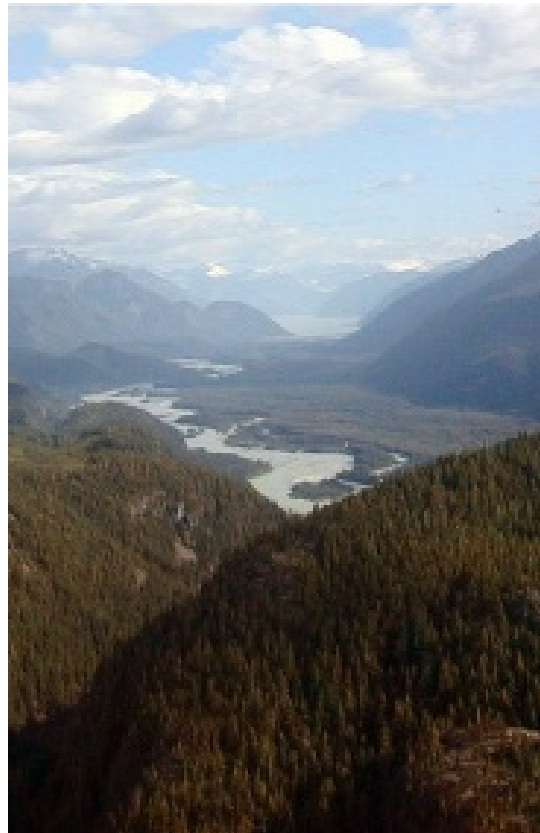

FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLANS: HOW THEY APPLY TO YOU

2006: The Year of the FSP!



THE FACE OF OPERATIONAL PLANNING IS CHANGING...

By now most folks here on Haida Gwaii / Queen Charlotte Islands are familiar with the concept of a Forest Development Plan or FDP, an operational plan that presents a particular licensee's intended site-level development for a period of up to five years.

Now as we enter the results-based realm of the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA), licensees are being called upon to write results and/or strategies for government objectives that have been established for a multitude of resource values including; soils, water, fish, wildlife, cultural heritage resources, visual quality, resource features (like Karst or research installations), biodiversity, timber, recreation resources and forage.

These elements are housed within a new type of operational plan called a Forest Stewardship Plan or FSP. Though similar to an FDP, an FSP has some fundamental changes that people who review it should be aware of. The following table outlines some of these changes:

A comparison of operational plans under the Forest Practices Code and FRPA.

FDP	FSP	<i>What this means...</i>
Regulated by the Forest Practices Code of BC Act	Regulated by the Forest and Range Practices Act	Adequate review will require a better understanding of the new legislation
Will apply to all Cutting Permits approved up until the end of 2006	All new Cutting Permits proposed after Jan. 1 st , 2007 must be done with an approved FSP in place	We can expect a submission and a 60 day review & comment period from the 4 major licensees on islands before the end of this year.
Term of up to 5 years	Term of 5 year with potential to extend for another 5 years	With the potential for an FSP to be in place for a total of up to 10 years, meaningful input at the review & comment stage is more important than ever
Plan specifies measures to protect various forest resources in delineated areas	Plan specifies results and/or strategies to meet objectives set by government, objectives in regulation and objectives in higher level plans	Reviewers will need to understand what is being delivered, to where, by whom and by when for each result and strategy.
Maps show cutblock and road locations usually at a 1:20,000 scale	Maps show FDU's (Forest Development Units) at an acceptable scale which represent the licensee's entire operating area (sometimes spanning landscape units or even districts) and does not have to include cutblock and road locations	Review and comment on site-level concerns will be limited as more emphasis is placed on acceptable results over the entire landscape.
60 day public review & comment period	60 day public review & comment period and meaningful consultation with affected stakeholders	People or organizations whose rights are materially affected should expect a higher degree of consultative effort.
District Manager approves	Minister of Forests and Range or a Delegated Decision Maker (the DDM in most cases will be the District Manager)	In situations where the FSP is a multi-district plan or where the Minister wishes to retain the right to approve, the reviewer must provide clear and focused comments for the licensee to consider. The licensee provides a summary of all comments to the DDM to fulfill legal requirements.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Under section 41(b) of the Forest Practices Code, District Manager approval was based on the proposal's ability to "adequately manage and conserve" the forest resources under which it applies. Now, the DDM (Delegated Decision Maker) applies a series of tests to ensure that the proposed results and strategies are consistent with government objectives.

This means ensuring that licensees accurately consider the full range of objectives that apply to their Forest Development Unit. Also integral is the licensees' ability to demonstrate that what they propose meets the legal definitions of results and strategies. That is, they must be measurable and verifiable (who, what, where, when) and free of ambiguity or multiple interpretations.

Finally the DDM must consider whether the results and strategies within an FSP are "consistent" with the government objectives. Do they provide an appropriate balance of social, environmental and economic concerns?

So, there is a lot to think about this time when you see a little FSP advertisement pop up in the back pages of the Observer. All licensees will make their FSP's available for review and will consider your input before their final submission. If you need a hand in interpreting what is outlined in the different sections, you can contact the licensees directly. If you would like to learn more about FRPA or FSP's in general contact the Stewardship Section of the Ministry of Forests and Range Queen Charlotte Islands Forest District at 250-559-6200.



Queen Charlotte Islands Forest District

P.O. Box 39
Queen Charlotte, B.C. V0T 1S0
Phone (250) 559-6200
Fax (250) 559-8342