



Western Forest Products Inc.
DEFINING A HIGHER STANDARD™

Forest Stewardship Plan

Port McNeill and Quatsino Sound Forest Operations 2023-2028

Timberlands
Management System



Forest Stewardship Plan

Port McNeill and Quatsino Sound 2023-2028

Document Owner:

John Deal, RPBio, RPF

Prepared By:

Bruce Vinnedge, RPF

Licensee Signing Authority:

Jonathan Flintoft, RPF

Revision Date: June 14, 2023

Forest Stewardship Plan

Port McNeill and Quatsino Sound Forest Operations 2023-2028

Timberlands
Management System

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Table of Contents..... | 1 |
| Preamble..... | 4 |
| 1. Date of Submission | 3 |
| 2. Interpretation and Definitions | 3 |
| 2.1 Interpretation | 3 |
| 2.2 Definitions: | 3 |
| 3. Application of this FSP | 4 |
| 3.1 Licences and Licensees (FRPA s.3(4)) | 4 |
| 3.2 Application of this FSP (FRPA Act ss.197(4-5, 7) and FPPR ss.14(1)(d-e))..... | 4 |
| 4. Term of this FSP (FRPA ss.6(1)(a) and (b)) | 5 |
| 5. FSP Map and Forest Development Units (FDUs) (FRPA Act s.5(1)(a), FPPR s.14) | 5 |
| 5.1 Boundaries of the FDU | 5 |
| 5.2 New Forest Development Units (FRPA s.5(1)(a) and FPPR s.14(1)(a))..... | 5 |
| 5.3 Forest Development Units in Effect on Date of Submission of this FSP (FRPA ss.7(1.1) and (2) and 5(1)(a) and FPPR s.14(1)(b)) | 5 |
| 5.4 Areas to Which s.196(1) of the Act Apply (FRPA s.196(1); FPPR s.14(1)(c)) | 5 |
| 5.5 Designations in Effect Four Months Before Submission of This FSP (FPPR s.14(2)) .. | 5 |
| 5.6 Areas Within FDUs Considered to be Approved (FRPA ss.196(1) and (2) and FPPR s.14(1)(c) and s.110)..... | 5 |
| 5.7 Areas within FDUs in Which Commercial Timber Harvesting is Prohibited by Another Enactment (FPPR s.14(3)(i)) | 5 |
| 5.8 Areas within FDUs Subject to Cutting Permit or Road Permit (FPPR s.14(3)(j)) | 6 |
| 5.9 Declared Areas (FPPR s.14(4)) | 6 |
| 6. FRPA Values and Results or Strategies | 6 |
| 6.1 Soils | 6 |
| 6.1.1 Soil Disturbance Limits | 6 |
| 6.1.2 Permanent Access Structures Limits | 6 |
| 6.2 Timber | 6 |
| 6.3 Wildlife | 7 |
| 6.3.1 Species at Risk | 8 |
| 6.3.1.1 Northern Goshawk (<i>Accipiter gentilis laingi</i>) | 8 |
| 6.3.1.2 Coastal Tailed Frog (<i>Ascaphus truei</i>) | 8 |
| 6.3.1.3 Marbled Murrelet (<i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>) | 9 |
| 6.3.1.4 Great Blue Heron (<i>Ardea herodias fannini</i>) | 12 |
| 6.3.2 Winter Survival of Specified Ungulate Species..... | 13 |

Forest Stewardship Plan

Timberlands
Management System

Port McNeill and Quatsino Sound Forest Operations 2023-2028

| | | |
|-------------|--|-----------|
| 6.3.2.1 | Winter Survival of Specified Ungulate Species - Black-Tailed Deer (<i>Odocoileus hemionus columbianus</i>) and Elk (<i>Cervus elaphus roosevelti</i>)..... | 13 |
| 6.4 | Water, Fish, Wildlife and Biodiversity within Riparian Areas..... | 14 |
| 6.4.1 | Water, Fish, Wildlife and Biodiversity within Riparian Areas | 14 |
| 6.4.2 | Retention of Trees in a Riparian Management Zone..... | 14 |
| 6.5 | Fish Habitat in Fisheries Sensitive Watersheds | 15 |
| 6.6 | Water in Community Watersheds..... | 15 |
| 6.7 | Wildlife and Biodiversity – Landscape Level | 16 |
| 6.7.1 | Cutblock Size and Adjacency Limits | 17 |
| 6.7.1.1 | Special Management Zones | 17 |
| 6.7.1.2 | General Management Zones | 19 |
| 6.7.1.3 | Enhanced Forest Management Zones | 19 |
| 6.7.2 | Mature and Old Seral Stages – Special Management Zones | 21 |
| 6.7.3 | Late Successional Habitat Elements and Attributes of Biodiversity – Special Management Zones | 23 |
| 6.7.4 | Old Growth Management Areas (OGMAs)..... | 24 |
| 6.7.4.1 | Old Growth Management Areas with Non-Spatial Legal Objectives..... | 24 |
| 6.7.4.2 | Old Growth Management Areas with Legal Objectives | 25 |
| 6.8 | Wildlife and Biodiversity – Stand Level..... | 30 |
| 6.8.1 | Wildlife Tree Retention..... | 30 |
| 6.9 | Visual Quality | 32 |
| 6.10 | Cultural Heritage Resources..... | 33 |
| 6.11 | FRPA Value: Recreation | 34 |
| 6.12 | FRPA Value: Resource Features | 34 |
| 7. | FRPA Measures..... | 35 |
| 7.1 | Invasive Plants | 35 |
| 7.2 | Natural Range Barriers | 37 |
| 8. | Stocking Standards | 38 |
| 8.1 | Application..... | 38 |
| 8.2 | Application to Cutblocks Where Harvesting Began Before Term Commences (Act s.197(5)) and declaration was not received by MFLNRO within RESULTS..... | 38 |
| 8.3 | Situation or Circumstances that Determine Whether Free Growing is Assessed on a Block Basis..... | 39 |
| 8.4 | Stocking and Related Standards for Stands to which Free Growing Obligations Apply | 39 |
| 8.4.1 | Species | 39 |
| 8.4.2 | Stocking (Even-Aged Stocking Standards)..... | 40 |
| 8.4.2.1 | Target Stocking Standards..... | 40 |
| 8.4.2.2 | Minimum Stocking Standard | 40 |
| 8.4.2.3 | Minimum Horizontal Intertree Distance | 40 |
| 8.4.2.4 | Regeneration Date..... | 40 |

Forest Stewardship Plan

Timberlands
Management System

Port McNeill and Quatsino Sound Forest Operations 2023-2028

| | | |
|---------|---|-----------|
| 8.4.2.5 | Minimum Free Growing Height | 40 |
| 8.4.2.6 | Damage Criteria at Free Growing | 40 |
| 8.5 | Hardwood Management | 40 |
| 8.6 | Intermediate Cutting | 41 |
| 9. | Signature(s) (FRPA Act s.5(3)) | 42 |
| | Appendix 1 – Stocking Standards | 43 |
| | Appendix 1.1 – Species Selection and Stocking Targets | 43 |
| | Appendix 1.1 (Cont.) – Species Selection and Stocking Targets (Hardwood Management) | 46 |
| | Appendix 1.2 – Minimum Horizontal Inter-Tree Distance | 48 |
| | Appendix 1.3 – Stocking Standard for Intermediate Cutting | 49 |

Forest Stewardship Plan

Port McNeill and Quatsino Sound Forest Operations 2023-2028

Preamble

This FSP encompasses lands within the traditional territories of several First Nations, as documented by evidence of historical use and the memories of their Elders. The FSP Holders will share information and work collaboratively with Quatsino First Nation, Kwakiutl First Nation, 'Namgis First Nation, Tlatlasikwla First Nation and Tlowitsis First Nation.

This Forest Stewardship Plan replaces the North Island Forest Stewardship Plan (2018-2023), as maintained in the BC Government FSP Tracker system.

FSPs are the key operational plan under the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA). FSPs identify broad areas called Forest Development Units (FDUs) where timber harvesting and road construction may occur, are subject to public review and comment, and must be approved by government before taking effect. FSPs do not show cutblocks and roads for approval and are generally in effect for a five-year term.

For each of the FRPA values and their Objectives set by government, such as wildlife and biodiversity, the FSP identifies legally binding results and strategies, measures and standards which will be required to be implemented by each Holder of the FSP.

This FSP includes one FDU, where each Holder of the FSP is involved with cutblock development through joint ventures, as well as cutblocks with outstanding silviculture obligations. The entire area is within the North Island Natural Resource District.

The WFP Port McNeill and Quatsino Sound Operations 2023-2028 FSP with maps and appendices can be found at <http://www.westernforest.com/sustainability>.

More information on FSPs is available at:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/managing-our-forest-resources/forest-stewardship-plans>. Comments should be directed to:

Western Forest Products Inc.
Port McNeill and Quatsino Sound Forest Operations
Bruce Vinnedge, RPF
Sr. Silviculture Forester
fsp@westernforest.com

Forest Stewardship Plan

Port McNeill and Quatsino Sound Forest Operations 2023-2028

1. Date of Submission

March 8, 2023

2. Interpretation and Definitions

2.1 Interpretation

Results or **Strategies** in this Forest Stewardship Plan (**FSP**) refer to the *Forest and Range Practices Act*, Forest Planning and Practices Regulation (**FPPR**) and the Government Actions Regulation (**GAR**) as they were on the date this **FSP** was submitted for approval.

The word “section” or “subsection” or the abbreviations “s.” or “ss.” is used to indicate a numbered section or sections of the indicated Act, Regulation, or Order. An **FSP** section or subsection may also be referred to with “s.” or “ss.” Where no other reference is indicated, “s.” or “ss.” refers to a section or subsection under the current header.

Sections of Orders, Notices, and Objectives are embedded within Objective Source or Background Information tables in this **FSP** for convenience only. If there is a discrepancy between this **FSP** text and a quoted section, the text in the Act, Regulation, Order, or Notice prevails, and must be used in preference to this **FSP** text. Where contained in this **FSP**, the preamble, objective sources and background information is not part of this **FSP** or **Results** or **Strategies**.

Certain terms are intentionally in bold type within the text, to add emphasis and to indicate the specific definition listed below (i.e. “holder” may indicate a holder of a different forest stewardship plan, while “**Holder**” indicates a holder of this **FSP**).

2.2 Definitions:

General definitions that apply to the entire text of the **FSP** are listed here. Where definitions appear under a section or subsection header, those definitions apply in that section or subsection.

“**FDU**” means forest development unit.

“**FPC**” means the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act*.

“**FPPR**” means the Forest Planning and Practices Regulation.

“**FRPA**” means the *Forest and Range Practices Act*.

“**FSP**” means this Forest Stewardship Plan.

“**GAR**” means the Government Actions Regulation.

“**Holder**” means a holder of an agreement under the *Forest Act*, and a signatory to this **FSP**.

“**Licensee**” means an agreement holder under the *Forest Act*, that is a holder of this **FSP**.

“**Measure**” means obligations required by **FPPR** ss.17-18.

“**Primary Forest Activity**” has the same meaning as in **FPPR** s.1(1).

Forest Stewardship Plan

Port McNeill and Quatsino Sound Forest Operations 2023-2028

“**Result**” and “**Strategy**” have same meanings as in **FPPR** s.1(1).

“**Stocking Standards**” means obligations required by **FPPR** s.16.

3. Application of this FSP

3.1 Licences and Licensees (FRPA s.3(4))

1. This **FSP** applies to each cutting permit and road permit issued or granted to the **Licensees** holding this **FSP**:

- a. after the **FSP** term commences;
- b. within **FDUs**; and
- c. under or in respect of the following licences:

| Licence Holder | Licences |
|------------------------------|---|
| Western Forest Products Inc. | Tree Farm Licence 6 (includes TLs within the TFL), FL A94737, T0860 |

3.2 Application of this FSP (FRPA Act ss.197(4-5, 7) and FPPR ss.14(1)(d-e)

1. In the **FDU**, this **FSP** applies:
 - a. to all cutblocks and roads subject to cutting permits issued to each **Holder** under the licences referred to in Paragraph 3.1 on or after the date approval of this **FSP**;
 - b. to a cutblock or road permit subject to a cutting permit issued to each **Holder** under a licence referred to in Paragraph 3.1 before this **FSP** term commences, whether the cutting permit is still in effect or not, for which each **Holder** gives written notice to the minister responsible for the Forest Act after this **FSP** term commences, effective the date, and to the extent, specified in the notice;
 - c. to a road, or portion thereof, subject to a road permit in effect before the **FSP** term commences for which each **Holder** gives written notice to government after this **FSP** term commences, effective the date, and to the extent, specified in the written notice;
 - d. where each **Holder** may elect to, for the purpose of changes to the total area under prescription of cutblock, including wildlife tree patches, under **FRPA** s.197(4) or (7) within the **FDU** as specified by **FPPR** s.14(1)(d), make changes to wildlife tree patches consistent with s.6.8 of this **FSP**; and
 - e. for a cutblock that has not been declared free growing that is within the **FDU** each **Holder** may elect to, for the purpose of otherwise specifying stocking standards, under **FRPA** ss.197(4), (5) or (7) within an **FDU** as specified by **FPPR** ss.14(1)(d) or (e) and where it is ecologically appropriate, to have stocking standards approved under this **FSP** apply to standards units within cutblocks from previous plans. For each standards unit, this election is to be made prior to a free growing declaration.

Forest Stewardship Plan

Port McNeill and Quatsino Sound Forest Operations 2023-2028

4. Term of this FSP (FRPA ss.6(1)(a) and (b))

1. The term of this **FSP** is 5 years; and
2. The term of this **FSP** commences on the date specified by the minister or person delegated under **FRPA** s.120.1.

5. FSP Map and Forest Development Units (FDUs) (FRPA Act s.5(1)(a), FPPR s.14)

5.1 Boundaries of the FDU

1. The boundaries of the **FDU** under this **FSP** are shown on the **FSP** map (Figure 1). The **FDU** boundaries include, despite any inconsistency between the **FSP** map and the boundaries of a tree farm license or timber license referred to in s.3.1, the full area of such licence.

5.2 New Forest Development Units (FRPA s.5(1)(a) and FPPR s.14(1)(a))

1. The **FSP** map (Figure 1) shows the **FDU** boundaries.

5.3 Forest Development Units in Effect on Date of Submission of this FSP (FRPA ss.7(1.1) and (2) and 5(1)(a) and FPPR s.14(1)(b))

1. The **FSP** map shows the **FDU** that is in effect at the time of its submission for approval.

5.4 Areas to Which s.196(1) of the Act Apply (FRPA s.196(1); FPPR s.14(1)(c))

1. Not applicable.

5.5 Designations in Effect Four Months Before Submission of This FSP (FPPR s.14(2))

1. This **FSP** identifies designations and other areas listed in **FPPR** s.14(2) that were in effect 4 months before this **FSP** was submitted for approval.

5.6 Areas Within FDUs Considered to be Approved (FRPA ss.196(1) and (2) and FPPR s.14(1)(c) and s.110)

1. Not applicable.

5.7 Areas within FDUs in Which Commercial Timber Harvesting is Prohibited by Another Enactment (FPPR s.14(3)(i))

1. Not applicable.

Forest Stewardship Plan

Port McNeill and Quatsino Sound Forest Operations 2023-2028

5.8 Areas within FDUs Subject to Cutting Permit or Road Permit (FPPR s.14(3)(j))

1. See the FSP map for active cutting permit and road permit areas.

5.9 Declared Areas (FPPR s.14(4))

1. See the FSP map for areas declared under FPPR s.14(4).

6. FRPA Values and Results or Strategies

6.1 Soils

| OBJECTIVE SOURCE: SOILS | | |
|--|----------|-----------------------------|
| Type | Source | Effective Date of Objective |
| BC Reg. 36/2023 | FPPR s.5 | February 13, 2023 |
| <i>The objective set by government for soils is to conserve the productivity and the hydrologic function of soils.</i> | | |

6.1.1 Soil Disturbance Limits

Exemption from Result or Strategy – FPPR s.5

1. For the purposes of FPPR s.12.1(1), each **Holder** undertakes to comply with FPPR s.35, and is exempt from specifying an intended **Result** or **Strategy**.

6.1.2 Permanent Access Structures Limits

Definitions for the Purposes of Results or Strategies in s.6.1.2

“**Cutblock**” means the total area specified in a cutblock site plan.

Exemption from Result or Strategy – FPPR s.5

1. For the purposes of FPPR s.12.1(1), each **Holder** undertakes to comply with FPPR s.36, and is exempt from specifying an intended **Result** or **Strategy**.

6.2 Timber

| OBJECTIVE SOURCE: TIMBER | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Authority | Category/Source | Effective Date of Objective |
| BC Reg. 580/2004 | FPPR s.6 | December 11, 2004 |

Forest Stewardship Plan

Port McNeill and Quatsino Sound Forest Operations 2023-2028

The objectives set by government for timber are to

- a) *maintain or enhance an economically valuable supply of commercial timber from British Columbia's forests,*
- b) *ensure that delivered wood costs, generally, after taking into account the effect on them of the relevant provisions of this regulation and of the Act, are competitive in relation to equivalent costs in relation to regulated primary forest activities in other jurisdictions, and*
- c) *ensure that the provisions of this regulation and of the Act that pertain to primary forest activities do not unduly constrain the ability of a holder of an agreement under the Forest Act to exercise the holder's rights under the agreement.*

Exemption from Result or Strategy – FPPR s.6

1. In accordance with **FPPR** s.12(8), each **Holder** is exempt from the requirement to prepare a **Result** or **Strategy** for an objective set by government for timber in **FPPR** s.6.

6.3 Wildlife

| OBJECTIVE SOURCE: WILDLIFE | | |
|--|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Authority | Category/Source | Effective Date of Objective |
| BC Reg. 36/2023 | FPPR s.7 | February 13, 2023 |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>The objective set by government for wildlife is to conserve sufficient wildlife habitat in terms of amount of area, distribution of areas and attributes of those areas, for</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>the survival of species at risk,</i> b) <i>the survival of regionally important wildlife, and</i> c) <i>the winter survival of specified ungulate species.</i> 2. <i>A person required to prepare a forest stewardship plan must specify a result or strategy in respect of the objective stated under subsection (1) only if the minister responsible for the Wildlife Act gives notice to the person of the applicable</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>species referred to in subsection (1), and</i> b) <i>indicators of the amount, distribution and attributes of wildlife habitat described in subsection (1).</i> 3. <i>If satisfied that the objective set out in subsection (1) is addressed, in whole or in part, by an objective in relation to a wildlife habitat area or an ungulate winter range, a general wildlife measure, or a wildlife habitat feature, the minister responsible for the Wildlife Act must exempt a person from the obligation to specify a result or strategy in relation to the objective set out in subsection (1) to the extent that the objective is already addressed.</i> 4. <i>On or after December 31, 2004, a notice described in subsection (2) must be given at least 4 months before the forest stewardship plan is submitted for approval.</i> | | |

Forest Stewardship Plan

Port McNeill and Quatsino Sound Forest Operations 2023-2028

Timberlands
Management System

6.3.1 Species at Risk

| OBJECTIVE SOURCE: WILDLIFE: SPECIES AT RISK | | |
|---|---|-----------------------------|
| Authority | Category/Source | Effective Date of Objective |
| BC Reg. 17/2004 s.11(1) | Order – Categories of Species at Risk (2004) | May 6, 2004 |
| BC Reg. 582/2004 s.13(1) | Order – Categories of Species at Risk (2011 Update) | July 18, 2011 |
| BC Reg. 14/2004 s.7(2) | Notice - Indicators of the Amount, Distribution and Attributes of Wildlife Habitat Required for the Survival of the Species at Risk in the North Island – Central Coast Forest District | March 2, 2006 |

Definitions for the Purposes of Results or Strategies in s.6.3.1.

“**DNI s.7 Notice**” means the “Notice - Indicators of the Amount, Distribution and Attributes of Wildlife Habitat Required for the Survival of the Species at Risk in the North Island – Central Coast Forest District” (2006).

“**Non-contributing landbase (NCLB)**” means that portion of the forest management land-base assumed to be unavailable for harvesting, given objectives for all forest values.

6.3.1.1 Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis laingi*)

| OBJECTIVE SOURCE: WILDLIFE: SPECIES AT RISK | | |
|---|---|-----------------------------|
| Authority | Category/Source | Effective Date of Objective |
| BC Reg. 582/2004 ss.9(2) and 10(1) | Government Actions Regulation Order, Wildlife Habitat Areas, Northern Goshawks, <u>North Island-Central Coast and Campbell River Forest District Wildlife Habitat Areas</u> | November 28, 2018 |

Exemption from Result or Strategy – Northern Goshawk

1. In accordance with **FPPR** s.7(3), each **Holder** is exempt from specifying a **Result** or **Strategy** for the survival of Northern Goshawk. Each **Holder** will comply with General Wildlife Measures associated with the applicable **WHA** Orders.

6.3.1.2 Coastal Tailed Frog (*Ascaphus truei*)

Result or Strategy not Required

1. The known range of this species does not overlap the **FDU** area. No **Result** or **Strategy** is required.

Forest Stewardship Plan

Port McNeill and Quatsino Sound Forest Operations 2023-2028

6.3.1.3 Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*)

Definitions for the purposes s.3.1.3 of this FSP

“**OGMA**” means Old Growth Management Area, as defined in **FPPR** s.1.

“**Order**” means the “Order for the Recovery of Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*)”, effective December 2, 2021.

“**MAMU**” means the species Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*).

“**Notice**” means the “Notice – Indicators of the Amount, Distribution and Attributes of Wildlife Habitat Required for the Survival of Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*)”, effective December 2, 2021.

“**Planning Tables**” means areas of **Suitable Habitat** distributed across forest tenures in a given forest district, within each landscape unit aggregate and landscape unit portion, which may be varied consistent with Objective 3(4) of the **Order**.

“**Suitable Habitat**” means Marbled Murrelet nesting habitat, that has the attributes of wildlife habitat listed in Schedule 1 of the **Notice**.

“**WHA**” means Wildlife Habitat Area, as defined in **FPPR** s.1.

“**Working Group**” means Forest Stewardship Plan and Woodlot License Plan holders that:

- operate in areas with shared **Planning Tables**;
- wish to enable flexibility provisions in the **Order** and **Notice**; and
- have agreed to terms of assembly, regarding coordination and cooperation.

| OBJECTIVE SOURCE: WILDLIFE: SPECIES AT RISK | | |
|---|--|-----------------------------|
| Authority | Category/Source | Effective Date of Objective |
| BC Reg. 14/2004 s.7(2) | Notice – Indicators of the Amount, Distribution and Attributes of Wildlife Habitat Required for the Survival of Marbled Murrelet (<i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>) | December 2, 2021 |
| <p><i>The notice includes indicators of the amount, distribution and attributes of wildlife habitat required for the survival of the species at risk outlined in Schedule 1.</i></p> <p><i>Suitable habitat within approved Wildlife Habitat Areas is included in the indicators of the amount, distribution and attributes for each of the species outlined in Schedule 1. As per section 7(3) of the Forest Planning and Practices Regulation, forest tenure holders are exempt from the obligation to specify a result or strategy in relation to the objective set out in section 7(1) of the Forest Planning and Practices Regulation, for approved Wildlife Habitat Areas.</i></p> <p>SCHEDULE 1</p> <p>1) Marbled Murrelet (<i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>)</p> <p>Amount:</p> <p><i>1. Table 1 provides the minimum amount of Marbled Murrelet nesting habitat (Suitable Habitat) to be maintained within both Marbled Murrelet Wildlife Habitat Areas (WHAs) and Old Growth Management</i></p> | | |

Forest Stewardship Plan

Port McNeill and Quatsino Sound Forest Operations 2023-2028

Timberlands
Management System

| OBJECTIVE SOURCE: WILDLIFE: SPECIES AT RISK | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Authority | Category/Source | Effective Date of Objective |
| <p><i>Areas (OGMAs) combined and the minimum amount of Suitable Habitat to be maintained within Marbled Murrelet WHAs within Forest Districts.</i></p> <p>Distribution:</p> <p>1. Table 2 provides the minimum amount of Suitable Habitat to be maintained within both Marbled Murrelet WHAs and OGMAs combined and the minimum amount of Suitable Habitat to be maintained within Marbled Murrelet WHAs within landscape unit aggregates.</p> <p>2. Table 3 provides the target and minimum amount of Suitable Habitat to be maintained within both Marbled Murrelet WHAs and OGMAs combined and the minimum amount of Suitable Habitat to be maintained within Marbled Murrelet WHAs within landscape unit portions.</p> | | |

Strategy – “Notice – Indicators of the Amount, Distribution and Attributes of Wildlife Habitat Required for the Survival of Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*)”

1. To meet the requirements of the **Notice**, each **Holder** will coordinate with other holders in a **Working Group**, as follows:
 - a. As a **Strategy**, to comply with the **Notice**, each **Holder** will:
 - i. Maintain at least:
 - I. For each landscape unit portion, the **MAMU WHA Suitable Habitat Minimum** listed in the **Notice**, Schedule 1, Table 3; and
 - II. For each landscape unit aggregate, the **MAMU WHA Suitable Habitat Minimum** listed in the **Notice**, Schedule 1, Table 2;
 - ii. Maintain at least:
 - I. For each landscape unit portion, the **MAMU WHA and OGMA Suitable Habitat Minimum** listed in the **Notice**, Schedule 1, Table 3; and
 - II. For each landscape unit aggregate, the **MAMU WHA and OGMA Suitable Habitat Minimum** listed in the **Notice**, Schedule 1, Table 2;
 - iii. Reach agreement on specific amounts, for each landscape unit portion:
 - I. Of an amount greater than or equal to the **MAMU WHA Suitable Habitat Minimum**, to be established as **MAMU WHAs**; and
 - II. Of an amount greater than or equal to the **MAMU WHA and OGMA Suitable Habitat Minimum**, to be established as **MAMU WHAs and OGMAs**;
 - iv. Identify, for each landscape unit portion, or several landscape unit portions within a landscape unit aggregate:
 - I. The equivalent amount of **Suitable Habitat** to be maintained above the **MAMU WHA Suitable Habitat Target** listed in the **Notice**, Schedule 1, Table 3; and

PRINTED COPY IS UNCONTROLLED

Forest Stewardship Plan

Timberlands
Management System

Port McNeill and Quatsino Sound Forest Operations 2023-2028

- II. The equivalent amount of **Suitable Habitat** to be maintained above the **MAMU WHA** and **OGMA Suitable Habitat** Target listed in the **Notice**, Schedule 1, Table 3;
- or
- b. If agreement cannot be reached, prior to harvesting disputed **Suitable Habitat**:
- Each **Holder** will apply the **Planning Tables** and notify other Forest Stewardship Plan and Woodlot License Plan holders until agreement is reached in the **Working Group** assembly; or
 - The **Working Group** will request that the Minister establish proportional **Suitable Habitat** targets pursuant to **FPPR s.19**.

| OBJECTIVE SOURCE: WILDLIFE: SPECIES AT RISK | | |
|---|--|-----------------------------|
| Authority | Category/Source | Effective Date of Objective |
| Land Act s.93.4 | Order for the Recovery of Marbled Murrelet (<i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>) | December 2, 2021 |
| <p>3. Objectives for Marbled Murrelet nesting habitat</p> <p>(1) Maintain Suitable Habitat as follows:</p> <p>(a) For each:</p> <p>landscape unit aggregate in the order area:</p> <p>Retain all timber in an amount equal to or greater than the minimum habitat threshold listed in Column "A" in Table 1 in Schedule "7".</p> <p>(b) For each:</p> <p>landscape unit portion in the order area:</p> <p>Retain all timber in an amount equal to or greater than the suitable habitat target listed in Column "A" in Table 2 in Schedule "7";</p> <p>(2) Despite subsection (1)(b), the amount of timber that must be retained within a landscape unit portion in the West and North Vancouver Island and Southern Mainland Coast Conservation Regions may be less than the suitable habitat target listed in Column "A" in Table 2 in Schedule "7", provided that:</p> <p>The amount of timber retained is equal to or greater than the minimum habitat threshold listed in Column "B" in Table 2 in Schedule "7".</p> <p>(3) Despite subsection (1)(a), Suitable Habitat polygons shown in Schedule "1 to 6" in the East Vancouver Island Conservation Region may be harvested, provided that harvesting is required for road access, other infrastructure, or to address safety concerns, where there is no practicable alternative.</p> <p>(4) Variance from the Objectives in Sections 3.(1) to 3.(3) for the Suitable Habitat polygons shown in Schedule "1 to 6" may be allowed, provided that:</p> <p>(a) A Qualified Professional:</p> <p>(i) Completes a field assessment that identifies the characteristics of Suitable Habitat using established standards; and</p> <p>(ii) Confirms the alteration will result in no net loss or functional loss of Suitable Habitat.</p> <p>(b) A Regional Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development biologist approves the alteration of the Suitable Habitat polygons.</p> | | |

Strategy – "Order for the Recovery of Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*)"

2. To meet the requirements of the **Order**, each **Holder** will coordinate with other holders in a **Working Group**, as follows:

PRINTED COPY IS UNCONTROLLED

Forest Stewardship Plan

Port McNeill and Quatsino Sound Forest Operations 2023-2028

- a. As a **Strategy**, to comply with the **Order**, each **Holder** will:
 - i. Reach agreement on specific amounts of **Suitable Habitat** to maintain by retaining all timber, equal to or greater than:
 - I. The amount listed in **Order**, Schedule 7, Table 2, Column “A”, for each landscape unit portion; or
 - II. The amount listed in the **Order**, Schedule 7, Table 1, Column “A”, for each landscape unit aggregate, and the amount listed in the **Order**, Schedule 7, Table 2, Column “B” for each landscape unit portion;
 - and
 - ii. Use the **Planning Tables** as a basis to identify **Suitable Habitat** distribution to maintain by retaining all timber, equal to or greater than:
 - I. The amount listed in **Order**, Schedule 7, Table 2, Column “B”, for each landscape unit portion; and
 - II. The amount listed in the **Order**, Schedule 7, Table 1, Column “A”, for each landscape unit aggregate;
- or
- b. If agreement cannot be reached, prior to harvesting disputed **Suitable Habitat**:
 - i. Each **Holder** will apply the **Planning Tables** and notify other Forest Stewardship Plan and Woodlot License Plan holders until agreement is reached in the **Working Group** assembly; or
 - ii. The **Working Group** will request that the Minister establish proportional **Suitable Habitat** targets pursuant to **FPPR** s.19;

and each **Holder** may apply for a variance from the **Order** Objectives, individually or in coordination with other **Working Group** members, according to s.3(4) of the **Order**.

6.3.1.4 Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias fannini*)

| OBJECTIVE SOURCE: WILDLIFE: SPECIES AT RISK | | |
|---|---|-----------------------------|
| Authority | Category/Source | Effective Date of Objective |
| BC Reg. 14/2004 s.7(2) | Notice - Indicators of the Amount, Distribution and Attributes of Wildlife Habitat Required for the Survival of the Species at Risk in the North Island – Central Coast Forest District | March 2, 2006 |
| <p>2) Great Blue Heron (<i>Ardea herodias fannini</i>)</p> <p><i>Amount:</i></p> <p>1 . 240 ha not exceeding an impact to the mature timber harvesting landbase of 36 ha.</p> <p><i>Distribution:</i></p> <p>1. The amount of habitat referenced above must be distributed to provide:</p> | | |

Forest Stewardship Plan

Port McNeill and Quatsino Sound Forest Operations 2023-2028

Timberlands
Management System

| OBJECTIVE SOURCE: WILDLIFE: SPECIES AT RISK | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Authority | Category/Source | Effective Date of Objective |
| <p>• areas of suitable habitat of the size, spatial distribution and connectivity identified in the species account for Great Blue Heron in the Accounts and Measures for Managing Identified Wildlife (Identified Wildlife Management Strategy Version 2004).</p> <p>2. The areas described above are located within the biogeoclimatic units and preferred elevations identified in the species account for Great Blue Heron in the Accounts and Measures for Managing Identified Wildlife in the Identified Wildlife Management Strategy Version 2004.</p> | | |

Strategy – DNI s.7 Notice

1. To comply with s.2 of Schedule 1 of the **DNI s.7 Notice**, as a **Strategy**, each **Holder** will maintain suitable habitat with attributes required in the **DNI s.7 Notice** which will update as new **WHAs** that are subsequently established are subtracted from the amount. The amount of suitable habitat required in the **DNI s.7 Notice** is 240 ha total, of which 36 ha is in the timber harvesting land base, on the effective date of this **FSP**.

6.3.2 Winter Survival of Specified Ungulate Species

6.3.2.1 Winter Survival of Specified Ungulate Species - Black-Tailed Deer (*Odocoileus hemionus columbianus*) and Elk (*Cervus elaphus roosevelti*)

| OBJECTIVE SOURCE: WILDLIFE: WINTER SURVIVAL OF SPECIFIED UNGULATE SPECIES | | |
|---|---|-----------------------------|
| Authority | Category/Source | Effective Date of Objective |
| BC Reg. 17/2004 ss.7(2) and 10(1) | Order – Ungulate Winter Range #U1-006, TFL 39-4 ¹ | October 18, 2004 |
| BC Reg. 582/2004 ss.9(2) and 12(1) | Amended Order – Ungulate Winter Range #U1-010, TFL 6 | May 7, 2007 |
| BC Reg. 582/2004 ss.9(2) and 12(1) | Amended Order – Ungulate Winter Range #U1-011, Kingcome TSA (FL A94737 and TLs): ² | March 17, 2009 |

Exemption from Result or Strategy – Winter Survival of Specified Ungulate Species

1. In accordance with **FPPR s.7(3)**, each **Holder** is exempt from specifying a **Result** or **Strategy** for the survival of specified ungulate species. Each **Holder** will comply with General Wildlife Measures associated with the applicable Ungulate Winter Range Orders.

¹ As of January 1st, 2015, TFL 39 Block 4 was combined with TFL 6.

² Part 2 of the Great Bear Rainforest Regulation abolished the Kingcome TSA and Part 5 of the GBRR created the North Island TSA from part of the former Kingcome TSA on January 1st, 2017.

Forest Stewardship Plan

Port McNeill and Quatsino Sound Forest Operations 2023-2028

6.4 Water, Fish, Wildlife and Biodiversity within Riparian Areas

6.4.1 Water, Fish, Wildlife and Biodiversity within Riparian Areas

| OBJECTIVE SOURCE: WATER, FISH, WILDLIFE AND BIODIVERSITY WITHIN RIPARIAN AREAS | | |
|--|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Authority | Category/Source | Effective Date of Objective |
| BC Reg. 36/2023 | FPPR s.8 | February 13, 2023 |
| <i>The objective set by government for water, fish, wildlife and biodiversity within riparian areas is to conserve, at the landscape level, the water quality, fish habitat, wildlife habitat and biodiversity associated with those riparian areas.</i> | | |

Exemption from Result or Strategy – Objective set by government for water, fish, wildlife and biodiversity within riparian areas (FPPR ss.8)

1. For the purposes of **FPPR s.12.1(2)**, each **Holder** undertakes to comply with **FPPR ss.47 to 51, 52(2) and 53**, and is exempt from specifying an intended **Result** or **Strategy**.

6.4.2 Retention of Trees in a Riparian Management Zone

| OBJECTIVE SOURCE: WATER, FISH, WILDLIFE AND BIODIVERSITY WITHIN RIPARIAN AREAS | | |
|--|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Authority | Category/Source | Effective Date of Objective |
| BC Reg. 14/2004 | FPPR s.12(3) | January 31, 2004 |
| <i>(3) Despite section 12.1 (2) and (6), a person who prepares a forest stewardship plan must specify in it, for the objective set out in section 8, a result or strategy that addresses retention of trees in a riparian management zone.</i> | | |

Strategy – FPPR s.12(3)

1. For the purposes of **FPPR s.12(3)**, as a **Strategy**, to address the retention of trees in a riparian management zone, each **Holder** will:
 - a. Ensure that prior to harvesting, retention levels within RMZs are determined by a qualified professional through a riparian assessment that considers:
 - i. All the factors listed in Schedule 1, s.2 of the **FPPR**; and
 - ii. Potential site-specific safety and operational issues;
 - b. Design cutblocks and roads in a manner that is consistent with the retention levels as determined by the qualified professional as described in s.1.a;
 - c. Minimize new coarse woody debris and sediment inputs into streams to the extent practicable; and
 - d. Plan and conduct **Primary Forest Activities** consistent with the assessment and design in this **Strategy**.

Forest Stewardship Plan

Port McNeill and Quatsino Sound Forest Operations 2023-2028

Timberlands
Management System

6.5 Fish Habitat in Fisheries Sensitive Watersheds

| OBJECTIVE SOURCE: FISH HABITAT IN FISHERIES SENSITIVE WATERSHEDS | | |
|--|---|-----------------------------|
| Authority | Category/Source | Effective Date of Objective |
| BC Reg. 36/2023 | FPPR s.8.1 | February 13, 2023 |
| BC Reg. 582/2004 ss.14(1) and 14(2) | Order – Fisheries Sensitive Watersheds – Vancouver Island, Schedule B | December 28, 2005 |
| <p><i>For each of the Fisheries Sensitive Watersheds identified by this Order, the objective is to provide, within the normal forest rotation, special management of the amount, timing, and distribution of primary forest activities, in order to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>i. conserve the natural hydrological conditions, natural stream bed dynamics and integrity of stream channels in the Fisheries Sensitive Watershed;</i> <i>ii. conserve the quality, quantity and timing of water flows required by fish in the Fisheries Sensitive Watershed, and</i> <i>iii. prevent the cumulative hydrological effects of primary forest activities in the Fisheries Sensitive Watershed from resulting in a material adverse impact on the fish habitat of the watershed.</i> | | |

Result or Strategy – FPPR s.8.1

1. There are no Fisheries Sensitive Watersheds in the **FDU**. No **Result** or **Strategy** is required.

6.6 Water in Community Watersheds

| OBJECTIVE SOURCE: WATER IN COMMUNITY WATERSHEDS | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Authority | Category/Source | Effective Date of Objective |
| BC Reg. 36/2023 | FPPR s.8.2 | February 13, 2023 |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>In this section, "community watershed" means a community watershed</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. that is continued under section 180 (e) of the Act, and</i> <i>b. for which a water quality objective has not been</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>i. continued under section 181 of the Act, or</i> <i>ii. established under the Government Actions Regulation.</i> 2. <i>The objective set by government for water being diverted for human consumption through a licensed waterworks in a community watershed is to prevent to the extent described in subsection (3) the cumulative hydrological effects of primary forest activities within the community watershed from resulting in</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. a material adverse impact on the quantity of water or the timing of the flow of the water to the waterworks, or</i> <i>b. the water from the waterworks having a material adverse impact on human health that cannot be addressed by water treatment required under</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>i. an enactment, or</i> | | |

PRINTED COPY IS UNCONTROLLED

Forest Stewardship Plan

Port McNeill and Quatsino Sound Forest Operations 2023-2028

Timberlands
Management System

| OBJECTIVE SOURCE: WATER IN COMMUNITY WATERSHEDS | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Authority | Category/Source | Effective Date of Objective |
| ii. the licence pertaining to the waterworks. | | |

Definitions for the purposes s.6.6 of this FSP

“**Equivalent Clear-Cut Area (ECA)**” means, for the purposes of tracking ECA, the R1b hydrologic recovery curve from TR-032³ will be applied to harvested stands and cumulated over the total watershed area.

“**Hydrologic Evaluation**” is an evaluation form prepared by a qualified professional, that addresses site-specific hydrologic considerations and practices including terrain stability, riparian condition, roads, and streams flows for cutblocks or groups of cutblocks in a Community Watershed. The **Hydrologic Evaluation** will be consistent with the applicable **Watershed Assessment**.

“**Watershed Assessment**” means an assessment prepared by a qualified professional to investigate watershed hydrologic and geomorphic processes and provide guidance for forest management activities, and is consistent with the EGBC/ABC FP Joint Professional Practice Guidelines, Watershed Assessment and Management of Hydrologic and Geomorphic Risk in the Forest Industry, v.1.0 (2020). A **Watershed Assessment** will be consistent with applicable Community Watershed objectives.

Strategy – FPPR s.8.2

1. To comply with **FPPR s.8.2**, as a **Strategy**, in the Calbick Creek Community Watershed, each **Holder** will:
 - a. Complete a **Watershed Assessment** if **Primary Forest Activities** are planned in the Community Watershed during the term of this **FSP**;
 - b. Complete a **Hydrologic Evaluation** for a proposed cutblock or group of cutblocks; and
 - c. Conduct **Primary Forest Activities** in a manner that is consistent with the recommendations in the applicable **Watershed Assessment** and **Hydrologic Evaluation**.

6.7 Wildlife and Biodiversity – Landscape Level

| OBJECTIVE SOURCE: WILDLIFE AND BIODIVERSITY – LANDSCAPE LEVEL | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Authority | Category/Source | Effective Date of Objective |
| BC Reg. 36/2023 | FPPR s.9 | February 13, 2023 |

³ Hudson, R. and G. Horel, 2007.

Forest Stewardship Plan

Port McNeill and Quatsino Sound Forest Operations 2023-2028

Timberlands
Management System

| OBJECTIVE SOURCE: WILDLIFE AND BIODIVERSITY – LANDSCAPE LEVEL | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Authority | Category/Source | Effective Date of Objective |
| <i>The objective set by government for wildlife and biodiversity at the landscape level is, to the extent practicable, to design areas on which timber harvesting is to be carried out that resemble, both spatially and temporally, the patterns of natural disturbance that occur within the landscape.</i> | | |

Definitions for the purposes of s.6.7 of this FSP

“**Adjacent**” has the same meaning as in **FPPR** s.65(1).

“**Enhanced Forestry Zone (EFZ)**” means a Resource Management Zone (RMZ) established in Section I.B. of the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan – Higher Level Plan Order (VILUP Order).

“**Existing Cutblock**” has the same meaning as in **FPPR** s.65(1).

“**General Management Zone (GMZ)**” means an RMZ established in Section I.C. of the VILUP Order.

“**New Cutblock**” has the same meaning as in **FPPR** s.65(1).

“**Non-Conforming Portion**” means an area within an existing cutblock on which the applicable stocking and height requirements in s.6.7.1.1 paragraph 3, s.6.7.1.2 paragraph 3, or s.6.7.1.3 paragraph 3, of this **FSP**, have not been met.

“**Retention Silviculture System**” means a silvicultural system designed to:

- Retain individual trees or groups of trees to maintain structural diversity over the area of the cutblock for at least one rotation; and
- Leave more than half of the harvest area within one tree height from the base of a tree or group of trees, whether or not the group of trees is inside the cutblock (>50% forest influence).

“**Special Management Zone (SMZ)**” means an RMZ established in Section I.A. of the VILUP Order.

“**VILUP Order**” means the “Vancouver Island Land Use Plan – Higher Level Plan Order” (2000).

6.7.1 Cutblock Size and Adjacency Limits

6.7.1.1 Special Management Zones

| OBJECTIVE SOURCE: WILDLIFE AND BIODIVERSITY – LANDSCAPE LEVEL: CUTBLOCK SIZE AND ADJACENCY LIMITS | | |
|---|--|-----------------------------|
| Authority | Category/Source | Effective Date of Objective |
| FPC s.3(1), 3(2) and 9.1 | VILUP Order Objectives 1(b) and (c), 2 | December 1, 2000 |
| 1. Sustain forest ecosystem structure and function in SMZs, by: | | |

PRINTED COPY IS UNCONTROLLED

Forest Stewardship Plan

Port McNeill and Quatsino Sound Forest Operations 2023-2028

Timberlands
Management System

OBJECTIVE SOURCE: WILDLIFE AND BIODIVERSITY – LANDSCAPE LEVEL: CUTBLOCK SIZE AND ADJACENCY LIMITS

| Authority | Category/Source | Effective Date of Objective |
|---|--|-----------------------------|
| | <p>b. retaining, within cutblocks⁴, structural forest attributes and elements with important biodiversity functions⁵, and</p> <p>c. applying a variety of silvicultural systems, patch sizes and patch shapes across the zone, subject to a maximum cutblock size of 5 ha if clearcut, clearcut with reserves or seed tree silvicultural systems are applied, and 40 ha if shelterwood, selection or retention silvicultural systems are applied.</p> <p>2. Despite subsection 1(c) above, cutblocks larger than 5 or 40 ha, as the case may be, may be approved if harvesting is being carried out to recover timber that was damaged by fire, insects, wind or other similar events and wherever possible, the cutblock incorporates structural characteristics of natural disturbances.</p> | |
| Footnote 4: Within cutblocks: generally, means non-contiguous with cutblock boundaries. | | |
| Footnote 5: This includes, but is not limited to snags, wildlife trees, downed logs. | | |

Strategy – Special Management Zones

1. In **Special Management Zones**, as a **Strategy**, each **Holder** will comply with **FPPR s.64** and the **VILUP Order** Objectives 1(b-c) and 2 for the net area to be reforested within a cutblock by:
 - a. For **VILUP Order** Objectives 1(b-c):
 - i. Employing a clearcut or any suitable silviculture system with more basal area retention on cutblocks up to 5 ha;
 - ii. Employing a Retention Silviculture System or a suitable silviculture system which maintains at least 50% forest influence in the harvest area of a cutblock between 5 and 40 ha; or
 - b. For **VILUP Order** Objective 2, for cutblocks larger than those allowed in ss.1.a.i-ii, for recovery of timber that was damaged by fire insects, wind or other similar events, the cutblock will incorporate structural characteristics of natural disturbances and be developed after consultation and agreement with the Natural Resources District;
2. In **Special Management Zones**, for the purposes of **FPPR s.12.4(2)**, as a **Strategy**, each **Holder** must not harvest timber on a **New Cutblock**, unless:
 - a. All **Existing Cutblocks** that are adjacent to the **New Cutblock** meet the requirements set out in s.3 of this **Strategy**, or
 - b. The combined area of the **New Cutblock** and any **Non-Conforming Portions** that are immediately **Adjacent** to the **New Cutblock** does not exceed the requirements relating to cutblock size set out in s.1 of this **Strategy**;

and
3. For the purposes of s.2.a, an **Existing Cutblock** must meet the criteria set out in one of the following paragraphs:
 - a. At least 75% of the net area to be reforested of the **Existing Cutblock** is stocked such that the average height of the tallest 100 trees per ha on the area is a minimum of 3 m and

PRINTED COPY IS UNCONTROLLED

Forest Stewardship Plan

Timberlands
Management System

Port McNeill and Quatsino Sound Forest Operations 2023-2028

- i. Is stocked in accordance with the applicable stocking standards for that cutblock; or
- ii. Is stocked with at least 500 trees per ha of a commercially valuable species that are at least 1.3 m in height.

6.7.1.2 General Management Zones

| OBJECTIVE SOURCE: WILDLIFE AND BIODIVERSITY – LANDSCAPE LEVEL: CUTBLOCK SIZE AND ADJACENCY LIMITS | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Authority | Category/Source | Effective Date of Objective |
| BC Reg. 36/2023 | FPPR s.9 | February 13, 2023 |

Strategy – General Management Zones

1. In **General Management Zones**, as a **Strategy**, each **Holder** will comply with **FPPR s.64(1)**;
 2. In **General Management Zones**, for the purposes of **FPPR s.12.4(2)**, as a **Strategy**, each **Holder** must not harvest timber on a **New Cutblock**, unless:
 - a. All **Existing Cutblocks** that are adjacent to the **New Cutblock** meet the requirements set out in s.3 of this **Strategy**, or
 - b. The combined area of the **New Cutblock** and any **Non-Conforming Portions** that are immediately **Adjacent** to the **New Cutblock** does not exceed the requirements relating to cutblock size set out in s.1 of this **Strategy**;
- and
3. For the purposes of s.2.a, an **Existing Cutblock** must meet the criteria set out in one of the following paragraphs:
 - a. At least 75% of the net area to be reforested of the **Existing Cutblock** is stocked such that the average height of the tallest 100 trees per ha on the area is a minimum of 3 m and
 - i. Is stocked in accordance with the applicable stocking standards for that cutblock; or
 - ii. Is stocked with at least 500 trees per ha of a commercially valuable species that are at least 1.3 m in height.

6.7.1.3 Enhanced Forest Management Zones

| OBJECTIVE SOURCE: WILDLIFE AND BIODIVERSITY – LANDSCAPE LEVEL: CUTBLOCK SIZE AND ADJACENCY LIMITS | | |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Authority | Category/Source | Effective Date of Objective |
| FPC s.3(1), 3(2) and 9.1 | VILUP Order Objectives 7, 8 | December 1, 2000 |

PRINTED COPY IS UNCONTROLLED

Forest Stewardship Plan

Port McNeill and Quatsino Sound Forest Operations 2023-2028

Timberlands
Management System

OBJECTIVE SOURCE: WILDLIFE AND BIODIVERSITY – LANDSCAPE LEVEL: CUTBLOCK SIZE AND ADJACENCY LIMITS

| Authority | Category/Source | Effective Date of Objective |
|--|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| <p>7. To increase the short-term availability of timber,</p> <p>a. a cutblock may be larger than 40 ha pursuant to section 11(2)(a) of the OPR, and</p> <p>b. pursuant to section 68(4) of the OPR, a cutblock is greened-up if it is adequately stocked and the average height of those trees that are</p> <p>i. the tallest tree in each 0.01 ha plot included in a representative sample, and</p> <p>ii. a commercially valuable species or other species acceptable to the district manager is at least 1.3 meters; unless the district manager determines that a cutblock referred to under (a) or (b) would significantly impact specific hydrological, wildlife, biodiversity, scenic or recreation values.</p> <p>8. Avoid or mitigate adverse hydrological impacts, which may result from the practices referred to in objective 7, in watersheds with significant watershed sensitivity and significant fisheries values, as determined by the district manager and designated environment official. [N.B. Objective 8 is provided for completeness for the Reader but is addressed by ss.6.5 and 6.6 of this FSP.]</p> | | |

Definitions for the purposes of s.6.7.1.3 of this FSP

“Hydrologic Evaluation” is an evaluation form prepared by a qualified professional, that addresses site-specific hydrologic considerations and practices including terrain stability, riparian condition, roads, and streams flows for cutblocks or groups of cutblocks that do not conform to **FPPR s.64(1)(a)** or **FPPR s.65(2)**, in an **Enhanced Forestry Zone**. The **Hydrologic Evaluation** will be consistent with the applicable **Watershed Assessment**.

“Retention Silvicultural System” means a silvicultural system that is designed to:

- retain individual trees or groups of trees to maintain structural diversity over the area of the cutblock for at least one rotation, and
- leave more than half the total area of the cutblock within one tree height from the base of a tree or group of trees, whether or not the tree or group of trees is inside the cutblock.

“Watershed Assessment” means an assessment prepared by a qualified professional to investigate watershed hydrologic and geomorphic processes and provide guidance for forest management activities, and is consistent with the EGBC/ABCFP Joint Professional Practice Guidelines, Watershed Assessment and Management of Hydrologic and Geomorphic Risk in the Forest Industry, v. 1.0 (2020).

Strategy – Enhanced Forestry Zones

- In **Enhanced Forestry Zones**, for the purposes of **FPPR s.12.4(1)**, as a **Strategy**, to increase the short-term availability of timber, a cutblock may be larger than 40 ha, provided that the **Holder** conducts **Primary Forest Activities** in a manner consistent with:
 - A **Retention Silvicultural System**; and
 - Practice recommendations prescribed in the applicable **Hydrologic Evaluation**.
- In **Enhanced Forest Management Zones**, for the purposes of **FPPR s.12.4(2)**, as a **Strategy**, each **Holder** must not harvest timber on a **New Cutblock**, unless:

Forest Stewardship Plan

Port McNeill and Quatsino Sound Forest Operations 2023-2028

Timberlands
Management System

OBJECTIVE SOURCE: WILDLIFE AND BIODIVERSITY – LANDSCAPE LEVEL: MATURE AND OLD SERAL STAGES – SPECIAL MANAGEMENT ZONES

| Authority | | Category/Source | | Effective Date of Objective |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| CWH | 376 | | | |
| Total | 376 | 596 | 63% | |
| Mature and Old Forest in FDU 1, Koprino, SMZ 4 (based on VRI data, 2020 reference year) | | | | |
| BEC Zone | Mature and Old Forest | Total Forest Management Land Base | Proportion of Mature and Old Forest | |
| CWH | 2,738 | | | |
| Total | 2,738 | 5,816 | 47% | |
| Mature and Old Forest in FDU 1, Johnstone Strait, SMZ 7 (based on VRI data, 2020 reference year) | | | | |
| BEC Zone | Mature and Old Forest | Total Forest Management Land Base | Proportion of Mature and Old Forest | |
| CWH | 247 | | | |
| MH | 7 | | | |
| Total | 254 | 341 | 74% | |

Definitions for the Purposes of s.6.7.2 of this FSP

“Mature” means forest stands 80-250 years old in the CWH zone, and 120-250 years old in the MH zone.

“Old” means forest stands greater than 250 years old.

Strategy – VILUP Order Objective 1(a)

1. As a **Strategy**:

- Each **Holder** will comply with VILUP Order Objective 1(a) in those portions of SMZs 2, 3, 4 and 7 within the **FDU** area; and
- Where SMZs are not entirely in the **FDU**, the **Strategy** only applies to that portion of the SMZ within the **FDU** until the **Mature** and **Old** forest is apportioned by agreement between affected FSP holders, or as apportioned by government;

Forest Stewardship Plan

Timberlands
Management System

Port McNeill and Quatsino Sound Forest Operations 2023-2028

6.7.3 Late Successional Habitat Elements and Attributes of Biodiversity – Special Management Zones

| OBJECTIVE SOURCE: WILDLIFE AND BIODIVERSITY – LANDSCAPE LEVEL: LATE SUCCESSIONAL HABITAT ELEMENTS AND ATTRIBUTES OF BIODIVERSITY – SPECIAL MANAGEMENT ZONES | | |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Authority | Category/Source | Effective Date of Objective |
| FPC s.3(1), 3(2) and 9.1 | VILUP Order, Objectives 4 and 5 | October 24, 2000 |
| <p>4. <i>Maintain late-successional habitat elements and attributes of biodiversity in forested ecosystems with emphasis on regionally rare and underrepresented ecosystems, by retaining old seral forest at the site series/surrogate level of representation.</i></p> <p>5. <i>Retain late-successional habitat elements and attributes of biodiversity in patches of variable size.</i></p> | | |

Definitions for the purposes of s.6.7.3 of this FSP

“**Late Successional Habitat Elements**” includes, but is not limited to: large diameter (> 60 cm) live, decaying and dead standing trees (providing nest and cavity sites); downed wood, including large diameter pieces (50 to 150 cm); deciduous broad-leaved trees, both in riparian and upland areas.⁴

“**Mappable**” means a minimum polygon size with a leading site series of 0.25 ha, or 1 cm² on a 1:5,000 scale map.

“**Regionally Rare Ecosystem**” means red and blue listed plant communities as defined by the BC Conservation Data Centre.

“**Underrepresented Ecosystem**” means any site series that is less than 2% of the special management zone forest management landbase.

Strategy – VILUP Order, Objective 4 and 5

1. As a **Strategy**, each **Holder** will comply with VILUP Order Objective 4 in that portion of SMZ 3 in the **FDU**, subject to the following:
 - a. Approved and proposed Old Growth Management Areas (OGMAs), stand level retention and the non-contributing land-base (NCLB), address the objectives, subject to the following conditions:
 - i. An analysis that will be carried out prior to new road and/or cutblock development based on current provincial **TEM** and **VRI** data;
 - ii. Where the analysis shows a deficit under the target amount, including proposed OGMAs, harvesting will not take place in a **Mappable Regionally Rare or Underrepresented Ecosystem**, if doing so will result in an area below the target amount, when deducted from the total, including proposed OGMAs, for that site series;

⁴ Footnote 8, “Vancouver Island Land Use Plan, Higher Level Plan Order”.

Forest Stewardship Plan

Timberlands
Management System

Port McNeill and Quatsino Sound Forest Operations 2023-2028

- iii. Site plan field data must be collected by or under the direction of a qualified registered professional that has received training in the identification of **Regionally Rare or Underrepresented Ecosystem**; and
 - iv. Field data collection may be used to revise and recruit areas to the analysis table amounts.
2. For the purposes of VILUP Order, Objective 5, each **Holder** will, as a **Strategy** in that portion of SMZ 3 in the **FDU**, incorporate **Late Successional Habitat Elements** in wildlife tree retention areas where **Late Successional Habitat Elements** are within or immediately adjacent to a proposed cutblock.

6.7.4 Old Growth Management Areas (OGMAs)

6.7.4.1 Old Growth Management Areas with Non-Spatial Legal Objectives

| OBJECTIVE SOURCE: WILDLIFE AND BIODIVERSITY – LANDSCAPE LEVEL: OLD GROWTH MANAGEMENT AREAS | | |
|---|---|-----------------------------|
| Authority | Category/Source | Effective Date of Objective |
| FPC ss.4(1-2) | Order Establishing Provincial Non-Spatial Old Growth Objectives | June 30, 2004 |
| <p><i>A.1. Biodiversity emphasis for landscape units - For the purpose of implementing objective 2 below, biodiversity emphasis is assigned as listed in Appendix 1, Table 1.</i></p> <p><i>A.2. Old growth objectives - To contribute to the conservation of biodiversity, licensees must maintain old forest by biogeoclimatic variant within each landscape unit according to the age of old forest and the percentage of old forest retention that is specified in Tables 1 through 4 and the assignment of Natural Disturbance Types outlined in Appendix 3, and subject to provisions 5 through 9 below.</i></p> <p><i>A.5. Potential reduction in old forest retention in low biodiversity emphasis areas - For landscape units with a low biodiversity emphasis, the old forest retention percent listed in Tables 1-4 may be reduced by up to 2/3, to the extent necessary to address impacts on timber supply.</i></p> <p><i>A.6. Use of younger forests to meet old forest objectives In intermediate and high emphasis landscape units where it can be demonstrated that equal or better conservation benefits would result, stands less than the age of old, and preferably mature forest, may contribute to the percentage of old forest retention defined in Tables 1-4.</i></p> <p><i>A.8. Draft old growth management areas. Where the Minister of Sustainable Resource Management, his delegate, or a licensee or group of licensees has identified draft old growth management areas, the Minister or delegate may specify in writing that these draft old growth management areas meet the intent of this Order.</i></p> <p><i>B. When a new order of the Minister of Sustainable Resource Management or delegate establishes old forest objectives, this Order will, on the effective date of the new order, cease to have effect for the area or areas affected by old forest established in the new order.</i></p> <p><i>Where a new order of the Minister of Sustainable Resource Management or delegate establishes old forest objectives for a portion of a landscape unit that is established under this Order, this Order</i></p> | | |

PRINTED COPY IS UNCONTROLLED

Forest Stewardship Plan

Port McNeill and Quatsino Sound Forest Operations 2023-2028

Timberlands
Management System

| OBJECTIVE SOURCE: WILDLIFE AND BIODIVERSITY – LANDSCAPE LEVEL: OLD GROWTH MANAGEMENT AREAS | | |
|--|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Authority | Category/Source | Effective Date of Objective |
| <i>remains in effect for the portion of the landscape unit for which the new order does not establish old forest objectives.</i> | | |

Definitions for the purposes of s.6.7.4.1 of this FSP

“**Order**” means the “Order Establishing Provincial Non-Spatial Old Growth Objectives”, effective June 30, 2004.

Strategy – “Order Establishing Provincial Non-Spatial Old Growth Objectives”

1. In the Keogh, Bonanza, Neuroutsos, Mahatta, Holberg and Klaskish Landscape Units:
 - a. As a **Strategy**, to comply with the “Order Establishing Provincial Non-Spatial Old Growth Objectives”, effective June 30, 2004, each **Holder** will comply with the **Order** and in so doing, will not cause the target retention of old forest or younger forest by landscape unit, natural disturbance type and biogeoclimatic zone to fall below the amounts specified in the **Order**, except as permitted by the **Order**.

6.7.4.2 Old Growth Management Areas with Legal Objectives

6.7.4.2.1 San Josef Landscape Unit

| Authority | Category/Source | Effective Date of Objective |
|---|--|-----------------------------|
| <i>Land Act</i> s.93.4 | Ministerial Order – Land Use Objectives for the San Josef Landscape Unit situated on Northern Vancouver Island within the North Island Central Coast Forest District | October 6, 2016 |
| <p>Part 2 - Objectives</p> <p><i>The objectives for OGMA's are as follows:</i></p> <p>4. <i>Maintain or recruit old growth forests in established OGMA's, as shown on the attached OGMA map dated September 13, 2016, subject to part 3 below.</i></p> <p>Part 3 - Permissible and Non-Permissible Activities within OGMA's</p> <p>5. <i>Within all OGMA's, the following activities are permitted:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>Sanitation harvesting to prevent insect infestations or diseases posing a significant threat to forest health;</i> b. <i>Felling of trees to remove a safety hazard along cutblock boundaries or within road right-of-ways, recreation sites or trails; and</i> c. <i>Timber harvesting for First Nations' cultural purposes.</i> | | |

PRINTED COPY IS UNCONTROLLED

Forest Stewardship Plan

Port McNeill and Quatsino Sound Forest Operations 2023-2028

Timberlands
Management System

| Authority | Category/Source | Effective Date of Objective |
|-----------|--|-----------------------------|
| | <p>6. Within all OGMA's, the following activities are permissible as minor intrusions and/or adjustments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Felling of trees to enable a safe and logical falling boundary where the area does not exceed two hectares; b. Wind firming treatments along a boundary; c. Road or bridge construction for access to resource values beyond or adjacent to the OGMA, and no other practicable option for road or bridge location exists; d. Construction of rock quarries and gravel pits under authority of forest tenure where the development will be located immediately adjacent to existing roads under tenure and will affect the OGMA by less than 0.5 hectares in total; and e. Road maintenance, deactivation, or brushing and clearing on existing roads under active tenure within the road permit area. f. Felling to provide guyline clearance, tailhold anchor trees, or to mitigate a safety hazard along cutblock boundaries. <p>7. Within all OGMA's, the following activity is non-permissible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Salvage opportunities, including firewood; OR b. Any activity not listed in Section 5 or 6. <p>Part 4 - Identification of Replacement Area and Communication</p> <p>8. OGMA replacement forest area is required as a result of the activities in Sections 5 and 6 when the total net change to the OGMA exceeds 0.5 hectares in size. Replacement forest will be of an equivalent area and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. of similar or better stand attributes (i.e. age, site productivity, species distribution), b. of equivalent or better habitat quality and functionality for species on the Category of Species of Risk list; and, c. situated in order of priority, either directly adjacent to, or in the same variant and landscape unit as the adjusted OGMA. <p>9. Exceptions to Section 8 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. As an alternative to finding replacement area for a road or bridge, the licensee may permanently deactivate and rehabilitate a temporary road or bridge site within four years of the date of construction. b. In recognition of surplus suitable old serai forest within the San Josef LU, the requirement to identify OGMA replacement forest may be waived by the delegated decision maker in the CWHvhl, vml, vm2 and MHmml variants, provided that the total area of mature and old serai forest maintained in OGMA's plus the contributing old serai forest area in protected areas meets or exceeds the targets in Table A. | |

Strategy – "Land Use Objectives for the San Josef Landscape Unit situated on Northern Vancouver Island within the North Island Central Coast Forest District"

- As a **Strategy**, each **Holder** will comply with Parts 2, 3 and 4 of the document titled "Land Use Objectives for the San Josef Landscape Unit situated on Northern Vancouver Island within the North Island Central Coast Forest District" while conducting **Primary Forest**

PRINTED COPY IS UNCONTROLLED

Forest Stewardship Plan

Timberlands
Management System

Port McNeill and Quatsino Sound Forest Operations 2023-2028

Activities in the area subject to the document titled “Land Use Objectives for the San Josef Landscape Unit situated on Northern Vancouver Island within the North Island Central Coast Forest District”.

6.7.4.2.2 Marble Landscape Unit

| Authority | Category/Source | Effective Date of Objective |
|--|---|-----------------------------|
| Land Act s.93.4 | Ministerial Order – Land Use Objectives for Old Growth Management Areas (OGMAs) within the Nahwitti, Tsulquate and Marble Landscape Units situated on northern Vancouver Island within the North Island - Central Coast Forest District | July 26, 2010 |
| <p>Part 2 - Objectives</p> <p>5. Objectives for Old Growth Management Areas</p> <p>(1) <i>Maintain or recruit old growth forests in established Old Growth Management Areas, as shown on the map attached as Schedules 1 and 2, subject to subsections (2) to (6) below.</i></p> <p>(2) <i>Despite subsection 1, timber harvesting and road or bridge construction are permitted within OGMAs, provided that:</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">i) <i>the area of the OGMA that is subject to timber harvesting or road or bridge construction does not exceed the greater of one hectare or 10% of the area of the OGMA,</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">ii) <i>replacement forest is identified which is</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">i. <i>biologically suitable</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">ii. <i>of equivalent age, structure and area, and,</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">iii. <i>situated in order of priority, either immediately adjacent to the OGMA, or adjacent to another OGMA in the same variant and landscape unit as the existing OGMA, and</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">iii) <i>road or bridge construction, if applicable, is required to access resource values beyond or adjacent to the OGMA and no other practicable option for road or bridge location exists.</i></p> <p>(3) <i>For the purposes of subsection (2)(b) and (c), as an alternative to identifying replacement area, a temporary road or bridge site may be permanently deactivated and rehabilitated within four years after construction.</i></p> <p>(4) <i>Within OGMAs, the following activities are permitted:</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a) <i>First Nations traditional use of trees or understory plants.</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">b) <i>Topping or pruning of trees along boundaries to improve wind firmness.</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">c) <i>Timber harvesting to prevent the spread of insect infestations or diseases that pose significant threat to forested areas outside of OGMAs. Salvage within OGMAs will be done in a manner that retains as many old growth forest attributes as possible.</i></p> | | |

PRINTED COPY IS UNCONTROLLED

Forest Stewardship Plan

Port McNeill and Quatsino Sound Forest Operations 2023-2028

Timberlands
Management System

| Authority | Category/Source | Effective Date of Objective |
|-----------|---|-----------------------------|
| | <p>d) Road maintenance, deactivation, removal of danger trees, or brushing and clearing on existing roads under active tenure within the right-of-way for safety purposes.</p> <p>e) Felling for guyline clearance, tailhold anchor trees, or danger trees along cutblock boundaries or within the right-of-way on new road/bridge alignments to meet safety requirements.</p> <p>f) Silvicultural habitat enhancement in recruitment OGMA's.</p> <p>g) Trail and site maintenance or development, and silvicultural treatments to address public safety associated with the management and operation of recreation sites and trails.</p> <p>(5) Replacement forest is required if the total area of an OGMA that is subject to the activities pursuant to subsection (4) exceeds the greater of one hectare or 10% of the area of the OGMA. Replacement forest must be biologically suitable, of equivalent age, structure and area, and situated, in order of priority, either immediately adjacent to the OGMA, or adjacent to another OGMA in the same variant and landscape unit as the OGMA.</p> <p>(6) OGMA adjustments and replacements made in accordance with subsections (2) to (5) must be documented and submitted as digital spatial data to the delegated decision maker at the end of each calendar year.</p> | |

Strategy – “Land Use Objectives for Old Growth Management Areas (OGMA's) within the Nahwitti, Tsulquate and Marble Landscape Units situated on northern Vancouver Island within the North Island - Central Coast Forest District”

- As a **Strategy**, each **Holder** will comply with Parts 2, 3 and 4 of the document titled “Land Use Objectives for Old Growth Management Areas (OGMA's) within the Nahwitti, Tsulquate and Marble Landscape Units situated on northern Vancouver Island within the North Island - Central Coast Forest District” while conducting **Primary Forest Activities** in the area subject to the document titled “Land Use Objectives for Old Growth Management Areas (OGMA's) within the Nahwitti, Tsulquate and Marble Landscape Units situated on northern Vancouver Island within the North Island - Central Coast Forest District”.

6.7.4.2.3 Lower Nimpkish Landscape Unit

| Authority | Category/Source | Effective Date of Objective |
|--|---|-----------------------------|
| FPC Act s.4 | Order to Establish a Landscape Unit and Objectives – Lower Nimpkish Landscape Unit, Objective 1 | October 24, 2005 |
| <p>Objective 1 - Old Growth Management Areas</p> <p>1. <u>Maintenance or recruitment of old growth forests</u> Maintain or recruit old growth forests in established Old Growth Management Areas (OGMA's), as shown on the attached Lower Nimpkish Landscape Unit map dated August 5, 2005, subject to section 2 below.</p> | | |

PRINTED COPY IS UNCONTROLLED

Forest Stewardship Plan

Port McNeill and Quatsino Sound Forest Operations 2023-2028

Timberlands
Management System

| Authority | Category/Source | Effective Date of Objective |
|-----------|---|-----------------------------|
| | <p>2. <u>Permissible activities within OGMAs</u></p> <p>(a) Minor OGMA boundary adjustments for operational reasons: To accommodate operational requirements for timber harvesting and road or bridge construction, OGMAs that are 10 ha or greater in size may have boundaries adjusted, provided that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) the boundary adjustment does not affect more than 10 per cent of the area of the OGMA, or ii) road or bridge construction is required to access resource values beyond or adjacent to the OGMA and no other practicable option for road or bridge location exists, and iii) suitable OGMA replacement forest of equivalent age, structure and area is identified either (in order of priority) directly adjacent to or in the same variant and landscape unit as the adjusted OGMA. <p>In the case of ii) above, as an alternative to finding replacement area the licensee may permanently deactivate and rehabilitate a temporary road or bridge site within four years after construction.</p> <p>In the case of iii) above, in recognition of surplus suitable old seral forest located in protected areas, riparian reserve zones, or areas required for species at risk management within the Lower Nimpkish Landscape Unit, the requirement to identify OGMA replacement forest may be waived in the CWHxm2, vm1, vm2 and MHmm1 variants, provided that the total area of mature and old seral forest maintained in OGMAs plus the contributing old seral forest area in protected areas meets or exceeds the targets in Table A.</p> <p>(b) Other permissible activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Topping or pruning of trees along the boundary to improve wind firmness. ii) Timber harvesting to prevent the spread of insect infestations or diseases that pose a significant threat to forested areas outside of OGMAs. Salvage within OGMAs will be done in a manner that retains as many old growth forest attributes as possible. iii) Road maintenance, deactivation, removal of danger trees, or brushing and clearing on existing roads under active tenure within the right-of-way for safety purposes. iv) Felling of guyline clearance, tailhold anchor trees, or danger trees along cutblock boundaries or within the right of way on new road/bridge alignments to meet safety requirements. v) Construction of rock quarries and gravel pits under authority of forest tenure where the development will be located immediately adjacent to existing roads under tenure and will affect the OGMA by less than 0.5 ha in total. vi) Small boundary adjustments for operational reasons, or intrusions, other than those specified above, that result in a net loss to the OGMA of less than or equal to 0.5 ha. <p>OGMA replacement forest is required as a result of the activities in 2 (b) above if the total net change to the OGMA exceeds 0.5 ha in size and the total area of mature and old seral forest maintained in OGMAs plus the contributing old seral forest area in protected areas is reduced below the minimum target area outlined in Table A. Replacement forest must be biologically suitable, of equivalent age, structure and area, and situated (in order of priority), either</p> | |

PRINTED COPY IS UNCONTROLLED

Forest Stewardship Plan

Port McNeill and Quatsino Sound Forest Operations 2023-2028

Timberlands
Management System

| Authority | Category/Source | Effective Date of Objective |
|---|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>immediately adjacent to the existing OGMA, or in the same variant and landscape unit as the existing OGMA.</i> | | |

Strategy – “Order to Establish a Landscape Unit and Objectives – Lower Nimpkish Landscape Unit” – Objective 1

1. As a **Strategy**, each **Holder** will comply with Objective 1 of the of the document titled “Order to Establish a Landscape Unit and Objectives – Lower Nimpkish Landscape Unit” while conducting **Primary Forest Activities** in the area subject to the document titled “Order to Establish a Landscape Unit and Objectives – Lower Nimpkish Landscape Unit”.

6.8 Wildlife and Biodiversity – Stand Level

6.8.1 Wildlife Tree Retention

OBJECTIVE SOURCE: WILDLIFE AND BIODIVERSITY – STAND LEVEL: WILDLIFE TREE RETENTION

| Authority | Category/Source | Effective Date of Objective |
|---|---|-----------------------------|
| BC Reg. 36/2023 | FPPR s.9.1 | February 13, 2023 |
| <i>The objective set by government for wildlife and biodiversity at the stand level is, to retain wildlife trees.</i> | | |
| FPC Act s.4 | Order to Establish a Landscape Unit and Objectives – Lower Nimpkish Landscape Unit, Objective 2 | October 24, 2005 |

Objective 2 – Wildlife Tree Retention

Maintain stand-level structural diversity, by retaining wildlife tree patches (WTPs). The holder of an agreement under the Forest Act, except a woodlot licence agreement, who completes harvesting in one or more cutblocks, except minor salvage cutblocks, located within the LU during any 60 month period beginning on January 1 of any calendar year following the establishment of this objective, must ensure that, at the end of that 60 month period, the total area covered by wildlife tree retention areas that relate to the cutblocks, meets or exceeds the percent of the total harvest area (Net Area to be Reforested + permanent road area) of the cutblocks by subzone presented in Table B.

Table B. Wildlife Tree Retention (WTR)by BEC unit in the Lower Nimpkish Landscape Unit.

| BEC Subzone/Variant | Wildlife Tree Retention %. |
|--|----------------------------|
| CWHxm (Coastal Western Hemlock, very dry maritime) | 11% |
| CWHvm (Coastal Western Hemlock, very wet maritime) | 9% |
| MHm (Mountain Hemlock, moist maritime) | 1% |

In addition:

(1) WTPs must be well distributed across the BEC subzone.

PRINTED COPY IS UNCONTROLLED

Forest Stewardship Plan

Timberlands
Management System

Port McNeill and Quatsino Sound Forest Operations 2023-2028

- (2) When designated at the site plan level, WTPs must be located within or immediately adjacent to a cutblock.
- (3) No timber harvesting, including single tree selection is to occur within WTPs, except as noted below:
- (a) Falling of danger trees;
 - (b) Salvage of windthrown timber is permitted within WTPs where windthrow impacts 25% to 50% of the dominant or co-dominant stems. Salvage of windthrown timber and harvesting of remaining standing stems is permitted within WTPs where windthrow exceeds 50% of the dominant or co-dominant stems; or where forest health issues pose a significant threat to areas outside the WTP. Where such salvage/harvesting is planned and authorized, suitable replacement WTP of at least equivalent area must be identified to achieve the retention target.
- (4) WTPs should include, if present, remnant old-growth patches and live or dead veteran trees (excluding danger trees).
- (5) WTPs should include representative larger trees (dbh > average operational cruise) for the stand and suitable wildlife trees, if available, as well as identified wildlife habitat features, if present (excluding danger trees).
- (6) BEC subzones and variants will be determined by site plan information.

Definitions for the Purposes s.6.8.1 of this FSP

“Equivalent Forested Area” means replacement forest of equivalent age, structure and area that is within or immediately adjacent to the cutblock to which the **WTRA** relates.

“Mature Seral Condition” means at least 80 years old in the CWH biogeoclimatic zone, or at least 120 years old in the MH biogeoclimatic zone.⁵

“WTP” means a wildlife tree patch established under the *Forest Practices Code of BC Act*. Synonymous with **WTRA** except in s.4.c, below.

“WTRA” means wildlife tree retention area, has the same meaning as in **FPPR** s.1(1).

Strategy – FPPR ss.9.1 and 12.5(1-2)

1. For the purposes of **FPPR** s.12.5(1), as a **Strategy**, each **Holder** will ensure that for each cutblock, the area⁶ set aside for a **WTRA**:
 - a. Is a minimum of:
 - i. 7% of the sum total area of a cutblock; or
 - ii. In the Lower Nimpkish Landscape Unit Plan area, the amount specified in Objective 2, Table B of the “Order to Establish a Landscape Unit and Objectives – Lower Nimpkish Landscape Unit”, subject to ecosystem classification information collected during site plan field work;
 - b. Is within or immediately adjacent to the Cutblock to which the **WTRA** relates;
2. For the purposes of **FPPR** s.12.5(2), as a **Strategy**, each **Holder** must not harvest timber from a **WTRA** unless the trees on the net area to be reforested of the cutblock to which the wildlife tree retention area relates have reached a **Mature Seral Condition**, except:

⁵ Biodiversity Guidebook, 1995. p.16. <https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfd/library/documents/bib19715.pdf>.

⁶ For the purposes of calculating WTRA requirements, a cutblock is the total of the net area to be reforested and the road area within a cutblock boundary.

Forest Stewardship Plan

Timberlands
Management System

Port McNeill and Quatsino Sound Forest Operations 2023-2028

- a. Timber may be harvested for establishment of tail holds or guy line tiebacks;
- b. Danger trees may be felled; and
- c. Where a **Holder** modifies a previously established **WTP** or **WTRA**, the **Holder** will specify a replacement **WTRA** that is an **Equivalent Forested Area** if the modified **WTRA** or **WTP** is not reduced below the minimum area requirements listed in s.1 of this **Strategy**;

and

3. Despite ss.1-2 of this **Strategy**, if a cutblock has been declared free-growing:
 - a. The practice requirement in **FPPR** s.67 applies; and
 - b. Proposed modifications to a **WTRA** or **WTP** established for a free growing cutblock are subject to an exemption request pursuant to **FPPR** s.91(2).

6.9 Visual Quality

| OBJECTIVE SOURCE: VISUAL QUALITY | | |
|----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Authority | Category/Source | Effective Date of Objective |
| BC Reg. 580/2004 | FPPR s.9.2 | December 11, 2004 |
| BC Reg. 582/2004 s.7(2) | Order to Establish Visual Quality Objectives for Tree Farm Licence 6 and Block 7 of the Pacific TSA within the North Island Central Coast Forest District | September 24, 2010 |

Strategy – FPPR s.9.2

1. For the purposes of **FPPR** s.9.2, as a **Strategy**, each **Holder** will comply with the “Order to Establish Visual Quality Objectives for Tree Farm Licence 6 and Block 7 of the Pacific TSA within the North Island Central Coast Forest District” or subsequently established under s.7(2) of the Government Actions Regulation;
2. Where required, a Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) will be conducted according to the ‘Visual Impact Assessment Handbook’ (Ministry of Forests, May 2022), as amended from time to time;
3. Each **Holder** will ensure that the recommendations in an applicable VIA are followed, including mitigation measures such as tree crown modification of timbered edges; and
4. The scenic areas and VQOs apply to a road permit, cutting permit or area declared under **FPPR** s.14(4), as the scenic areas and VQOs were on the date of submission. This **Strategy** applies to new objectives established under **GAR** s.7 on the effective date of the Order.

Forest Stewardship Plan

Port McNeill and Quatsino Sound Forest Operations 2023-2028

6.10 Cultural Heritage Resources

| OBJECTIVE SOURCE: CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES | | |
|--|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Authority | Category/Source | Effective Date of Objective |
| BC Reg. 14/2004 | FPPR s.10 | January 31, 2004 |
| <p><i>The objective set by government for cultural heritage resources is to conserve, or, if necessary, protect cultural heritage resources that are</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a) the focus of a traditional use by an aboriginal people that is of continuing importance to that people, and</i> <i>b) not regulated under the Heritage Conservation Act.</i> | | |

Definitions for the purposes of s.6.10 of this FSP

“**Cultural Heritage Resource**” is as defined in *Forest Act* s.1 and in respect of **FPPR** s.10.

“**First Nation**” in this **FSP** means First Nations as recognized by government where asserted territories and **FDUs** overlap, or Tribal Council for a group of First Nations where territories and **FDUs** overlap.

“**Primary Forest Activity**” has the same meaning as in **FPPR** s.1.

“**Objective**” means the text of **FPPR** s.10.

“**Western Red Cedar or Cypress for Monumental Art**” refers to cedar or cypress used for making paddles, poles, masks, totems, canoes, and similar traditional use items.

Strategy – FPPR s.10

1. For the purposes of **FPPR** s.10, as a **Strategy**, each **Holder** will:
 - a. Gather data over the term of this **FSP** to identify the **Cultural Heritage Resources** to which the **Objective** relates by:
 - i. Initiating ongoing, regular, reasonable efforts in writing and in person to gather data from **First Nations**, qualified persons, and the government; and
 - ii. Seeking confirmation from the DDM and **First Nations** of whether any potential cultural heritage resource that has been identified, is in fact a **Cultural Heritage Resources** to which the objective relates, and/or whether the data gathered in s.1.a.i indicates the resource requires further assessment under s.1.b;
 - b. Assess the identified **Cultural Heritage Resources** in relation to the risk from **Primary Forest Activities**, using **FPPR** Schedule 1 s.4 Factors and information gathered from available, knowledgeable sources including traditional use and archaeological studies, **First Nations**, qualified persons, and government; and
 - c. As part of the assessment, make reasonable efforts to:
 - i. Establish options for mitigating the impact that a forest practice or forest development carried out by the **Holder** of the **FSP** may have on an identified **Cultural Heritage Resource**;

Forest Stewardship Plan

Timberlands
Management System

Port McNeill and Quatsino Sound Forest Operations 2023-2028

- ii. Seek information and advice on the options from **First Nations**, qualified persons or government; and
 - iii. Select the most appropriate option for carrying out **Primary Forest Activities**.
2. The **Holder** of the **FSP** will ensure that the **Strategies** set out in ss.1.b and c are applied with respect to **Western Red Cedar or Cypress for Monumental Art**.

6.11 FRPA Value: Recreation

| OBJECTIVE SOURCE: RECREATION | | |
|--|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Authority | Category/Source | Effective Date of Objective |
| FRPA s.56 | FRPA Value | November 21, 2002 |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>The minister may order</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>the establishment of Crown land as an interpretive forest site, a recreation site or a recreation trail, except Crown land that is subject to another enactment and is being administered by another minister, branch or agency of government,</i> b) <i>the variance of the boundaries of an interpretive forest site, a recreation site or a recreation trail, and</i> c) <i>the disestablishment of an interpretive forest site, a recreation site or a recreation trail.</i> 2. <i>[Repealed 2003-55-31.]</i> 3. <i>The minister may establish an objective for an interpretive forest site, recreation site or recreation trail established under subsection (1).</i> 4. <i>An objective established under subsection (1) must be consistent with objectives set by government that pertain to the area.</i> | | |

FRPA Value – Recreation

1. Each **Holder** manages **FRPA** s.56 and **FPC** s.102 established sites in accordance with the **FRPA** s.56 or grandfathered **FPC** s.102 agreement for the site, as amended from time to time. Note that recreation resource features have not been established in the North Island-Central Coast Natural Resource District. See s.6.12 of this **FSP**.

6.12 FRPA Value: Resource Features

| OBJECTIVE SOURCE: RESOURCE FEATURES | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| Authority | Category/Source | Effective Date of Objective |
| BC Reg. 582/2004 | Order to Identify Karst Resource Features for the North Island – Central Coast Forest District | March 29, 2007 |

Forest Stewardship Plan

Port McNeill and Quatsino Sound Forest Operations 2023-2028

Timberlands
Management System

| OBJECTIVE SOURCE: RESOURCE FEATURES | | |
|--|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Authority | Category/Source | Effective Date of Objective |
| <p><i>Pursuant to Section 5 of the Government Actions Regulation of the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRP A), I hereby identify the following surface or subsurface elements of a karst system as resource features wherever they are found within the North Island – Central Coast Forest District, effective March 29, 2007.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karst caves • The important features and elements within very high or high vulnerability karst terrain • Significant surface karst features | | |
| BC Reg. 580/2004 | FPPR s.70(1) | January 31, 2004 |
| <p><i>An authorized person who carries out a primary forest activity must ensure that the primary forest activity does not damage or render ineffective a resource feature.</i></p> | | |

FRPA Value – Resource Features

1. Resource features include practice requirements that are not within the scope of an FSP and are mentioned here only as background information supporting this **FSP**. No objectives are specified in resource feature orders; therefore, **Results** or **Strategies** are not required. Current Orders are listed in the objective source table above. Each **Holder** will ensure that **Primary Forest Activities** do not damage or render ineffective a resource feature subject to an Order.

7. FRPA Measures

7.1 Invasive Plants

| BACKGROUND INFORMATION: INVASIVE PLANTS | | |
|--|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Authority | Category/Source | Effective Date of Objective |
| BC Reg. 580/2004 | FPPR s.17 | January 31, 2004 |
| <p><i>For the purpose of section 47 [invasive plants] of the Act, a person who prepares a forest stewardship plan must specify measures in the plan to prevent the introduction or spread of species of plants that are invasive plants under the Invasive Plants Regulation, if the introduction or spread is likely to be the result of the person's forest practices.</i></p> | | |

Table 7.1 – Priority Species⁷

| Priority | Species |
|----------|---------|
|----------|---------|

⁷ Based on “Priority Invasive Plant Species and Recommended Management Practices”. Pers. Comm. Becky Brown, Invasive Plant Specialist, Ministry of Forests (January 2021)

Forest Stewardship Plan

Timberlands
Management System

Port McNeill and Quatsino Sound Forest Operations 2023-2028

| | |
|--|--|
| Provincial EDRR (Early Detection and Rapid Response) | Eggleaf spurge, European common reed, Giant reed, Salt meadow cordgrass, Slender false brome |
| Regional EDRR | All knapweeds (incl. <i>Centaurea montana</i>), Giant hogweed, Japanese butterbur, Purple loosestrife, Tree of Heaven, Yellow flag iris |
| Containment | Bohemian knotweed, Giant knotweed, Japanese knotweed |
| Control | Himalayan knotweed, Himalayan balsam/Policeman's helmet, Yellow archangel, Tansy ragwort, All yellow hawkweeds, Orange hawkweed |
| Management | Scotch broom, Common tansy, Himalayan blackberry |

Table 7.2 – Priority Categories and Provincial Objectives for Invasive Plants⁸

| Priority Category | Category Description | Management Objective |
|-------------------|--|--|
| Provincial EDRR | Species determined to be high risk and not yet established. | Prevent introduction and establishment. Collect sample with coordinates and report all sites to FOR Prov EDRR Coordinator. |
| Regional EDRR | Species is high risk and is limited in extent in the Region. | Eradication. Survey and treat all sites, enter data in provincial invasive plant database. |
| Containment | Species is high risk with limited extent but significant potential to spread. | Prioritize Bohemian above other knotweeds. Manage for seeds at all sites. Chemically treat all sites, following Provincial Public Land Treatment Guidelines. |
| Control | Species is high risk and well established, or medium risk with high potential to spread. | Survey and treat all sites, enter data in the provincial invasive plant database. |
| Management | Species is more widespread by may be of concern in specific situations with certain high values – e.g. conservation lands or specific agriculture crops. | Survey and treat only in high value conservation lands, enter data in provincial invasive plant database. |

Definitions for the purposes Measures in s.7.1 of this FSP

“**Applicable Area**” means an area of exposed mineral soil that is at least a contiguous 0.1 ha.

⁸ Adopted from the definitions contained in the document titled ‘Provincial Priority Invasive Species – BC Inter-Ministry Invasive Species Working Group’ (March 2021).

Forest Stewardship Plan

Port McNeill and Quatsino Sound Forest Operations 2023-2028

“**Priority Categories**” means the priority categories listed in Table 7.2 of s.7.1 of this **FSP**.

“**Priority Species**” means those invasive species listed in Table 7.1 of s.7.1 of this **FSP**.

Measure – FPPR s.17

1. For the purposes of **FPPR s.17**, each **Holder** will, as a **Measure**:
 - a. Incorporate known invasive **Priority Species** into development plans and report new sites as they are discovered, by
 - i. In the planning process, consulting the map display module of the Invasive Alien Plant Program (IAPP) online database for known invasive **Priority Species** (www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/plants/application.htm);
 - ii. Distribute information to staff and contractors on **Priority Species** that exist or threaten to establish within the plan area, on an annual basis; and
 - iii. Monitoring areas for the presence of invasive species while conducting road and cutblock layout, road reactivation surveys, site plan fieldwork, contractor inspections, and silviculture surveys; and
 - iv. Reporting new incidences of invasive plants in the company’s spatial database and through Report-a-Weed or similar technology to the Invasive Alien Plant Program (IAPP) within 30 days of discovery;
 - b. Work in uninfested sites before moving to infested sites;
 - c. Clean equipment within existing infestations of **Priority Species**, to the extent practicable, before moving to a new work site or region, by
 - i. Pressure-washing mud from vehicles and equipment, while preventing run-off from contaminating waterways and riparian areas; or
 - ii. Visually inspecting vehicles and equipment and removing lodged plant parts found;
 - d. Inspect and ensure fill and erosion-control materials are not taken from sites infested with **Priority Species**;
 - e. Direct all contractors and staff to not brush or mow **Priority Species**;
 - f. Minimize unnecessary soil disturbance and maintain native vegetation, especially in areas infested with **Priority Species**;
 - g. Revegetate a disturbed site that is an **Applicable Area** as soon as possible with weed-free Common No.1 Forage Mixture or better; and
 - h. Promptly control infestations of **Priority Species** resulting from **Primary Forest Activities**, if the infestation is in the **Provincial EDRR**, **Regional EDRR**, or **Containment Priority Categories**, or after consultation with a Provincial Invasive Species Specialist if in the **Control** priority category.

7.2 Natural Range Barriers

| OBJECTIVE SOURCE: NATURAL RANGE BARRIERS | | |
|--|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Authority | Category/Source | Effective Date of Objective |
| BC Reg. 14/2004 | FPPR s.18 | January 31, 2004 |

Forest Stewardship Plan

Port McNeill and Quatsino Sound Forest Operations 2023-2028

Timberlands
Management System

| OBJECTIVE SOURCE: NATURAL RANGE BARRIERS | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Authority | Category/Source | Effective Date of Objective |
| <i>For the purpose of section 48 [natural range barriers] of the Act, a person who prepares a forest stewardship plan must specify measures to mitigate the effect of removing or rendering ineffective natural range barriers.</i> | | |

Measure – FPPR s.18

1. For the purposes of **FPPR s.18**, as a **Measure**, each **Holder** will:
 - a. Each year under the term of this **FSP**, identify any areas within the **FDU** that are subject to or adjacent to agreements under the *Range Act* in respect of grazing livestock;
 - b. Inform each of the affected holders of agreements under the *Range Act* of planned harvest and road construction within or adjacent to their agreement; and
 - c. Where the affected holder of an agreement under the *Range Act* indicates that the planned harvest and road construction will remove or render ineffective a natural range barrier:
 - i. Design cutblocks and roads to mitigate the effect of the removal or ineffectiveness; and
 - ii. Carry out **Primary Forest Practices** only if the **Primary Forest Practices** are consistent with the design in s.1.c.i of this **Measure**.

8. Stocking Standards

Definitions for the purposes of these Stocking Standards

“**Assessment Area**” or “**AA**” means an unmappable area within a standards unit with a uniform site series or phase.

“**Standards Unit**” or “**SU**” has the same meaning as in **FPPR s.1(1)**

8.1 Application

1. These stocking standards apply to:
 - a. Areas harvested under this **FSP** within the **FDU**; and
 - b. Areas identified in a cutblock site plan as the “net area to be reforested”, as that term is defined in **FPPR s.1(1)**.

8.2 Application to Cutblocks Where Harvesting Began Before Term Commences (Act s.197(5)) and declaration was not received by MFLNRO within RESULTS

1. See s.3.2.1.e of this **FSP**.

Forest Stewardship Plan

Port McNeill and Quatsino Sound Forest Operations 2023-2028

8.3 Situation or Circumstances that Determine Whether Free Growing is Assessed on a Block Basis

| BACKGROUND INFORMATION: SITUATION OR CIRCUMSTANCES THAT DETERMINE WHETHER FREE GROWING IS ASSESSED ON A BLOCK BASIS | | |
|--|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Authority | Category/Source | Effective Date of Objective |
| BC Reg. 14/2004 | FPPR s.16(1) | January 31, 2004 |
| <i>A person required to prepare a forest stewardship plan must ensure that the plan specifies the situations or circumstances that determine when section 44 (1) or section 45 will apply to an area.</i> | | |
| BC Reg. 580/2004 | FPPR s.44(1) | June 25, 2012 |
| <p><i>A person who has an obligation to establish a free growing stand must establish, for areas that have been identified under section 16 (1) [stocking standards] as areas to which this section will apply, a stand that:</i></p> <p><i>(a) meets the applicable stocking standards set out in the forest stewardship plan for the area, by the applicable regeneration date specified for the area, and</i></p> <p><i>(b) meets the applicable stocking standards and free growing height set out in the forest stewardship plan for the area by a free growing date that is no more than 20 years from the commencement date, unless the minister permits a later free growing date.</i></p> | | |

1. **FPPR s.44(1)** applies in all situations or circumstances under this **FSP** where a free growing stand is required to be established under **FRPA** s.29.

8.4 Stocking and Related Standards for Stands to which Free Growing Obligations Apply

1. There may be relatively uniform conditions or mosaics (ecosystem complexes), transitional ecosystem sites, and varying site conditions within the net area to be reforested, for each cutblock. The net area to be reforested will be stratified into areas of similar characteristics for the purposes of stocking standards, or **Standards Units (SUs)**. A **Standards Unit** will be assigned the applicable stocking standard from Appendix 1.1, based on the dominant ecosystem site series and, if applicable, phase. Management intent will also govern the choice of a stocking standard. The stocking standard includes species, target and minimum stocking levels (TSS and MSS), minimum intertree distance (MITD), and free growing heights.
2. Optionally, to accommodate unmappable site series components in a **Standards Unit**, elements of a stocking standard may be assigned at an **Assessment Area** level.

8.4.1 Species

1. Species selection to determine compliance with **FPPR s.44(1)** of the **FPPR** will be based on the ecosystem classification and be evaluated at the **SU** or **AA** level. Species which are

Forest Stewardship Plan

Port McNeill and Quatsino Sound Forest Operations 2023-2028

ecologically suitable and commercially valuable for each site series are listed in Appendix 1.1. All listed species are ecologically suitable.

8.4.2 Stocking (Even-Aged Stocking Standards)

8.4.2.1 Target Stocking Standards

1. Target Stocking Standards (TSS) are listed in Appendix 1.1; and
2. TSS is assigned at the **SU** level.

8.4.2.2 Minimum Stocking Standard

1. Minimum Stocking Standards (MSS) are listed in Appendix 1.1; and
2. MSS is assigned at the **SU** level.

8.4.2.3 Minimum Horizontal Intertree Distance

1. Minimum intertree distances (MITDs) are listed in Appendix 1.2, along with application conditions; and
2. MITD may be assigned at the **SU** or **AA** level.

8.4.2.4 Regeneration Date

1. The regeneration date is 6 years.

8.4.2.5 Minimum Free Growing Height

1. The minimum free growing heights listed in Appendix 1.1 will be used to demonstrate that the trees are adapted to the site, are growing well and can reasonably be expected to continue to do so; and
2. Minimum free growing height may be assigned at the **SU** or **AA** level.

8.4.2.6 Damage Criteria at Free Growing

1. Damage criteria at the time of the free growing assessment will be assessed as indicated in FS 660, Section 22⁹.

8.5 Hardwood Management

1. Red alder will be the leading species for hardwood management, or at least 80% of the TSS component;
2. Stratification of hardwood management areas will follow the principles outlined in the CRIT SWG Hardwood Management Strategy in the Coast Forest Region (July 2011);
3. The target stocking standard (TSS) is 1500 stems per hectare and the minimum stocking standard is 1000 stems per hectare, except 20% of an **SU** may have an MSS of 800 stems per hectare as an approved variation; and

⁹ FS 660, "Silviculture Survey Reference", pp. Ministry of Forests, FS

Forest Stewardship Plan

Timberlands
Management System

Port McNeill and Quatsino Sound Forest Operations 2023-2028

4. Damage criteria at the time of the free growing assessment will be assessed as indicated in FS 660, Section 23.

8.6 Intermediate Cutting

| BACKGROUND INFORMATION: INTERMEDIATE CUTTING | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Authority | Category/Source | Effective Date of Objective |
| BC Reg. 14/2004 | FPPR s.16(4) | January 31, 2004 |
| <i>A person required to prepare a forest stewardship plan must ensure that the plan specifies stocking standards for areas referred to in section 44 (4), and the situations or circumstances that determine when the stocking standards will be applied.</i> | | |

Stocking Standard for Intermediate Cutting (FPPR ss.44(4))

1. Where a **Holder** of this **FSP** applies intermediate cutting in an area within the **FDU**, that Holder will not cause stocking within that area to fall below 40 m²/ha for a period of at least 12 months after harvest completion;
2. Intermediate cutting:
 - a. Will be applied to conifer management only;
 - b. Will not be applied on low productivity sites (i.e. site series where even-aged TSS is listed as 400 sph or less);
 - c. Be carried out on a maximum of 50 ha per year in the **FDU**, on average during the term of this **FSP**;
3. Openings greater than 0.1 ha will be managed using even-aged stocking standards;
4. Intermediate cutting may only be applied in:
 - a. Areas where harvest is constrained by visual quality objectives of retention or preservation under s.6.9 of this **FSP**;
 - b. In riparian management zones, where prescribed in a site plan, consistent with s.6.4.2 of this **FSP**; or
 - c. In situations where intermediate cutting would be considered a public good, after consultation with government and affected stakeholders;
5. Where intermediate cutting is applied, the residual stand will consist of ecologically suitable species that will be viable for future harvest opportunities, as listed in Appendix 1.3 of this **FSP**; and
6. SEDRSS Layer 1 FG Damage Criteria¹⁰ will be applied to assess the residual stand; and
7. A stocking standard ID will be assigned for CWHvm1-01 and additional site series may be added to the standard, as required, using the approved variation mechanism. Suitable species will match the species listed in Appendix 1.3.

¹⁰ Table A, "Single Entry Dispersed Retention Stocking Standard Framework Implementation Guide (Coastal)". Silviculture Working Group, Coast Region FRPA Implementation Team. Feb. 14, 2014.

Forest Stewardship Plan

Port McNeill and Quatsino Sound Forest Operations 2023-2028

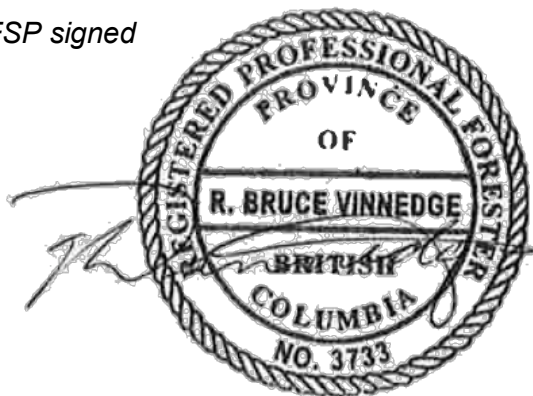
Timberlands
Management System

9. Signature(s) (FRPA Act s.5(3))

CERTIFICATION OF SIGNING PROFESSIONAL

I certify that the work described herein fulfills the standards expected of a member of the Association of British Columbia Forest Professionals and that I did personally supervise the work.

FSP signed



Bruce Vinnedge, RPF
Senior Silviculture Forester

Date:
2023.06.14
11:20:44 -
07'00'

Date

LICENSEE SIGNATURE



Jonathan Flintoft, RPF
TFL Forester

2023.06.14
11:33:08
-07'00'

Date

PRINTED COPY IS UNCONTROLLED

FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN

PMQS 2023-2028

Appendix 1 – Stocking Standards

The stocking standards IDs (SSIDs) in RESULTS are:

Even-aged conifer management: 1075887

Even-aged hardwood management: 1075888

Intermediate Cut: 1075889

Species selection will occur at the Standards Unit level based on the dominant site series in the SU or AA. Ecologically suitable species for each site series are listed in the table below. Appendix 1.1 defines even-aged stocking standards for use in RESULTS.

Appendix 1.1 – Species Selection and Stocking Targets

| BEC | Site Series | TSS | MSS | Species Selection | Minimum Free Growing Heights |
|--------|-------------|------|-----|---|--|
| CWHvh1 | 01 | 1000 | 500 | Ba ⁴ , Cw, Hw, Pl, Ss, Yc | Ba-2.0, Cw-1.5, Hw-2.0, Pl-1.5, Ss-2.0, Yc-1.5 |
| | 02 | 400 | 200 | Cw, Hw, Pl, Yc | Cw-1.0, Hw-1.25, Pl-1.25, Yc-1.0 |
| | 03 | 800 | 400 | Cw, Hw, Pl, Yc | Cw-1.0, Hw-1.25, Pl-1.25, Yc-1.0 |
| | 04 | 1000 | 500 | Ba ⁴ , Cw, Hw, Ss, Yc ⁶ | Ba-2.25, Cw-2.0, Hw-1.75, Ss-4.0, Yc-2.0 |
| | 05 | 1000 | 500 | Ba ⁴ , Cw, Hw, Ss, Yc | Ba-2.25, Cw-2.0, Hw-1.75, Ss-4.0, Yc-2.0 |
| | 06 | 1000 | 500 | Ba, Cw, Hw, Ss, Yc | Ba-2.25, Cw-2.0, Hw-1.75, Ss-4.0, Yc-2.0 |
| | 07 | 1000 | 500 | Ba, Cw, Hw, Ss, Yc ⁶ | Ba-2.25, Cw-2.0, Hw-1.75, Ss-4.0, Yc-2.0 |
| | 08 | 1000 | 500 | Ba, Cw, Hw, Ss | Ba-2.25, Cw-2.0, Hw-1.75, Ss-4.0 |
| | 09 | 1000 | 500 | Ba, Cw, Hw ⁹ , Ss | Ba-2.25, Cw-2.0, Hw-1.75, Ss-4.0 |
| | 11 | 800 | 400 | Cw, Hw, Pl, Yc | Cw-1.0, Hw-1.25, Pl-1.25, Yc-1.25 |
| | 12 | 400 | 200 | Cw, Pl, Yc | Cw-1.0, Pl-1.25, Yc-1.0 |

FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN

PMQS 2023-2028

| BEC | Site Series | TSS | MSS | Species Selection | Minimum Free Growing Heights |
|--------|-------------|------|-----|---|---|
| | 13 | 800 | 400 | Cw, Hw, Pl, Ss, Yc | Cw-1.0, Hw-1.25, Pl-1.25, Ss-2.0, Yc-1.0 |
| | 15 | 1000 | 500 | Cw, Hw, Ss | Cw-1.5, Hw-2.0, Ss-3.0 |
| | 17 | 1000 | 500 | Cw, Hw, Ss | Cw-1.0, Hw-1.25, Ss-2.0 |
| CWHvm1 | 01 | 1000 | 500 | Ba ¹ , Cw, Fd ⁵ , Hw, Ss ⁴ , Yc ⁶ | Ba-1.75, Cw-1.5, Fd-3.0, Hw-3.0, Ss-3.0, Yc-1.5 |
| | 02 | 800 | 400 | Cw, Fd, Hw, Pl | Cw-1.0, Fd-2.0, Hw-2.0, Pl-1.25, Yc-1.0 |
| | 03 | 800 | 400 | Ba ^{1,2} , Cw, Fd ⁵ , Hw, Pl, Yc ⁶ | Ba-1.25, Cw-1.0, Fd-2.0, Hw-2.0, Pl-1.25, Yc-1.0 |
| | 04 | 1000 | 500 | Ba ^{1,2} , Cw, Fd ⁵ , Hw, Ss ⁴ , Yc ⁶ | Ba-2.0, Cw-1.5, Fd-3.0, Hw-3.0, Ss-3.0, Yc-1.5 |
| | 05 | 1000 | 500 | Ba ¹ , Cw, Fd ⁵ , Hw, Ss, Yc ⁶ | Ba-1.75, Cw-1.5, Fd-3.0, Hw-3.0, Ss-3.0, Yc-1.5 |
| | 06 | 1000 | 500 | Ba ¹ , Cw, Fd ⁵ , Hw, Ss ⁴ , Yc ⁶ | Ba-1.75, Cw-1.5, Fd-3.0, Hw-3.0, Ss-3.0, Yc-1.5 |
| | 07 | 1000 | 500 | Ba ¹ , Cw, Fd ⁵ , Hw, Ss, Yc ⁶ | Ba-2.25, Cw-2.0, Fd-4.0, Hw-4.0, Ss-4.0, Yc-1.5 |
| | 08 | 1000 | 500 | Ba ¹ , Cw, Hw, Ss, Yc ⁶ | Ba-2.25, Cw-2.0, Hw-4.0, Ss-4.0, Yc-1.5 |
| | 09 | 1000 | 500 | Ba ¹ , Cw, Hw, Ss, Yc ⁶ | Ba-2.25, Cw-2.0, Hw-4.0, Ss-4.0, Yc-1.5 |
| | 10 | 1000 | 500 | Ba ¹ , Cw, Ss, Yc ⁶ | Ba-2.25, Cw-2.0, Ss-4.0, Yc-1.5 |
| | 12 | 1000 | 500 | Cw, Hw, Hm, Pl, Yc | Cw-1.0, Hw-2.0, Hm-2.0, Pl-1.25, Yc-1.0 |
| | 13 | 400 | 200 | Cw, Pl, Yc ⁶ | Cw-1.0, Pl-1.25, Yc-1.0 |
| | 14 | 800 | 400 | Cw, Hw, Pl, Ss, Yc ⁶ | Cw-1.5, Hw-3.0, Pl-2.0, Ss-3.0, Yc-1.5 |
| CWHvm2 | 01 | 1000 | 500 | Ba, Bp ³ , Cw, Fd, Hm ⁶ , Hw, Yc | Ba-1.75, Bp-2.25, Cw-1.5, Fd-2.25, Hm-2.5, Hw-2.5, Yc-1.5 |
| | 02 | 800 | 400 | Cw, Fd, Hm ⁶ , Hw, Pl, Yc | Cw-1.0, Fd-1.5, Hm-1.75, Hw-1.75, Pl-1.25, Yc-1.0 |
| | 03 | 800 | 400 | Ba ⁶ , Cw, Fd, Hm ⁶ , Hw, Pw, Pl, Yc | Ba-1.5, Cw-1.0, Fd-1.5, Hm-1.75, Hw-1.75, Pw-2.5, Pl-1.25, Yc-1.0 |

FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN

PMQS 2023-2028

| BEC | Site Series | TSS | MSS | Species Selection | Minimum Free Growing Heights |
|-------|-------------|------|-----|--|---|
| | 04 | 1000 | 500 | Ba, Cw, Fd, Hm ⁶ , Hw, Pw, Yc | Ba-1.5, Cw-1.0, Fd-1.5, Hm-1.75, Hw-1.75, Pw-2.5, Yc-1.0 |
| | 05 | 1000 | 500 | Ba, Bp ³ , Cw, Fd ⁵ , Hm, Hw, Yc | Ba-1.75, Bp-2.25, Cw-1.5, Fd-2.25, Hm-2.0, Hw-2.5, Yc-1.5 |
| | 06 | 1000 | 500 | Ba, Cw, Fd ⁵ , Hm ⁶ , Hw, Yc | Ba-1.75, Cw-1.5, Fd-2.25, Hm-2.0, Hw-2.5, Yc-1.5 |
| | 07 | 1000 | 500 | Ba, Cw, Fd ⁵ , Hm ⁶ , Hw, Yc | Ba-2.25, Cw-2.0, Fd-3.5, Hm-2.5, Hw-3.5, Yc-2.0 |
| | 08 | 1000 | 500 | Ba, Cw, Fd ⁵ , Hm ⁶ , Hw, Yc | Ba-2.25, Cw-2.0, Fd-3.5, Hm-2.5, Hw-3.5, Yc-2.0 |
| | 09 | 800 | 400 | Ba, Cw, Hm, Hw, Pl, Yc | Ba-1.5, Cw-1.0, Hm-0.75, Hw-1.75, Pl-1.75, Yc-1.0 |
| | 10 | 400 | 200 | Hm, Pl, Yc | Hm-0.75, Pl-1.25, Yc-1.0 |
| | 11 | 800 | 400 | Cw, Hm, Hw, Yc | Cw-1.0, Hm-0.75, Hw-1.75, Yc-1.0 |
| MHmm1 | 01 | 1000 | 500 | Ba, Bp ³ , Cw ⁵ , Hm, Hw, Yc | Ba-0.6, Bp-1.25, Cw-1.0, Hm-1.0, Hw-1.0, Yc-1.0 |
| | 02 | 800 | 400 | Ba, Hm, Hw ⁵ , Yc | Ba-0.6, Hm-0.75, Hw-1.0, Yc-0.75 |
| | 03 | 800 | 400 | Ba, Bp ³ , Hm, Hw, Yc | Ba-0.6, Bp-1.25, Hm-1.0, Hw-1.0, Yc-1.0 |
| | 04 | 1000 | 500 | Ba, Hm, Hw, Yc | Ba-0.6, Hm-1.0, Hw-1.0, Yc-1.0 |
| | 05 | 1000 | 500 | Ba, Hm, Hw, Yc | Ba-0.6, Hm-1.0, Hw-1.0, Yc-1.0 |
| | 06 | 800 | 400 | Ba, Hm, Hw ⁵ , Yc | Ba-0.6, Hm-0.75, Hw-1.0, Yc-0.75 |
| | 07 | 1000 | 500 | Ba, Hm, Hw ⁵ , Yc | Ba-0.6, Hm-0.75, Hw-1.0, Yc-0.75 |
| | 08 | 400 | 200 | Hm, Hw ⁵ , Yc | Hm-0.75, Hw-1.0, Yc-0.75 |
| | 09 | 800 | 400 | Hm, Hw ⁵ ,Yc | Hm-0.75, Hw-1.0, Yc-0.75 |

FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN

PMQS 2023-2028

Appendix 1.1 (Cont.) – Species Selection and Stocking Targets (Hardwood Management)

| BEC | Site Series | TSS | MSS* | Species Selection | Minimum Free Growing Heights |
|--------|----------------|------|------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| CWHvm1 | 01, 06 | 1500 | 1000 | Dr ⁴ | Dr-4.0 |
| | 05, 07, 08, 09 | 1500 | 1000 | Dr, Act | Dr-4.0, Act-4.0 |

* See FSP s.8.5 for MSS approved variation.

Notes for Appendices 1.1:

Site-Specific Notes

- 1 – Risk of balsam woolly adelgid. Ba or Bg will be counted last in a survey for the silviculture layer.
- 2 – Suitable on cool aspects.
- 3 – Suitable on warm aspects, nutrient medium to very rich soils.
- 4 – Suitable on nutrient medium sites.
- 5 – Suitable at lower elevations or warm aspects.
- 6 – Suitable on sites transitional to CWHvm2, CWHvh1, cold air drainage sites and north aspects. Yc will not make up more than 20% of the silviculture layer on suitable sites.
- 7 – Suitable on fresh sites.
- 8 – Elevated microsites only.
- 9 – Viable option where ungulate browse is a factor.

General Notes

- Ba – On west coast CWHvm1 sites transitional to CWHvh1, and CWHvh1, suitable in the proximal absence of salal at the plot level (applies to west coast sites that are a mosaic of 01/01s or 06/06s or transitional to CWHvh1). Does not include salal only growing on rotten wood.
- Bg – restricted to nutrient medium or richer sites.
- Bp – Initial regeneration of Bp (noble fir) is restricted to nutrient medium sites or better. Northerly aspects are to be avoided. Initial regeneration of Bp will not comprise more than a 20% component, to mitigate risk.
- Hm – Where this species is encountered outside of the MHmm1, Hm is a viable crop tree in areas transitional to the montane zone or in cold air drainages.

FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN

PMQS 2023-2028

Pw – Use seed which has been selected to be resistant to *Cronartium ribicola*. Use major gene resistant stock when available, especially below 1000 m elevation. Pw will be planted at not more than 200 trees per ha, evenly distributed. Use caution regarding the use of Pw for browse resistance, since ungulates may select other crop trees, increasing the reliance on Pw for stocking.

PI – Refers to Plc.

Ss – If Ss is from seed sources selected for high resistance to *Pissodes strobi*, the use of Ss to meet the MSS is unlimited in areas of moderate and high risk of spruce weevil damage; otherwise, the use of natural Ss to meet the MSS is limited to 20% in moderate-high spruce weevil risk areas.

FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN

PMQS 2023-2028

Appendix 1.2 – Minimum Horizontal Inter-Tree Distance

Minimum Horizontal Inter-Tree Distance (MITD) will be assigned at the Assessment Area level as per the table below.

| MITD (m) | Site Series |
|----------|---|
| 1.6 | <div>(i) < 20 metres from road centreline;</div> <div>(ii) immediately adjacent to any:<div>(A) stream – riparian area;</div><div>(B) natural non-productive area;</div><div>(C) unplantable slash; or</div></div> <div>(iii) on any:<div>(A) talus site, landslide or avalanche track</div><div>(B) hygric or wetter site;</div><div>(C) very harsh site where protected microsites are critical;</div><div>(D) area where stump avoidance is necessary on a root rot site;</div><div>(E) area extensively utilized for elk, deer or other wildlife habitat or browse (heavy elk use areas) for survival and to utilize slash; or</div><div>(F) microsites that are preferable given the tree species or damaging agents, to those sites existing at regular 2.0 meters spacing.</div></div> <div>(iv) in SUs that are being managed for a target stocking of 1500 stems per hectare.</div> |
| 2.0 | All other sites. |

FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN

PMQS 2023-2023

Appendix 1.3 – Stocking Standard for Intermediate Cutting

| BEC | Site Series | Minimum Basal Area (m²/ha) | Species Selection | No Regeneration Obligation Declaration Timing (years) | |
|--------|----------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|---|------|
| | | | Layer 1 Trees (>= 12.5 cm dbh) | Early | Late |
| CWHvh1 | 01 | >=40 | Ba, Cw, Hw, Plc, Ss, Yc | 1 | 2 |
| | 04, 05, 06, 07 | >=40 | Ba, Cw, Hw, Ss, Yc | 1 | 2 |
| | 08, 09 | >=40 | Ba, Cw, Hw, Ss | 1 | 2 |
| CWHvm1 | 01, 04, 05, 07 | >=40 | Ba, Cw, Fd, Hw, Ss, Yc | 1 | 2 |
| | 06, 08, 09 | >=40 | Ba, Cw, Hw, Ss, Yc | 1 | 2 |
| | 10 | >=40 | Ba, Cw, Ss, Yc | 1 | 2 |
| CWHvm2 | 01, 04, 05, 07 | >=40 | Ba, Cw, Fd, Hm, Hw, Yc | 1 | 2 |
| | 06, 08 | >=40 | Ba, Cw, Hm, Hw, Yc | 1 | 2 |

A stocking standard ID will be assigned for CWHvm1-01 and additional site series may be added to the standard, as required, using the approved variation mechanism.