



Kitasoo Forest Company Ltd.

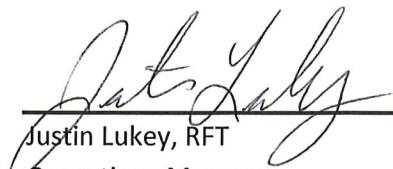
Forest Stewardship Plan

Submission Date:

December 4, 2024

FSP #1059

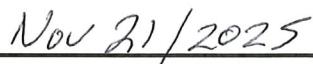
Signature of Person Required to Prepare Plan



Justin Lukey, RFT

Operations Manager

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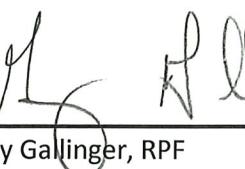


Date

Signature & Seal of RPF, Plan Preparer

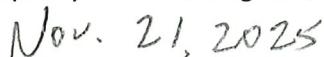
CERTIFICATION OF SIGNING PROFESSIONAL

I certify that the work described herein fulfills the standards expected of a member of the Association of British Columbia Forest Professionals and that I did personally supervise the work.



Gary Gallinger, RPF

Operations Planner
Capacity Forest Management Limited



Date



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1. INTRODUCTION

The Kitasoo Forest Company Limited (KFCL) is a forest company wholly owned by the Kitasoo Xai'xais Nation, who reside on the coast of British Columbia at and within the vicinity of the community of Klemtu on Swindle Island. The traditional territory of the Kitasoo Xai'xais Nation encompasses an area of approximately 850 000 hectares from the southern tip of the Don Peninsula to the Klekane Inlet to the north and from the Coast Mountains in the east to Aristazabal Island in the west. There is a long history of resource use within the traditional territory, including fishing, hunting, food collection and harvesting of trees. The vision of the Kitasoo Xai'xais Nation is to apply the best definition of the term sustainable to the wealth of resources found in the traditional territory in perpetuity.

It is an objective for the KFCL to practice sound and sustainable forest stewardship on lands within the traditional territory of the Kitasoo Xai'xais Nation and to achieve a level of independence concerning forest management decisions.

1.1. Forest Stewardship Plan – General Comments

The area to which this Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) applies overlap with the Great Bear Rainforest North Timber Supply Area (TSA) and Tree Farm License (TFL) 25 Block 5 (held by Western Forest Products Inc.). Two Ministry of Forests (MoF) districts - Coast Mountain (North Coast) and North Island Central Coast - also have portions of their administrative boundaries that overlap with the FSP area.

Direction provided by MOF has indicated that the North Island – Central Coast Natural Resource District (NICCRD) will administer the review and approval of this FSP for both districts.

Cutting Permits and Road Permits issued to the KFCL under the WFP Mainland Coast FSP will remain under that FSP until obligations under those permits are met. Any new permits issued under the KFCL FSP will meet the KFCL FSP commitments.

1.2. Definitions and Abbreviations

The following definitions and abbreviations are provided for reference:

Active Fluvial Unit – means an active floodplain, where water flows over land in a normal flood event and includes low and medium benches and the hydrogeomorphic zone of an active fan.

Applicable First Nation – means any First Nation with an asserted or established Indigenous right, Indigenous title or treaty right to the area under consideration.

Bear Den - means a den identified by a Qualified Professional that is suitable for winter hibernation and maternity.

BEC – Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification.

Blue-listed Plant Community - means a plant community listed in Schedule O of the GBRO that is sufficiently established.

Cedar Stewardship Area - means an area identified in Schedule Q of the GBRO, or a similar area that is identified by First Nations through First Nation engagement that is for the purpose of maintaining, enhancing and providing access to cedar for cultural use.



Contemporary Culturally Modified Tree - means a tree that was modified less than eighty years ago by First Nations people as part of their cultural use of the tree.

Cultural Cedar Stand - means three or more monumental cedars or contemporary culturally modified trees where each tree is within 30 metres of another monumental cedar or contemporary culturally modified tree.

Cutblock - means an area within which a tenure Holder is authorized to harvest timber, as identified in a cutting permit, timber sale license or other cutting authority.

DDM – Delegated Decision Maker.

DM – District Manager.

Development Area – means an area in a watershed defined by the boundaries shown on a site plan or multiple site plans where an annual or multi-year project of timber harvesting and road construction is planned or carried out, and includes any stand retention, management zones, reserve zones, mapped reserves or other areas where timber harvesting is restricted or managed pursuant to the GBRO or FRPA and the regulations made under FRPA.

EBM – Ecosystem Based Management.

First Nation Engagement - means best efforts to communicate, share information, engage in dialogue, and identify and work to resolve issues and concerns brought forward by applicable First Nations.

FDU(s) – Forest Development Unit(s).

Forested Swamp – means a forested mineral wetland or a forested peatland with standing or gently flowing nutrient rich water in pools or channels and the water table is usually at or near the surface of the wetland or peatland. It does not include poorly drained areas transitional to uplands where folisolic growing substrate (folic material derived from the litter of trees and lesser vegetation of upland sites) occupies 50% or more of the site or hydromorphic organic matter (organic material accumulated under saturated conditions) and wetland species hydrophytes occupy less than 50% of the site area.

FPPR – Forest Planning and Practices Regulation of the Forest and Range Practices Act.

FRPA – Forest and Range Practices Act.

FSP – Forest Stewardship Plan.

FSP Holder or plan Holder or Holder – refers to licensees under the Forest Act that are Holders and/or signatories to this FSP.

Functional Riparian Forest - means forest adjacent to streams and other aquatic features, that provides hydrologic, hydrogeomorphic and ecological hydroriparian functions and has trees of adequate size to resist channel bank erosion, supply functional large wood and contribute to slope stability.

GAR – Government Actions Regulation of the Forest and Range Practices Act.

GBRO – Great Bear Rainforest Order.

Historical Culturally Modified Tree (HCMT) - means a tree that was modified eighty or more years ago by First Nations people as part of their cultural use of the tree.



Important Fisheries Watershed - means a watershed area identified in Schedule E of the GBRO, but not including watersheds composed entirely of S5 or S6 streams flowing directly to the ocean.

Indigenous Forest Resource - means a forest plant resource listed in Schedule J of the GBRO, or other forest plant resource identified by First Nations during First Nation engagement that is utilized for food, social, medicinal or ceremonial purposes.

Indigenous forest values - means Indigenous forest resources, Indigenous heritage features, historical culturally modified trees, contemporary culturally modified trees, monumental cedar and cultural cedar stands, western yew trees, and other forest features that are of importance to First Nations

Indigenous Heritage Feature - means an artifact, feature, or site of the general types listed in Schedule I of the GBRO, other than a contemporary culturally modified tree or a historical culturally modified tree, that is known, identified during First Nation engagement or found through field inventories and assessments, and is important to the cultural practices, knowledge or heritage of the applicable First Nation.

Indigenous Tree Use - means the present and future use of monumental cedar, other cedar or other tree species to fulfil the food, social, medicinal, spiritual and ceremonial needs of the applicable First Nation, including use of trees for such things as shelter, transportation, tools, fuel, and art.

Landscape Reserve - means an area in a landscape unit where commercial harvesting is not permitted.

Landscape Reserve Design - means a system of landscape reserves in a landscape unit which is designed to meet requirements for old forest representation, and simultaneously contribute to protection of Indigenous heritage features, Indigenous forest resources and other land use objectives.

Landscape Unit - means a landscape unit within the order area shown in Schedule A of the GBRO.

Managed Forest - means the area of productive forest that available for commercial timber harvest planning.

Management Zone - means an area referred to in the GBRO for the protection of a feature and that specifies direction on the alteration, removal, recruitment, or management of trees.

Minimum Old Forest Retention Level - means the minimum percentage of the total forest area in a site series group to be retained as old forest for the order area shown in Column "B" of Schedule G of the GBRO.

Monumental Cedar - means a large old western redcedar tree or a large old yellow cedar tree that has the attributes necessary to fulfill the Indigenous tree use needs of the applicable First Nation primarily for totem poles, canoes, or long beams and poles to build longhouses, community halls or similar community structures.

Natural Boundary - means the visible high water mark, or bankfull width, of any lake, river, stream or other body of water where the presence and action of the water are so common and usual, and so long continued in all ordinary years, as to mark on the soil of the bed of the body of water a character distinct from that of its banks, in vegetation, as well as in the nature of the soil itself.

Occurrence - means a single patch, or polygon, within which a red-listed plant community or a blue-listed plant community has been mapped.



Old Forest - means any of the following:

- (a) a stand of trees 250 years or older;
- (b) a structurally complex stand composed mainly of late successional or climax species where older seral remnants may still be present in the upper canopy, and that typically includes:
 - (i) standing snags;
 - (ii) rotting logs on the ground; and
 - (iii) a patchy to well-developed understory;
- (c) a stand of trees younger than 250 years, of an ecosystem that has reached the late successional or climax stage for the ecosystem.

Old Forest Representation Target - means a long term old forest representation target for a site series group for the order area shown in Column "A" in Schedule G of the GBRO.

Primary Forest Activities – mean one or more of the following (according to the FPPR):

- (a) Timber harvesting
- (b) Silviculture treatments
- (b.1) wildlife habitat enhancement
- (c) Road construction, maintenance and deactivation

protected and reserved forest - means the area of productive forest that is included in protected areas and identified in landscape reserve designs.

Qualified Professional – an applied scientist or technologist, acting alone or together with another professional, if:

- (a) the individual is registered and in good standing in British Columbia with an appropriate professional organization constituted under an Act, is acting under that association's code of ethics and subject to disciplinary action by that association; and
- (b) the individual is acting within that individual's area of expertise.

Red-listed Plant Community - means a plant community listed in Schedule N of the GBRO that is sufficiently established.

Reserve Zone - means an area referred to in the GBRO where commercial timber harvesting and road building are not permitted unless otherwise specified in the order.

RESULTS - Reporting Silviculture Updates and Land Status Tracking System

RMZ – in reference to riparian matters means a 'Riparian Management Zone'.

Site Series - means sites capable of producing the same late seral or climax plant communities within a biogeoclimatic subzone or variant.

Site Series Group - means a Site Series or Site Series Group listed in Schedule S of the GBRO.

Stand Retention - means small patches of trees and understory vegetation that are in a Cutblock or contiguous to a Cutblock.

Sufficiently Established – means one of the following:



- (a) a plant community occurrence within an old forest stand;
- (b) a low bench floodplain ecosystem, a mid bench floodplain ecosystem, or a high bench floodplain ecosystem;
- (c) a mature forest that has structures and understory approaching those of an old forest.

Temporary Old Forest Reserve - means a temporary spatially defined old forest reserve outside of landscape reserve designs where timber harvesting will not take place during the period of time that the temporary old forest reserve, or portion thereof, is in effect.

Tree Length - means either of the following:

- (a) in old forests, a distance equal to the measured height of the tallest old trees within a required reserve zone or management zone, as applicable;
- (b) the potential old tree height indicated in Schedule H of the GBRO for the predominant field-identified site series within a required reserve zone or management zone, as applicable.

Type 1 Aquatic Habitat - means any of the following:

- (a) a reach of a watercourse and, if present, its active fluvial unit, with a continuous channel bed that is greater than 1.5 meters in width, with an average gradient less than or equal to 5% and that is known to be, or has potential to be, inhabited by fish;
- (b) a lake greater than 0.25 hectares, or a marsh or fen wetland greater than 0.25 hectares, known to be inhabited by fish or connected within 500 metres by a perennial or seasonal stream to fish habitat described in paragraph (a);
- (c) an estuary or marine interface zone connected by a perennial or seasonal stream to fish habitat described in paragraph (a) or (b); or associated with a shellfish bed;
- (d) herring spawn areas, kelp beds, eel grass beds, and other highly productive nearshore habitat used by valued marine invertebrates for reproduction and rearing.

Type 2 Aquatic Habitat - means any of the following:

- (a) S1 to S3 stream reaches that are not type 1 aquatic habitat;
- (b) S4 stream reaches that are known to be, or have potential to be, inhabited by fish and are directly connected to type 1 aquatic habitat or S1 to S3 streams that are type 2 aquatic habitat;
- (c) lakes greater than 0.25 hectares that are not type 1 aquatic habitat;
- (d) marsh and fen wetlands greater than 0.25 hectares that are not type 1 aquatic habitat.

Upland Stream Area - means the forested portion of a watershed planning unit that does not contain type 1 aquatic habitat or type 2 aquatic habitat.

UWR – Ungulate Winter Range.

Watershed Planning Unit - means a watershed or watershed sub-unit that is used as a unit of analysis for watershed assessments and planning for forest retention in upland stream areas.

WHA – Wildlife Habitat Area.



2. INTERPRETATION

2.1. Tenses

In this FSP, the singular includes the plural and the plural the singular, unless the context indicates otherwise.

3. SUBMISSION DATE, TERM AND COMMENCEMENT

3.1. Submission Date

This FSP was submitted on **November 4, 2024**.

3.2. Term (FRPA S. 6(1))

The term of this FSP is five years beginning on the commencement date.

3.3. Commencement Date

The commencement date for this FSP is the date of approval by the Dedicated Decision Maker.

4. HOLDER, APPLICATION OF EXTENSION OF THIS FSP

4.1. Holder

The Holder of this FSP is Kitasoo Forest Company Limited, a wholly owned forest company of the Kitasoo Xai'xais Nation.

4.2. Application of This FSP

This FSP applies to the lands defined by the Kitasoo Xai'xais Nation as Traditional Territory and to the following Forest Licenses held by Kitasoo Forest Company Limited:

- Non-Replaceable Forest License A94535, and
- Replaceable Forest Licenses A91438, A94009 and A94536.

4.3. FSP Extension

This FSP may be extended after the commencement date according to applicable legislation.

5. FSP MAP (FRPA S. 5 (1)(a) & FPPR S. 14): FDUS & DESIGNATIONS IN EFFECT

The FSP map illustrates the forest development unit (FDU) and the applicable land use designations that are in effect on the date of submission and that intersect with FDUs defined for the FSP area. Refer to Appendix 1 for more detailed FSP maps.

5.1. Details Concerning FDUs Identified (FPPR s. 14(1)(a))

One FDU is identified for the FSP area. It is the result of the consolidation of three FDU(s) from previous FSPs.



FDU A is defined by the boundaries of forest tenures held by KFCL, approved by the British Columbia government under the Forest Act, and by the area of the Great Bear Rainforest North TSA and of TFL 25 Block 5 that intersects with the Kitasoo Xai'xais Nation Traditional Territory.

5.2. Designations in Effect (FPPR s. 14(3))

The FSP Map illustrates the various designations and other areas in effect four months prior to the submission of the FSP and applicable to the FSP area as required by FPPR section 14(3). Designations generally restrict or prohibit industrial primary forest activities and include:

- Ungulate Winter Ranges;
- Wildlife Habitat Areas;
- Scenic Areas as established by the District Manager;
- Commercial timber harvest prohibitions by other legislative enactments (e.g. provincial parks or private land);
- Holder cutting permits or road permits.

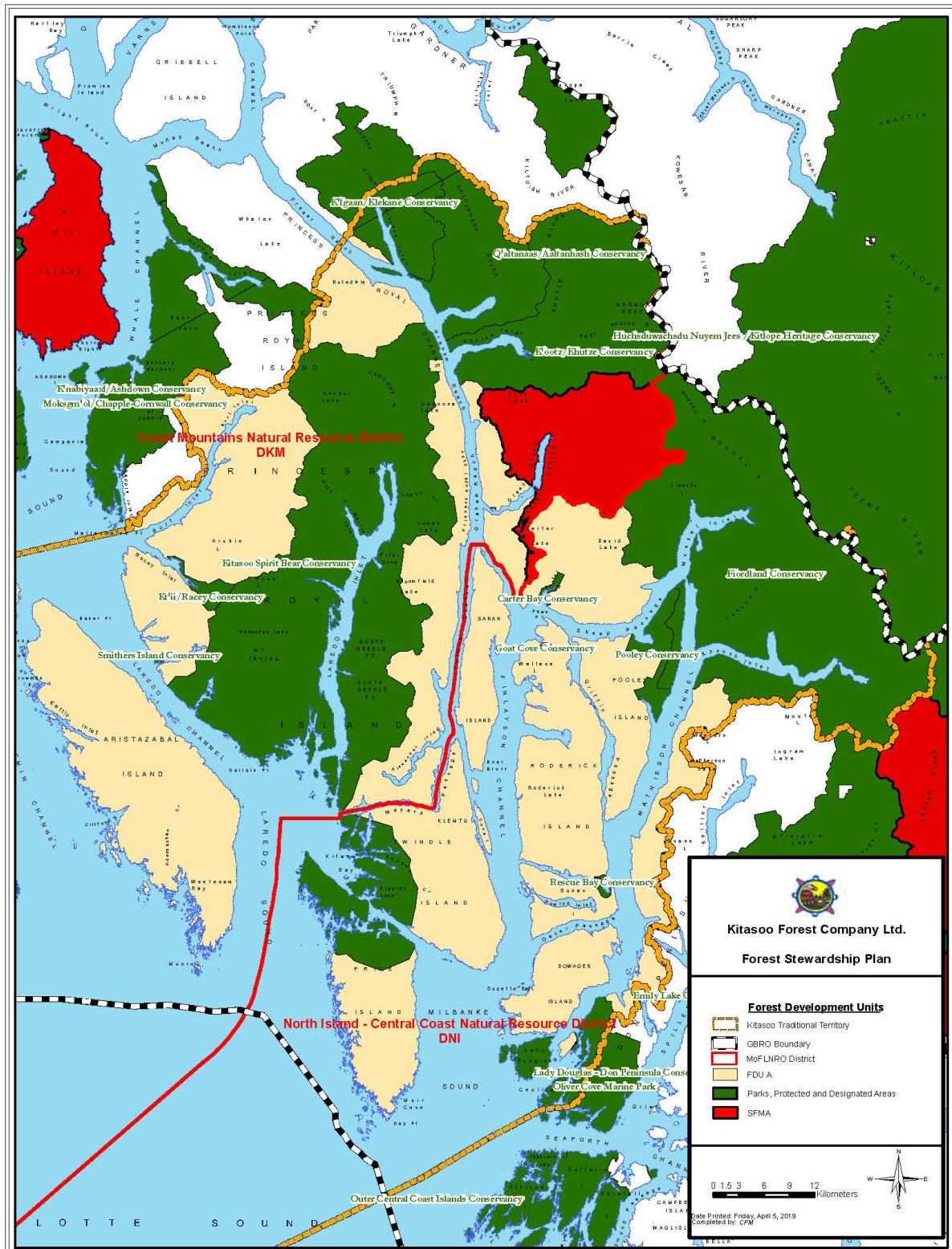


Figure 1: Reference map illustrating the forest development unit (FDU) defined by this FSP and in relation to the Kitasoo (Kitasoo Xai'xais Nation) Traditional Territory.



6. OBJECTIVES IN EFFECT, RESULTS OR STRATEGIES

6.1. Great Bear Rainforest Order

Section 1 of the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA) defines objectives set by government to include objectives set by government under section 93.4 of the *Land Act*. In March of 2009, the Minister of Agriculture and Lands amended government land use objectives for ecosystem-based management (EBM) within the Central and North Coast area. On June 13, 2013, the Order was amended again to improve clarity and understanding to aspects of the earlier orders; to capture substantial corrections to the Grizzly Bear habitat datasets (objective 17 in both Orders); and, to correct grammatical, punctuation and spelling errors from the original documents.

The Great Bear Rainforest Order was legally established on January 28, 2016, replacing both previous Orders, and Parts 1 and 2 of the Order affect objectives in all FDUs. The original GBRO was repealed, and replaced on June 9, 2023. This update is part of the preliminary review process that initiated in 2019. Based on the review, the Order includes changes focused on four key themes: First Nations co-management, aquatic habitat, biodiversity, and wildlife.

For clarity, the objective addressed is included under each relevant subsection as it appears in the GBRO. The Divisions for Parts 1 and 2 of the GBRO are amalgamated to allow the objectives of the similar Division to be discussed together.

6.1.1. Division 2 – First Nations

6.1.1.1. Objectives for first nation information sharing and engagement (GBRO Part 1 & 2 s.3)

- (1) *For the purpose of implementing and achieving the intent of the objectives in this land use order conduct First Nations Engagement with Applicable First Nations*

Strategy for Objective 3, Division 2, Part 1, and Objective 3, Division 2, Part 2

- (1) Prior to the Holder(s) conducting Primary Forest Activities, the Holder(s) will comply with the Objective 3, Division 2, Part 1, and Objective 3, Division 2, Part 2, for First Nation information sharing and engagement.
- (2) The Holder(s) of the FSP will follow the *EBM Planning and Practice Guidance*, the *EBM Supplemental Technical Guidance* and the *Indigenous Heritage Features Handbook* documents, as amended from time to time.
- (3) If the Holder conducts Primary Forest Activities, the Holder will make best efforts to meet with applicable First Nations, whose asserted traditional territories are included within the FDUs of this FSP, to understand how each First Nation wishes to be engaged regarding development under this FSP. Guidance, processes, protocols or agreements between the Holder and a First Nation, developed as a result of such meetings or communication, will define how information sharing/engagement is conducted by the Holder under this FSP with the respective First Nation.

During these engagement meetings, the Holder will request information regarding the location of any known individual or groups of Indigenous forest resources or Indigenous heritage features.



The Holder will seek to define desirable attributes for field identification of monumental cedar through Engagement with applicable First Nations.

The FSP Holder will, through First Nation engagement with the applicable First Nations, request information on their stewardship, use of Indigenous forest resources and preferred management options and will assist applicable First Nation's to access those resources should they request it throughout timber harvesting, road building, and post-harvest activities.

- (4) Where there is no existing bilateral guidance, process, protocol or agreement between the Holder and an applicable First Nation, and the First Nation does not wish to engage to develop such bilateral guidance/process/protocol or agreement, before undertaking development, the Holder will make best efforts to:
 - (a) Annually:
 - (i) Meet with the designated representatives of applicable First Nations
 - (ii) Share an overview of planned and proposed activities across the entire territory
 - (iii) Provide 1:20,000 scale maps of specific areas where activities are proposed
 - (iv) Work with the applicable First Nations to identify, understand and discuss respective interests and concerns
 - (v) Ask the First Nations whether they wish to see detailed follow-up as described in Section (b)
 - (vi) Submit the location of Yew trees found during development and report those locations by way of maps, digital files or whatever method is agreed upon as a result of engagement meetings. Digital files will be sent to the MoF via a template in the EBM Data Centre in the “Bear Den & Yew Tree Reporting Template” box under “EBM REFERENCE INFORMATION”. This method will be used until a web mapping application, that is currently under development, is finalized.
 - (b) If requested by the First Nation as per section 3(a)(v), before submitting applications for operational Crown authorizations, the Holder will make best efforts to:
 - (i) Provide overview and site level maps to the applicable First Nation showing the proposed development that the Holder plans to submit for Crown authorization;
 - (ii) Meet with designated representatives of applicable First Nations to review and discuss further details on planned and proposed activities including strategies adopted to address concerns identified during the initial (annual) meeting or correspondence;
 - (iii) Share more detailed information that has been collected during the assessment and development of the planned and proposed activities in context of the interests or concerns that the applicable First Nation has regarding the proposed and planned activities;
 - (iv) Modify or adjust proposed and planned forest development activities to address the identified new information, interests and concerns;
 - (v) Prepare a summary of the engagement process, including:



- (1) Date, participation and method of any applicable communication
- (2) A description of identified issues and how they were resolved

If the meetings have not occurred, the Holder will prepare a summary of the efforts made to meet and/or review the information.

- (vi) Provide the summary described in section (3)(b)(v) along with the application to:

- (1) The District Manager; and
- (2) The designated representatives of the Applicable First Nation

- (5) Best efforts under section 4 (a) will include a period of 60 calendar days commencing on the first date at which attempts to meet or share information have been made.
- (6) Best efforts under section 4 (b) will include a period of 30 calendar days commencing on the first date at which attempts to meet or share information have been made.

6.1.1.2. Objective for identification of Indigenous forest values (GBRO Part 2 s.4)

- (1) *Prior to undertaking road construction or timber harvesting, identify, through field reconnaissance or field assessments and First Nation engagement as appropriate, Indigenous forest values that may be altered or adversely impacted by road construction, timber harvesting, or other site development activity.*

Strategy for Objective 4, Division 2, Part 2

- (1) Prior to the Holder(s) conducting Primary Forest Activities, The Holder(s) will comply with the Objective 4, Division 2, Part 2, for Indigenous forest values, including engagement with First Nations, as described under the strategy for Objective 3, Division 2, Part 1, and Objective 3, Division 2, Part 2.
- (2) The Holder(s) of the FSP will follow the *EBM Planning and Practice Guidance*, the *EBM Supplemental Technical Guidance* and the *Indigenous Heritage Features Handbook* documents, as amended from time to time.

6.1.1.3. Objectives for Indigenous forest resources (GBRO Part 2 s.5)

- (1) *Avoid road construction, timber harvesting and other site development activities in areas and sites that contain Indigenous forest resources, to the extent practicable.*
- (2) *Despite subsection (1), areas or sites containing Indigenous forest resources may be harvested or altered, provided that measures to identify and manage, or provide access to, the Indigenous forest resources have been developed through a process of First Nation engagement with applicable First Nations.*

Strategy for Part 2, Division 2, Objective 5

- (1) The Holder(s) will comply with the Objective 5, Division 2, Part 2, for Indigenous forest resources, including engagement with First Nations.
- (2) The Holder(s) of the FSP will follow the *EBM Planning and Practice Guidance*, the *EBM Supplemental Technical Guidance* and the *Indigenous Heritage Features Handbook* documents, as amended from time to time.



- (3) During engagement meetings, the Holder will request information regarding the location of any known individual or groups of Indigenous forest resources.
- (4) The Holder will seek to define desirable attributes for field identification of monumental cedar through Engagement with applicable First Nations.
- (5) The FSP Holder will, through First Nation engagement with the applicable First Nations, request information on their stewardship, use of Indigenous forest resources and preferred management options and will assist applicable First Nation's to access those resources should they request it throughout timber harvesting, road building, and post-harvest activities.

6.1.1.4. Objectives for Indigenous heritage features (GBRO Part 2 s.6)

- (1) *Protect Type 1 Indigenous heritage features.*
- (2) *Adjacent to Type 1 Indigenous heritage features, maintain a reserve zone with a minimum width of 200 metres and an outer edge designed to minimize risk of windthrow to protect the Type 1 Indigenous heritage feature.*
- (3) *Despite subsections (1) and (2), the Type 1 Indigenous heritage feature and its reserve zone may be modified with the support of, or lack of objection from, the applicable First Nations.*
- (4) *Despite subsections (2) and (3), a reserve zone may be modified if:*
 - (a) *the modification is required for road access or other infrastructure or to address a safety concern, and there is no practicable alternative;*
 - (b) *alternative measures are implemented to avoid, mitigate or otherwise address impacts on the Type 1 Indigenous heritage feature, and*
 - (c) *the alternative measures have been developed through a process of First Nation engagement with applicable First Nations.*
- (5) *Protect Type 2 Indigenous heritage features.*
- (6) *Adjacent to Type 2 Indigenous heritage features, maintain a reserve zone with a minimum width of 1.5 tree lengths measured from the edge of the feature and an outer edge designed to minimize risk of windthrow and to protect the Type 2 Indigenous heritage feature.*
- (7) *Despite subsections (5) and (6), a Type 2 Indigenous heritage feature and its reserve zone may be modified with the support of, or lack of objection from, the applicable First Nation*
- (8) *Despite subsections (6) and (7), the reserve zone may be modified if*
 - (a) *the modification is required for road access other infrastructure, or to address a safety concern, and there is no practicable alternative,*
 - (b) *alternative measures are implemented to avoid, mitigate or otherwise address impacts on the Type 2 Indigenous heritage feature, and*



(c) the alternative measures have been developed through a process of First Nation engagement with applicable First Nations.

Strategy for Objectives 6, Division 2, Part 2

- (1) The Holder(s) will comply with the Objectives 6, Division 2, Part 2, for Indigenous heritage features, including engagement with First Nations.
- (2) The Holder(s) of the FSP will follow the *EBM Planning and Practice Guidance*, the *EBM Supplemental Technical Guidance* and the *Indigenous Heritage Features Handbook* documents, as amended from time to time.
- (3) During engagement meetings, the Holder will request information regarding the location of any known individual or groups of Indigenous heritage features.
- (4) The Holder will seek to define desirable attributes for field identification of monumental cedar through Engagement with applicable First Nations.
- (5) The FSP Holder will, through First Nation engagement with the applicable First Nations, request information on their stewardship, use of Indigenous forest resources and preferred management options and will assist applicable First Nation's to access those resources should they request it throughout timber harvesting, road building, and post-harvest activities.
- (6) Where Indigenous heritage features are identified, the Holder will make best efforts to engage with the applicable First Nation and will implement a minimum 200m reserve zone on Type 1 features with a management zone of sufficient width to ensure the integrity of the reserve zone. The Holder will implement a minimum 1.5 tree length reserve plus a minimum 0.5 tree length management zone on Type 2 features. If the Holder wishes to consider a modified reserve zone or management zone for either a Type 1 or Type 2 feature, the Holder will:
 - (a) Request to meet with the designated representatives of the applicable First Nation;
 - (b) Provide site level information, including 1:5000 maps of the reserve zone in question; and
 - (c) Complete any required field surveys or site visits as required.If there are no objections raised by the applicable First Nation regarding the modification, or the Holder can address any concerns raised by the applicable First Nation regarding the modification, the Holder will produce a final summary package of the proposed modification to the First Nation and request a response from the First Nation indicating their support or lack of objection.
- (7) In any instance that an Indigenous heritage feature is discovered during Primary Forest Activities the Holder will immediately stop work in the area and contact the applicable First Nation. The Holder will work directly and promptly with the applicable First Nation to determine a resolution.



(8) Best efforts will include a period of 30 calendar days commencing on the first date at which attempts to meet or share information have been made, and then a period of 15 calendar days after the final summary package has been sent.

6.1.1.5. Objectives for historical culturally modified trees (GBRO Part 2 s.7)

- (1) *Protect historical culturally modified trees.*
- (2) *Adjacent to historical culturally modified trees, maintain a management zone of sufficient width and design to protect the historical culturally modified trees from site-specific local hazards and windthrow.*
- (3) *Despite subsections (1) and (2), historical culturally modified trees and their management zones may be altered or harvested if*
 - (a) *alteration or harvesting is required for road access or other infrastructure, or to address a safety concern, and there is no practicable alternative; or*
 - (b) *protection of all historical culturally modified trees in the cutblock area would make harvesting economically unviable.*

provided that the plans to alter or harvest the historical culturally modified trees have been developed through a process of First Nation engagement with applicable First Nations.

Strategy for Objectives 7, Division 2, Part 2

- (1) The Holder(s) will comply with the Objectives 7, Division 2, Part 2, for historical culturally modified trees, including engagement with First Nations.
- (2) The Holder(s) of the FSP will follow the *EBM Planning and Practice Guidance*, the *EBM Supplemental Technical Guidance* and the *Indigenous Heritage Features Handbook* documents, as amended from time to time.
- (3) Where historical culturally modified trees are identified, the Holder will make best efforts to engage with the applicable First Nation and will implement a management zone of sufficient width and design to protect the historical culturally modified trees from local hazards and windthrow. If the Holder wishes to consider a modified management zone or alteration of a historical culturally modified trees, the Holder will:
 - (a) Request to meet with the designated representatives of the applicable First Nation;
 - (b) Provide site level information, including 1:5000 maps of the historical culturally modified trees in question;
 - (c) Complete any required field surveys or site visits as required; and

If there are no objections raised by the applicable First Nation, or the Holder is able to address any concerns raised by the applicable First Nation regarding the modification or alteration, the Holder will produce a final summary package of the proposed modification to the First Nation, and request a response from the First Nation indicating their support or lack of objection.

- (4) In any instance that a historical culturally modified tree is discovered during Primary Forest Activities, the Holder will immediately stop work in the area and contact the



applicable First Nation. The Holder will work directly and promptly with the applicable First Nation to determine a resolution.

- (5) Best efforts will include a period of 30 calendar days commencing on the first date at which attempts to meet or share information have been made, and then a period of 15 calendar days after the final summary package has been sent.

6.1.1.6. Objectives for Indigenous tree use (GBRO Part 2 s.8)

- (1) *Maintain a volume and quality, specified during First Nation engagement, of western redcedar, yellow cedar and other tree species to support the applicable First Nations' Indigenous tree use.*
- (2) *In cedar stewardship areas, maintain, and recruit as necessary, monumental cedar, western redcedar and yellow cedar, specified during First Nation engagement, to support the applicable First Nations' Indigenous tree use needs.*
- (3) *Within development areas, retain monumental cedar and cultural cedar stands with windfirm buffers, specified during First Nation engagement, to support the applicable First Nations' Indigenous tree use.*
- (4) *Despite subsection (3), a monumental cedar and its windfirm buffer, or a cultural cedar stand, may be altered or harvested if*
 - (a) *the alteration or harvesting is required for road access or other infrastructure, or to address a safety concern, and there is no practicable alternative,*
 - (b) *it has been determined by the applicable First Nation that the monumental cedar or cultural cedar stand is not suitable or is not required for a cultural cedar use, or*
 - (c) *the monumental cedar or cedar from the cultural cedar stand will be provided to the applicable First Nation,*
provided that
 - (d) *retention of all monumental cedar and cultural cedar stands in the cutblock area would make harvesting economically unviable, and*
 - (e) *the plans to alter or harvest the monumental cedar or cultural cedar stands have been developed through a process of First Nation engagement with applicable First Nations*
- (6) *Within a Cutblock, for the first 15% of the pre-harvest stand retained in Stand Retention as specified in section 17(1) of the GBRO, design Stand Retention to maintain mature and old western redcedar and yellow cedar representative of the pre-harvest stand.*

Strategy for Objectives 8, Division 2, Part 2

- (1) The Holder(s) will comply with the Objectives 8, Division 2, Part 2, for Indigenous tree use, including engagement with First Nations.
- (2) The Holder(s) of the FSP will follow the *EBM Planning and Practice Guidance*, the *EBM Supplemental Technical Guidance* and the *Indigenous Heritage Features Handbook* documents, as amended from time to time.



(3) The FSP Holder will utilize ecologically suitable stocking standards to ensure an appropriate future supply of western red cedar and yellow cedar for the Applicable First Nations.

6.1.1.7. Objectives for retention of western yew (GBRO Part 2 s.9)

- (1) *Retain western yew trees*¹.
- (2) *Despite subsection (1), western yew trees may be altered or harvested if:*
 - (a) *alteration or harvesting is required to accommodate operational requirements for road and bridge construction and there is no practicable alternative, or*
 - (b) *the retention of all western yew trees in a cutblock would make harvesting economically unviable,*
provided that
 - (c) *measures are implemented to provide for use of the altered or harvested western yew trees by applicable First Nations, and*
 - (d) *the plans to alter or harvest the western yew trees have been developed through a process of First Nation engagement with applicable First Nations.*
- (3) *Where practicable, include western yew trees in stand retention.*
- (4) *All areas retained or managed in accordance with subsections (1), (2) and (3) must be documented and submitted as digital spatial data at the end of each calendar year to the Applicable First Nation and the Province of British Columbia.*

Strategy for Objectives 9, Division 2, Part 2

- (1) The Holder(s) will comply with the Objectives 9, Division 2, Part 2, for retention of western yew, including engagement with First Nations.
- (2) The Holder(s) of the FSP will follow the *EBM Planning and Practice Guidance*, the *EBM Supplemental Technical Guidance* and the *Indigenous Heritage Features Handbook* documents, as amended from time to time.
- (3) All found Yew trees will be reported to the applicable First Nations and the Province of British Columbia at the end of each calendar year via the “Bear Den & Yew Tree Reporting Template” in the EBM Data Centre² in the box under “EBM REFERENCE INFORMATION”. This method will be used until a web mapping application, that is currently under development, is finalized.

¹ To be considered a tree a Western Yew must have a height of at least 2 metres or be a height or diameter specified by a First Nation during First Nation engagement.

² <https://ebmdata.ca/?token=9a07beb5cb7be1a7e828f1228baf23ab>



6.1.2. Division 3 - Aquatic Habitat

6.1.2.1. Objectives for important fisheries watersheds (GBRO Part 2 s.10)

- (1) *Within each of the important fisheries watersheds shown in Schedule E, prior to declaring areas or applying for a cutting authority, ensure that*
 - (a) *a watershed assessment or similar assessment of watershed sensitivity to forest development disturbance is completed by a qualified professional,*
 - (b) *an amount, type and distribution of forest cover sufficient to sustain natural hydrological and fluvial processes within the watershed is maintained,*
 - (c) *the effectiveness of the management strategies implemented pursuant to paragraph (b) is monitored, and*
 - (d) *the watershed assessment and management strategies have been developed through a process of First Nation engagement with applicable First Nations.*
- (2) *Despite subsection (1), forest stewardship plan Holders may apply for a cutting authority in an important fisheries watershed if*
 - (a) *a preliminary watershed assessment indicates there will be no adverse impact on fish habitat, stream flow quality and quantity, or other watershed health indicators, and*
 - (b) *First Nations support, or do not object to, the application.*

Strategy for Part 2, Division 3, Objective 10 (1) and (2)

- (1) Prior to the Holder(s) of this FSP applying for a cutting authority within the area to which the Great Bear Rainforest Order applies, the Holder(s) will comply with the Objectives set out in the GBRO for **important fisheries watersheds**.
- (2) Where there is overlap in an **important fisheries watershed** with other FSP Holder(s), then the FSP Holder(s) will make best efforts to communicate, collaborate and cooperate with the other Holders of FSP's, to meet Part 2, Division 3, Objective 10 (1) and (2). The FSP Holder(s) will complete the steps to meet the objectives for **important fisheries watersheds** and inform the other FSP Holder(s) prior to conducting primary forest activities.
- (3) The Holder(s) of this FSP will follow the guidance provided in the *EBM Planning and Practices Guidance*³ and the *EBM Supplemental Technical Guidance*⁴ documents, as currently available and as they may be replaced or amended from time to time:
 - (i) by a **qualified professional**⁵;

³ https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/natural-resource-use/land-water-use/crown-land/land-use-plans-and-objectives/westcoast-region/great-bear-rainforest/ebm_planning_and_practices_guidance.pdf

⁴ https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/natural-resource-use/land-water-use/crown-land/land-use-plans-and-objectives/westcoast-region/great-bear-rainforest/ebm_supplemental_technical_guidance.pdf

⁵ Watershed assessments will be led by a qualified R.P. Bio and a qualified professional who has the skill set described in Appendix C of the ABCFP and EGBC (2020) joint professional practice guidelines for assessing and managing watershed risk (<https://www.egbc.ca/getmedia/8742bd3b-14d0-47e2-b64d-9ee81c53a81f/EGBC-ABCFP-Watershed-Assessment-V1-0.pdf.aspx>).



- (ii) consistent with the **applicable ABCFP and EGBC joint professional practice guidelines**⁶; and
- (iii) with a goal of a low likelihood that adverse effects on aquatic-riparian values will occur, with a low severity of consequence.

(4) Despite subsection 10 (1), the Holder(s) of this FSP may apply for a cutting authority in an **important fisheries watershed** if:

- (a) a preliminary watershed assessment indicates no adverse impact on fish habitat, stream flow quality and quantity, or other watershed health indicators;
- (b) the preliminary watershed assessment status has been included in First Nations engagement related to the proposed cutting authority; and
- (c) the applicable First Nations support, or do not object to, the application.

6.1.2.2. Objectives for type 1 aquatic habitat (GBRO Part 2 s.11)

- (1) *Protect and maintain type 1 aquatic habitats by, within or adjacent to cutblocks and roads, but excluding stream crossings, maintaining an adjacent reserve zone with a minimum width of 1.5 tree lengths and an outer edge designed to minimize risk of windthrow.*
- (2) *Despite subsection (1), the width of the reserve zone may be decreased at specific locations to address site characteristics and values, provided that*
 - (a) *the decrease is no more than 0.5 tree lengths, and*
 - (b) *there is no net loss of the reserve zone area required in subsection (1) within or adjacent to the cutblock.*
- (3) *Despite subsections (1) and (2), the width of the reserve zone may be decreased, at specific locations to address site characteristics and values, by more than 0.5 tree lengths, provided that*
 - (a) *there is no net loss of the reserve zone area required by subsection (1),*
 - (b) *assessments have been prepared by a qualified professional that specify measures*
 - (i) *to maintain the geomorphic and hydroriparian characteristics of the stream channel,*
 - (ii) *to maintain the life cycle needs of fish in affected stream reaches,*
 - (iii) *to maintain local terrestrial habitat needs and linkages to other reserves, and*
 - (iv) *to minimize loss of trees in the reserve zone from windthrow,*
 - (c) *the measures required by paragraph (b) are implemented, and*
 - (d) *the plans to decrease the width of the reserve zone have been developed through a process of First Nation engagement with applicable First Nations.*

⁶ Applicable ABCFP and EGBC joint professional practice guidelines are those referred to in the EBM Technical Supplemental Guidance document (may be amended or augmented with added guidelines from time to time).



(4) *Where some or all of the forest required under subsections (1), (2) and (3) has been previously altered or harvested, to the extent practicable, recruit or create functional riparian forest in the reserve zone in the shortest time practicable.*

Strategy for Part 2, Division 3, Objectives 11

- (1) Prior to the FSP Holder(s) applying for a cutting authority, within the area to which the Order applies, the Holder(s) will comply with the Part 2, Division 3, Objectives 11 set out in the GBRO for type 1 aquatic habitat.
- (2) The Holder(s) of the FSP will follow the guidance provided in the *Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) Planning and Practice Guidance* and the *EBM Supplemental Technical Guidance*, as amended from time to time.

6.1.2.3. Objectives for Type 2 Aquatic Habitat (GBRO Part 2 s.12)

- (1) Maintain the natural ecological function of type 2 aquatic habitat other than stream crossings by, within or adjacent to cutblocks and roads, retaining 90% of the forest in an adjacent management zone with a minimum width of 1.5 tree lengths and an outer edge designed to minimize risk of windthrow.
- (2) Despite subsection (1), the width of the management zone in any cutblock may be *decreased by up to 0.5 tree lengths to address site characteristics and values, provided there is no net loss of management zone area within the cutblock.*
- (3) *Despite subsections (1) and (2), the width of the management zone may be increased or decreased by more than 0.5 tree lengths and alteration or harvesting within the management zone may occur, provided that*
 - (a) *there is no net loss of management zone area required by subsection (1) in the cutblock,*
 - (b) *an assessment has been prepared by a qualified professional that specifies measures*
 - (i) *to maintain the geomorphic and hydroriparian characteristics of the stream channel,*
 - (ii) *to maintain the life cycle needs of fish in affected stream reaches,*
 - (iii) *to maintain local terrestrial habitat needs and linkages to other reserves, and*
 - (iv) *to minimize loss of trees in the management zone from windthrow,*
 - (c) *the measures required by paragraph (b) are implemented, and*
 - (d) *the plans to increase or decrease the width of the management zone have been developed through a process of First Nation engagement with applicable First Nations.*
- (4) *Where some or all of the forest required by subsection (1), (2) or (3) has been previously altered or harvested, to the extent practicable, recruit or create functional riparian forest in the management zone in the shortest time practicable.*

Strategy for Part 2, Division 3, Objectives 12

- (1) Prior to the FSP Holder(s) applying for a cutting authority, within the area to which the Order applies, the Holder(s) will comply with the Part 2, Division 3, Objectives 12 set out in the GBRO for type 2 aquatic habitat.



(2) The Holder(s) of the FSP will follow the guidance provided in the *EBM Planning and Practice Guidance* and the *EBM Supplemental Technical Guidance*, as amended from time to time.

6.1.2.4. Objectives for Forested Swamps (GBRO Part 2 s.13)

- (1) *Maintain the ecological characteristics and function of Forested Swamps.*
- (2) *Within Development Areas, adjacent to Forested Swamps greater than 0.25 hectares, retain 70% of the Functional Riparian Forest in a Management Zone with a minimum width of 1.5 Tree Lengths.*
- (3) *Despite subsection (2), the width of the Management Zone adjacent to a Forested Swamp may be decreased by up to 0.5 Tree Lengths to address site specific values.*
- (4) *Despite subsections (2) and (3), the width of the Management Zone may be decreased by more than 0.5 Tree Lengths and additional harvesting within the management may occur provided that:*
 - (a) *there has been First Nation Engagement with Applicable First Nations;*
 - (b) *A Forested Swamp assessment has been prepared by a Qualified Professional that specifies measures:*
 - (i) *to maintain local terrestrial habitat needs and linkages to other reserves; and*
 - (ii) *to minimize loss of trees in the Management Zone from windthrow; and*
 - (c) *measures in subsection (4)(b) are implemented.*
- (5) *Where some or all of the forest within the Management Zone required in subsections (2), (3) and (4) has been previously altered or harvested, to the extent practicable, recruit or create Functional Riparian Forest in the Management Zone in the shortest time practicable.*

Result for Part 2, Division 3 Objectives 13

- (1) Prior to the FSP Holder(s) applying for a cutting authority within the area to which the Order applies, the Holder(s) will comply with the Part 2, Division 3 Objectives 13, set out in the GBRO for forested swamps.
- (2) The Holder(s) of the FSP will follow the *EBM Planning and Practice Guidance* and the *EBM Supplemental Technical Guidance* documents, as amended from time to time.



6.1.2.5. Objectives for upland stream areas (GBRO Part 2 s.14)

- (1) *Maintain the hydrological and hydrogeomorphic processes in watershed planning units within the range of natural variation by maintaining a minimum of 70% of the forest in the upland stream area as functional riparian forest.*
- (2) *For the purposes of subsection (1), to the extent practicable, preferentially retain the functional riparian forest to create windfirm reserves and management zones adjacent to streams in the upland stream area that*
 - (a) *are located upstream from type 1 aquatic habitat and type 2 aquatic habitat,*
 - (b) *have sensitive hydrogeomorphic attributes,*
 - (c) *are stream reaches with known tailed frog habitat, or*
 - (d) *have unique microclimate or other rare ecological characteristics.*
- (3) *Despite subsections (1) and (2), an alternative plan to maintain hydrologic and hydrogeomorphic processes in a watershed planning unit within the range of natural variability may be prepared as a result of a watershed assessment conducted by a qualified professional, consistent with professional practice guidelines, provided that*
 - (a) *the effectiveness of strategies implemented in accordance with the plan under this subsection is monitored,*
 - (b) *the watershed assessment and plan are updated to reflect the results of such monitoring, and*
 - (c) *the strategy has been developed through a process of First Nation engagement with applicable First Nations.*

Strategy for Part 2, Division 3, Objectives 14

- (1) Following conclusion of a process of First Nations engagement, prior to the Holder(s) of this FSP conducting primary forest activities within the area to which *Great Bear Rainforest Order* applies, the Holder(s) of this FSP will comply with the Part 2, Division 3, Objectives 14 for upland stream areas.
- (2) For the Order Area, the Holder(s) of the FSP will:
 - (a) follow the guidance provided in the *EBM Planning and Practices Guidance* and the *EBM Supplemental Technical Guidance* documents, as currently available and as they may be amended from time to time.
 - (b) Communicate, collaborate and coordinate with all licensees operating within the watershed planning unit to:
 - (i) identify upland streams within the watershed planning unit, focusing on future development,
 - (ii) reach agreement on maintaining 70% functional riparian forest in the entire upland stream portion of watershed planning unit, focusing on the next 5 years of development.



- (3) Provided fair and effective agreement cannot be reached by FSP Holders and applicable First Nations, FSP holders may ask for targets to be set, but DDMs are not obliged to action the request. DDMs may set proportional targets if deemed necessary under FPPR s 19.
- (4) Despite subsections (1) and (2), an alternative plan to maintain hydrologic and hydrogeomorphic processes in a watershed planning unit within the range of natural variability may be prepared as a result of a watershed assessment conducted by a qualified professional, consistent with professional practice guidelines, provided that:
 - (a) best efforts to communicate and coordinate the alternative plan and strategy with all licensees operating within the watershed planning unit,
 - (b) the effectiveness of strategies implemented in accordance with the plan under this subsection is monitored,
 - (c) the watershed assessment and plan are updated to reflect the results of such monitoring, and
 - (d) the strategy has been developed through a process of First Nation engagement with applicable First Nations.

6.1.2.6. Objectives for active fluvial units (GBRO Part 2 s.15)

- (1) *Reserve all forest on active fluvial units.*
- (2) *Adjacent to active fluvial units, retain a minimum of 90% of the forest in a management zone with an average width of 1.5 Tree Lengths.*
- (3) *Despite subsections (1) and (2), forest on an active fluvial unit may be altered or harvested, and less than 90% of the forest in the management zone may be retained, to allow for road access, or to address a safety concern, provided that*
 - (a) *there is no practicable alternative to access a development area,*
 - (b) *an active fluvial unit assessment has been prepared by a qualified professional that*
 - (i) *specifies measures to maintain stream flow patterns and flow capacity and geomorphic stability of the active fluvial unit for roads or other infrastructure, or*
 - (ii) *where the removal of four or more live trees is proposed for safety reasons, provides an assessment of the potential impact on geomorphic stability,*
 - (c) *the measures in paragraph (b) are implemented in a manner that will maintain the flow patterns, flow capacity and geomorphic stability of the active fluvial unit, and*
 - (d) *the plans to alter or harvest an active fluvial unit or to retain less than 90% of the forest in the management zone have been developed through a process of First Nation engagement with applicable First Nations.*
- (4) *Where some or all of the forest required to be retained in subsection (1), (2) and (3) has been previously altered or harvested, to the extent practicable, recruit or create functional riparian forest on that active fluvial unit in the shortest time practicable.*



Result for Part 2, Division 3, Objectives 15

- (1) Prior to the FSP Holder(s) applying for a cutting authority within the area to which the Order applies, the Holder(s) will comply with the Part 2, Division 3, Objectives 15 set out in the GBRO for active fluvial units.
- (2) The Holder(s) of the FSP will follow the direction provided in the *EBM Planning and Practice Guidance* and the EBM Supplemental Technical Guidance documents, as amended from time to time.



6.1.3. Division 3 & 4 - Biodiversity

6.1.3.1. Objectives for old forest maintenance and recovery (GBRO Part 1, s.4)

- (1) *Maintain landscape level biodiversity as follows:*
 - (a) *for each site series group in the order area, maintain a distribution of forest stand ages that will achieve the old forest representation targets listed in Column A in Schedule G by no later than 2264;*
 - (b) *for each site series group in the order area, retain an amount of old forest equal to or greater than the order area minimum old forest retention levels listed in Column B in Schedule G;*
 - (c) *for the purposes of paragraphs (a) and (b), for each site series group in a landscape unit, retain a minimum of 30% of the total forest area of the site series group as old forest.*
- (2) *Despite subsection (1)(c), alteration or harvesting of old forest in a site series group in a landscape unit may occur where less than 30% of the total forest area of the site series group in the landscape unit is old forest, provided that*
 - (a) *within the landscape unit area*
 - i. *the alteration or harvesting is required for road access or other infrastructure, or to address a safety concern, where there is no practicable alternative, or*
 - ii. *the lesser of 20% of the total forest area or the minimum old forest retention level specified in Schedule F is maintained as old forest,*
 - (b) *the aggregate area of old forest in the order area harvested under paragraph (a) after January 28, 2016 does not exceed 18,650 hectares, and*
 - (c) *the plans to alter or harvest old forest in a site series group in a landscape unit have been developed through a process of First Nation engagement with applicable First Nations.*
- (3) *Where there is not enough old forest available to meet the targets in subsection (1)(b) and (c), or as a result of subsection (2), recruit forest to meet the old forest requirements by no later than 2264.*

6.1.3.2. Objectives for Landscape Reserve Designs (GBRO Part 1, s.5)

- (1) *For each landscape unit in the order area, a landscape reserve design must be prepared by a qualified professional that addresses the minimum old forest retention levels specified in section 4(1)(c) and (2), and, to the extent practicable, contributes to*
 - (a) *the old forest representation targets specified in section 4(1)(a) and (b),*
 - (b) *the protection and stewardship of Indigenous forest values,*
 - (c) *the protection, connectivity and stewardship of red-listed plant communities, blue-listed plant communities, rare and at-risk ecosystems, habitat important for species at risk, ungulate winter range, and habitat for regionally important wildlife including, but not limited to, mountain goats, grizzly bears, black bears, northern goshawks, tailed frogs, and marbled murrelets, and*



(d) the protected and reserved forest area and the managed forest area specified in section 6(1).

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1)(a), the provisions of section 16 (1) and (2) of Part 3 apply.

(3) No commercial timber harvesting is permitted in a landscape reserve design.

(4) For the purposes of subsection (1),

(a) complete landscape reserve designs prior to declaring areas or applying for a cutting authority, and

(b) to the extent practicable, complete landscape reserve designs in all landscape units by December 31, 2026.

(5) Despite subsection (3), thinning and silvicultural treatments are permitted in landscape reserve designs to expedite recovery to old forest structural characteristics, provided that the proposed treatments are developed through a process of First Nation engagement with applicable First Nations.

(6) A landscape reserve design may be altered or modified to address new information, provided that the alteration or modification

(a) is developed by a qualified professional,

(b) maintains or improves outcomes pursuant to subsection (1), and

(c) is developed through a process of First Nation engagement with applicable First Nations.

6.1.3.3. Objectives for Managed Forest and Natural Forest (GBRO Part 1, s.6)

(1) Identify and maintain in the order area:

(a) a managed forest area of 550,032 hectares, and

(b) a protected and reserved forest area that

(i) continues to grow older over time subject to natural disturbance and non-forest tenure activity, and

(ii) has an area of at least 3,108,876 hectares.

Strategy for Objectives 3, 4, and 5, Part 1, Division 1

(1) The Holder(s) of this FSP will comply with the objectives for Old Forest Maintenance and Recovery, Landscape Reserve Designs, and Managed Forest and Protected and Reserved Forest. Where required to achieve compliance with these objectives, in Landscape Units and between and among Holders of FSPs, the Holder(s) of this FSP will use best efforts to communicate, collaborate and cooperate with other Holders of FSPs.

(2) For the Order Area, where LRD's have been endorsed:

(a) The road construction and/or timber harvesting activities of the FSP Holder will not occur within the LRD.

(b) If an FSP Holder requires the LRD to be amended to accommodate road construction and/or timber harvesting, they will do so by following the guidance provided in *Land*



Management Handbook #72, the EBM Planning and Practices Guidance and the Supplemental Technical Guidance documents, in the Landscape Reserve Design Framework and the Ecosystem Based Management Implementation in the Great Bear Rainforest Landscape Reserve Design Methodology as currently available and as it may be amended from time to time.

- (3) For the Order Area, where LRDs have not been submitted or endorsed, the Holder(s) of this FSP will participate in designing Landscape Reserve Designs (LRDs) that comply with Order Objectives, and follow the guidance provided in *Land Management Handbook #72, the EBM Planning and Practices Guidance* and the *Supplemental Technical Guidance* documents, in the *Landscape Reserve Design Framework and the Ecosystem Based Management Implementation in the Great Bear Rainforest Landscape Reserve Design Methodology* documents as currently available and as it may be amended from time to time.
- (4) Provided fair and effective agreement cannot be reached by FSP Holders and applicable First Nations, FSP Holders may ask for targets to be set, but DDMs are not obliged to action the request. DDMs may set proportional targets if deemed necessary under FPPR s 19.
- (5) For the Order Area, where LRDs have been submitted but not endorsed, the Holder(s) of this FSP, after enhanced engagement with applicable First Nations, may make application for cutting permits and/or road permits and proceed with development of those permits when approved.
- (6) The Holder(s) of this FSP will follow the guidance provided in the EBM Planning and Practices Guidance as currently available and as it may be amended from time to time.
- (7) The Holder(s) of this FSP, for the purposes of identifying Old Forest, will follow the guidance provided in *Land Management Handbook # 72 Guidelines to Support the Implementation of the Great Bear Rainforest Order with Respect to Old Forest and Listed Plant Communities* as currently available and as it may be amended from time to time.

6.1.3.4. Objectives for red-listed plant communities and blue-listed plant communities (GBRO Part 2, s.16)

- (1) *Protect each occurrence of a red-listed plant community during a primary forest activity in accordance with Schedule N.*
- (2) *Despite subsection (1), up to 5% of each occurrence of a red-listed plant community may be disturbed if*
 - (a) *there is no practicable alternative for road access or other infrastructure, or to address a safety concern, and*
 - (b) *the plans to disturb the red-listed plant community have been developed through a process of First Nation engagement with applicable First Nations*
- (3) *Despite subsections (1) and (2), more than 5% of a red-listed plant community occurrence smaller than one hectare may be disturbed if it is necessary for critical road access, provided that*



- (a) the total disturbance of that red-listed plant community in a landscape unit does not exceed 5%, and
- (b) the plans to disturb the red-listed plant community have been developed through a process of First Nation engagement with applicable First Nations.

(4) Reserve a minimum of 70% of each occurrence of a blue-listed plant community during a primary forest activity or reserve a minimum of 70% of the total area of each blue-listed plant community within a landscape unit in accordance with Schedule O.

Strategy for Part 2, Division 4, Objectives 16

- (1) The Holder(s) of this FSP will comply with the Part 2, Division 4, Objectives 16 for red listed and blue listed plant communities.
- (2) The Holder(s) of this FSP, for the purposes of identifying sufficiently established occurrences of red and blue listed communities, will follow the guidance provided in *Land Management Handbook # 72 Guidelines to Support the Implementation of the Great Bear Rainforest Order with Respect to Old Forest and Listed Plant Communities* as currently available and as it may be amended from time to time.
- (3) The Holder(s) of this FSP will follow the guidance provided in the *EBM Planning and Practices Guidance* and the *Supplemental Technical Guidance* documents as currently available and as they may be amended from time to time.
- (4) Where required to achieve compliance with GBRO 16 (4), the Holder(s) of this FSP will use best efforts to communicate, collaborate and cooperate with other Holders of FSPs.

6.1.3.5. Objectives for stand retention (GBRO Part 2 s.17)

- (1) *Maintain forest structure and diversity at the stand level by*
 - (a) *maintaining a minimum of 15% of the cutblock area as stand retention,*
 - (b) *distributing stand retention throughout the cutblock,*
 - (c) *maintaining more than 15% retention as necessary, considering cutblock size, landscape unit context and immediate landscape context, and*
 - (d) *managing windthrow.*
- (2) *To the extent practicable, include the following within stand retention:*
 - (a) *Indigenous forest values;*
 - (b) *habitat elements important for restoration of old forest;*
 - (c) *habitat elements important for wildlife.*

Strategy for Part 2, Division 4, Objectives 17

- (1) The Holder(s) of this FSP will comply with the Part 2, Division 4, Objectives 17 for stand retention.
- (2) The Holder(s) of this FSP will follow the guidance provided in the *EBM Planning and Practices Guidance* and the *Supplemental Technical Guidance* documents as currently available and as they may be amended from time to time.



6.1.4. Division 5 - Wildlife

6.1.4.1. Objectives for grizzly bear habitat (GBRO Part 2 s.18)

- (1) *Maintain 100% of class 1 grizzly bear habitat*
 - (a) *shown in Schedule D, or*
 - (b) *identified in the field by a qualified professional.*
- (2) *Maintain a minimum of 50% of class 2 grizzly bear habitat*
 - (a) *shown in Schedule D, or*
 - (b) *identified in the field by a qualified professional, and*
that provides a mix of habitat type, seasonal value, and distribution within a watershed or landscape unit.
- (3) *Despite subsection (1), class 1 grizzly bear habitat may be altered or harvested, provided that:*
 - (a) *a Qualified Professional:*
 - (i) *completes an assessment that identifies the characteristics of the habitat and linkages, where appropriate, to other grizzly bear habitat, and*
 - (ii) *confirms that the alteration or harvesting will result in no net loss of class 1 grizzly habitat and connectivity and no functional loss of habitat connectivity,*
 - (b) *measures are implemented that will ensure the alteration or harvesting will not cause a material adverse impact to the suitability of the class 1 grizzly bear habitat, and*
 - (c) *the plans to alter or harvest class 1 grizzly bear habitat have been developed through a process of First Nation engagement with applicable First Nations.*
- (4) *Despite subsection (1), class 1 grizzly bear habitat may be altered or harvested for road access or other infrastructure, or to address safety concern, provided that*
 - (a) *there is no practicable alternative for road access or other infrastructure, or the alteration or harvesting is required to address a safety concern,*
 - (b) *the road-right-of-way clearing width is the minimum safe width necessary to accommodate the road,*
 - (c) *measures are implemented that, to the extent practicable, will ensure the alteration or harvesting will not cause a material adverse impact to the suitability of the class 1 grizzly bear habitat, and*
 - (d) *the plans to alter or harvest class 1 grizzly bear habitat have been developed through a process of First Nation engagement with applicable First Nations.*
- (5) *All identified grizzly bear habitat polygons must be documented and the documentation submitted to the applicable First Nations and the Province of British Columbia at the end of each calendar year.*



Strategy for Part 2, Division 5, Objectives 18

- (1) When conducting primary forest activities, the Holder will comply with the Part 2, Division 5, Objectives 18 for grizzly bear habitat.
- (2) The Holder of this FSP will follow the guidance provided in the *EBM Planning and Practices Guidance* document as currently available and as may be amended from time to time.

6.1.4.2. Objectives for grizzly bear dens (GBRO Part 2 s.19)

- (1) *Protect grizzly bear dens.*
- (2) *Adjacent to grizzly bear dens, maintain a reserve zone with a minimum width of 50 metres.*
- (3) *Despite subsections (1) and (2), alteration or removal of a grizzly bear den or its reserve zone, or both, may occur, provided that*
 - (a) *the alteration or removal is required for road access or to address a safety concern and there is no practicable alternative,*
 - (b) *the alteration or removal does not occur during the winter hibernation season, and*
 - (c) *the plans to alter or remove a grizzly bear den or reserve zone have been developed through a process of First Nation engagement with applicable First Nations.*
- (4) *Adjacent to any reserve zone required by subsection (2), maintain a management zone with an average width equal to 1.0 tree lengths, measured from the outer edge of the reserve zone, to protect the integrity of the reserve zone.*
- (5) *Within the management zone required by subsection (4), alteration or removal of trees may occur outside of the winter hibernation season to*
 - (a) *accommodate operational requirements for road and bridge construction, if there is no practicable alternative,*
 - (b) *accommodate road maintenance and deactivation, the removal of danger trees, and brushing and clearing within the right-of-way, for safety purposes, on any existing road under active tenure, or*
 - (c) *mitigate the impact of windthrow,*
provided that the plans to alter or remove trees have been developed through a process of First Nation engagement with applicable First Nations.
- (6) *All found grizzly bear dens must be documented and the documentation submitted to the applicable First Nations and the Province of British Columbia at the end of each calendar year.*

Result for Part 2, Division 5, Objectives 19

- (1) When conducting primary forest activities, the Holder will comply with the Part 2, Division 5, Objectives 19 for grizzly bear dens.
- (2) All found Bear Dens will be reported to the applicable First Nations and the Province of British Columbia at the end of each calendar year via the “Bear Den & Yew Tree Reporting



Template” in the EBM Data Centre⁷ in the box under “EBM REFERENCE INFORMATION”. This method will be used until a web mapping application, that is currently under development, is finalized.

- (3) The Holder of this FSP will follow the guidance provided in the *EBM Planning and Practices Guidance* document as currently available and as may be amended from time to time.

6.1.4.3. Objectives for black bear dens (GBRO Part 2 s.20)

- (1) *Protect black bear dens.*
- (2) *Adjacent to black bear dens, maintain a reserve zone with a minimum width of 30 metres.*
- (3) *Despite subsections (1) and (2), alteration or removal of a black bear den or its reserve zone, or both, may occur, provided that*
 - (a) *alteration or removal is required for road access or to address a safety concern and there is no practicable alternative,*
 - (b) *the alteration or removal does not occur during the winter hibernation season, and*
 - (c) *the plans to alter or remove a black bear den or reserve zone have been developed through a process of First Nation engagement with applicable First Nations.*
- (4) *Adjacent to any reserve zone required by subsection (2), maintain a management zone of sufficient width and design to protect the integrity of the black bear den and the reserve zone.*
- (5) *Within the management zone required by subsection (4), alteration or removal of trees may occur outside of the winter hibernation season to*
 - (a) *accommodate operational requirements for road and bridge construction, if there is no practicable alternative,*
 - (b) *accommodate road maintenance and deactivation, the removal of danger trees, and brushing and clearing within the right-of-way, for safety purposes, on any existing road under active tenure, or*
 - (c) *mitigate the impact of windthrow,*
provided that the plans to alter or remove trees have been developed through a process of First Nation engagement with applicable First Nations.
- (6) *Where practicable, include suitable future and additional black bear denning habitat in management zones and in stand retention.*
- (7) *All found black bear dens must be documented and the documentation submitted to the applicable First Nations and the Province of British Columbia at the end of each calendar year.*

⁷ <https://ebmdata.ca/?token=9a07beb5cb7be1a7e828f1228baf23ab>



Result for Part 2, Division 5, Objectives 20

- (1) When conducting primary forest activities, the Holder will comply with the Part 2, Division 5, Objectives 20 for black bear dens.
- (2) All found Bear Dens will be reported to the applicable First Nations and the Province of British Columbia at the end of each calendar year via the “Bear Den & Yew Tree Reporting Template” in the EBM Data Centre⁸ in the box under “EBM REFERENCE INFORMATION”. This method will be used until a web mapping application, that is currently under development, is finalized.
- (3) The Holder of this FSP will follow the guidance provided in the *EBM Planning and Practices Guidance* document as currently available and as may be amended from time to time.

6.1.4.4. Objectives for Kermode habitat (GBRO Part 2 s.21)

- (1) *To maintain Kermode bear habitat, within managed forest in the Kermode stewardship areas shown in Schedule R of the GBRO,*
 - (a) where practicable, thin or harvest mid seral stands to create patchy openings and less canopy closure to encourage shrub growth, and
 - (b) *maintain critical black bear habitat.*
- (2) *Despite subsection (1) (c), up to 5% of a critical black bear habitat occurrence may be altered if there is no practicable alternative for road access or other infrastructure, or to address a safety concern, provided that the plans to alter critical black bear habitat have been developed through a process of First Nation engagement with applicable First Nations.*

Result for Part 2, Division 5, Objectives 21

- (1) When conducting primary forest activities, the Holder will comply with the Part 2, Division 5, Objectives 21 for Kermode habitat.
- (2) The Holder of this FSP will follow the guidance provided in the *EBM Planning and Practices Guidance* document as currently available and as may be amended from time to time.

⁸ <https://ebmdata.ca/?token=9a07beb5cb7be1a7e828f1228baf23ab>



6.2. Objectives Prescribed Under Legislation (FRPA s.149; FPPR s.5-10)

6.2.1. Objectives set by government for soils (FPPR s. 5)

The objective set by government for soils is to conserve the productivity and the hydrologic function of soils.

Result

- (1) For FDU A the Holder will undertake to comply with soil disturbance and permanent access structure limits prescribed in sections 35 and 36 of the FPPR.

In accordance with FPPR s 12.1(1) the FSP Holder is exempt from the requirement to specify intended results and strategies set out in FPPR s. 5.

6.2.2. Objectives set by government for wildlife (FPPR s. 7)

- (1) *The objective set by government for wildlife is to conserve sufficient wildlife habitat in terms of amount of area, distribution of areas and attributes of those areas, for*
 - (a) *the survival of species at risk,*
 - (b) *the survival of regionally important wildlife, and*
 - (c) *the winter survival of specified ungulate species.*
- (2) *A person required to prepare a forest stewardship plan must specify a result or strategy in respect of the objective stated under subsection (1) only if the minister responsible for the Wildlife Act gives notice to the person of the applicable*
 - (a) *species referred to in subsection (1), and*
 - (b) *indicators of the amount, distribution and attributes of wildlife habitat described in subsection (1).*
- (3) *If satisfied that the objective set out in subsection (1) is addressed, in whole or in part, by an objective in relation to a wildlife habitat area or an ungulate winter range, a general wildlife measure, or a wildlife habitat feature, the minister responsible for the Wildlife Act must exempt a person from the obligation to specify a result or strategy in relation to the objective set out in subsection (1) to the extent that the objective is already addressed.*
- (4) *On or after December 31, 2004, a notice described in subsection (2) must be given at least 4 months before the forest stewardship plan is submitted for approval.*

Results

The Holder will manage, for the requirements under FPPR s. 69, for the following species:

- ◆ Mountain Goat (*Oreamnos americanus*);
- ◆ Coastal Tailed Frog (*Ascaphus truei*);
- ◆ Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias fannini*);
- ◆ Black Tailed Deer (*Odocileus hemionus columbianus*);



and will undertake to comply with the Species at Risk Notices – FPPR section 7(2), for the North Island Central Coast Natural Resource District dated March 2, 2006, and for the Coast Mountain Natural Resource District dates December 30, 2004, until Notice is met at the district level.

The Holder operates in landscape units also managed by other licensees who have approved FSPs over the FSP area; therefore, communication for the purposes of integrating landscape level results and strategies is necessary. The Holder will comply with the legal requirements of the Orders establishing any existing or future WHA or UWR that intersect with the FDUs defined by this FSP, including the applicable General Wildlife Measures.

Ungulate Winter Ranges (UWR)

Black Tailed Deer (*Odocileus hemionus columbianus*)

UWR U-5-005 for the NICCRD has been established by an Order by the Minister for the FSP area.

This UWR Order exempts the Holder from the requirement to specify a result or strategy. The Holder will comply with the legal requirements of the Order.

Mountain Goat (*Oreamnos americanus*)

UWR U-5-004 for the NICCRD has been established by an Order by the Minister for the FSP area.

This UWR Order exempts the Holder from the requirement to specify a result or strategy. The Holder will comply with the legal requirements of the Order.

Wildlife Habitat Areas (WHA)

The Holder will comply with the legal requirements of the Orders establishing WHAs, including the applicable General Wildlife Measures, for the FSP area.

Coastal Tailed Frog (*Ascaphus truei*)

Where the Holder conducts primary forest activities in areas specified by the FPPR section 7(2) Notices and areas containing suitable habitat are identified and evaluated by a qualified professional, the Holder will propose WHA establishment as follows:

- (1) First in the NCLB, then in the THLB consistent with the attributes contained in the Notices;
- (2) Within the Coast Mountain Natural Resource District, WHAs 6-056 and 6-057 have been established in an Order by the Minister. These WHAs exempt the Holder from the requirement to specify a result or strategy in the Coast Mountain Natural Resource District.
- (3) Within the North Island-Central Coast Natural Resource District, a maximum combined 1549 ha of which not more than 183 ha will be in the mature THLB, will be delineated for this species. Thirty-three future WHAs are planned.

If suitable habitat is identified by primary forest activities and it is not categorized above, the suitable habitat will be managed based on the advice of a qualified professional, taking into account the 2004 *IWMS Accounts and Measures*.



Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias fannini*)

Where the Holder conducts primary forest activities in areas specified by the FPPR section 7(2) Notices and areas containing nesting colonies are identified and evaluated by a qualified professional to be suitable, the Holder will propose WHA establishment as follows:

- (1) First in the NCLB, then in the THLB consistent with the attributes contained in the Notices;
- (2) Within the North Island Central Coast Natural Resource District, a maximum of 240 ha of which not more than 36 ha will be in the mature THLB, will be delineated for this species.

WHA 1-394, with an area of 4.7ha, has been established by an Order for the North Island Central Coast Natural Resource District by the Minister. This leaves a remaining area of 235 ha, of which 35.2 will be in the mature THLB, yet to be put into WHA. Two future WHAs are planned.

If suitable habitat is identified by primary forest activities and it is not categorized above, the suitable breeding habitat will be managed based on the advice of a qualified professional, taking into account the 2004 *IWMS Accounts and Measures*.



6.2.3. Objectives set by government for water, fish, wildlife and biodiversity in riparian areas (FPPR s. 8)

The objective set by government for water, fish, wildlife and biodiversity within riparian areas is to conserve, at the landscape level, the water quality, fish habitat, wildlife habitat and biodiversity associated with those riparian areas.

Result and Strategy

Notwithstanding the commitments made in Section 6.1.2 of this FSP relating to Objectives for Aquatic Habitats that take precedence, the Holder of this FSP adopts the following Strategies:

For riparian classes, the Holder adopts the regulation defaults prescribed by the FPPR sections 47 – Streams, 48 – Wetlands, and section 49 – Lakes.

Riparian Management Zone Tree Retention – Wetlands and Lakes

Additionally, for lakeshore management zones found within the area described by the letter establishing an interim measure – establishment of interim management zones of 40 meters on L1 lakes within the former Mid-Coast Forest District, dated August 12, 1996, will apply.

- For class L1-A lakes within the former Mid-Coast forest district, the Holder will implement a 40 m (slope distance) lakeshore management zone (LMZ).
- For class L1-B lakes within the former Mid-Coast forest district, the Holder will:
 - implement a 10 m (slope distance) reserve zone;
 - implement a 40 m (slope distance) LMZ.

Where a reserve zone exists, or where trees are being retained, the Holder will assess the windthrow hazard. This assessment will guide retention of trees within the RMZ.

For all wetlands and lakes, trees will be retained in RMZs where deemed necessary by the Holder for the conservation of wildlife and biodiversity values. Windfirm dominant and co-dominant conifers displaying good wildlife tree attributes will be targeted for retention.

Retention levels in riparian management zones will be consistent with Table 1:

Table 1 Retention Levels of Trees Adjacent to Wetlands and Lakes in Riparian Management Zones

Riparian Class	RMZ Basal Area Retention Level
W1, W2, W3, W4, W5	0 – 100%
L1-B (within the former Mid Coast District only)	0 – 100%
L2, L3, L4	0 – 100%

Restrictions in Riparian Management Areas

The Holder adopts the default practice requirements described in FPPR section 50.



Restrictions in Riparian Reserve Zones

The Holder adopts the default practice requirements described in FPPR section 51.

Restrictions in Riparian Management Zones

The Holder(s) will adopt FPPR section 52(2) as that section was on the date of submission of this FSP.

Riparian Management Zone Strategy - Streams

In respect of sections 8 and 12(3) of the FPPR, to address the retention of trees in a riparian management zone, the Holder of this FSP will:

- (1) ensure that prior to harvesting, retention levels within the RMZ's are determined by a qualified professional through a riparian assessment that considers:
 - (a) all the factors listed in Schedule 1, section 2 of the FPPR, as that section was on the date of submission of this FSP, and
 - (b) potential site specific safety and operational issues, and
- (2) design cutblocks and roads in a manner that is consistent with the retention levels as determined by the qualified professional as described in (a), and
- (3) minimize new coarse woody debris and sediment inputs into streams to the extent practicable, and
- (4) plan and conduct primary forest activities consistent with the results and recommendations of the assessment (1), design (2), and the intent (3).

Along stream segments where trees are to be retained in the RMZ, the Holder will use a Qualified Professional to assess the windthrow hazard. The result of that assessment will guide the retention of trees within RMZs.

For all streams, merchantable and/or non-merchantable trees will be retained in RMZs where deemed necessary by a Qualified Professional for the conservation of water quality, fish habitat, wildlife habitat, or biodiversity associated with riparian areas and to maintain stream bank and stream channel integrity. Where trees are retained in RMZs, windfirm dominant and co-dominant conifers displaying good wildlife tree attributes will be targeted for retention.

For streams that are within, or adjacent to, a cutblock, a Qualified Professional will assess and document the dependence of the stream on woody debris and streamside trees to maintain channel and/or stream bank stability.

For non-fish streams the Holder will be guided by the recommendations of a Qualified Professional.

6.2.4. Objectives set by government for fish habitat in fisheries sensitive watersheds (FPPR s. 8.1)

There are no fisheries sensitive watersheds described in Schedule 2 of the FPPR within the FSP area. Therefore, no result or strategy is required.

6.2.5. Objectives set by government for water in community watersheds (FPPR s. 8.2)

There are no community watersheds prescribed by legislation and within the FSP area. Therefore, no result or strategy is required.



6.2.6. Objectives set by government for wildlife and biodiversity (FPPR s. 9 and 9.1)

- 9 *The objective set by government for wildlife and biodiversity at the landscape level is, to the extent 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.*
 - 9.1 *The objective set by government for wildlife and biodiversity at the stand level is to retain wildlife trees.*

Result

Notwithstanding the commitments made in Sections 6.1.3 and 6.1.4 of this FSP, relating to the GBRO, the Holder of this FSP adopts the following Results:

- (1) The Holder adopts the default practice requirements described in FPPR sections 64 and 65 concerning wildlife and biodiversity at the landscape level; and
- (2) The Holder adopts the default practice requirements described in FPPR sections 66 and 67 concerning wildlife and biodiversity at the stand level.

6.2.7. Objectives set by government for cultural heritage resources (FPPR s. 10)

The objective set by government for cultural heritage resources is to conserve, or, if necessary, protect cultural heritage resources that are

- (a) *the focus of a traditional use by an aboriginal people that is of continuing importance to that people, and*
- (b) *not regulated under the Heritage Conservation Act.*

Strategy

To meet the intent of FPPR S. 10, the strategies for dealing with cultural heritage resources are described under the strategies for Section 6.1.1 Division 2 – First Nations, of this FSP.



6.3. Objectives Prescribed Under Legislation for Visual Resources (GAR s. 17)

The North Coast District Manager (NCDM) amended the scenic areas through a GAR Order on May 18, 2006. These scenic areas were previously made known by the NCDM in a letter dated September 17, 1997. In that same letter the NCDM established Visual Quality Objectives for the North Coast Forest District (now the Coast Mountain Natural Resource District).

The North Island Central Coast DM, in a letter dated July 28, 2005, advised that the Mid Coast Forest District DM's scenic area letter, of October 29, 1998, qualifies for 'grandparenting' under S. 17 of the GAR. Therefore, the VQOs for the Midcoast TSA (now part of the Great Bear Rainforest North TSA), and TFLs that had an approved Visual Landscape Inventory, were established when the GAR took effect on December 13, 2004.

Result

1. For the purposes of this FSP, VQO categories are intended to have the same definitions as those of the equivalent categories of visually altered forest landscape defined in FPPR s. 1.1.
2. All primary forest activities carried out or authorized by the Holder will meet:
 - a. the VQOs as established by the District Manager for the North Coast Forest District (now the Coast Mountain Natural Resource District) on September 17, 1997, and amended through a GAR Order on May 18, 2006;
 - b. the VQOs, as made known by the District Manager for the Mid Coast Forest District (now the North Island Central Coast Natural Resource District) on October 29, 1998, and deemed to be grandparented under S. 17 of the GAR when the GAR took effect on December 13, 2004, by the District Manager for the North Island Central Coast Natural Resource District in his letter of July 28, 2005;
 - c. subsequent amendments made to the VQOs in a and b.



6.4. Resource Features Identified Under GAR (GAR s. 5)

The karst system elements noted below have been identified as resource features, wherever they are found, within the North Island-Central Coast Resource District, by an Order dated March 23, 2007.

This identified resource feature is subject to practice requirements, as objectives have not been established for the management of the resource feature.

Practice

Where applicable within the Plan area, the Holder will adhere to the requirements of FPPR S. 70(1), to not damage or render ineffective a resource feature, with respect to the following karst system elements that have been identified as resource features:

- a) karst caves,
- b) significant surface karst features, and
- c) important features and elements within very high or high vulnerability karst.



7. MEASURES SET BY GOVERNMENT

7.1. Measure set by Government to Prevent the Introduction and Spread of Invasive Plants (FRPA s. 47 and FPPR s. 17)

For the purpose of Section 47 (*Invasive plants*) of the FRPA, a person who prepares a forest stewardship plan must specify measures in the plan to prevent the introduction or spread of species of plants that are invasive plants under the *Invasive Plants Regulation*, if the introduction or spread is likely to be the result of the person's forest practices.

- (1) Prior to starting development in a new area, the Holder will check the Invasive Alien Plant Program Application (IAPP) to ascertain known locations of invasive plants.
- (2) The Holder will mitigate the conditions suitable for invasive plant establishment by:
 - (a) revegetating all harvest openings by re-establishing an appropriate stand of trees to meet regeneration and free growing commitments and to promote seral stage succession and natural ecosystem functioning, and,
 - (b) in areas with confirmed occurrences of invasive plant species, revegetate exposed soil (>0.1 ha) along roadsides and landings by grass seeding and fertilizing within 2 growing season months after soil disturbance, recognizing that spring and fall are optimum times to seed.
- (3) The Holder will ensure that when revegetation activities are carried out under subsection (1), a grass seed that is locally adapted and quick to establish (native or short-lived agronomic grass and forage species), as advised in the 2024 Edition of the Invasive Species Council of BC Pocket Guide for British Columbia's Forest Workers, "*Preventing the Spread of Invasive Species During Forest Management Activities*", will be used.
- (4) The Holder will:
 - (a) Investigate all occurrences of species covered under the *Invasive Plants Regulation* and all knotweed species identified during silviculture surveys at the pre-harvest site plan stage or post-harvest and report confirmed occurrences that were previously unknown within a month of identification.
 - (b) where a plant species is identified as an invasive plant species as described in the *Invasive Plants Regulation*, or as a knotweed, establish site specific measures to control the spread of the invasive plant species or knotweed with the assistance of the MoF Invasive Plant Specialist;
 - (c) instruct employees and contractors to sufficiently clean equipment and vehicles prior to moving them from an area with known occurrences of invasive species, or from a location external to FDU A, to within the areas of primary forest activities;
 - (d) ensure contractors begin work in un-infested areas before moving into known infested areas;
 - (e) ensure contractors do not park equipment in known infested areas;



- (f) instruct contractors not to move soil, subgrade or surfacing material from an area known to have invasive plants to an area known to be free of invasive plants.
- (g) annually provide appropriate personnel training and information regarding the recognition of 10 most likely invasive plants that are known to exist, or likely to exist within FDU A, to all field staff and contractors.

(5) If invasive plants establish as a result of the Holders forest practices, the Holder will:

- (a) develop and implement an invasive plant treatment plan with assistance from the MoF Invasive Plant Specialist.
- (b) monitor the revegetated areas, repeating revegetation as necessary until exposed soil is eliminated.
- (c) report the location of the invasive species through a government platform.

7.2. Measures Set by Government Related to Range Barriers (FPPR s. 18)

There are no range tenures established within the FSP area and that overlap with FDU A, therefore no result or strategy is required.



8. STOCKING STANDARDS (FPPR S. 44)

The stocking standards outlined in Appendix 2 apply to the Net Area to be Reforested (NAR) of areas harvested identified by standards units, subject to this FSP and within FDU A. The stocking standards, regeneration dates and free growing heights are to be interpreted in conjunction with professionally designed, signed and sealed site plans required by the *FPPR* section 34 prior to the commencement of harvesting activities. Tables 1 - 6 of Appendix 2 specify Species Selection, Target Stocking, Minimum Stocking and Free Growing Heights.

These are the latest stocking standards that the Forest Practices Branch of the MoF adapted to climate change in 2021. The Holder is committed to climate change adaptation and will review stocking standards annually to ensure the latest climate change stocking standards are used.

The following standards apply to blocks and/or standards units (SU) where even-aged management is planned.

8.1. Species Selection

Species selection to determine compliance with s. 44(1) of the *FPPR* will be based on the ecosystem classification. Species, which are considered ecologically suitable and commercially valuable for each site series, are listed in Tables 1 – 5 of Appendix 2.

Western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*) is found throughout FDU A. Hemlock dwarf mistletoe is a significant management concern because of its ability to spread from the overstory into canopy openings created by harvesting. Management efforts are directed to limiting this spread potential rather than to eradication. When indicated at the site plan level by the prescribing forester, the following techniques will be employed to limit the spread and/or reduce the incidence in the regenerating stand:

- locating perimeter falling boundaries to include heavily infected trees within the cutblock and designing retention patches or other reserves to exclude heavily infected trees,
- 3 meter knock down of mistletoe-infected HwBa regeneration,
- regeneration of alternative immune species within 20 metres of any infection source; be it an infected edge or an individual infected tree.
- Hw will not contribute to stocking if within 20 metres of any infection source; be it an infected edge or an individual infected tree.

Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*) and **Engelmann spruce** are susceptible to white pine weevil. Therefore, Sitka spruce and Engelmann spruce are limited to a minor component of $\leq 20\%$ of the silviculture label at free growing in areas of moderate and high risk spruce weevil damage. If weevil resistant stock is planted, in areas of low and moderate risk spruce weevil damage, the use of Ss or Se to meet the MSS is not limited. Sitka spruce and Engelmann spruce must display a healthy leader and meet minimum height requirements to be accepted as a crop tree at free growing.

True Firs (*Abies* spp.) are at risk of future infestation by the Balsam woolly adelgid. These trees will not be managed in pure plantations. Where listed as a preferred species, true firs will not contribute more than 30% well-spaced free growing sph of the silviculture label.



Yellow cedar will be avoided for inclusion on southerly aspects, but are acceptable on north aspects, higher elevations, snowpack areas, shaded areas, draws, cold air drainages and seepages.

8.2. Stocking

The stocking standards address the two components of stocking – the level and distribution. Stocking level is addressed using Minimum Stocking Standards (MSS). The stocking distribution is addressed by using minimum horizontal inter-tree distances and M-values derived from Target Stocking Standards (TSS) during silviculture surveys.

8.2.1. Target Stocking Standards

M-value derived from the TSS listed in Table 6 of Appendix 2 will be used to ensure that stocking distribution is taken into account when assessing stocking levels. The TSS will be assigned at the SU level. The dominant site series of the SU will be used to assign the TSS to the SU.

8.2.2. Minimum Stocking Standards

MSS listed in Table 6 of Appendix 2 will be used to assess the achievement of an acceptable stocking level on individual SUs. MSS will be assigned at the SU level. The dominant site series of the SU will be used to assign the MSS to the SU.

8.2.3. Minimum Inter-Tree Distance

Minimum Horizontal Inter-Tree Distances will ensure that stocking distribution is taken into account when assessing stocking levels. Minimum Horizontal Inter-Tree Distances are assigned based on the following parameters and may vary across a Standards Unit as conditions warrant:

- within 10m of roadsides, where logging debris and shot rock limit growing medium, inter-tree distance may be reduced to 1.6m;
- on shallow soils where planting spots are limited, inter-tree distance may be reduced to 1.6m;
- adjacent areas of heavy slash accumulation, inter-tree distance may be reduced to 1.6m;
- in areas with a high water table where raised micro sites provide the only available growing medium, inter-tree distance may be reduced to 1.6m;
- on all other sites and situations, inter-tree distance is to be a minimum of 2.0m.

8.3. Regeneration Date and Free Growing Timeline

The default regeneration delay date is 6 years and the free growing date will be 20 years.

8.4. Minimum free growing heights and characteristics

Minimum free growing heights will be assessed according to the stocking standards in Table 1 - 6 of Appendix 2 and the attributes defined in the FS660 Silviculture Survey Reference Card, as amended from time to time.



APPENDIX 1: FSP MAP AND IDENTIFICATION OF FDUs



APPENDIX 2: EVEN-AGED STOCKING STANDARDS

Each site proposed for harvesting and subject to a standards unit stocking standard will have been assessed by a qualified professional to meet the pre-harvest site planning requirements prescribed by the *FRPA* and *FPPR*. The following stocking standard tables are meant to be interpreted based on the opinion of a qualified professional concerning the site, its potential, unique circumstances and limitations, as well as the various characteristics of applicable tree species.

The Holder intends to utilize even-aged management across the cutblocks associated with this FSP through the following silviculture systems⁹:

- Clearcut
- Clearcut with reserves (groups or dispersed individual trees)
- Patch cut
- Group Retention

Dispersed groups of ≤ 0.1 ha or individual trees will meet the even aged management of $\leq 8\text{m}^2/\text{ha}$ of basal area retention on Cedar-hemlock old sites. Group retention greater than 0.1 ha will be mapped and removed from the Net Area to Reforest (NAR).

Where residual basal area retention exceeds $5\text{m}^2/\text{ha}$, it will be reported in RESULTS.

These stocking standards come from the Reference Guide for Forest Development Plan Stocking Standards (updated September 7, 2021).

⁹ Land Management Handbook 79, Silvicultural Systems Handbook for British Columbia, Second Edition, June 2025



Table 1. Stocking Standards Table for CWH vh2 BEC Classification.

NICCNRD portions of FDU A										
BEC			Ecological Suitable Species and Minimum Free to Grow Heights (m)							
Zone	Subzone / Variant	Site Series	Ba	Cw	Hm	Hw	Plc	Se	Ss	Yc
CWH	vh2	01		1.5		2.0	2.1			1.5
CWH	vh2	03		1.0		1.8	1.4			1.0 ³
CWH	vh2	04	2.3 ^{19,47}	2.0		2.0			4.0 ⁵³	2.0 ⁵³
CWH	vh2	05	2.3 ^{19,47}	2.0		2.0 ²			4.0 ⁵³	2.0 ⁵³
CWH	vh2	06	2.3 ^{19,47}	2.0		2.0 ²			4.0 ⁵³	2.0 ⁵³
CWH	vh2	07*	2.3 ^{19,47}	2.0		2.0 ²			4.0 ⁵³	2.0 ⁵³
CWH	vh2	11		1.0 ¹		1.8 ¹	1.4 ¹			1.0 ¹
CWH	vh2	12*		1.0 ¹			1.4 ¹			1.0 ¹
CWH	vh2	13*		1.0 ¹		1.8 ¹			2.0 ^{1,53}	1.0 ¹

Table 2. Stocking Standards Table for CWH vm1 BEC Classification

NICCNRD portions of FDU A									
BEC			Ecological Suitable Species and Minimum Free to Grow Heights (m)						
Zone	Subzone Variant	Site Series	Ba	Cw	Hm	Hw	Plc	Ss	Yc
CWH	vm1	01	1.8 ^{26,47}	1.5		3.0		3.0 ^{7,35,53}	
CWH	vm1	03		1.0		2.0	1.4 ⁵³		
CWH	vm1	04	1.4 ⁴⁷	1.5		3.0		3.0 ^{15,35,53}	
CWH	vm1	05	1.8 ⁴⁷	1.5		3.0		3.0 ^{7,35,53}	
CWH	vm1	06	1.8 ⁴⁷	1.5		3.0		3.0 ^{7,35,53}	
CWH	vm1	07	2.3 ⁴⁷	2.0		4.0 ²		4.0 ^{35,53}	
CWH	vm1	08	2.3 ⁴⁷	2.0		4.0 ²		4.0 ^{35,53}	
CWH	vm1	13*		1.0 ¹		1.0 ¹	1.4 ¹		1.0 ^{1,53}
CWH	vm1	14		1.5 ¹		3.0 ¹		3.0 ^{1,35,53}	1.0 ^{1,53}



Table 3. Stocking Standards Table for CWH vm2 BEC Classification

NICCNRD portions of FDU A									
BEC			Ecological Suitable Species and Minimum Free to Grow Heights (m)						
Zone	Subzone/ Variant	Site Series	Ba	Cw	Hm	Hw	Plc	Ss	Yc
CWH	vm2	01	1.8 ⁴⁷	1.5 ¹⁴	1.0 ¹³	2.5		3.0 ^{7,53}	1.5 ^{13,53}
CWH	vm2	03		1.0	1.0 ^{13,53}	1.8	1.3 ⁵³		1.0 ¹³
CWH	vm2	04	1.5 ⁴⁷	1.0		1.8			1.0 ¹³
CWH	vm2	05	1.8 ⁴⁷	1.5	1.0 ^{13,53}	2.5		3.0 ^{15,35,53}	1.5 ¹³
CWH	vm2	06	1.8 ⁴⁷	1.5	1.0 ^{13,53}	2.5		3.0 ^{7,53}	1.5 ¹³
CWH	vm2	07	2.3 ⁴⁷	2.0		3.5 ²		4.0 ^{15,35,53}	2.0 ¹³
CWH	vm2	08	2.3 ⁴⁷	2.0 ¹⁴	1.0 ^{13,53}	3.5 ²		4.0 ^{35,53}	2.0 ¹³
CWH	vm2	09	1.5 ⁴⁷	1.0 ¹	0.8 ^{13,53}	1.8 ¹	1.8 ^{1,53}		1.0 ^{1, 13}
CWH	vm2	11		1.0 ¹	0.8 ¹	1.8 ¹		1.4 ^{1,53}	1.0 ^{1, 13}

Table 4. Stocking Standards Table for MH mm1 BEC Classification.

BEC			Ecological Suitable Species and Minimum Free to Grow Heights (m)						
Zone	Subzone/ Variant	Site Series	Ba	Cw	Hm	Hw	Bp	Se	Yc
MH	mm1	01	1.0 ⁴⁷	1.0 ¹⁴	1.0 ¹³	1.0 ^{14,53}	1.25 ^{13,23,47,53}	1.0 ^{23,53}	1.0 ¹³
MH	mm1	02	0.8 ^{47,53}		0.8			0.8 ^{23,53}	0.8
MH	mm1	03	1.0 ⁴⁷		1.0				1.0
MH	mm1	04	1.0 ⁴⁷		1.0				1.0
MH	mm1	05	1.0 ⁴⁷		1.0				1.0
MH	mm1	06	0.8 ^{1,47,53}		0.8 ¹				0.8 ¹
MH	mm1	07	1.0 ^{1,47}		1.0 ¹				1.0 ¹
MH	mm1	08*	0.8 ^{1,47,53}		0.8 ¹	0.8 ^{1,14,53}			0.8 ¹
MH	mm1	09	0.8 ^{1,47,53}		0.8 ¹	1.0 ^{1,14,53}			0.8 ¹



Table 5. Stocking Standards Table for MH mm2 BEC Classification.

BEC			Ecological Suitable Species and Minimum Free to Grow Heights (m)						
Zone	Subzone/ Variant	Site Series	Ba	Cw	Hm	Hw	Bl	Se	Yc
MH	mm2	01	1.0 ⁴⁷	1.0 ¹⁴	1.0 ¹³	1.0 ^{14,44,53}	1.0 ^{13,45,47,53}	1.0 ^{13,53}	1.0 ^{13,17}
MH	mm2	02	0.8 ⁴⁷		0.8 ¹³		08 ^{13,45,47,53}	0.8 ⁵³	0.8 ¹⁷
MH	mm2	03	1.0 ⁴⁷		1.0		1.0 ^{47,53}	1.0 ⁵³	1.0 ¹⁷
MH	mm2	04	1.0 ⁴⁷		1.0		1.0 ^{47,53}		1.0 ¹⁷
MH	mm2	05	1.0 ⁴⁷		1.0		1.0 ^{47,53}	1.0 ⁵³	1.0 ¹⁷
MH	mm2	06	1.0 ^{1,47,53}		1.0 ¹				1.0 ^{17,50}
MH	mm2	07	1.0 ^{1,47}		1.0 ¹			0.8 ^{1, 53}	1.0 ^{1,17,50}
MH	mm2	08*	0.8 ^{47,53}		0.8 ¹		0.8 ^{47,53}		0.8 ^{1,17}
MH	mm2	09	0.8 ^{47,53}		0.8 ¹			0.8 ^{1, 53}	0.8 ^{1,17}

Table 6. Target Stocking Standards (TSS) and Minimum Stocking Standards (MSS) by Site Series.

Stocking		Ecosystem Classification				
TSS	MSS	CWHvm1	CWHvm2	CWHvh2	MHmm1	MHmm2
400	200	02, 13	02, 10	02, 12	08	08
800	400	03, 12, 14	03, 09, 11	03, 11, 13	02, 06, 09	02, 06, 09
900	500	site series not listed above				



Footnote Definitions

Footnote #	Footnote	Footnote #	Footnote
Conifer Tree Species			
"Ba"	means amabilis fir;	1	elevated microsites are preferred
"Bg"	means grand fir;	2	suitable on thick forest floors
"Bl"	means subalpine fir;	3	restricted to coarse-textured soils
"Bp"	means noble fir;	4	restricted to medium-textured soils
"Cw"	means western red cedar;	5	footnote retired
"Fd"	means Douglas-fir;	6	restricted to nutrient-very-poor sites
"Hm"	means mountain hemlock;	7	restricted to nutrient-medium sites
"Hw"	means western hemlock;	8	restricted to steep slopes
"Lt"	means tamarack;	9	restricted to southerly aspects
"Lw"	means western larch;	10	restricted to northerly aspects
"Pa"	means whitebark pine;	11	restricted to crest slope positions
"Pl"	means lodgepole pine;	12	suitable on cold air drainage sites
"Pw"	means white pine;	13	restricted to upper elevations of biogeoclimatic unit
"Py"	means ponderosa pine;	14	restricted to lower elevations of biogeoclimatic unit
"Sb"	means black spruce;	15	restricted to northern portion of biogeoclimatic unit in region
"Se"	means Engelmann spruce;	16	restricted to southern portion of biogeoclimatic unit in region
"Ss"	means Sitka spruce;	17	restricted to western portion of biogeoclimatic unit in region
"Sw"	means white spruce;	18	restricted to eastern portion of biogeoclimatic unit in region
"Sx"	means hybrid spruce or interior spruce;	20	restricted, not near outer coast
"Sxs"	means hybrid Sitka spruce;	21	restricted to mainland
"Sxw"	means hybrid white spruce;	22	restricted to southern Gardner Canal-Kitlope area
"Yc"	means yellow cedar.	23	restricted to trial use
		24	suitable (as a major species) in wetter portion of biogeoclimatic unit
Broadleaf Tree Species			
"Acb"	means balsam poplar;	25	suitable on sites lacking salal
"Act"	means black cottonwood;	26	suitable minor species on salal-dominated sites
"At"	means trembling aspen;	27	partial canopy cover required for successful establishment
"Dr"	means red alder;	28	limited by moisture deficit
"Ep"	means common paper birch;	29	risk of heavy browsing by moose
"Mb"	means bigleaf maple;	30	risk of porcupine damage
"Qg"	means garry oak;	31	risk of white pine blister rust
"Ra"	means arbutus;	32	limited by growing-season frosts
		33	footnote retired and replaced with footnote 'a'
"Biogeoclimatic unit" or "BGC classification"	means the zone, subzone, variant and site series described in the most recent field guide published by the Ministry of Forests for the identification and interpretation of ecosystems, as applicable to a harvested area.	34	risk of snow damage
"MIN or "Min"	means minimum.	35	risk of weevil damage
*Recommend Not Harvesting.		36	suitable major species on salal-dominated sites
		37	risk of heart rots
		38	footnote retired
		39	avoid exposed and windy sites
		40	risk of redheart
		41	limited by poorly drained soils
		42	restricted to fresh soil moisture regimes
		43	suitable on mainland coast only (QCI only)
		44	suitable in areas with stronger maritime influence
		45	suitable in areas with stronger continental influence
			* 20% or less of the well-spaced sph of the silviculture label at free growing