

## **Consultation-Post Plan Approval**

### ***Annual Referrals (30 days)***

One of the key differences between FDPs and the new FSPs prepared under the new *Forest and Range Practices Act* and associated regulation, the FPPR, is that the FSP does not require site specific harvest plans to be identified on the plan (i.e. cutblocks or roads) other than those already deemed approved by the Minister. Cutblocks and roads are not formally identified in the process until they are declared under the plan or submitted for cutting permit or road permit approval to the MoF. WFP recognizes that many First Nations will prefer some level of site specific consultation of cutblocks and roads. It is evident that there is a current gap in the procedures to guide cutblock or road specific consultation in the early planning stages. It is also evident that early consultation will be more efficient, meaningful and effective than if it is delayed until the permit stage of the process. It is equally important that opportunities to consult and exchange information at an early stage are provided to the Ministry of Forests to ensure crown obligations are met as well.

As described the Cultural Use Maps have been developed based on information gathered or made “known” at the time of FSP submission. This information will be the basis for ongoing dialogue and referrals to the First Nations. Prior to layout and planning investments being made, general locations of cut blocks and roads that are:

- proposed within an area as indicated on the Archaeological Overview Potential Map (Arcas Consulting 1998) or
- in or adjacent to areas with high archaeological potential or
- in or adjacent to areas with moderate-high CMT potential (labeled as CMT potential on the cultural use map)
- located within the vicinity<sup>1</sup> of a “known” archaeological or traditional use site

These blocks and roads will be referred to respective First Nations and the MOF on an annual basis. Referrals will be for a 30 day period to ensure operational efficiency and continuity. It is expected that the MOF will also use this referral period to ensure that any fiduciary responsibilities and the honor of the Crown have been exercised. The 30 day period is required to ensure that operational activity is not held up indefinitely by this referral process. If no new site specific information surfaces during this 30 day referral period for proposed cutblocks and roads, planning and layout will proceed on the assumption that concerns do not exist or are adequately addressed. At any time new information can be added to the information base to help mold and refine this dataset over time and influence future referral processes.

The referral will include a list of the blocks and roads and a corresponding overview map of the proposed locations at a 1:20,000 scale. The intent is to seek new site specific information about these areas prior to field layout activities in order to ensure early information sharing and consultation and to avoid costly, inefficient and perhaps sub-optimal changes after layout is complete.

### ***Ongoing Review and Comment:***

WFP has created an Internet site that contains all of the FSP information made available for the review and comment period. Once approved, the final FSP will also be posted on the web site. In addition, the creation of the Features Registry system will allow for on-going input on areas of interest by members of the public, First Nations and other stakeholders. The Features Registry system is designed for continual input from stakeholders, flagging of potential non-timber (including cultural heritage) resource overlaps and on-going refining of the results and strategies within the FSP as necessary.

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<sup>1</sup> Vicinity will be defined by the Professional Forester preparing the site specific plans and will consider potential for impacts to the site as a result of planned development. On average, a general guideline of 100m will be used.

The on-going features registry and web based input process will be used to update the WFP cultural use maps that will be used in conjunction with the Archeological Overview Potential data (Arcas 1998). In addition, annual referrals are to provide another avenue for continual input into the processes. The intent is that these annual referral guidelines will be updated as required based on the continual input process.