terrestrial and aquatic habitat adjacent to the crossing site.

The licence holder will undertake to avoid disturbance of classifiable stream, wetland and lake edges, and will prevent the deposition of debris in the waterbodies by falling and yarding away

¹⁴ As per Forest Planning and Practices Regulation section 47 to 49.

from them. Where trees must be felled across a stream for safety and/or operational reasons, the licence holder will attempt to lift trees rather than drag them out. The strategy of lifting trees may not be complied with when utilizing cable systems as it may not be possible to achieve sufficient lift to suspend the entire tree. If debris are deposited into a classifiable riparian feature the debris will be removed as soon as practicable, or within one year following harvest completion.

Within the riparian management zones of S1-A, S1-B, S2 and S3 streams, and within 5-meters of S4, S5 and S6 streams, the licence holder will undertake to retain non-merchantable conifers, deciduous and understory vegetation to the extent practicable.

The following best management practices will be used on roads and access structures within hydrologic proximity¹⁵ of a classifiable riparian feature to prevent sediment from entering the feature.

- 1) Reduce the amount of bare erodible ground that is exposed and available to be eroded from precipitation and vehicle traffic by minimizing soil disturbance and using existing roads where possible.
- 2) Reduce the potential for exposed ground to be eroded by placing culverts and cross drainage consistent with natural drainage patterns.
- 3) Culvert installations will be constructed to ensure outflows moderate potential sediment transport through the use of riprap armor.
- 4) Carry out annual monitoring and maintenance of roads and structures.
- 5) Where a ditch line directly connects with a stream install silt traps and/or riprap to moderate potential sediment transport.
- 6) Bridges will be designed higher than the road grade where practicable to prevent water on the road surface from transporting sediment onto the bridge deck and into the stream.

Retention of Trees in a Riparian Management Zone:

Riparian management zones will be assessed by a Qualified Registered Professional who will prescribe site-specific management regimes, which includes the species, quality, quantity and distribution of trees selected for retention. The trees selected for retention can be located in clumps or evenly distributed considering local conditions, including, but not limited to the potential impact to:

- a) waterside banks and stream channel integrity
- b) water quality and quantity
- c) shade requirements for streams
- d) windthrow
- e) coarse woody debris
- f) forest health factors
- g) deciduous, non-merchantable stems and understory vegetation retention

¹⁵ The flow path of natural drainage through topography, between a point and a stream, where surface water can flow unobstructed carrying sediment.

- h) valuable fish and wildlife habitat
- i) silviculture

Care will be given to the relative importance of water quality and sensitivity of the riparian feature in question. Safety considerations and adherence to Worksafe BC regulations will play a key role in determining the site-specific management.

As prescribed by a Qualified Registered Professional in a Site Plan or Support Document and at the completion of harvesting, tree retention levels in the riparian management zones of a riparian feature within a harvest area will meet the minimum target percentage as specified in the table below:

Riparian Class	Minimum Target Percentage of the Pre-Harvest Stems Per Hectare to be Retained Within the Riparian Management Zone
S1-A, S1-B, S2 and S3 streams	20%
S4, S5 and S6 streams	10%
All classes of lakes and wetlands	10%
The licence holder will ensure the percentage of the total stems/ha within the riparian management zone specified in the target level of stems/ha is left as standing trees. ¹⁶	

6.1.2.4 Fish Habitat in Fisheries Sensitive Watersheds

Legal reference: Forest Planning and Practices Regulation section 8.1

Practice Requirements:

There are no fisheries sensitive watersheds in the Forest Development Units under this Forest Stewardship Plan.

¹⁶ Standing tree is defined as any tree that is merchantable.

6.1.2.5 Water in Community Watersheds

Legal reference: Forest Planning and Practices Regulation section 8.2

Objective: *The objective set by government for water being diverted for human consumption through a licensed waterworks in a community watershed is to prevent the cumulative hydrological effects of primary forest activities within the community watershed from resulting in a material adverse impact on the quantity of water or the timing of the flow of the water from the waterworks, or the water from the waterworks having a material adverse impact on human health that cannot be addressed by water treatment required under an enactment, or the license pertaining to the waterworks.*

Practice Requirements – Strategy and Result:

The licence holder will comply with Forest Planning and Practices Regulation sections 59 to 63.

Community Watershed Strategy:

For the purposes of this section, a Watershed Assessment is a professional level analysis, carried out by a Qualified Registered Professional, which studies existing and/or potential future forest development related effects on hydrologic and geomorphic processes in a Community Watershed. New Watershed Assessments undertaken in accordance with this Forest Stewardship Plan will follow the joint professional guidance report *Watershed Assessment and Management of Hydrologic and Geomorphic Risk in the Forest Sector*.

A Watershed Assessment will include but is not limited to:

- 1) Identifying fans and delineating watersheds.
- 2) Identifying elements-at-risk in watersheds and on fans, while taking into account potential climate change impacts.
- 3) Identifying historical and current, hydrologic and geomorphic processes affecting runoff, the frequency and magnitude of peak flows, sediment delivery and sediment transport in a watershed to determine baseline conditions for future comparison.
- 4) Identifying past natural and anthropogenic disturbance.
- 5) A qualitative risk analysis that assesses the sensitivity of the watershed to changes in the magnitude and frequency of flow regime changes, increases in sediment delivery or changes to riparian function.
- 6) Estimated changes in the risk (likelihood and consequence) to elements at risk, given past development/disturbance and future forest development, and their cumulative effects on water quality, quantity and timing of flow.
- 7) Providing input to guide forest management planning at the watershed level.

The Watershed Assessment must include recommendations and/or establish thresholds for forest management to minimize increasing the risks to elements-at-risk.

Relevant and current Watershed Assessments¹⁷ will be available to the licence holder in advance of primary activities, and are intended to provide guidance for: forest planning, harvesting, road construction or permanent deactivation for up to 10 years. Watershed Assessments will be considered relevant and current for up to 10 years, or until appreciable change¹⁸ has occurred beyond the limits of recommendations or thresholds established in the original assessment. In the absence of a relevant and current Watershed Assessment, a new assessment will be completed. New assessments may make reference to previous studies, but will conform to all of the criteria listed under this strategy.

Planning and implementation of operational activities will be consistent with the recommendations or thresholds of the Watershed Assessment.

Exception to the Strategy:

When there is not a relevant and current Watershed Assessment available, small incidental areas may still be developed but only under the following circumstances:

- The total new harvest area inclusive of cutblocks and roads within the Community Watershed is less than or equal to 2.0% of the total watershed area or 10.0 hectares, whichever is less, and
- a Qualified Registered Professional has determined, and documented within a written rationale, that the incidental development is unlikely to result in significant hydrological effects which would negatively impact water quality, quantity, or timing of flow.

6.1.2.6 Wildlife and Biodiversity – Landscape Level

Legal reference: Forest Planning and Practices Regulation section 9.

Objective: *The objective set by government for wildlife and biodiversity at the landscape level is, without unduly reducing the supply of timber from British Columbia's forests and to the extent*

¹⁷ Pre-existing Watershed Assessments that were completed prior to Forest Stewardship Plan 875 approval and the joint professional guidance report cited above in this strategy are still considered relevant and current for up to 10 years only if they meet all other criteria within this strategy.

¹⁸ Appreciable change is defined as a change to the disturbance level, either natural or unnatural, that could increase the qualitative risk to elements previously identified as at risk, and is measured by using Equivalent Clearcut Area as an indicator of cumulative hydrologic change. A Qualified Registered Professional will assess the impacts of the disturbance against the recommendations and thresholds within the assessment to determine if a new assessment is required. If a natural event or proposed development is expected to exceed the current assessment's established recommendations or thresholds for Equivalent Clearcut Area, then a new assessment will be required in advance of further primary activities.

practicable, to design areas on which timber harvesting is to be carried out that resemble, both spatially and temporally, the patterns of natural disturbance that occur within the landscape.

Relates to: [6.1.1.1](#), [6.1.1.2](#) and [6.1.1.4](#) of this document.

Practice Requirements – Strategy and Result:

The licence holder will comply with Forest Planning and Practices Regulation section 64 and 65.

Pursuant to objective 4 of the Kootenay Boundary Higher Level Plan Order, when the licence holder plans and designs harvesting, the established green up height will be consistent with section [6.1.1.4](#) Green-up. The 3m minimum height will be changed to 2.5m in Forest Planning and Practices Regulation section 65(3)(a) and 65(3)(b)(ii) for areas adequately stocked.

In circumstances where the licence holder harvest activities are to be conducted in co-operation with scientific studies developed by a Provincial or Federal Government agency and/or research institutions, the requirements of Forest Planning and Practices Regulation section 64 can be exceeded. The licence holder will ensure that the size of the net area to be reforested for the cutblock is limited to the extent necessary by the study. A letter of support from the District Manager will be required.

Any decision to exceed Forest Planning and Practices Regulation section 64(1) will be documented within a Site Plan or Supporting Document and will be included in referrals to First Nations.

6.1.2.7 Wildlife and Biodiversity – Stand Level

Legal reference: Forest Planning and Practices Regulation section 9.1

Objective: *The objective set by government for wildlife and biodiversity at the stand level is, without unduly reducing the supply of timber from British Columbia's forests, to retain wildlife trees.*

Practice Requirements – Strategy and Result:

The licence holder will ensure at the completion of harvest of a cutting permit, an area equivalent to a minimum of 7% of the total cutblock area will be retained in Wildlife Tree Retention Areas.

The licence holder will comply with Forest Planning and Practices Regulation section 66(2)(3)(4) and 68 with the following additions:

Individual Wildlife Trees:

For purposes of measuring the contribution of individual Wildlife Trees, and where the site plan prescribes dispersed retention, the individual Wildlife Trees can be included along with the

aggregate patches in the total amount of wildlife tree retention. Individual trees, clumps or patches of trees which are less than 0.25 hectares in size can contribute on the basis of the total basal area of retained trees divided by the average basal area/ha of the original stand. This will yield the equivalent number of hectares of Wildlife Tree Retention Area.

Restriction on Harvesting:

As an alternative to Forest Planning and Practices Regulation section 67 Wildlife Trees can be harvested, but:

1. Only to the extent necessary;
 - a) for access requirements, if no other alternative road location exists, or where another road location would result in greater risk to one or more Forest and Range Practices Acts values¹⁹;
 - b) to carry out wildland urban interface forest fuel reduction treatments;
 - c) to remove damaged timber where a Wildlife Tree Retention Area is rendered ineffective²⁰ by natural damaging agents including wind, fire, insects or disease
 - d) where adjacent timber is infested and the remaining timber is highly susceptible to insect damage²¹;
 - e) to facilitate harvesting of a cutblock – for tail holds, guy line tiebacks, designated skid trails or yarding corridors;
 - f) to address safety hazards,
2. and only to the level determined by a Qualified Registered Professional.

When Wildlife Trees are harvested, and the harvest area is mappable (greater than 0.25ha), the licence holder will specify one or more Wildlife Tree Retention Areas that provide an area, number of trees or habitat that is equivalent to the portion harvested. The licence holder will prepare a rationale for harvested Wildlife Trees and a map, which identifies the replacement Wildlife Trees and specifies how the replacement is equivalent to the harvested trees. The rationale will be documented in a Site Plan or Supporting Document and will be included in referrals to First Nations.

¹⁹ When providing access to adjacent stands the number of high-quality Wildlife Trees removed will be kept to a minimum.

²⁰ Rendered ineffective means, in the opinion of a Registered Professional Forester, damaged to a degree that the Wildlife Tree Retention Area no longer has the attributes consistent with the condition of the original Wildlife Tree Retention Area.

²¹ Insects as they relate to threatening the sustainability and resiliency of the Wildlife Tree Retention Area, where early implementation of strategies and/or tactics will minimize losses from damaging insects.

6.1.2.8 Visual Quality

Legal reference: Forest Planning and Practices Regulation section 1.1, 9.2 and Government Actions Regulations section 7

Relates to: [6.1.1.9](#) of this document.

Objective: *The objective set by government for visual quality in Forest Planning and Practices Regulation section 9.2 establishes default objectives for visual quality in Scenic Areas where Visual Quality Objectives (VQOs) have not otherwise been legally established. Because Visual Quality Objectives have been legally established within all of the Forest Development Units of this Forest Stewardship Plan, Forest Planning and Practices Regulation section 9.2 does not apply. With regard to Kootenay Boundary Higher Level Plan Order Objective 9, where Scenic Areas or Visual Quality Objectives are established by section 7 Government Action Regulation Orders, or other legal orders, these cancel and replace those established previously by the Kootenay Boundary Higher Level Plan Order. Therefore, Objective 9 of the Kootenay Boundary Higher Level Plan Order also does not apply.*

Arrow Forest Development Unit:

The licence holder will adopt as a result or strategy, the Visual Quality Objectives and provisions defined by with the District Manager ‘*Order for the Establishment of Visual Quality Objectives and Scenic Area for the Arrow Boundary Forest District*’, effective December 31, 2005.

Kootenay Lake Forest Development Unit:

The licence holder will adopt as a result or strategy, the Visual Quality Objectives and provisions defined by with the District Manager ‘*Kootenay Lake Timber Supply Area March 7, 2014*’ order.

Practice Requirements – Strategy and Result:

The licence holder will complete a Visual Impact Assessment to assess whether primary forest activities will achieve established Visual Quality Objectives using the categories of visually altered forest landscape as defined in Forest Planning and Practices Regulation section 1.1. The Visual Impact Assessment will be documented in a Site Plan or Supporting Document.

After the completion of primary forest activities the extent of forest landscape alteration resulting from these activities will achieve established Visual Quality Objectives when assessed from a significant public viewpoint.

Alternate Result and/or Strategy:

Where the established Visual Quality Objective limits are not achievable given the circumstances or conditions to a particular area, an alternate result and/or strategy will be requested prior to applying for a cutting permit. District Manager approval of the alternate result

and/or strategy will be required. The alternate result and/or strategy will be documented in a Site Plan or Supporting Document.

6.1.2.9 Cultural Heritage Resources

Legal reference: *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation section 10*

Objective: *The objective set by government for cultural heritage resources is to conserve, or, if necessary, protect cultural heritage resources that are the focus of a traditional use by an aboriginal people that is of continuing importance to that people, and not regulated under the Heritage Conservation Act.*

Practice Requirements – Strategy:

Before the licence holder applies for a permit to harvest timber or construct road, the licence holder will notify First Nations as indicated in the Consultative Areas Database and make reasonable efforts to obtain information of cultural heritage resources that may be impacted. The notification may include, but is not limited to, information sharing the identified proposed timber harvesting and/or road construction for a referral period of not less than 30-days. Information shared will include a map and Google Earth Files illustrating the location of planned forest development. If applicable to the permit, information sharing will also include mappable changes to Old Growth Management Areas and Wildlife Tree Retention Areas, and any decisions to exceed Forest Planning and Practices section 64(1).

The objective of information sharing is to provide First Nations with an opportunity to identify cultural heritage resources to ensure that potential concerns are addressed to the extent practicable prior to development of an area of crown land allocated for the licence holder's forest development activities.

The licence holder will document and keep on record any cultural heritage resource information provided by the First Nations. At the request of a First Nation any cultural heritage resource information received will be kept confidential. Documentation and record keeping will include:

1. Recording the location of the cultural heritage resource.
2. Evaluating the direct impact of the proposed development on the cultural heritage resource.
3. Working with the First Nations and proposing how the development can be altered to the extent required to conserve, mitigate, or if necessary, protect the cultural heritage resource. Decision making will take into account:
 - a) the importance of the cultural heritage resource to traditional use by the First Nation;
 - b) the relative abundance or scarcity of the cultural heritage resource;
 - c) the historical extent of the traditional use of the cultural heritage resource;
 - d) recommendations made by the affected First Nation to conserve, mitigate, or if necessary, protect the cultural heritage resource, and;

- e) the impact on the Licence holder's government-granted timber harvesting rights in conserving or protecting the cultural heritage resource.

The licence holder will communicate back to the identified First Nations what strategies will be committed to in response to the cultural heritage resource prior to the application for permit.

If previously unidentified cultural heritage resources are observed, becomes known, or is brought to the licence holder's attention, the licence holder will cease operations to the extent necessary to protect the resource. The licence holder within 5 business-days of discovering a cultural heritage resource will make attempts to contact the appropriate archaeological / heritage authority and First Nations. Recommencement of operations will not begin until recommendations relative to protecting the resource have been agreed upon by the relevant parties or the resource is otherwise protected.

6.1.3 Other Objectives Established by Government

6.1.3.1 Resource Features

Legal reference: *Government Actions Regulations section 5 and Forest Planning and Practices Regulation section 70*

Objective: *An authorized person who carries out a primary activity must ensure that the primary forest activity does not damage or render ineffective a resource feature.*

Practice Requirements:

There are no Government Action Regulations established for resource features within the Arrow and Kootenay Lake Timber Supply Areas.

6.1.3.2 Special Trees Protection

Legal reference: *Special Tree Protection Regulation*

Objective: *A responsible person for a primary forest activity must ensure that, in the course of carrying out that activity, specified trees are not cut, damaged or destroyed, and supporting trees are not felled, topped or destroyed.*

Practice Requirements:

When the licence holder is aware of a specified tree in an area in which they are responsible for primary forest activity the licence holder will submit a report about the tree to the minister within 30-days after the licence holder becomes aware of the tree.

The licence holder will ensure that, in the course of carrying out primary forest activity, specified trees are not cut, damaged or destroyed, and supporting trees are not felled, topped or destroyed unless authorized by the minister to cut, damage or destroy Crown timber.

6.2.2 Objectives for Items Listed in Section 181 of Forest and Range Practices Act

6.2.2.1 Interpretive Forest Sites, Recreation Sites or Recreation Trails

Legal reference: *Forest and Range Practices Act* section 56, 180 and 181, *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation* section 70(1) and *Forest Recreation Regulation* section 16

Objective: *All objectives in respect to an interpretive forest site, a recreation site and a recreation trail that were in effect immediately before the effective date are continued as objectives under Forest and Range Practices Act.*

Practice Requirements – Strategy and Result:

In an effort to minimize impacts to interpretive forest sites, recreation sites or recreation trails, the licence holder will develop operational plans consistent with the management strategies established for the sites or trails. Where the established management strategies are not practicable given the circumstances or conditions to a particular area or no management strategies exist, the licence holder will adhere to the following strategies:

- 1) Primary forest activities will proceed only with the authorization of a Recreation Officer.
- 2) Where an agreement or tenure exists with respect to a site or trail, the licence holder will refer the proposed development a minimum of 30-days prior to the application for permit.
- 3) If the licence holder carries out a primary forest activity within the area of a recreation site or trail that is intended as, or has an established objective that includes non-motorized access, and new road construction provides motorized access, the road will be deactivated and/or rehabilitated within one year following completion of primary forest activities, to a condition which re-establishes the degree of access to that which existed prior to the activities.
- 4) Unless otherwise approved or directed by a Recreation Officer, where the licence holder carries out primary forest activities within the area of a recreation site or trail the following measures will be a requirement:
 - a) temporary signage will be erected to inform users of the activities;
 - b) activities will take place during periods of low recreational use, where practicable, as determined through consultation with a Recreation Officer;
 - c) new roads to access timber will not be constructed across a trail unless there is no other practicable location, or unless another location would result in greater risk to one or more Forest Range Practices Act values;
 - d) trails will have safety hazards removed prior to re-opening the trails and the running surface of trails will be cleared and re-established as soon as practicable, no later than 12-months following the completion of primary forest activities; and

- e) activities adjacent to trails will minimize damage to natural understory vegetation, to the extent practicable.

7.0 MEASURES

7.1 Preventing the Introduction and Spread of Invasive Plants

Legal reference: *Forest and Range Practices Act section 47 and Forest Planning and Practices Regulation 17*

Practice Requirements – Measure:

The following measures will be implemented to reduce the introduction and spread of invasive plants that result from the licence holder forest practices:

Training:

Annual invasive plant training will be conducted to help field staff and contractors²² identify the priority invasive plants, as listed in the '*Best Practices for Preventing the Spread of Invasive Plants during Forest Management Activities, 2013 Edition*':

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/forestry/bc-timber-sales/ems-sfm-certification/business-area/babine/forestry-bmp-09-11-2013-web.pdf>

Training will involve the identification of invasive plants, awareness of the location of known infestations currently in the Invasive Alien Plant Program, reporting requirements and best management practices.

Reporting:

Should any of the priority invasive plants be observed outside of known infestation areas, the licence holder will use the Report-A-Weed website to inform the Ministry of Forest, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development of the occurrence within 30-days of observing the occurrence:

www.reportaweedbc.ca

Practice:

In an effort to reduce the introduction and spread of invasive plants, during the planning process, the licence holder will review the Invasive Alien Plant Program data for known infestations and their proximity²³ to development areas. This information and any additional infestations found during timber development will be used to plan activities, whereby, operational plans will be developed and used to communicate with staff and contractors the location of known infestations. Where there are known infestations or new infestations in

²² Contractors include: timber development, logging, road building, tree planting and silviculture contractors.

²³ Invasive plants are considered to be in proximity to a development area if primary forest activities come within 500meters of known infestations.

proximity to development areas, best management practices will be documented within a Site Plan or Supporting Document and provided to contractors during per-works in order to reduce the risk of creating new or spreading existing infestations. Any infestations not shown in the Invasive Alien Plant Program that are discovered within proximity of primary activities during operational activities will be reported to the licence holder. During all operations the licence holder will follow the best management practices listed below:

- 1) If feasible avoid infested areas, otherwise, work non-infested areas first and infested areas last.
- 2) If feasible, work infested areas during the winter.
- 3) Ensure equipment and clothing of all staff and contractors is inspected and cleaned of invasive plant propagules and seed before entering and leaving sites.
- 4) Regeneration of native vegetation will be preferred and encouraged wherever practicable by keeping soil disturbance to a minimum except for site preparation for conifer tree regeneration purposes or stump removal due to Armillaria root rot.
- 5) In order to reduce the available seedbed for invasive plants, as soon as practicable, or within one year following disturbance, the licence holder will grass seed with an erosion control mix of "Canada common # 1 seed." On deactivated/rehabilitated roads, new roads and landings, grass seed will be applied to an area greater than 0.01ha having exposed mineral soil that will support vegetation. This does not include the running tracks of active roads.
- 6) The licence holder will ensure successful (>30% coverage) grass seed establishment (via road maintenance inspections) within two years of disturbance.
- 7) For all grass seed used, the licence holder will inspect the certificate of seed analysis and reject lots of seed that contain weed seeds of listed invasive plants.
- 8) Establish well stocked stands of trees that will eventually suppress invasive plants.

7.2 Mitigating the Loss of Natural Range Barriers

Legal reference: *Forest and Range Practices Act section 48 and Forest Planning and Practices Regulation 18*

Practice Requirements – Measure:

The following practice will be applied to mitigate the loss of natural range barriers that result from the licence holder forest practices:

Practice:

Before the licence holder applies for a permit to harvest timber or construct road within a known range tenure, the licence holder will notify the applicable range tenure holders and make reasonable efforts to obtain information of natural range barriers may be impacted. The notification may include, but is not limited to, information sharing the identified proposed timber harvesting and/or road construction for a referral period of not less than 30-days. If a range agreement tenure holder indicates that a proposed road or cutblock will remove or render ineffective a natural range barrier, the licence holder will, as soon as practicable:

- a) take reasonable efforts necessary to come to an agreement with the range agreement tenure holder to mitigate the effect of removing or rendering ineffective natural range barriers, and
- b) discuss potential mitigation plans with Ministry of Forest, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, and
- c) implement the measures.

8.0 STOCKING STANDARDS

Legal reference: Forest Planning and Practices Regulation section 16, 44 and 197

Practice Requirements – Results:

The licence holder elects to use the Selkirk Resource District South Columbia default stocking standards and Fire Management / Wildland Urban Interface stocking standards, as amended from time to time, for both the Arrow and Kootenay Lake Forest Development Units.

The licence holder may elect to use the Kootenay Lake District default stocking standards, as amended from time to time, for both the Arrow and Kootenay Lake Forest Development Units for Cutting Permits issued prior to April 2018.

Section 197 election:

Forest and Range Practices Act section 197 elections for stocking standards has been enabled to allow for any forest development plan cutblock stocking standards to be amended to the applicable Forest Stewardship Plan stocking standards.

Early Free Growing:

When stocking standards have been achieved and neither the potential expression of forest health agents nor the development of competing vegetation is a concern, the licence holder will elect to eliminate the early free growing date through the approved variation process in RESULTS.

9.0 CUMULATIVE EFFECT OF MULTIPLE FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLANS

Legal reference: Forest Planning and Practices Regulation section 19

Practice Requirements – Strategy:

Where applicable: The Forest Stewardship Plan must address the cumulative effect of multiple Forest Stewardship Plans in an area. In order to proactively address and resolve landscape unit level issues prior to cutting permit application the licence holder will shares its plans with other licensees and BC Timber Sales in areas with multiple Forest Stewardship Plans. If the holders of a Forest Stewardship Plan, within an area with multiple Forest Stewardship Plans,

are unable to reach an agreement for sharing the responsibility to obtain results consistent with objectives set by government then request would be made to the Minister to act under section 9 of the Forest and Range Practices Act.

10.0 Public Review and Comment

Legal reference: Forest Planning and Practices Regulation section 20, 21 and 22

Practice Requirements – Strategy:

Forest Stewardship Plan Advertisement:

The general public was made aware the Forest Stewardship Plan was available for review and comment through notices placed in local newspapers and through referral notices that were mailed out to potentially affected stakeholders including all guide outfitters, Regional District Central Kootenay, trappers, and community watershed contacts that are within the Forest Development units of this Forest Stewardship Plan.

The Forest Stewardship Plan was made available for public review and comment at the licence holder's office during regular business hours 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday for a period of 74 days (Dec 3, 2020 to Feb 15, 2021). The licence holder provided a referral notice and requested a meeting with potentially affected stakeholders to discuss the Forest Stewardship Plan. Summary of written comments received as well as revisions made during the referral period are found in [Appendix D](#).

Written comments specific to the Forest Stewardship Plan were recorded and kept on record to ensure that concerns are considered at the development stage.

Forest Development Referrals:

The licence holder is committed to continual information sharing and will refer all forest development plans to potentially affected stakeholders whose rights may be affected by a proposed development. A written notification with a map illustrating the location of planned forest development will be referred to potentially affected stakeholders. The written notice will provide stakeholders with a 30-day referral period prior to cutting permit application.

The objective of this notice is to provide potentially affected stakeholders with an opportunity to identify areas of concern, and to ensure that concerns are addressed to the extent practicable prior to the development of an area of crown land allocated for the licence holder's primary forest activities. The licence holder will document and keep on record any information provided by the stakeholder, this will include how planned activities will or will not accommodate identified concerns.

As indicated by various Provincial Government registries, stakeholders whose rights may be affected may include forest tenure holders, Regional District Central Kootenay, trappers, guide

outfitters, ranchers, interpretive forest sites, recreation sites, resort tenures, recreation trails, community watersheds, points of diversion and private land adjacent to proposed development.

Public Referrals:

Relates to: [4.3](#) of this document.

The licence holder will maintain the following Forest Stewardship website link:

<https://www.kalesnikoff.com/sustainable-forest-stewardship>

The website link provides access to the Forest Stewardship Plan and accompanying maps, on which the public and stakeholders are able to identify where the licence holders primary forest activities will take place.

Continual information sharing will ensure transparency and open a communication path through which public and stakeholders' concerns can be made known, so concerns can be addressed prior to the development of an area for crown land allocated for the licence holder's primary forest activities. Comments specific to the Forest Development Units and Operating Areas will be accepted anytime and will be recorded and kept on record to ensure that comments are considered at the development stage.

11.0 RATIONALE

11.1 Rationale for Timber Supply Area Forest Development Units

Relates to: [4.3](#) of this document.

The licence holder has designed two Forest Development Units within Arrow and Kootenay Lake Timber Supply Areas. The Forest Development Units cover the entire area of Arrow and Kootenay Lake Timber Supply Area, while excluding all private land and actively managed area-based tenures including Community Forests, Tree Farm Licences and Woodlots.

The two Forest Development Units will cover unallocated operating areas, incidental site level overlaps and the integration of new operating areas.

Both Forest Development Units overlap with other licensees and British Columbia Timber Sales operating areas. The licence holder does not intend to infringe on these operating areas or break commercial arrangements, but expects to increase efficient forest planning and speedier permitting when confronted with incidental site level overlaps, cutting permit purchases and/or the integration of new operating areas.

The licence holder commits to up front communication when planning timber development in areas outside its operating areas and will refer proposed development plans with the appropriate licensee and/or British Columbia Timber Sales. The licence holder will work with the other licensees and British Columbia Timber Sales by maintaining non-spatial results and strategies that may be present in the areas of interest.

11.2 Stocking Standards and Early Free Growing

Relates to: [8.0](#) of this document.

When the licence holder uses the Kootenay Lake District default stocking standards, and when the stocking standard has been achieved, and neither the potential expression of forest health agents nor the development of competing vegetation is a concern, the licence holder will elect to eliminate the early free growing date and declare free growing.

Today's silviculture is frequently achieving free growing prior to the early free growing date. Practices such as better-quality nursery stock, site preparation, prompt regeneration, fertilization and the use of A-class seed are enabling the early achievement of free growing. The elimination of the early free growing date is an incentive to encourage these practices, in return for prompt relief of obligations. Some of these practices are investments over-and-above standard practice and the benefit of achieving free growing sooner ought to be realized as a result. The early free growing date can be a deterrent as it discourages silviculture investment due to the delay it can cause in declaring free growing when stocking standards have already been achieved.

Precedence has been established with the early free growing date as many approved Forest Stewardship Plans omitted it in their stocking standards.

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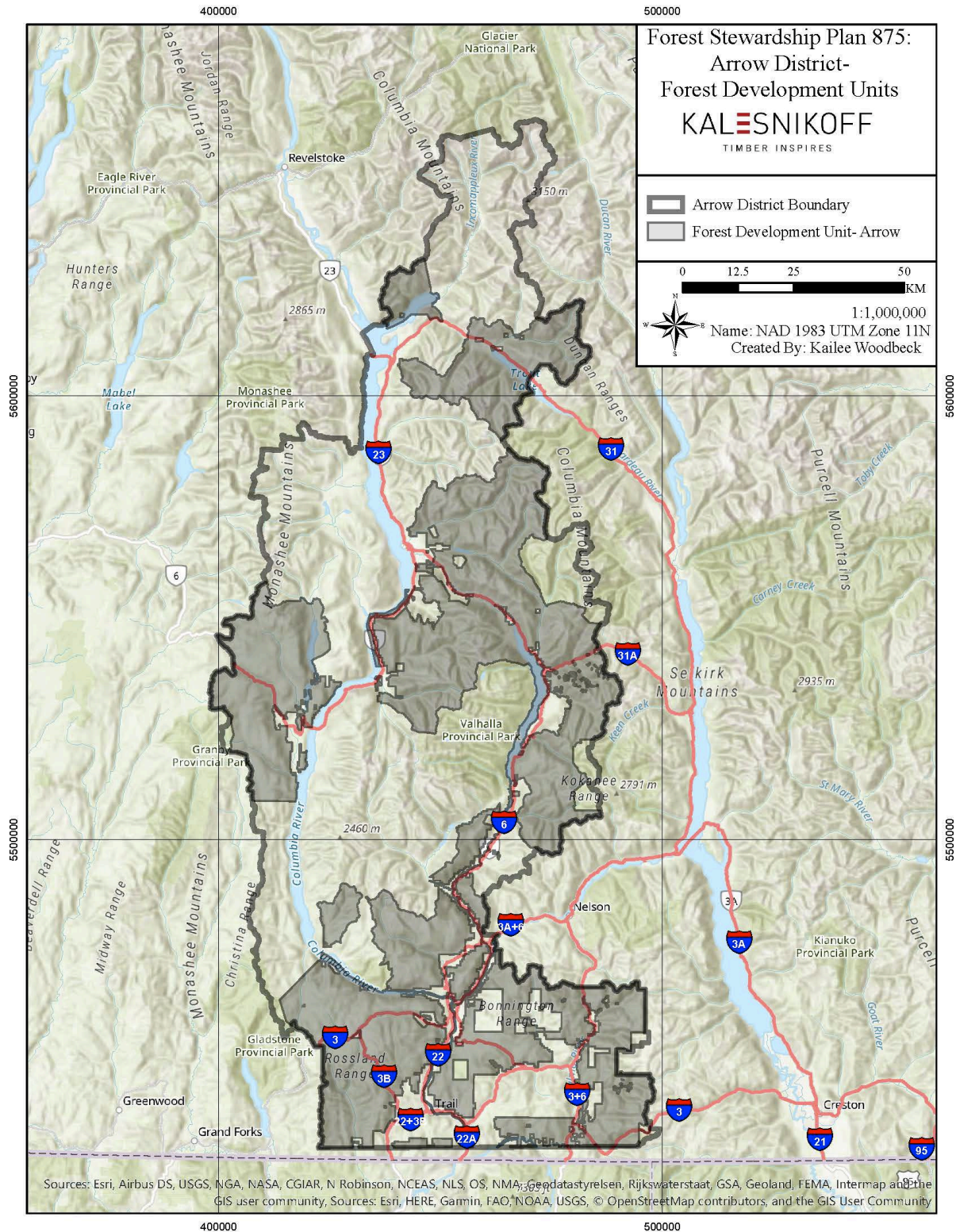
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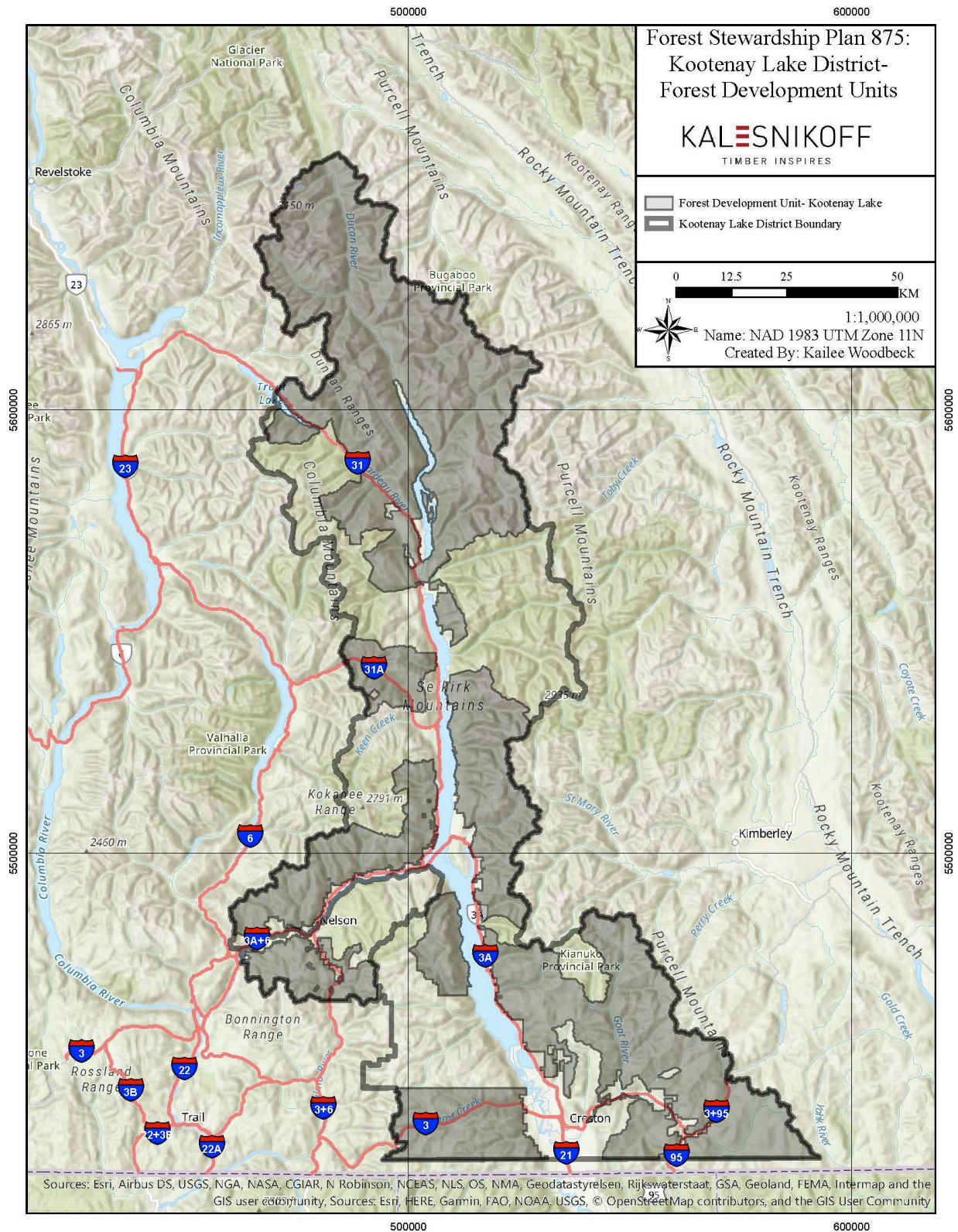
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13.0 APPENDICES

Appendix A Arrow Forest Development Unit



Appendix B Kootenay Lake Forest Development Unit



Appendix C Footnote ‘K’ Scorecard

Subscript k	Definition	Sources for additional data															
Stand age	Age-based definitions for the minimum ages of old and mature forests are listed in the HLPO and are based on the age of the dominant cohort in a stand. Field-based measurements using tree cores should take precedence over forest inventory estimated ages. Ancient forests have particularly high conservation value.	HLPO, Biodiversity Guidebook (1995); LMH 25 describes Very Old Forests (structural stage 7b) as >400 in NDT 1,2,4 and >250 in NDT 3															
Successional status	Describes the stand development status of a forest, including factors such as tree species composition and canopy complexity.	LMH 25 (2010) describes both Successional status and Structural stages															
Presence of old growth attributes	Old forest attributes are relative to the ecosystem (BEC subzone/variant and site series). Typical old forest attributes include: large-sized live trees (large for the BEC unit), large snags and CWD in a range of decay classes; wildlife trees; multiple canopy layers (from regen to dominants); canopy gaps; well-developed plant communities.	The size of “large” and density of expected large attributes is described in a series of research projects that were completed in the Kootenay Boundary Region (1999-2006). These “index of old growthness” reports can help to inform a professional rationale.															
Size of stand	Larger stands of old forests are preferred because they provide more habitat, more interior habitat conditions, and less edge habitat. The minimum legal size of an OGMA is 2 ha, but larger patches are encouraged, and the intention is to maintain or increase patch size where possible. Large OGMAs are intended to maximize the inclusion of old forest and should only include mature or younger forest where (1) recruitment is required or (2) conservation benefits have been assessed and old forest biodiversity values are captured equally or better than would be achieved through inclusion of different patches of old forest. In many landscapes, existing fragmentation limits the occurrence of large patches with interior habitat.	Guidance on expected patch size, by BEC and NDT (Holt 2000) ¹ <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Natural disturbance type</th><th>Percentage of OGMAs on landscape</th><th>Patch Size</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>NDT1</td><td>40-100% 40% 15% 5%</td><td>>1000ha 250 – 1000ha 50 – 250ha <50ha</td></tr> <tr> <td>NDT2</td><td>35% 35% 25%</td><td>>500ha 250-500ha 50-250ha</td></tr> <tr> <td>NDT3 (MS)</td><td>40% 30% 30%</td><td>>250ha 50-250ha <50ha</td></tr> <tr> <td>NDT3 (ICH/ ESSF) NDT4</td><td>20% 40% 30%</td><td>>500ha 250-500ha 50-250ha <50ha</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Natural disturbance type	Percentage of OGMAs on landscape	Patch Size	NDT1	40-100% 40% 15% 5%	>1000ha 250 – 1000ha 50 – 250ha <50ha	NDT2	35% 35% 25%	>500ha 250-500ha 50-250ha	NDT3 (MS)	40% 30% 30%	>250ha 50-250ha <50ha	NDT3 (ICH/ ESSF) NDT4	20% 40% 30%	>500ha 250-500ha 50-250ha <50ha
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NDT3 (ICH/ ESSF) NDT4	20% 40% 30%	>500ha 250-500ha 50-250ha <50ha															
Amount of human impact	Human impacts such as historic (or recent) selective harvesting, roads, trails, linear corridors, etc. reduce the value of old forest stands.																

Subscript k	Definition	Sources for additional data
Dispersion/connectivity of the stand	Landscape level connectivity allows for the flow of species, genes, and populations. Old forest retention planning should avoid fragmentation and creation of isolated patches. However, smaller stands may have high old forest conservation value where old forest is uncommon or where forests are very old. Riparian areas, low passes between mountains, and areas that support movement from low to high elevations provide increased connectivity value.	The Biodiversity Guidebook provides information on landscape connectivity.
Rarity of the stand	The range of ecosystems in a geographic area should be included in a network of OGMA's. Rare stands, either for the rarity of the site series or structures (e.g., very old/ancient forests or remnant/veteran trees) are often prioritized in OGMA selection.	The Conservation Data Centre's Ecosystem Explorer provides lists of Ecosystems at Risk based on plant communities (e.g., site series level); these are currently being reviewed and updated with incorporation of new BEC.

In 2020/2021 general public was made aware that the Forest Stewardship Plan was available for review and comment by posting four notices placed in local newspapers – Castlegar News, Creston Valley Advance, East Shore Mainstreet, Nelson Star and Arrow Lakes News. The Forest Stewardship Plan referral period ran from December 15, 2020 to February 15, 2021 advising of its 5-year term.

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Pursuant to Forest Planning and Practices Act section 21 (1), emails and mail out letters were sent to potentially affected stakeholders the week of December 7, 2020.

FSP 875 Stakeholder Referral List			
Stakeholder Category	Stakeholder or Group	Stakeholder Category	Stakeholder or Group
Watershed Groups	Bird Creek	Trappers	Deer
	Duhamel Creek		Rialto
	Glade Creek (GWPS)		Norns, parts of Merry and Glade
	Glade Creek (GID)		Part of Merry
	Deer Creek		Part of Merry
	Redfish Creek		Glade, Rover
	Wolverton Creek		Selous, 49 Creek
	Gander Creek		Grohman
	Norns/Ladybird Creek		Gander
	Rover Creek		Tiny bit near Passmore
Special Interest or Tenure Groups			Redfish
	Slocan Lake Stewardship Society		Schroeder
	West Kootenay EcoSociety		Campbell to Crawford Bay
	West Kootenay Recreational Dirt Bike and ATV Society		Gray Creek
	Bosell Community Memebers		LaFrance Creek
	Crawford Bay Community Members		Boswell
	Glade-Tarry's Residents Working Group		Lemon, Duhamel
	Nelson Cycling Club		Hills, McDonald, Box, Summit
	Baldface Mountain Lodge		Goatcanyon
	Snowwater Heli Skiing		Fitzstubs
	Nelson SnoGoers		Part of Beaton
	Castlegar Snowmobile Association		Part of Beaton
	WCS Bats	Guide Outfitters	
	Castlegar Parks and Trails Society		East shore
Local Governments		Forest Licence Holders	
	City Nelson		All
	Chair and Area D (norht Kootenay Lake)		
	Area A (east shore)		
	Area E (Nelson and Blewett, Redfish)		
	Area F (norht shore)		
	Area G (Hall, Barrett)		
	Area H (Slocan Valley)		
	Area I (Thrums, Glade)		
	Area J (Merry, Rialto, Deer)		
	Area K (Nakusp)		

FSP 875 Referral Response Summary					
Date Received	Stakeholder Category	List	Response Date	Changes Made to FSP?	Description of Changes if Any
3-Dec-20	Water User	Interested in site-level information for operational plans near his property	4-Dec-20	No	
7-Dec-20	RDCK	Please send FSP draft to RDCK planning department	7-Dec-20	No	
10-Dec-20	Rec Tenure (Snowwater)	Please supply draft FSP for review	10-Dec-20	No	
5-Feb-21	Public	Please supply draft FSP for review	8-Feb-21	No	
8-Jan-21	RDCK	Please extend referral period until Feb 19th	8-Jan-21	No	
16-Jan-21	Rec Tenure (WKRDS)	Please supply draft FSP for review	18-Jan-21	No	
18-Feb-21	RDCK	Reponded to RDCK	22-Feb-21	Yes	eliminated the word 'may'
8-Feb-21	NGO (SLSS)	Provided document detailing references and stand/landscape level planning considerations for Slokan watershed	4-Mar-21	No	
28-Dec-20	Water User	Please supply draft FSP for review	30-Dec-20	No	
31-Jan-21	Public	Concerns regarding mud slides, clearcut logging, old growth, inability for public to gather and discuss during pandemic	2-Feb-21	No	
4-Dec-20	Water User	Please supply draft FSP for review, which First nations are consulted	4-Dec-20	No	
8-Dec-20	RDCK	Thanks for the referral, please consider advertising in East Shore Mainstreet newspaper	8-Dec-20	Yes	Referral posted to East Shore Mainstreet
7-Dec-20	Water User (GWPS)	The new FSP reduces protection for non-timber forest values, we do not support it. Water user continues to pursue a CFA	4-Mar-21	No	The FSP has been updated conduct watershed assessments in advance of new developments consistent with the joint professional guidance report 2020. Additional limitations have also been included on when a watershed assessment is not required and when it will be updated. Further information has been added to the definition of appreciable change requiring and assessment by a QRP
8-Dec-20	Water User	Please supply draft FSP for review	8-Dec-20	No	
12-Dec-20	Water User	Please supply draft FSP for review. Please notify of any forest developments in the Blewett area	4-Jan-21	No	
14-Jan-21	Rec Tenure (NCC)	Please supply draft FSP for review. Would like to review for potential effects to NCC trails	14-Jan-21	No	
5-Dec-20	NGO (WKES)	Please supply draft FSP for review, when does the referral period end?	8-Dec-20	No	
27-Jan-21	Public	Please supply draft FSP for review	2-Feb-21	No	
15-Feb-20	Biologist (Bat Specialist)	Provided document with recommendations for inclusion in the FSP with respect to bats	15-Feb-21	Yes	Reworked comitments to using BMP and GWM for an identified species. WHF order was included in the FSP and contains measures for bat roosts and hibernacula.
23-Jan-21	Public	Please supply draft FSP for review	25-Jan-21	No	
8-Dec-20	Water User (RRID)	Please supply draft FSP for review	8-Dec-20	No	
5-Dec-20	NGO (SLSS)	Please supply draft FSP for review	9-Dec-20	No	

Referral correspondence was shared directly with the Ministry and has not been posted to the FSP tracking system due to privacy reasons.

Appendix E First Nations Referral

August 21, 2020 the licence holder referred this Forest Stewardship Plan to First Nations making them aware that the Forest Stewardship Plan was available for review and comment. The referral period ran from August 21 to October 31, 2020.

The following First Nations were contacted:

- Adams Lake Indian Band
- Ktunaxa Nation Council Society
- Little Shuswap Lake Band
- Lower Similkameen Indian Band
- Neskonlith Indian Band
- Okanagan Indian Band
- Okanagan Nation Alliance
- Osoyoos Indian Band
- Penticton Indian Band
- Qwelmintse Secwepemc
- Shuswap Indian Band
- Splat's'in First Nation
- Upper Nicola Band
- Westbank First Nation

Response was received from the Ktunaxa Nation Council on November 18, 2020, subsequently in response to Ktunaxa Nations' specific concerns and comments, the licence holder provided clarification and explanation, wording adjustments and edits to the draft Forest Stewardship Plan. The licence holder extended the referral period to February 15, 2021 to allow further consultation with the Ktunaxa Nation as the reworked draft Forest Stewardship Plan led to additional questions and the Ktunaxa Nation found that the licence holder's responses did not fully address the original concerns. Further to this, response was received from the Ktunaxa Nation Council on January 26, 2021, subsequently the licence holder provided further clarification and explanation, wording adjustments and edits to the new Forest Stewardship Plan 875. The correspondence was shared with the Stewardship Office of the Selkirk District as the legal duty to ensure adequate consultation with and accommodation of the Ktunaxa Nation, as represented by the Ktunaxa Nation, rests with the Crown. Further to this, the crown's First Nations Relations received a response from the Ktunaxa Nation Council on August 5, 2021, in response to Ktunaxa Nations' specific concerns and comments, the Crown stewardship officer and the licence holder worked to provided clarification and explanation, wording adjustments and further edits to Forest Stewardship Plan 875 running out in to November of 2021.

No other responses were received from the other First Nations.