

January 2004

Ministry of Forests

WOODLOT MANAGEMENT

Provisions for woodlot licence holders under the Forest and Range Practices Act were developed in consultation with the Federation of B.C. Woodlot Associations to reflect the distinct needs of these small tenure holders.

Woodlots are small-scale forest tenures that are often operated by families, individuals or First Nations. There are more than 800 woodlots in British Columbia, covering some 430,000 hectares of Crown forest land, with a maximum size of Crown land being 600 hectares in the Interior and 400 hectares on the Coast.

As well as setting out requirements, the regulation lists considerations that may assist woodlot operators in developing alternative performance requirements consistent with objectives set by government. This flexibility is a key component of the new Forest and Range Practices Act, which ensures environmental values are protected while allowing licensees to plan according to the specific needs and features of the woodlot under their operation.

Woodlot licence plans are approved for 10 years, almost twice as long as the average term for other tenure holders. Woodlot licence plans will be extended for an additional 10 years if the plan conforms to the prescribed requirements that satisfy approval tests and local concerns. This reduces costs to woodlot operators and government without reducing environmental standards.

Woodlot licence plans must include a map or other information addressing the entire licence area. The map identifies where timber harvesting will be avoided or modified to protect forest values and address the interests of private property owners or aboriginal peoples in the area. The woodlot licence plan is also subject to public review and comment, and the licensee must review and address all written comments received.

The Woodlot Licence Planning and Practices Regulation comes into force January 31, 2004, and replaces the Woodlot Licence Forest Management Regulation. To ensure these small-scale operations continue seamlessly, existing forest development plans, road layout plans and cutting and road permits will remain in effect until they expire, or are replaced by new operational plans or permits. After December 2004, when a new operational plan is required, licensees must develop their plan under the new regulation.

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