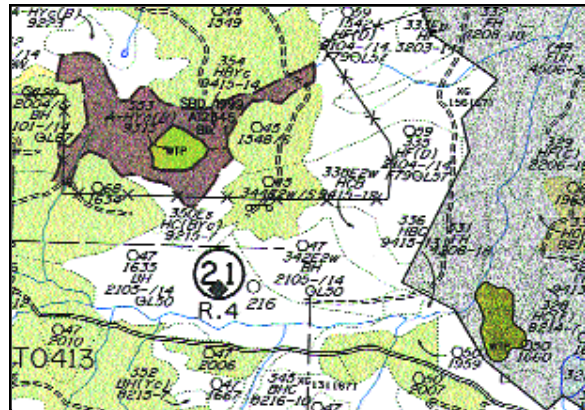


## What are Forest Development Plans?

Forest development plans are required under the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act*, to identify and guide harvesting and road-building operations, and specify measures to protect forest resources during those operations. They are the primary operational plan for public review and comment.



## Content

Forest development plans generally cover a five-year planning period, or more, and consist of:

- maps, text and tables describing the size, shape and approximate location of proposed cutblocks and roads;
- road access and road deactivation information;
- measures that will be carried out to protect forest resources; and
- forest cover, riparian, topographic and other information.

Forest development plans must be consistent with higher level plans, i.e. objectives for resource management zones, landscape units, sensitive areas, recreation sites and trails, and interpretive forest sites.

**Who prepares forest development plans?** Forest development plans are prepared by holders of tree farm licences, forest licences, woodlot licences, community forest agreements, and by the Ministry of Forests' Small Business Forest Enterprise Program.

**Assessments** In some cases, forest health, watershed, terrain stability, or riparian assessments may be required to collect additional information for preparing forest development plans. These assessments are not part of the submitted plan. To review these assessments, you should make a request to the person or licensee responsible for preparing the plan (plan proponent).

**Approval** Forest Service district managers approve forest development plans. *Joint approval* with a designated environment official (Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks representative) is required for more sensitive areas, such as community watersheds, or where required by a higher level plan. Forest development plans are approved for a one to two year term, and may be extended for up to a year.

## Why is public review and comment important?

Input from the public helps plan proponents identify forest resource values in the plan area and design harvesting operations that consider those values and other interests. Officials approving forest development plans also consider the comments received. It is essential that you provide your comments to the plan proponent in order for your perspective to be considered.

## Opportunity for review and comment

Forest development plans or plan amendments must be made available for review and comment for a period of **60 days**, with the exception of expedited major salvage operations (**at least 10 days**), emergency operations (**a minimum of 5 days**), and minor plan amendments (**no public review**).

## Check your local paper

### Sample Advertisement

#### PUBLIC VIEWING

Notice is hereby given that Akan Forest Products Limited will hold a public viewing of the proposed 2000 - 2004 forest development plan for Forest Licence A 16111(Punchaw Lake area). This plan will be available for review during normal business hours for 60 days following this publication, at Akan Forest Products office, 510 Kingston Street, Prince George. A public open house will be held Thursday August 10, 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Best Western Hotel, 910 Victoria St. To ensure consideration, any written comments must be made to Ron Williamson, Akan Forest Products Limited, Box 221 Prince George, BC V2N 1T6 by September 22, 2000.

## Review Period

The start of the review period is initiated by advertisements in local papers. The ads usually state:

- where the plan is available;
- the review period;
- the geographic area covered by the plan; and
- the contact person.

The review and comment period may be extended in some circumstances. An extension request must be received by the district manager, or for joint approval areas, either by the district manager or the designated environment official, prior to expiry of the review period.

## What may be commented on?

There are three categories of cutblock and road information in forest development plans: Proposed, Category I and Approved.

## Proposed

When reviewing forest development plans, comments should focus on proposed Category A cutblocks and proposed roads. Concentrate on the information contained in the maps, text and tables. For further clarification, discuss the details of the proposed operations with the plan proponent.

## Category I

Category I cutblocks and roads are shown for information purposes only, and indicate areas of potential future development. While harvesting and road permits cannot be issued for Category I cutblocks and roads, you may still wish to provide comments to help guide the preparation of future forest development plans.

## Approved

Although all comments will be considered, approved cutblocks and roads are only re-evaluated when they are affected by:

- a law that is enacted, or a higher level plan that is established or varied;
- a wildlife habitat area that is established;
- a community watershed that is designated;
- insect infestation, fire or disease; or

- a watershed or terrain stability assessment that reveals new information indicating the cutblock cannot be harvested as planned.

## Steps for submitting comments

1. Determine when and where the forest development plan is available for review. Watch for notices in local papers or contact the plan proponent.
2. Review the plan and discuss it with the proponent.
3. Provide written comments to the proponent prior to the end of the review period.

## Consideration of comments

The plan proponent must consider comments received, and include in the final submission, a copy of the written comments and a summary of any revisions to the plan or amendment.

## Referrals

District managers can request that forest development plans be referred to anyone materially affected by the proposed operations under the plan. If you feel you may be materially affected by the plan, you may wish to request a referral through the district manager, preferably prior to the start of the review period.

## First Nations

District staff and major licensees also consult with First Nations on forest development plans to determine whether Aboriginal interests or activities are practiced in the area under the plan. Relevant information is then considered in planning and decision making processes.



## Other Public Input Opportunities

Periodically, public input is sought on other forest land use planning activities, such as timber supply reviews, land and resource management plans, and landscape unit objectives. Consult your local Ministry of Forests office for more information on how you can contribute to these different planning processes.

## Forest Development Plans



You have an opportunity to comment

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact your local Ministry of Forests Office, or visit our website  
<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/hfp.htm>



Forest Practices Branch

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