April 13, 2023

#### FOREWORD

#### A Commitment to Collaborative and Integrated Planning

Land and resource stewardship planning is a fundamental component of sustainable resource management in BC. It is through planning that local objectives for economic, environmental, social and cultural values and uses of public lands and waters can be clearly defined, and management direction articulated to achieve these objectives.

The Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS) has a mandate to deliver modernized Land Use Plans (MLUP) in partnership with Indigenous Nations. MLUP's set strategic direction for 'what' can occur 'where' on public lands and waters, to guide stewardship and management activities to achieve the desired balance of land use objectives (see MLUP webpage for more information).

The Ministry of Forests (FOR) has a mandate to deliver Forest Landscape Plans (FLP's) in partnership with Indigenous Nations. FLP's provide tactical direction for forest management activities at the landscape and stand level, consistent with broader MLUP direction (see <u>FLP webpage for more information</u>).

Both Ministries are committed to collaborating to ensure effective alignment and delivery of planning initiatives, and the achievement of each Ministry's mandate. While the roles for MLUP and FLP are broadly understood, it is recognized that there will be areas of overlap between each type of planning process, and the need for direction on how to address these overlaps.

#### **Purpose and Audience**

This Interim Direction is intended to provide guidance to government staff responsible for leading planning initiatives on how to address emerging overlaps between FLP and LUP – identified as 'grey areas'. The document outlines a process for identifying potential 'grey areas', options for addressing them and procedures for confirming approval on the proposed approach. This document is not however intended to provide a comprehensive guide to planning, nor to replace existing procedures and governance structures required for Executive and Cabinet direction for planning.

This direction is intended to support a coordinated and integrated approach to land and resource planning, that will ultimately support government goals for advancing reconciliation, promoting sustainable economies and ensuring sound environmental stewardship.

#### Operating principles:

The FOR FLP and WLRS MLUP planning programs ("the parties") commit to implementing the following operating principles:

 Work collaboratively to implement this Interim Direction at all levels in each organization and identify regionally specific expectations and/or procedures where required.

April 13, 2023

- Seek to align with existing Memorandums of Understanding between the parties.
- Work collaboratively to share expertise and resourcing where possible, to support planning at all levels.
- Strive for alignment of indigenous, stakeholder and community engagement activities and ensuring an appropriate level of engagement to address "grey area" activities.
- Provide joint ADM direction on the approach to addressing grey areas issues, where required.
- Seek direction/endorsement from Regional Management Committees on reginal priorities for planning and indigenous engagement.
- Uphold consistent direction for the identification of conservation areas:
  - Interests in permanent protected areas (e.g., parks, conservancies, Indigenous Protected and Conservation Areas) must be addressed through an MLUP process and are outside of the scope of FLPs.
  - o FLPs may include conservation measures required for forest management activities.
- Consider broader government direction for stewardship, planning and forest management in defining priorities for FLP and MLUP. This includes but is not limited to direction arising from the Old Growth Strategic Review, Forest Intentions Paper, Water Security Strategy and Fund, Nature Agreement and implementation of the DRIPA Action Plan.
- Work collaboratively to build agreement on opportunities to amend or establish new legal land use direction, and in defining recommendations to be provided to the appropriate statutory decision maker.
- Review this document on an annual basis to identify opportunities to amend or augment this direction.

This Interim Direction is intended to be a living document that will be updated over time to meet changing direction and needs following this initial phase of FLP and MLUP implementation. It may be expanded in the future to include expectations for alignment with other types of planning, such as Water Sustainability Planning or superseded by more permanent policy or guidance to support the implementation of an integrated approach to planning.

David Muter Eamon O'Donoghue
Assistant Deputy Minister Associated Deputy Minister
Land Use Policy, Planning & Ecosystems Division Ministry of Forests

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Shane Berg
Assistant Deputy Minster
Office of the Chief Forester Division
Ministry of Forests

Interim Direction: FLP-LUP Grey Areas (V1. April 13, 2023)

Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

April 13, 2023

#### **ISSUE**

Indigenous partners and planning tables involved in Forest Landscape Planning (FLP) have identified priority issues for resolution that would normally be outside the scope of an FLP but, could be addressed through an FLP with collaboration and agreement between agencies (WLRS and FOR). An agreement and clear process is required to address these 'grey areas' and provide timely direction for forest management that supports BC's commitment to reconciliation, thriving communities, and healthy, resilient ecosystems.

#### INTRODUCTION

Building an integrated approach to planning on the land base requires flexibility in using existing and emerging tools in an appropriate way. Strategic, modernized land use planning (MLUP) and forest landscape planning (FLP) both provide direction to guide resource management activities on the land.

Modernized Land Use Planning provides high level, long-term land use direction to multiple sectors and assists in defining <u>what</u> can occur on the land base and <u>where</u> it should occur in terms of broad zoning. It seeks to address social choice decisions on public lands.

As there are currently 12 MLUP projects underway, there will be some FLPs developed in the absence of MLUP direction. In other cases, strategic land use plan direction and associated legal Land Use Orders arising from older plans may be outdated or no longer appropriate based on significant land base changes (i.e., wildfire, changing expectations around wildfire risk reduction). Further, some older LUPs provided strategic direction and tactical forestry direction that would now be more appropriate to be addressed in an FLP, mixing levels of planning.

During an FLP process – due in part to the situations described above – issues may arise that would be best to address through a strategic land use planning process. Where there is a concurrent MLUP process planned or underway, these issues can be addressed at the MLUP table. The TFL37 FLP pilot project and concurrent Gwa'ni MLUP project is an example of this approach, as well as the Sunshine Coast FLP where the concurrent plan Shishalh LUP overlaps part of the FLP area. Where there is no concurrent MLUP process - for example, the Quesnel FLP pilot – the FLP may face unresolved land use issues and/or conflicts that can hinder the ability to address important local forest management objectives and priorities, delay reaching outcomes, and may cause issues to escalate to political levels. The Lakes Resiliency Project has addressed this issue in part by confirming support from both agencies for the planning team (including WLRS and FOR staff) to simultaneously develop an FLP and recommend

April 13, 2023

updates to the existing Sustainable Resource Management Plan (SRMP) legal order required to enable implementation of the FLP. Recommendations from the joint planning table will be provided to the respective statutory decision-makers for FLP establishment and Land Use Order amendment to the existing strategic plan.

Depending on the severity of the conflict and frequency of occurrence, FLPs could be overwhelmed and sidetracked into land use conflict discussions that are outside of the FLP's intended purpose and that would be difficult to resolve.

Where a concurrent MLUP process is not available to provide modernized strategic direction, some immediate / short term issues could be addressed through an FLP process, allowing planning tables to continue their work and provide the direction required to allow forest management activities to continue. These issues – that could be addressed through an FLP if an MLUP process is not available in a timely manner – are termed 'grey areas.' An agreement is required to identify these 'grey area' issues and define a process for addressing them.

Collaboration between WLRS and FOR on new and existing FLP's is essential to addressing all parties land stewardship interests. It is expected that new FLP or LUP planning proposals will undergo pre planning collaboration and agreement on the appropriate tools and process used to address key priorities jointly identified. Grey areas, when identified should be discussed with WLRS and FOR leads and an approach agreed to as quickly as possible. This approach will assist in managing expectations at planning tables and address interests through the appropriate pathway.

This Interim Direction is intended to:

- Define the grey areas of work between FLP and LUP processes.
- Identify tools and processes so that planning processes can navigate and continue through these grey areas; and,
- Recommend actions and next steps for implementation of this direction.

This document is not intended to fully describe FLP and MLUP processes. More information on each type of planning can be found on the following websites: FLP (Forest Landscape Plans) and LUP (Land Use Planning for Provincial Public Land - Province of British Columbia (gov.bc.ca).

#### DISCUSSION

#### Defining the 'Grey Area'

The 'grey area' between MLUP and FLP can be defined as land use issues or topics that would normally or best be addressed in an MLUP process, which could also be addressed through an FLP process where a concurrent MLUP process is not available.

April 13, 2023

The objective for both MLUP and FLP is to provide timely direction for resource management and land use that supports BC's commitment to reconciliation, thriving communities, and healthy, resilient ecosystems. Defined and agreed-upon pathways to address 'grey area' issues that may arise will enable FLPs to contribute to this overall objective.

Figure 1 and Table 1 below provide examples of issues or topics that are clearly within the mandate of MLUP and FLP, and potential 'grey areas' that could be addressed by following the process outlined in this document:

Figure 1: MLUP, FLP and the Grey Area

## GREY AREA

Table 1: Examples of Grey Areas between MLUP and FLP

Interest/value (examples only)	MLUP Scope <sup>1</sup>	Grey Area	FLP Scope
Protected Areas	Define areas for permanent / long term protection (e.g., parks, protected areas, IPCAs) that limit tenured activities. May trigger compensation.	Opportunity for FLP to define interim measures / deferred harvesting for areas under consideration for protection through another process.	Protected Areas are outside of FLP scope. FLPs do not have a mandate to make decisions regarding long term permanent protection.  FLP can defer harvesting in specific areas as required to allow recovery of a specific value over the life of the plan (i.e., hydrologic green-up in a watershed).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Note - some strategic land use direction may be decided outside of MLUP projects - for example provincial level direction for species at risk habitat protection or implementation of direction from the Old Growth Strategic Review. These decisions could then be operationalized and implemented through an FLP.

Interim Direction: FLP-LUP Grey Areas (V1. April 13, 2023)

April 13, 2023

Interest/value (examples only)	MLUP Scope	Grey Area	FLP Scope	
Forest Biodiversity including Old Growth	Define/amend objectives for how much old and mature forest to retain across the landscape (e.g., targets, Biodiversity Emphasis Options).	Opportunity for FLP to review current Old Growth Management Areas (OGMA's) and make recommendations for amendments to Land use Objective Orders (LUOR) the Statutory Decision Maker (SDM).	Define spatial areas to manage for old forest objectives defined through MLUP or other legal direction. For example, spatializing OGMAs where targets are currently aspatial.  Define stand level practices for forest biodiversity (wildlife trees, coarse woody debris)  FLP can defer harvesting in specific areas to allow management or recovery of a specific value over the life of the plan.	
Culturally important areas and/or values	Define zones and objectives for protecting culturally important areas / values	Opportunity for FLP to define interim cultural zones and objectives where they do not exist, or temporarily defer harvesting from these areas while other planning processes are underway.	Define harvesting and silviculture practices to achiev cultural objectives (e.g., retain & recruit cedar, retain medicinal plants)	
Wildlife – fisher example	Define objectives for how much habitat to retain to manage for fisher populations and implement through WHA or LUO orders.	Opportunity to define fisher habitat objectives (acceptable impacts) for areas where there is no MLUP underway.	Define spatial areas and forest practices to achieve fisher habitat objectives (and other overlapping objectives)	
Wildlife – Ungulate Winter Range (UWR) Example	Define objectives and measures for ungulate winter range management and implement through UWR orders under the Government Actions Regulation (GAR)	Opportunity to recommend updates to UWR orders to address issues such as significant natural disturbance or wildfire risk reduction objectives in the wildland urban interface	Provide direction, where required, for forest management activities within UWR areas that is consistent with the GAR order.	
Access management	Define zones and objectives for non-motorized recreation	Opportunity to define targets / limits for road density to manage for specific stewardship values.	Define requirements for roads to achieve access management objectives (e.g., construction, deactivation, rehabilitation practices)	

April 13, 2023

Interest/value (examples only)			FLP Scope	
Visual Quality	Define visually sensitive areas to manage for visual quality	Opportunity to amend legal visual quality orders to address significant land base changes (i.e., wildfire).	or practice requirements within established visually	
Wildfire risk reduction	Develop new or amend existing legal land use orders to enable wildfire risk reduction practices in the Wildland Urban Interface around communities.	Opportunity to amend existing zones and/or legal land use orders to enable wildfire risk reduction practices and/or postwildfire recovery practices.	Provide direction for wildfire risk reduction practices in the Wildlife Urban Interface around communities as part of the FLP (outside of Land Use Objective zones)	

Existing legal tools available to support planning processes in some cases may not meet the current needs identified through plan development. A summary of existing tools is outlined in MLUP's Guide to Giving Effect to Legal Plan Content (Link to policy: <u>Land Use Planning Policy & Guidance - Province of British Columbia (gov.bc.ca)</u>). Interim approaches developed to address grey areas or gaps in current legal tools will require collaboration and agreement by all impacted agencies.

#### Options for Addressing 'Grey Areas'

An FLP can provide an avenue to address 'grey areas' if agencies are integrated, working collaboratively, and in agreement on approach. Geographically specific grey area issues that arise prior to or during FLP processes could be addressed on a case-by-case basis using one of the following approaches (note approach for addressing reoccurring issues or issues that affect multiple planning tables below):

#### Address within the FLP Process

- Addressing the issue in the FLP through interim measures (e.g., temporary deferral of harvesting) that would be considered during a future MLUP.
- Using the FLP process to propose changes to legal land use objectives or orders (noting that additional process would be required).
  - Includes issues that are smaller scale, and that have minimal to no impact on other sectors (e.g., CCLUP tactical level objectives that are dated, mule deer winter range orders that inhibit wildfire risk reduction and/or post-wildfire recovery activities)

#### Address through MLUP or other Joint planning process

- 3) Initiate Joint or Concurrent MLUP/FLP.
  - Running concurrent processes allows grey area issues to be addressed in appropriate process and improves alignment of plans, resourcing, and joint priorities.
- 4) Deferring the issue to a future MLUP.

April 13, 2023

 This is not a preferred option and would only occur upon mutual agreement by FOR and WLRS.

Prior to commencement of a MLUP process, a review of issues that have been deferred to the MLUP (option 4), and/or where the FLP has provided temporary direction (option 1) will be required.

Issues that do or are predicted to arise multiple times should be addressed through policy direction that can apply to multiple FLPs. An example is the issue of visual quality zones/legal orders prohibiting wildfire risk reduction or forest health management practices has arisen multiple times. In these cases, LUP and FLP program leads, and regional leads should develop solutions and a proposed consistent approach for addressing the issue. Direction should be documented in a Decision Note that would be approved at the appropriate level using the governance described below and in Appendix A – this will provide direction to existing and future FLP tables on how to address this issue, thereby eliminating this grey area in the future.

#### Governance to address Grey Areas

Key committees and individuals who will have roles and responsibilities for grey area decisions are outlined below, and further detailed in Appendix A. This includes a new ADM planning committee, Regional Management Committees, and Directors responsible for planning programs regionally and provincially. As agencies continue to develop an Integrated Planning Framework that will include MLUP, FLP and other planning processes, direction on governance may evolve.

#### ADM Committee for Integrated Planning (ADMCIP)

A new Assistant Deputy Ministers Planning Committee (ADMPIC) consisting of ADMs responsible for planning is intended to address a gap that exists in accessing and receiving advice and direction from executive on strategic planning issues and areas of overlap for FLP, LUP and other planning processes. The ADMCIP will be a standing committee meeting regularly to review status of planning activities (FLP, MLUP and other planning as required) and provide guidance and direction to ensure planning processes are advancing quickly. Regular updates would be provided to this group to ensure alignment and understanding of planning activities, emerging trends, and advanced awareness of issues as they arise. ADM's responsible for MLUP and FLP may require additional meetings to provide direction on grey area issues for the two initiatives as they arise. This committee would not negate the need to follow the current governance pathway through ADMCNR where cabinet level direction is required. Should the grey area impact other sectors, a broader executive conversation may be required through an expanded ADMCIP.

#### Regional Management Committees

Regional Management Committees (RMC), led by WLRS are regionally based tables composed of senior managers of all natural resource sector agencies. RMCs are key to implementing the province's Area-Based Approach to reconciliation and will play an important role in prioritizing planning processes, identifying appropriate resourcing to support planning work, and addressing issues as they arise ensuring an integrated and interagency approach. Regular monthly meetings to provide updates on

Interim Direction: FLP-LUP Grey Areas (V1. April 13, 2023)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> This approach needs to be confirmed through RMC Governance Project.

April 13, 2023

progress at planning tables and identify and discuss any issues as they arise are part standard operating practices of an RMC.

RMCs (or established sub-working groups) will discuss FLP and MLUP planning issues as they arise and assist in defining solutions to address any "grey" or overlapping interests between planning processes. RMCs may consider deferring initiation of an FLP in areas with significant outstanding land use issues that should be addressed in MLUP especially if an MLUP is underway or pending.

#### Program-level Collaboration

Connections with Program leads responsible for LUP, FLP and water related planning is key to ensuring consistency and alignment and preventing duplication or conflict between planning processes. This collaboration is also key to improving alignment of policies and direction provided to planning teams in addressing "grey area" issues.

#### Collaborative Indigenous Stewardship Forums

Collaborative Indigenous Stewardship Forums (CISF) play a key role in identification and prioritisation of planning activities. Governance structures, relationship building and information gathering occurring through the CISF are intended to inform priorities for planning processes required to address Indigenous communities and governments interests.

#### Approach and Process for Addressing 'Grey Areas'

In addition to the normal interagency collaboration between FOR and WLRS, and with RMCs, addressing grey areas requires increased collaboration at the RMC and program level. Suggested procedures for confirming 'grey area' direction is outlined below and further illustrated in Appendix B:

- 1. Identify issues and potential grey areas (note grey area issues normally can be identified or predicted prior to FLP initiation, however, may also arise during an FLP process):
  - Identifying issues prior to FLP initiation:
    - Initial scan of FLP issues should be part of developing the Area-Based Approach and prioritizing FLPs, to identify the complexity of the planning needs over the area in question.
    - Scoping conversations with First Nations will complement this scanning process and should identify any further grey areas.
    - Assessing resource implications and engagement needs for WLRS, FOR and other agencies impacted.
  - Identifying issues that are not captured in initial scans and that arise during an FLP process.
- Identify Option or Pathway:
  - Regional planning program leads discuss issue and recommend pathway to address grey area issues.
  - FOR and WLRS Directors responsible for planning endorse recommended pathway, with elevation to RMC and/or Executive as required.

Interim Direction: FLP-LUP Grey Areas (V1. April 13, 2023)

Page 9 of 14

April 13, 2023

- Selected pathway is shared with RMC, WLRS and FOR staff and applicable planning tables.
- 3. Information Sharing and Monitoring:
  - Regular updates through RMC and between FOR and WLRS Directors responsible for planning, and between program area leads.

#### CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

'Grey areas' have been identified in FLP pilot projects as land use issues or topics that would normally or best be addressed through an MLUP process, but that could also be addressed through an FLP process using an integrated and interagency approach to best address local planning priorities and forest management challenges. Strong collaboration between FOR and WLRS is required, and RMCs will have a key role in this.

#### Proposed Next Steps:

- Provide a briefing for Information to ADMCNR and DMWGOE
- Develop a Terms of Reference for the new ADM Committee and provide clarity on expectations of governance around the delivery of FLP.
- Provide communication to project tables, regional leads, and RMCs on their role in addressing the individual 'grey area' issues, and the agreed-upon pathway for each specific issue.
- Utilize existing FLP pilot projects to further identify 'grey area' issues and test/refine the principles and process for addressing these on a case-by-case basis.
- Continue to build an integrated approach to land and water stewardship planning through
  existing and new planning processes both at the tactical and strategic level (WSP, FLP, MLUP
  etc.), including development of an Integrated Planning Framework that will develop common
  operating principles and standards for planning.
- Further develop parameters and guidance around interim measures and legal tools to address planning needs.
- Review this interim direction on an annual basis to ensure current thinking is incorporated and WLRS and FOR navigate MLUP and FLP projects.
- The FLP program will continue to seek further direction on acceptable timber supply impacts that could be accommodated within an FLP.

#### Contacts for Further Information or Feedback on this Interim Direction:

- FOR: Leah Malkinson, Manager Sustainable Resource Management
- WLRS: Tricia Morris, Director, Land Use Planning

April 13, 2023

## Appendix A: Roles and Responsibilities for 'Grey Area' Decisions

Committee / Individual	Description	Roles related to Grey Area Decisions
(new) ADM Committee for Integrated Planning (ADMCIP)	ADMs responsible for:  Land Use Planning (LUPPE, WLRS)  Forest Landscape Planning (OCF, FOR)  Water Sustainability Planning (WFCPP, WLRS)  Reconciliation & NRS Policy (RNRSP, WLRS)	<ul> <li>Provide direction / issues resolution to address 'grey area' issues that arise in planning and cannot be addressed at a lower level.</li> <li>Determine when higher level Executive direction or mandate is required – e.g., ADMCNR, DMCNR, Cabinet.</li> <li>Provide direction / approval for policy and communications pertaining to Integrated planning / addressing the 'grey area' between planning programs.</li> <li>Meet regularly.</li> <li>ADM's responsible for FLP and MLUP may meet separately to provide direction on grey area issues where required.</li> </ul>
(existing) Regional Management Committees (RMC's)	Regional Directors and Senior Managers from NRS agencies  RED and Area ED's co-chair  Core agencies: FOR, WLRS, EMLI, MIRR, ECSS  Associate agencies: OGC, EAO, MAF, MOTI	<ul> <li>Recommend regional priorities for land use planning and forest landscape planning.</li> <li>Recommend regional priorities for Indigenous Engagement, and associated priorities for IFP funding.</li> <li>Review and make recommendation for Planning mandates and decisions.</li> <li>Coordinate implementation of plans or decision</li> <li>Provide direction to address regionally specific 'grey area' issues.</li> <li>Meet regularly</li> </ul>
(new) Planning Executive Directors	<ul> <li>WLRS Area Executive Directors</li> <li>FOR Regional Executive Directors</li> <li>WLRS Executive Director for MLUP</li> <li>FOR Director for FLP</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Provide direction where required on the appropriate planning tool and/ or pathway to address provincial-level or reoccurring 'grey area' issues.</li> <li>Provide advice and direction on policy issues related to planning work.</li> <li>Confirm commitment / direction for resourcing proposed pathways.</li> <li>Identify where ADM or Cabinet direction is required.</li> </ul>

Interim Direction: FLP-LUP Grey Areas (V1. April 13, 2023)

April 13, 2023

Committee / Individual	Description	Roles related to Grey Area Decisions
		Meet only as required
(ongoing) Regional Planning Directors (and program leads)	<ul> <li>WLRS Directors of Resource Stewardship Operations (or Alternate Director of Strategic Initiatives)</li> <li>FOR Directors of Strategic Initiatives (FLP &amp; Old Growth)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Undertake Joint Regional Business Planning on an annual or periodic basis to:</li> <li>Scope potential regional priorities for LUP &amp; FLP, and associate resourcing requirements</li> <li>Identify potential 'grey area' issues and options for addressing, for recommendation to Executive Directors</li> <li>Assessing resource implications for WLRS and FOR to implement grey area pathway.</li> <li>Prepare joint recommendations (wherever possible) for RMC endorsement of planning priorities.</li> </ul>
(ongoing) Planning Program Directors / Managers	<ul> <li>MLUP Program Director</li> <li>FLP Program Director/Manager</li> <li>WSP Program Director</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Develop policy and tools to support staff across programs to engage in project scoping and consider the 'right tool for the issue.'</li> <li>Develop consistent tools for evaluating project priorities.</li> <li>Identify planning program and policy related issues that require Executive direction and prepare joint briefing materials for the ADMs committee.</li> <li>Maintain dashboard of planning project updates approach to issues resolution</li> </ul>
(existing) Provincial- Level Planning Program Steering Committee(s )	Director/Senior Manager level interagency steering committees for planning programs • FLP Steering Committee • Strategic LUP WG • Watershed Security Strategy X Ministry Team	<ul> <li>Provide advice and direction for addressing selected 'grey area issues' with policy implications to program areas.</li> <li>Seek advice as required</li> </ul>

April 13, 2023

## Appendix B: Procedures for Determining 'Grey Area' Approach



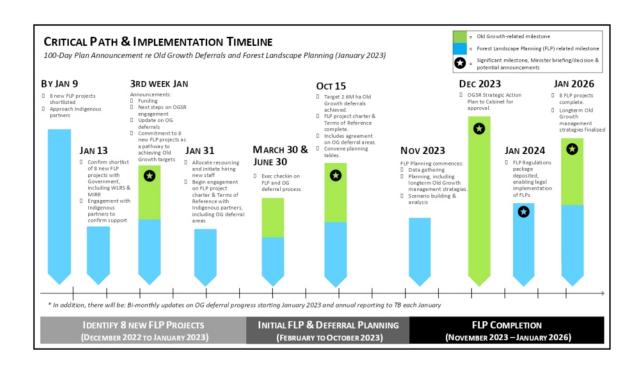
Page 14 of 88

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Page 15 of 88 to/à Page 38 of 88

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Page 40 of 88 to/à Page 41 of 88

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# **Forest Landscape** Planning Update Briefing for Minister Bruce Ralston August 28, 2023



#### Minister Questions

- 1. What are the common elements between FLPs (what is the core of what we are trying to achieve, how are FLPs similar across the province)?
- 2. FLP timelines- how long do they take? What is the process?
- Overview of the 8 FLPs- what are the tables, who are the FNs involved, status, 3. deferrals. We can use the dashboard for this and should include it in the briefing package.
- Highlights from the 4 pilots 4.
- How are LUPs and FLPs different? Where do they intersect? I'd suggest 5. summary of the grey paper, not the whole thing.

#### **FLP PILOT PROJECTS**

#### 4 pilot projects underway:

- TFL 37 Namgis
- Sunshine Coast TSA
- Quesnel TSA
- Lakes TSA Resiliency Project
- Pilot insights informing the development of FLP policy and regulations



## **FLP Pilot Project status**

Pilot Project	1. Pre- planning	2. Value Identification & Assessment	3. Plan Development	4. Plan Establishment	5. Implement & Monitor
TFL 37	$\checkmark$	Completed but not shared publicly	<ul><li>Modelling completed</li><li>Draft Plan summer 2023</li></ul>	Early 2024	
Lakes	$\overline{\mathbf{A}}$	Current condition & mgt report posted on Engage BC	<ul><li>Drafting outcomes &amp; guidelines</li><li>Future forest modelling 2023/24</li><li>Draft Plan summer 2024</li></ul>	Late 2024	
Quesnel	$\overline{\mathbf{A}}$	Current mgt report posted on Engage BC	<ul> <li>Drafting outcomes &amp; guidelines</li> <li>Future forest modelling 2023/24</li> <li>Draft Plan summer 2024</li> </ul>	Late 2024	
Sunshine Coast	$\checkmark$	Vision & values identified, assessment underway	<ul><li>Future forest modelling 2023/24</li><li>Draft Plan early 2024</li></ul>	Late 2024	

Page 46 of 88

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Page 47 of 88 to/à Page 49 of 88

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## Impacts of current wildfire season?

- Some Nations directly impacted by current fires community recovery will take priority over FLP
  - QS communities impacted/evacuated by Bush Creek Fire
  - Nicola Chiefs and QS communities impacted by Rossmore Fire
- Some FLP partners (indigenous & licensee) not available this summer due to fires
- Extreme wildfire events also creating urgency at tables to move towards planning for fire resiliency and landscape fire management

## Wildfire Impacts continued

- Large fires require prompt reforestation and recovery strategies to restore ecosystem services, timber production, and carbon capture objectives
  - In some cases, these strategies may take priority over normal FLP planning work, however they are closely linked
  - Already established FLP Planning tables could help to expedite recovery planning and improve efficacy

## FLP: The mechanism to drive landscape level resiliency

- Bill 23 created a legal requirement for FLPs to address resiliency as one of the five FLP Objectives
- Outcomes and Planning Guidelines must be created to achieve the objectives

#### **5 FLP Objectives**

Managing the values placed on forest ecosystem by Indigenous Peoples

Supporting the protection and conservation of the environment

Supporting production & supply of timber in the forest landscape area

Managing the values placed on ecosystems by local communities

Preventing, mitigating, and adapting to impacts caused by significant disturbances to forests and forest health

11

## **FLPs and Fire Resiliency**

- Planning tables will utilize the best available science and subject matter experts to create desired outcomes and planning guidelines that will guide forest management toward resilience to disturbance such as wildfire
- Planning guidelines will create requirements for forest practices, silviculture systems, and stocking standards to achieve the outcome of a fire resilient landscape
  - · Eg. Location, orientation, size and timing of cutblocks, deployment of deciduous species, prescribed fire, WUI fuels management
- BCWS is actively engaging in FLPs and providing guidance for managing wildfire resiliency
  - Eg. Lakes FLP/Resiliency Project is currently developing direction

This is government's first opportunity to influence landscape level planning across all tenure types in order to achieve a goal like wildfire resiliency. This is the critical shift in focus.

Forest Licensees will develop Forest Operations Plans that are consistent with the planning guidelines and contribute towards achieving the objectives Recent FPB report on Landscape Fire management: recommendations will be incorporated into FLPs

## **Old Growth Deferrals**

- Old growth deferral areas under discussion aiming for agreement end of September
- Some Nations prefer to focus on long-term planning without need for short-term deferrals
- Wildfires have prompted some Nations to reconsider deferral areas want to ensure access to harvesting opportunities

## Opportunities to expedite planning

- · Centralized resource analysis / spatial modelling led by OCF
- · Centralized subject matter experts: "hubs"
- · FLP guidance 'tool kit'
  - · Guidance on key aspects of plan development and requirements
  - Example plan content, pilot FLPs in 2024
- Identify and prioritize potential FLPs that have a narrower scope or a limited set of key issues to address
- Initiate new plans in adjacent TSAs with overlapping Nations, Licensees
  - · Leverage existing relationships, learnings and momentum

## Conclusions

- Pilot and new projects are progressing well and Indigenous and community demand for FLPs continues to increase
- FLP/FOP regulations required to bring the FLP regime into force target Cabinet date early 2024
  - Risk: need to maintain priority to deposit before end of mandate
  - Risk: inability to advance co-development of regs with FNLC
- Additional resourcing is required to initiate new FLPs (beyond next 8) and successfully implement FLPs provincially within subsequent mandates
  - Speed of establishment dependent on longer term funding and leverages opportunities to expedite new plans

15

Page 57 of 88 to/à Page 78 of 88

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#### BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

**DATE:** January 27, 2023

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Bruce Ralston, Minister of Forests

**ISSUE:** Implementation of Forest Landscape Planning projects and Old Growth Strategic

Review Deferrals (100-day announcement item)

#### **BACKGROUND:**

 Government's goal is to accelerate the implementation of the Old Growth Strategic Review (OGSR), including short-term deferrals of old growth forest.

- Forest Landscape Planning (FLP) will be the primary forum used to partner with First Nations to implement local Old Growth deferrals, in addition to local implementation of the suite of Old Growth Strategic Review (OGSR) recommendations.
- FLP is a new type of planning introduced with the 2021 amendments to the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA). FLPs will provide direction for forest management at the landscape and stand (tactical) level to address multiple forest related values, including old growth.
- Four FLP pilot projects are currently underway TFL37, Sunshine Coast TSA, Quesnel TSA and Lakes TSA Resiliency project. These plans are being developed in partnership with Indigenous Nations and forest tenure holders, and with input from local communities and stakeholders. A draft plan is expected in mid 2023 for TFL37, and in 2024 for the other three projects.
- FLPs will need to be developed across the province over the next ten to twelve years and will
  provide direction for new Forest Operation Plans to be developed by forest tenure holders.
- Over 30 Indigenous communities have requested participation in a government to government (G2G) planning process to discuss management of old forests, and many of these have indicated their support for an FLP. Local governments are also interested in participating in FLPs.

#### DISCUSSION:

s.12; s.13; s.16

Page 80 of 88 to/à Page 81 of 88  $\,$ 

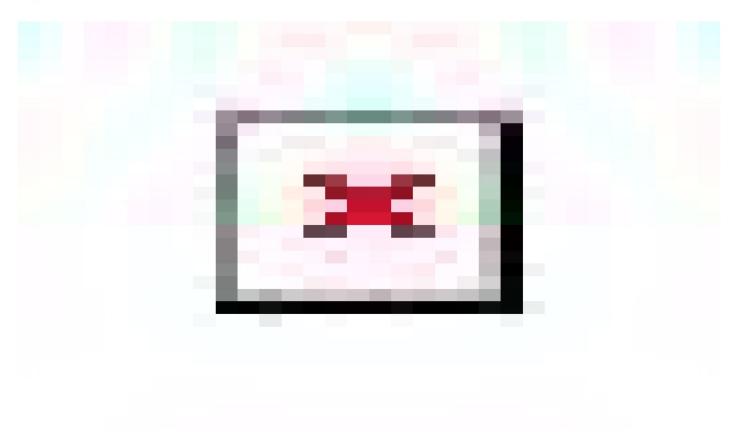
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s.12; s.13; s.16





## Attachment 2:



Page 83 of 88 to/à Page 84 of 88

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s.13; s.14; s.16

Page 85 of 88 to/à Page 88 of 88

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s.13; s.16; s.17