



Mainland Coast
Forest Stewardship Plan
(Incorporating Amendment #3)

September 24, 2009

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1.0 Definitions and Interpretation

In this Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP; “the Plan”; “this Plan”):

“Date of Submission” means, with respect to conditions applicable to a specific forest development unit (FDU), the date of submission to the District Manager for approval of this FSP.

“FRPA” means the *Forest and Range Practices Act*, “FPPR” means the *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation*, and “GAR” means the *Government Actions Regulation* as each was in force on the date this Plan was originally submitted to the District Manager, except as may be explicitly specified otherwise for a specific Section(s) of this FSP.

The abbreviation “s.” is used to indicate a numbered section or sections of the indicated Act, Regulation or Order.

The capitalized word “Section” is used in the singular or plural to refer or cross reference to a numbered clause or section within this FSP.

2.0 Application

(FRPA s. 3(4))

2.1 Licensee and Licenses

This FSP applies to the licensee(s) (FSP Holder(s)) and licenses indicated in Table 1. FDU A includes Landscape Units (LU), or portions thereof, that are covered by the South Central Coast Order. FDU B includes remaining areas that are subject to the Central and North Coast Order.

Table 1: Application of Forest Stewardship Plan

Licensee	Licenses	Management Unit
Western Forest Products Inc. (FDU A and B)	TFL 25, Block 2 and 5 TFL 39, Block 5 TFL 39, Block 3 (portion)	Tree Farm License
	FL A16845, FL A16847, FL A19244	Forest License
	TO309, TO318, TO344, TO433, TO444, TO458, TO465, TO516, TO563, TO589, TO672, TO678, TO682, TO906, TO912	Timber License
Kitasoo Forest Company Ltd. (FDU B)	FL A84184, FL A84185	Non Replaceable Forest License

2.2 Limited Responsibility

Should there be more than one FSP signatory, each Licensee shall be individually responsible for achieving the results, carrying out the strategies, meeting the stocking requirements or implementing the measures in this FSP that pertain to the forest practices of said Licensee.

Future FSPs or amendments may continue or replace the results, strategies, and measures that have not, at the end of this FSPs term, been achieved or completed during the term of this FSP (e.g. if delineation of candidate wildlife habitat areas for a species is not completed during the term of the FSP, that strategy may be continued or replaced with another result or strategy through amendment or FSP replacement).

2.3 Replacement

This FSP encompasses the *WFP Mainland Coast Operations Transitional FSP*, and portions of the *WFP Queen Charlotte Islands, Mid Island, Stillwater, Port Alberni and Portions of the Mainland Coast, Nootka Sound and Zeballos Forest Operations Forest Stewardship Plan* (WFP Coastal FSP). The “Transitional FSP” is now expired and replaced by this FSP. Areas declared, or in CP, under the “WFP Coastal FSP” will remain under that FSP and be managed to the Results and Strategies contained therein.

This FSP also encompasses portions of the *Bella Bella Asset Holdings FSP* (BBAH). Areas declared by Western Forest Products under the BBAH FSP will remain under the BBAH FSP and be managed to the Results and Strategies of the BBAH FSP.

Upon approval of this FSP, new areas (areas not already in CP, not previously declared or not FRPA 196 (1) cutblocks) will be managed under this FSP and the Results and Strategies contained herein.

3.0 Term

(FRPA s. 6(1)(a)(b); 6(2))

The term of this FSP commences on April 29, 2008 and expires April 28, 2013, or on another date specified in writing by the Minister or DDM.

4.0 Map

(FRPA s. 5(1)(a) and FPPR s. 14)

The FSP map appended to this document shows the forest development units (FDUs), tenures and other features of the FSP area at a 1:75,000 scale. The map also provides an overview of the approved FSP area, including major topographic features and related information for FDUs A and B.

4.1 Areas to which FRPA s. 196(1) or FPPR s. 110 Applies

(FPPR s. 14(1)(c))

The appended FSP map shows the cutblocks and roads from previous Forest Development Plans (FDP) that are within a proposed FDU under this FSP and considered approved under FRPA s. 196(1), including those cutblocks referred to in s. 110 of the FPPR.

4.2 Designations in Effect Before Submission

(FPPR s. 14(2))

The FSP map shows the designations and other areas listed in FPPR s. 14(3) that were in effect on the date the FSP was submitted for approval.

Designations in effect include ungulate winter ranges, wildlife habitat areas, scenic areas, adjacent community watersheds and parks.

4.3 Areas Subject to Cutting Permit or Road Permit

(FPPR s. 14 (2)(b) and 14(3)(j))

The FSP map shows the areas within each FDU that are subject to a cutting permit (CP) or road permit (RP) held by Western Forest Products Inc. (WFP) that were in effect on the Date of Submission of the original FSP. Blanket CPs issued for the purposes of salvage are listed below, in Table 2.

The CPs and RPs listed below or shown on the FSP map have received approval and are not the focus of review and comment.

Table 2: Cutting Permits for Salvage (Blanket)

Tenure	CP	FDU
TFL 25, Block 2	CP299	A
TFL 39, Block 5	CP70	A

5.0 Results & Strategies

Land Use Objectives

South Central Coast and Central and North Coast Orders

Strategies 5.1 to 5.55 are provided to address the orders. The area covered by the South Central Coast Order is represented by FDU A, while FDU B includes areas covered by the Central and North Coast Order. Strategies are combined where possible (where objectives in both orders have the same or very similar wording) or presented separately for each FDU below.

First Nations' Traditional Forest Resources

The following strategy applies to FDU A and B:

- 5.1 The FSP Holder will maintain the traditional forest resources, as defined by the Orders, in a manner that supports the food, social, treaty and ceremonial use of the forest by the First Nation(s) whose asserted traditional territory overlaps the Plan area through the following:
 - a) the FSP Holder will invite potentially affected First Nations to meet, at least annually, to review and discuss planned development and to request information from First Nation(s) regarding traditional forest resources within the area covered by the FSP,
 - b) where practicable, information provided by the FSP Holder to a First Nation will be of sufficient detail (spatial and temporal) for the First Nation to assess potential impacts to traditional forest resources and related activities, and
 - c) where it is specifically identified, by the affected First Nation, that FSP Holder development activities will conflict with their traditional forest resources, the FSP Holder will:
 - i) work with the First Nation with an intention to accommodate their concerns, and/or
 - ii) where concerns of the First Nation or FSP Holder cannot be adequately addressed through information sharing, the FSP Holder may refer the issue to the appropriate government agency.

First Nations' Traditional Heritage Features

Within FDU A and FDU B:

- 5.2 Subject to 5.3, where defined traditional heritage features are identified, other than CMTs, the feature will be protected and have a management zone established sufficient to protect the integrity of the feature.
- 5.3 Subject to the requirements of the *Heritage Conservation Act*, a traditional heritage feature, excluding a CMT, may be altered or removed when, through information sharing or consultation with the applicable First Nation, it is determined that:
 - a) the traditional heritage feature is not of continuing importance to the First Nation; or
 - b) the alteration or removal is required for road access, other infrastructure, or to address a safety concern.
- 5.4 Where information sharing or consultation under 5.3b with the applicable First Nation identifies a material adverse impact to a traditional heritage feature that is of continuing importance to the applicable First Nation and there is no practicable alternative, the FSP Holder will identify specific measures to address or seek to accommodate the material adverse impact.

Culturally Modified Trees and Culturally Modified Tree Areas

Within FDU A and FDU B:

- 5.5 Subject to 5.7, once a Culturally Modified Tree (CMT) is identified within an area proposed for road construction and harvesting, the CMT will be protected and have a management zone established of sufficient size to protect the integrity of the CMT.
- 5.6 Subject to 5.7, once a CMT area, as defined by the Order, is identified within the Plan area, the area will be reserved at the stand and landscape level, where practicable, through information sharing or consultation with the applicable First Nation.
- 5.7 Subject to 5.8 and the requirements of the *Heritage Conservation Act*, a CMT, including a CMT in a CMT area, may be altered or harvested after information sharing or consultation with the applicable First Nation determines that:
 - a) the CMT is not of continuing importance to the First Nation, or
 - b) alteration or harvesting is required for road access, other infrastructure, or to address a safety concern, or
 - c) protection of the CMT's in the cutblock would make harvesting the cutblock economically unviable.
- 5.8 Where information sharing or consultation with the applicable First Nation identifies a material adverse impact to a CMT that is of continuing importance to the applicable First Nation and there is no practicable alternative, the FSP Holder will identify specific measures to address or seek to accommodate the material adverse impact.

Monumental Cedar

Within FDU A and FDU B:

- 5.9 Subject to 5.10, the FSP Holder will, to the extent practicable, maintain a sufficient volume and quality of monumental cedar to support present and future cultural use of monumental cedar following information sharing or consultation with individual First Nations, with asserted traditional territories overlapping the Plan area, to:
- a) gather information, as provided by First Nations, to define the volume, quality and/or specifications of monumental cedar necessary to support present and future cultural use of cedar by the First Nation,
 - b) based on information gathered from, and specific to, a First Nation, assess the supply of monumental cedar within portions of the Plan area within a First Nations asserted traditional territory,
 - c) assist First Nations to identify monumental cedar in the Non-Contributing Landbase (e.g. riparian reserves, ungulate winter ranges, wildlife tree patches etc.),
 - d) work with applicable First Nations and government agencies to develop long term cedar supply strategies that address the specific needs of First Nations and their territories, and
 - e) where sufficient volume and quality of monumental cedar cannot be identified within the Non-Contributing Landbase, the FSP Holder will:
 - i) assist First Nations to identify monumental cedar in the Timber Harvesting Landbase,
 - ii) identify monumental cedar encountered during operational planning and consider their inclusion in stand level retention consistent with s. 7(1) and s. 16(2)(d) of the Orders, and
 - iii) take reasonable steps to make wood and logs available for cultural purposes from active operating areas to meet short term needs.
- 5.10 Where an asserted traditional territory partially overlaps the Plan area, the FSP Holder will assist to identify and maintain a supply of monumental cedar on a proportional basis, unless it is demonstrated that the supply of monumental cedar is otherwise unavailable or limited in portions of the asserted traditional territory outside of the Plan area.
- 5.11 Subject to 5.12, in areas where road construction and timber harvesting are proposed, the FSP Holder will identify and reserve monumental cedars where information sharing with the applicable First Nation has indicated the monumental cedar may be suitable for cultural use.
- 5.12 Despite 5.9 and 5.11, a monumental cedar may be harvested when, through information sharing or consultation with the applicable First Nation, it is determined that:
- a) the monumental cedar is not suitable or required for a cultural use, or
 - b) the monumental cedar will be provided to the applicable First Nation, or
 - c) harvesting the monumental cedar is required for road access, other infrastructure, or to address a safety concern.
- 5.13 Where information sharing or consultation with the applicable First Nation under 5.12 identifies a material adverse impact to a monumental cedar that is identified as being suitable for cultural use by the applicable First Nation, and there is no practicable alternative, the FSP Holder will identify specific measures to address or seek to accommodate the material adverse impact.

Stand Level Retention for First Nations and Biodiversity

The following strategy applies to FDU A and B and addresses Objectives 7 and 16 of both the South Central Coast and Central and North Coast Orders:

- 5.14 the FSP Holder will, to the extent practicable, maintain a sufficient volume and quality of Western red cedar and Yellow cedar to support applicable First Nation's cultural cedar use of Western red cedar and Yellow cedar.
- 5.15 For the purposes of 5.14, where Cedar Stewardship Areas have been identified, maintain and recruit western red cedar and yellow cedar in the Cedar Stewardship Areas to support the applicable First Nations' use of western red cedar and yellow cedar.
- 5.16 Within a cutblock for the first 15% of the pre-harvest stand retained, in stand level retention, as specified in section 16(1) of the Orders, design aggregate and dispersed stand retention to maintain a range of diameters of mature and old western red cedar and yellow cedar representative of the pre-harvest stand.
- 5.17 The FSP Holder will maintain a minimum of 15% of the Gross Harvest Area (GHA¹) for all cutblocks, subject to the following:
 - a) if the cutblock is 15 hectares or larger, distribute at least 50% of the retention within the cutblock, unless the cutblock is in a second growth stand with a high biophysical hazard for windthrow and
 - b) to the extent practicable, include within stand retention, the items listed in section 16(2) of the Orders.

Important Fisheries Watersheds

Within FDU A and B:

- 5.18 The FSP Holder's primary forest activities will be designed to maintain an ECA of less than 20% within specified important fisheries watersheds as shown in Schedule 3 of the Orders, or portions thereof, unless a higher ECA is established after:
 - a) information sharing or consultation with the applicable First Nation,
 - b) a coastal watershed assessment or similar assessment of watershed sensitivity to forest development disturbance is completed by a qualified professional,
 - c) maintaining an amount, type and distribution of forest cover that is sufficient to sustain natural hydrological and fluvial processes, based on the assessment in b), and
 - d) to the extent practicable, an adaptive management plan is developed and implemented.
- 5.19 Where other tenure holders are present within an important fisheries watershed, the FSP Holder will communicate with the other licensee(s) to maintain an ECA of less than 20% (or a higher amount established in accordance with the Order) across the watershed.

Upland Streams

Within FDU A and B:

- 5.20 Subject to the requirements of 5.18 and 5.19, the FSP Holder's primary forest activities will be designed to maintain the amount of functional riparian forest, within upland stream portions of

¹ Gross Harvest Area (GHA) = Net Area to be Reforested + Road area. For clarity, GHA excludes Wildlife Tree Patches, Reserves, Retention and natural Non-Productive Areas.

the watersheds in FDU B and the specified important fisheries watersheds in FDU A, above 70%, unless an amount less than 70% is established after:

- a) information sharing or consultation with the applicable First Nation,
- b) a coastal watershed assessment or similar assessment of watershed sensitivity to forest development disturbance is completed by a qualified professional,
- c) maintaining an amount, type and distribution of forest cover that is sufficient to sustain natural hydrological and fluvial processes, based on the assessment in b), and
- d) to the extent practicable, an adaptive management plan is developed and implemented.

5.21 In designing retention in upland portions of watersheds, the FSP Holder will include upland stream reaches with unique microclimate or other rare ecological or geomorphological characteristics.

5.22 Where other tenure holders are present within upland stream portions of applicable watersheds, the FSP Holder will communicate with the other licensee(s) to maintain 70% or more of the forest as functional riparian forest (or a lower amount established in accordance with the applicable Order) across the upland stream area.

High Value Fish Habitat

Within FDU A and B:

5.23 During the course of planning primary forest activities, the FSP Holder will identify potentially high value fish habitat (HVFH), and:

- a) determine if the potentially HVFH is HVFH as defined by the Order, or
- b) assume the potentially HVFH is HVFH.

5.24 Where HVFH is confirmed to exist, or is assumed to exist by default, the FSP Holder will:

- a) subject to c), adjacent to HVFH, maintain a reserve zone with a width, on average, of 1.5 times the height of the dominant trees,
- b) not alter or harvest the forest in the reserve zones, unless there is no practicable alternative,
- c) vary the width of the reserve zone in any one location, or in multiple individual locations, by increasing or decreasing the reserve zone by up to 0.5 tree heights to address site specific values, including reserving critical habitat for species at risk, and
- d) to the extent practicable, recruit functional riparian forest in the reserve zone where some or all of the forest in the reserve zone has been previously altered or harvested.

Aquatic Habitat that is not High Value Fish Habitat

Within FDU A:

5.25 Adjacent to S1 to S3 streams as defined in the Forest and Range Practices Act, lakes and marsh and fen wetlands greater than 0.25 hectares, the FSP Holder will retain 90% of the functional riparian forest in a management zone with a width on average of 1.5 times the height of the dominant trees.

5.26 The width of the management zone in 5.25 may be increased or decreased by 0.5 tree heights, in any one location, or in multiple individual locations, to address site specific values, including reserving critical habitat for species at risk.

- 5.27 Despite 5.25 and 5.26, and subject to 5.28, the FSP Holder may comply with the provisions for the management of riparian management areas in accordance with the FRPA and FPPR as described in Sections 5.77 through 5.86 of this document.
- 5.28 Before altering or harvesting forest within a riparian management area established under Sections 5.77 through 5.86 the FSP Holder will:
- ascertain and retain the amount of functional riparian forest, sufficient to maintain stream bank stability and stream channel integrity,
 - to the extent practicable, develop and implement an adaptive management plan and
 - engage in information sharing or consultation with the applicable First Nation.
- 5.29 Where some or all of the forest in the management zone has been previously altered or harvested, the FSP Holder will, to the extent practicable, recruit functional riparian forest in that management zone or area.

Within FDU B:

- 5.30 Adjacent to S1 to S3 streams as defined in the Forest and Range Practices Act, lakes and marsh and fen wetlands greater than 1.0 hectares, the FSP Holder will retain 90% of the functional riparian forest in a management zone with a width on average of 1.5 times the height of the dominant trees.
- 5.31 Adjacent to lakes and marsh and fen wetlands that are between 0.25 and 1.0 hectares, the FSP Holder will retain 90% of the functional riparian forest in a management zone with a width on average of 1.0 times the height of the dominant trees.
- 5.32 The width of a management zone established in 5.30 or 5.31 may be increased or decreased by 0.5 tree heights, in any one location, or in multiple individual locations, to address site specific values, including reserving critical habitat for species at risk.
- 5.33 Despite 5.30 and 5.31, the amount of functional riparian forest retained in the management zones for S1 to S3 streams, lakes and marsh and fen wetlands may be reduced to 70% after:
- ascertain and retain the amount of functional riparian forest sufficient to maintain stream bank stability and stream channel integrity,
 - to the extent practicable, develop and implement an adaptive management plan, and
 - engaging in information sharing or consultation with the applicable First Nation.
- 5.34 Where some or all of the forest in the required management zone has been previously altered or harvested, the FSP Holder will, to the extent practicable, recruit functional riparian forest in that management zone.

Forested Swamps

Within FDU A and B, for forested swamps greater than 0.25 hectares, the following strategy applies:

- 5.35 The FSP Holder will:
- retain 70% of the functional riparian forest in a management zone with a width, on average, equal to 1.5 times the height of the dominant trees,
 - vary the width of the management zone in any one location, or in multiple individual locations, by increasing or decreasing the management zone by up to 0.5 tree heights to address site specific values, including reserving critical habitat for species at risk, and
 - to the extent practicable, recruit functional riparian forest in the management zone where some or all of the forest in the management zone has been previously altered or harvested.

- 5.36 Before altering or harvesting up to an additional 10% of the forest within the management zone as per section 11(3) of the applicable Orders, the FSP Holder will:
- a) ascertain and retain the amount of functional riparian forest sufficient to maintain the integrity of the forested swamp,
 - b) to the extent practicable, develop and implement an adaptive management plan, and
 - c) engage in information sharing or consultation with the applicable First Nation.

Active Fluvial Units (AFU)

Within FDU A:

- 5.37 Subject to 5.38, once an active fluvial unit (AFU) is identified in the field, the FSP Holder will retain at least 90% of the functional riparian forest on the AFU.
- 5.38 Before altering or harvesting up to an additional 10% of the forest on an active fluvial unit, the FSP Holder will:
- a) ascertain and retain the amount of functional riparian forest, sufficient to maintain stream bank stability and stream channel integrity,
 - b) to the extent practicable, develop and implement an adaptive management plan, and
 - c) engage in information sharing or consultation with the applicable First Nation.

Within FDU B:

- 5.39 Once an AFU is identified in the field, the FSP Holder will:
- a) retain 90% of the functional riparian forest in an adjacent management zone with a width, on average, equal to 1.5 times the height of the dominant trees, and
 - b) vary the width of the management zone in any one location, or in multiple individual locations, by increasing or decreasing the management zone by up to 0.5 tree heights to address site specific values, including reserving critical habitat for species at risk.
- 5.40 Before altering or harvesting up to an additional 10% of the forest within the management zone, the FSP Holder will:
- a) ascertain and retain the amount of functional riparian forest sufficient to maintain bank stability and channel integrity on the AFU,
 - b) to the extent practicable, develop and implement an adaptive management plan, and
 - c) engage in information sharing or consultation with the applicable First Nation.

Landscape Level Biodiversity

The following strategies apply to FDU A and/or B and address Objective 14 of both the South Central Coast and Central and North Coast Orders and their respective Schedules:

- 5.41 For each site series surrogate in a landscape unit, retain an amount of old forest equal to or greater than the landscape unit default target listed in Schedule 4, (using site series surrogate targets listed in Schedule 4(b)), except where alteration or harvesting is required for road access, other infrastructure, or to address a safety concern
- 5.42 For each site series surrogate listed in Schedule 4(c), also maintain an amount of old forest equal to or greater than that specified for each site series surrogate listed in Schedule 4(c).
- 5.43 For FDU A:

- a) In addition to 5.41 above, for those site series surrogates listed in Schedule 4(d), retain an additional amount of old growth forest within each of the landscape units listed equal to or greater than the area (ha) shown for each site series surrogate.
 - b) In order to satisfy the requirement in 5.43 a), a qualified professional may identify and retain the amount of old growth forest for each site series surrogate identified in Schedule 4 (d) in any of the landscape units identified in Schedule 4 that are within the area covered by the Forest Stewardship Plan.
- 5.44 As an alternative to 5.41, for each site series, or grouping of site series in a landscape unit, retain an amount of old forest equal to or greater than the landscape unit default target listed in Schedule 4, (using site series or site series grouping targets listed in Schedule 4 (a), except where alteration or harvesting is required for road access, other infrastructure, or to address a safety concern
- 5.45 For FDU A, as an alternative to 5.42, for each site series or site series grouping in Schedule 4 (e) also maintain an amount of old forest equal to or greater than that specified for each site series or site series grouping listed in Schedule 4 (e).
- 5.46 For FDU B, as an alternative to 5.42, for each site series or site series grouping in Schedule 4 (d) also maintain an amount of old forest equal to or greater than that specified for each site series or site series grouping listed in Schedule 4 (d).
- 5.47 Where there is less than the default old forest target available in a LU, the FSP Holder will, on a proportional basis and to the extent practicable, recruit forest to meet the representation requirements within 250 years.
- 5.48 Within the applicable LUs, or portions thereof, the FSP Holder will:
- a) maintain less than 50% of each site series surrogate in mid-seral forest age classes to the extent practicable as listed in Schedule 4 of the Orders and
 - b) where necessary, reduce the amount to less than 50% within 80 years, to the extent practicable.
- 5.49 Despite 5.41, 5.44, and 5.47 less than the default target amount of old forest may be retained in a landscape unit after:
- a) information-sharing or consultation with the First Nation(s);
 - b) a landscape unit habitat assessment for species at risk and regionally important wildlife is completed by a qualified professional;
 - c) old forest is retained to provide sufficient habitat to sustain species at risk and regionally important wildlife, based on the assessment in 5.49 b);
 - d) old forest is retained to meet the risk managed target in Schedule 4; and
 - e) an adaptive management plan is developed and implemented to the extent practicable.
- 5.50 To the extent practicable, include within old forest retention areas, stands of monumental cedar for future cultural cedar use, red-and blue-listed plant communities, habitats important for species at risk, ungulate winter range, and regionally important wildlife, including, but not limited to:
- a) mountain goats;
 - b) grizzly bears;
 - c) northern goshawks;
 - d) tailed frogs; and

- e) marbled murrelets.

Red-listed and Blue-listed Plant Communities

Within FDU A and B:

- 5.51 Subject to 5.52, where occurrences of the applicable, specified red listed plant communities are identified in the field, the FSP Holder will protect each occurrence during primary forest activities.
- 5.52 Up to 5% of each red listed occurrence may be disturbed, if there is no practicable alternative, for road access, other infrastructure or to address a safety concern.
- 5.53 Where occurrences of the applicable, specified blue listed plant communities exist in a LU, or portion thereof, the FSP Holder will:
 - a) protect at least 70% of each occurrence of a blue listed plant community identified in Schedule 6 of the Orders, as it occurs within the FDU, during primary forest activities, or
 - b) where Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping (TEM) is available, or becomes available, for a LU, protect at least 70% of each type of blue listed plant community in a LU as it occurs within a FDU.

Grizzly Bear Habitat

:

- 5.54 Within FDU A, subject to 5.56 the FSP Holder will maintain the grizzly bear habitat as set out in Schedule 2 of the South Central Coast Order.
- 5.55 Within FDU B, , the FSP Holder will:
 - a) Subject to 5.56, maintain 100% of class one grizzly bear habitat as set out in Schedule 2 of the Central and North Coast Order.
 - b) Maintain 50%, of the class 2 grizzly bear habitat identified in FDU B, as set out in Schedule 2 of the Central and North Coast Order, unless it is determined that greater than 50% of the total class 2 grizzly bear habitat identified throughout the Central and North Coast Order area, has already been reserved from harvest.
- 5.56 For FDU A and FDU B, grizzly bear habitat referenced in 5.54 and 5.55 a), may be altered or harvested after:
 - a)
 - i) Obtaining from a qualified professional confirmation that the disturbance will not cause a material adverse impact to the suitability of the grizzly bear habitat;
 - ii) to the extent practicable, preparing and implementing an adaptive management plan; and
 - iii) engaging in information sharing or consultation with the applicable First Nation; or
 - b)
 - i) obtaining from a qualified professional confirmation that the disturbance will not cause a material adverse impact to the suitability of the grizzly bear habitat;
 - ii) the alteration or harvesting is required to accommodate minor boundary adjustments to a proposed cut block and will impact less than 5% the area of a polygon; and
 - iii) engaging in information sharing or consultation with the applicable First Nation; or

- c)
 - i) a qualified professional has determined that:
 - I) There is no other practicable alternative for road access, road right-of-way clearing width is the minimum safe width necessary to accommodate the road and, to the extent practicable, avoids or minimizes any material adverse impact to grizzly bear habitat;
 - II) There is no practicable alternative for other infrastructure; or
 - III) The alteration or harvesting is required to address a safety concern; and
 - ii) engaging in information sharing or consultation with the applicable First Nation.

Objectives Prescribed Under Legislation

(FRPA s. 149; FPPR s. 5-10)

Soils

- 5.57 For FDU A and B the FSP Holder undertakes (FPPR s. 12.1(1)) to comply with the legislated requirements setting limits for:
- a) soil disturbance (FPPR s.35), and
 - b) permanent access structures (FPPR s. 36).

Wildlife

Ungulate Winter Ranges (UWR)

Within FDUs A and B:

- 5.58 Ungulate Winter Ranges U-1-003, U-5-004 and U-5-005 have been established by Order of the Minister. The Orders exempt the FSP Holder, for the TSA or TFL specified, from the obligation to specify a result or strategy herein. The FSP Holder will comply with the legal requirements of the Orders.
- 5.59 Ungulate Winter Range U-5-004 expires on December 31, 2009. Unless continued or otherwise amended prior to expiry, this UWR will cease to apply to the Plan area on January 1, 2010.

Wildlife Habitat Areas (WHAs)

Within FDU A and B:

- 5.60 Within the North Island-Central Coast Forest District, WHAs 5-120 to 5-541 have been established for grizzly bear, some of these polygons are contained within the Plan area. WHA 1-073 has also been established for Coastal Tailed Frog within the Plan area. The FSP Holder will comply with the legal requirements of the Orders establishing WHAs within the Plan area, including applicable General Wildlife Measures (GWMs).
- 5.61 Within the Campbell River Forest District, WHAs 2-073, 2-074 and 2-075 are established for grizzly bear in the Phillips Landscape Unit. The FSP Holder will comply with the legal requirements of the Orders establishing WHAs within the Plan area, including applicable General Wildlife Measures (GWMs).

There are no WHAs in the portion of the Plan area within the North Coast Forest District.

Marbled Murrelet (MaMu)

The following strategy will be implemented within FDU A and B by the FSP Holder:

- 5.62 In keeping with the FPPR s. 7(2) Notices, identify and maintain an area equivalent to the total amount of currently suitable nesting habitat in the Non-Contributing Landbase (NCLB) within the Plan area.
- 5.63 A distribution of the MaMu habitat identified in 5.62 will be maintained, where it occurs, across the landbase, subject to 5.64.
- 5.64 Harvesting in the NCLB, in areas of suitable nesting habitat, is permitted provided an area of equivalent or better habitat value is retained in the Timber Harvesting Landbase (THLB), in addition to the proportional THLB retention amounts specified in Table 3.
- 5.65 Within the THLB, and subject to consideration of habitat distribution and attributes, maintain a proportional amount (based on the proportion of District area represented by the Plan area) of suitable habitat as specified by the applicable District Notice (summarized in Table 3), subject to 5.66.

Table 3: MaMu Suitable Nesting Habitat Retention Targets in the THLB by District.

District	Applicable Notice Amount (ha)	District Proportion Represented by the Plan Area (%)	Proportional THLB Retention Requirement (ha)
CRFD	1322 ²	8	106
NICCFD	1434	6	87
NCFD	375	3	12

- 5.66 The strategy applies until the earlier of the replacement of this Plan or the effective date of an exemption provided by the appropriate Minister or delegate with respect to the establishment of WHA's and/or other reserves. If an exemption is provided, the terms of the exemption and any associated general wildlife measures will prevail thereafter.

Queen Charlotte Goshawk

Within FDU B and portions of FDU A contained in the North Island-Central Coast Forest District:

- 5.67 The FSP Holder, subject to 5.68, will propose areas containing known breeding habitat for Queen Charlotte Goshawk for WHA establishment if the area is determined to be suitable and:
 - a) is located within the Mid Coast TSA and where habitat consistent with the distribution and attributes as described in the Notice exists in the areas contiguous to an active nest site, to a maximum of 277 hectares not exceeding a THLB impact of 128 hectares, or
 - b) is located within the North Coast Forest District and where habitat consistent with the distribution and attributes as described in the Notice exists in the areas contiguous to an active nest site, to a maximum of 600 hectares not exceeding a THLB impact of 533 hectares.
- 5.68 The strategy applies until the earlier of the replacement of this Plan or the effective date of an exemption provided by the appropriate Minister or delegate with respect to the establishment

² As reduced from the original Notice requirement of 1431 ha by the Order establishing WHAs 1-135 to 1-164 in the CR FD.

of WHA's and/or other reserves. If an exemption is provided, the terms of the exemption and any associated general wildlife measures will prevail thereafter.

Coastal Tailed Frog

Within FDU A and portions of FDU B contained in the North Island-Central Coast Forest District:

- 5.69 Subject to 5.70, when suitable habitat is identified in the field, the FSP Holder will work with the appropriate government agencies to delineate an area, or areas, for WHA consideration:
- a) in the Campbell River Forest District to a maximum of 80 hectares of which no more than 20 hectares will be in the mature THLB, and
 - b) in the North Island-Central Coast Forest District to a maximum of 1549 hectares of which no more than 183 hectares will be in the mature THLB.
- 5.70 The strategy applies until the earlier of the replacement of this Plan or the effective date of an exemption provided by the appropriate Minister or delegate with respect to the establishment of WHA's and/or other reserves. If an exemption is provided, the terms of the exemption and any associated general wildlife measures will prevail thereafter.

Great Blue Heron

Within FDU A and portions of FDU B contained in the North Island-Central Coast Forest District:

- 5.71 Subject to 5.72, when a nest colony is identified in the field, the FSP Holder will work with the appropriate government agencies to delineate an area, or areas, for WHA consideration:
- a) in the Campbell River Forest District to a maximum of 160 hectares of which no more than 24 hectares will be in the mature THLB, and
 - b) in the North Island-Central Coast Forest District to a maximum of 240 hectares of which no more than 36 hectares will be in the mature THLB.
- 5.72 The strategy applies until the earlier of the replacement of this Plan or the effective date of an exemption provided by the appropriate Minister or delegate with respect to the establishment of WHA's and/or other reserves. If an exemption is provided, the terms of the exemption and any associated general wildlife measures will prevail thereafter.

Red Legged Frog

Within portions of FDU A contained in the Campbell River Forest District:

- 5.73 Subject to 5.74, when suitable breeding habitat is identified in the field, the FSP Holder will work with the appropriate government agencies to delineate an area, or areas, for WHA consideration, to a maximum of 50 hectares of which no more than 30 hectares will be in the mature THLB.
- 5.74 The strategy applies until the earlier of the replacement of this Plan or the effective date of an exemption provided by the appropriate Minister or delegate with respect to the establishment of WHA's and/or other reserves. If an exemption is provided, the terms of the exemption and any associated general wildlife measures will prevail thereafter.

Keen's Long-eared Myotis

Within portions of FDU A contained in the Campbell River Forest District:

- 5.75 Subject to 5.76, when suitable habitat is identified in the field and is determined to be occupied by the species, the FSP Holder will work with the appropriate government agencies to

delineate an area for WHA consideration, to a maximum of 40 hectares of which no more than 30 hectares will be in the mature THLB.

- 5.76 The strategy applies until the earlier of the replacement of this Plan or the effective date of an exemption provided by the appropriate Minister or delegate with respect to the establishment of WHA's and/or other reserves. If an exemption is provided, the terms of the exemption and any associated general wildlife measures will prevail thereafter.

Riparian Areas

Adopting Regulation Provisions

- 5.77 Throughout FDU A and B, the FSP Holder will undertake (FPPR s. 12.1(2) and/or 12.3) to comply with the legislated requirements of the FPPR. Stream (s. 47), wetland (s. 48) and lake (s. 49) riparian classes and minimum zone widths will apply, except as defined in 5.85 and 5.86, as will the restrictions in riparian management zones (s. 52(2)) and temperature sensitive streams (s. 53).
- 5.78 Within FDU A and B, the FSP Holder will undertake to comply with the legislated requirements specifying restrictions in riparian management areas (FPPR s. 50), subject to the following:
- with respect to s. 50(1), road construction may occur as described in s. 50(1)(a,b,c), only if not in conflict with any applicable results or strategies specified for objectives relating to the South Central Coast and Central and North Coast Orders.

Restrictions in a Riparian Reserve Zone (RRZ)

- 5.79 Within FDU A and B, with respect to conditional exemption under FPPR s. 12.3(5), the legislated exceptions set out in FPPR s. 51(1, 2) continue to apply.
- 5.80 Within FDU A and B, with consideration to the strategies set out in this FSP to address the South Central Coast and Central and North Coast Orders, the FSP Holder is exempt from the legislated practice requirement stated under FPPR s. 51(3) and instead may carry out spacing or thinning in second growth riparian reserve zones to:
- enhance wildlife values,
 - enhance fisheries values,
 - create old growth characteristics,
 - reduce future windthrow potential, or
 - recruit or enhance functional riparian forest.

Forest Practices in a Riparian Management Zone (RMZ)

- 5.81 Subject to 5.84, for FDU A and B, with respect to FPPR s. 12(3), unless specific wildlife and/or biodiversity values are identified in the RMA, retention of trees within the RMZ of streams (S1, S2, S3), wetlands (W1, W2, W5) or lakes (L1-B, L2) requiring a RRZ will be based on consideration of the likelihood of damages to the RRZ caused by windthrow, as follows:
- for boundary locations with a Low likelihood of post-harvest windthrow within the RRZ, retention of trees is unnecessary in the RMZ,
 - for boundary locations with a Moderate or High likelihood of post-harvest windthrow within the RRZ, retention will vary from 0-100%, with possible edge manipulation treatments to improve wind-firmness in the RMA.
- 5.82 Should specific wildlife and/or biodiversity values be identified, appropriate retention levels will be maintained to protect these values.

- 5.83 For FDU A and B, with respect to FPPR s. 12(3), trees will be retained where necessary to protect the integrity of the stream bank, channel, or waterbody, on a site-specific basis within the RMZ of streams (S4, S5, S6), wetlands (W3, W4) or lakes (L3, L4) not requiring an RRZ (including S4, S5, or S6 RMZ's not defined in FPPR s. 52(2)), where it will benefit the protection of identified water quality, fish habitat, wildlife, and/or biodiversity values.
- 5.84 For FDU A and B, with respect to FPPR s. 12(3), retention of trees in RMZ's, in addition to those retained under 5.81 to 5.83, may occur where necessary to comply with results or strategies specified for objectives relating to the South Central Coast and Central and North Coast Orders.

Management Zones on L1 lakes (Former Mid-Coast Forest District)

Within FDU A and B, lakeshore management zones (LMZs) for L1 lakes in the former Mid-Coast Forest District are continued under FRPA s. 180(h). The following is with respect to the FPPR s. 12.3(3) and s. 49(2,3):

- 5.85 For L1-A lakes within the former Mid-Coast Forest District, the FSP Holder will do the following:
- a) designate a 40 meter (slope distance) Lakeshore Management Zone, and
 - b) retain the portion of the LMZ necessary to meet the applicable requirements of Sections 5.23 to 5.34.
- 5.86 For L1-B lakes within the former Mid-Coast Forest District, the FSP Holder will do the following:
- a) establish a 10 meter (slope distance) reserve zone as required by s. 49(2) of the FPPR, and
 - b) designate an additional 40 meter (slope distance) management zone beginning at the outer edge of the reserve zone, and
 - c) retain the portion of the LMZ necessary to meet the applicable requirements of Sections 5.23 to 5.34, and
 - d) subject to c), plan retention with consideration of protection of the reserve zone based on windthrow risk as described in 5.81 above.

Wildlife & Biodiversity

Maximum Cutblock Size

- 5.87 For FDU A and B, the FSP Holder undertakes (FPPR s. 12.1(3)) to comply with the legislated requirements setting the maximum cutblock size as outlined in FPPR s. 64.

Harvesting Adjacent to Another Cutblock

- 5.88 For FDU A and B, the FSP Holder undertakes (FPPR s. 12.1(3)) to comply with the legislated requirements regarding cutblock adjacency as outlined in FPPR s. 65.

Retention of Wildlife Trees

- 5.89 For FDU A and B, and with respect to conditional exemption from the provisions of FPPR s. 66 under FPPR s. 12.5(1), the FSP Holder will assign for each cutblock, prior to submission for cutting permit, a wildlife tree retention area (WTRA) that is a minimum of 7% of the Gross Harvest Area (GHA) for the cutblock.

Restrictions on Harvesting Timber from a Wildlife Tree Retention Area

- 5.90 For FDU A and B, the FSP Holder will comply with the FPPR s.67, except, with respect to FPPR s. 12.5(2), where:
- a) a tree must be felled to safely establish one or more tail-holds or guy-line tiebacks in a wildlife tree retention area to facilitate adjacent cable logging operations, or
 - b) a tree, or trees, within a wildlife tree retention area is modified (pruned or topped) to maintain the integrity of that wildlife tree retention area.

Objectives Established Under GAR

Visual Quality

Within FDU A and B:

- 5.91 A cutblock or road affecting visual quality will be designed by the FSP Holder to meet the established visual quality objective (VQO) for known scenic areas as those objectives and scenic areas were on the earlier of the date the cutblock or road:
- is submitted for cutting or road permit, or
 - becomes a Declared Area under FPPR s. 14(4).
- 5.92 A cutblock or road, when assessed from each significant public viewpoint, will meet the visual quality objective as per the categories of altered forest landscape set out in FPPR s. 1.1.
- 5.93 Despite section 5.91 and 5.92, a cutblock, road or an amendment thereof, for the purpose of harvesting:
- damaged timber,
 - timber under immediate threat from insect or disease, or
 - isolated timber resulting from a public or private infrastructure development (e.g. powerlines)
- may not conform to the visual quality objective but will, to the extent practicable, exhibit elements of good visual design.

Resource Features Identified Under GAR

(GAR s. 5)

Recreation Resource Features have been identified within the Campbell River Forest District by Order, dated April 12, 2006. The maps accompanying the Order indicate the location of the identified features, including those located within the Plan area.

The karst system elements noted below have been identified as resource features, wherever they are found, within the Campbell River and North Island-Central Coast Forest Districts, by Orders dated May 30, 2007 and March 23, 2007, respectively.

These identified resource features are subject to practice requirements as objectives have not been established for the management of these resource features.

Within FDU A and B:

- 5.94 Where applicable within the Plan area, the FSP Holder will adhere to the requirements of the FPPR s. 70(1) with respect to recreation features, sites, or trails identified by Order or as otherwise grandparented under FRPA s. 180(i), (j) or (k).
- 5.95 Where applicable within the Plan area, the FSP Holder will adhere to the requirements of the FPPR s. 70(1) with respect to the following karst system elements that have been identified as resource features:
- karst caves,
 - significant surface karst features, and
 - important features and elements within very high or high vulnerability karst.

6.0 Measures

6.1 Invasive Plants

Within FDU A and B, the FSP Holder will do the following:

Identification, Reporting and Control Efforts

- a) Provide appropriate personnel (e.g. foresters, engineers and individuals involved in roadside brushing projects) training in the recognition of invasive plants that are, or may potentially be within (i.e., known to occur in adjacent areas) the Plan area.
- b) Maintain mapping of known occurrences of invasive plant species and annually report detections of previously unknown occurrences of invasive plant species to the Ministry of Forests and Range.
- c) Where new occurrences of invasive plants are detected (either a newly introduced plant species, or a new location of a plant species known to already exist within the Plan area), the site will be assessed by trained personnel. Where practicable, an appropriate action plan will be prepared and implemented to address the invasive plant occurrence.

Prevention

- d) For re-vegetation, use seed mixtures meeting standards for reclamation set out in Canada's Seeds Regulations and, where equally effective and available at similar cost, that contain native or naturalized grasses.
- e) Exposed mineral soils associated with roads constructed under Permit issued after the date of commencement of this FSP, with contiguous area greater than 0.1 ha (excluding the running surface), will be seeded as climatic and soil conditions allow within one year of disturbance, if:
 - i) such disturbance is within 100m of established invasive plants and is likely to result in the introduction or spread of the invasive plants, and
 - ii) such re-vegetating will materially reduce the likelihood of the introduction or spread of the invasive plants.
- f) All equipment (i.e., excavators, gravel trucks, brushing equipment, etc.) will be cleaned prior to moving to a new area after having been exposed to identified invasive plants.

Roadside Brushing

- g) For roadside brushing:
 - i) where practicable, treatments will be timed such that they will occur prior to the seed dispersal window for listed invasive plant species already established in the Plan area, and
 - ii) where practicable, brushing treatment methods or procedures will be modified to minimize the spread of the invasive plants.

7.0 Stocking Standards

7.1 Application

The stocking standards outlined in Appendix 2 apply to the Net Area to be Reforested (NAR) of areas harvested under this FSP, in FDU A and B.

7.2 Free Growing Assessment on a Cutblock Basis

For the purposes of s. 16 (1) of the FPPR, s. 44 (1) of the FPPR applies in all situations or circumstances under the FSP where a free growing stand is required to be established.

7.3 Application of FPPR s.16 (4) and s. 44 (4)

Where individual trees are removed (FPPR 44(3)(h)) stocking standards are as specified in Appendix 2 and are to be maintained for a period of at least 12 months after the removal of trees is completed. Individual tree removal (in situations as described in Appendix 2) is limited in scope to no more than 4% of the FSP Holder's AAC over the term of the Plan.

Where harvesting of special forest products (FPPR 44(3)(i)) occurs, stocking within each harvest unit will be maintained as specified in Appendix 2 for a period of at least 12 months after special forest products are removed.

7.4 Regeneration Date, Free Growing Height and Stocking Standards

Appendix 2 specifies the regeneration date, free growing height and stocking standards for the situations or circumstances where FPPR s. 44 (1) applies.

8.0 Signatures of Persons Required

FSP Holder:

Western Forest Products Inc.

118 – 1334 Island Highway

Campbell River, B.C.

V9W 8C9

Phone: (250) 286-3767 Fax: (250) 286-3375

Authorized Licensee Signature:

Name:



Martin Buchanan, RFT – Land Use Forester

Date:

September 24, 2009

Signing Forester:

Name:



Cindy Fife, RPF – Senior Operations Forester

Date:

September 24, 2009



"I certify that I have reviewed this document and while I did not personally supervise the work described, I have determined that this work has been done to the standards expected of a member of the Association of British Columbia Forest Professionals."

Appendix 1: FSP Map

(no changes to map, therefore not resubmitted)

Appendix 2: Stocking Standards

(no changes to stocking standards, therefore not resubmitted)