



Forest Management in the Okanagan Shuswap District

Forest Tenuring

As of January 2012, BC's Chief Forester set the harvest rate in the Okanagan Shuswap District at 3.1 Million cubic meters per year. This harvest rate was apportioned into various license types by the Minister. The majority of the harvesting in the Okanagan Shuswap District is by long term replaceable tenure holders known as major licensees. In exchange for harvesting rights, licensees must pay stumpage, follow applicable legislation like the *Forest and Range Practices Act*, develop Forest Stewardship Plans and establish a "free-growing" plantation of new trees where harvesting occurs.

Forest Planning and Legal Requirements

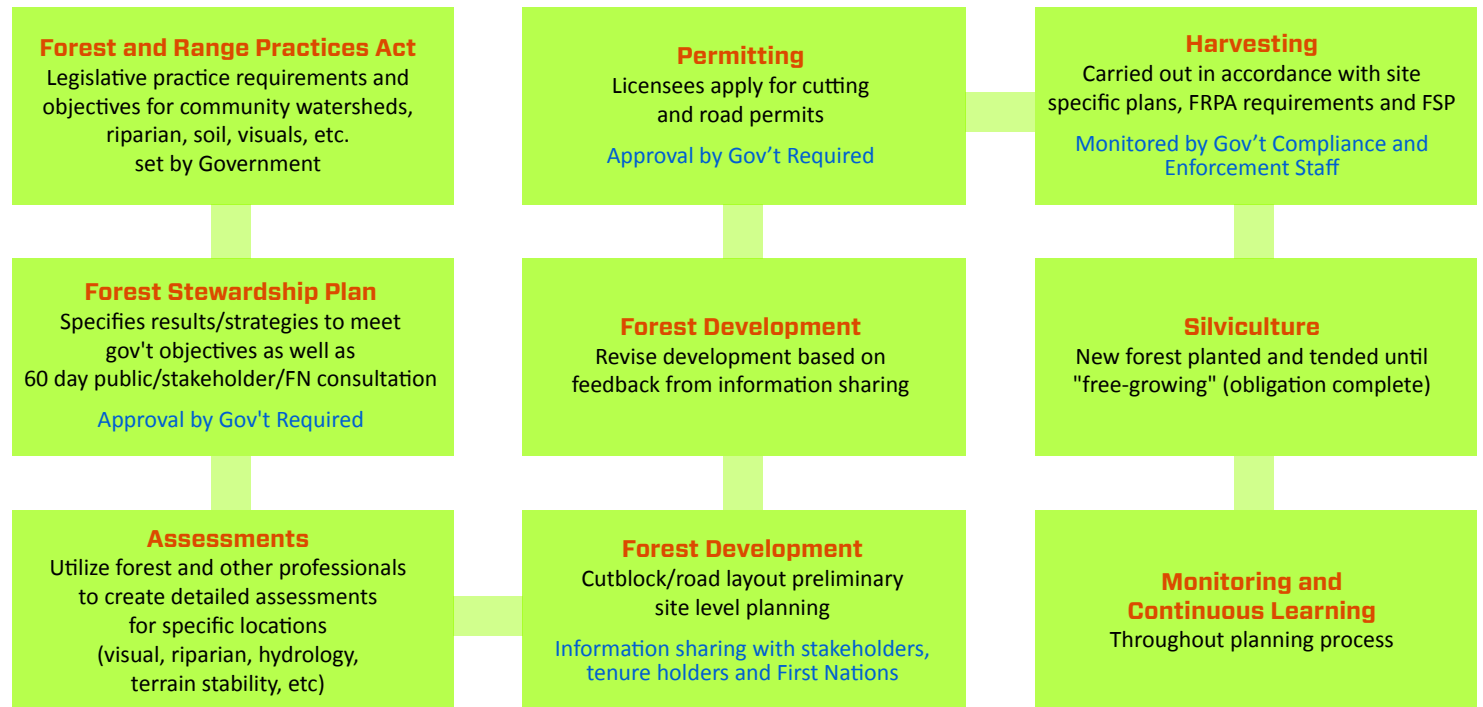
Forest harvesting in BC is governed by the Forest and Range Practices Act. The Act specifies forest practice requirements and compels forest licensees to prepare, and have approved, a Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP). This plan specifies results or strategies that forest licensees will employ to meet government objectives (including objectives for water, riparian, wildlife, soils, visuals and biodiversity) when carrying out forest harvesting activities. (eg. reserving timber adjacent to a stream) The FSP is a strategic plan and does not include specific locations for harvesting and road construction. A requirement of an approved FSP is to allow for a 60 day review and comment period during which the public, First Nations and stakeholders may provide input.

Once approved, licensees identify specific locations for harvesting and utilize forest and other professionals to prepare detailed site specific plans and assessments. Site specific development of roads and cut blocks includes considerations from legal and non-legal sources. An example of a non-legal source is the Okanagan Shuswap Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP). This plan was a consensus document created by various stakeholder groups to guide resource development by balancing a variety of interests and values in the Okanagan and Shuswap watersheds.

Although not legally required, many licensees prepare and circulate information sharing packages to known stakeholder groups, tenure holders and First Nations to allow for the opportunity to comment on proposed development during the site specific planning stage.

Once plans are complete, licensees apply for permits in order to implement harvest plans. Cutting permits are required to harvest Crown timber. There are three tests to determine if a permit can be issued. The permit area must be within a Forest Development Unit of an approved FSP, must be consistent with the license under which it will be issued and Aboriginal interests within the area must have been considered. Once a permit is issued, licensees are monitored for compliance with forest legislation and their approved plans by government staff.

THE PLANNING PROCESS



Non-Legal Expectations

Forest tenure holders and government rely on professional advice and recommendations from foresters, engineers, hydrologists, etc to make management decisions on Crown land. Considerations in the decision making process may be derived from non-legal expectations from the greater public (eg. Crown forests provide revenue but are managed sustainably), singular public (eg. local interest in specific areas of forest development), government (eg. science based forest management guidance) or from stakeholders.

The Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABCFP) is the governing and regulating body of all forest professionals. They outline codes of conduct and expectations of professionals and hold them accountable to ensure their right and privilege to practice forestry in BC.

Public Involvement

As mentioned above, tenure holders are legally required to provide review and comment opportunities when developing FSP's. They typically also perform voluntary information sharing protocols with known stakeholder groups. In addition, tenure holders typically, proactively participate with stakeholders and the public in, local management planning (eg. community watershed protection plans), third party certification (eg. CSA) and site specific conversations with individuals or community groups. Typically this gains greater understanding of practices and helps build positive relationships.

Contact Information

BC Timber Sales: <https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/bcts/areas/TOC.htm>
Canoe Forest Products: <http://www.canoefp.com/>
Gorman Bros. Lumber: <http://www.gormanbros.com/>
Louisiana Pacific: <http://www.lpcorp.com/>
Okanagan Shuswap District: <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/dos/>
Tolko Industries: <http://www.tolko.com/>
Westbank First Nations – Heartland Economics: <http://www.wfndc.ca/>
Weyerhaeuser: <http://www.weyerhaeuser.com/>

Helpful Links

Association of BC Forest Professionals: <http://www.abcfp.ca/>
Forestry Legislation: <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/tasb/legregs/>
Okanagan Shuswap LRMP: <http://www.ilmb.gov.bc.ca/slrp/lrmp/kamloops/okanagan/index.html>

