

Cariboo Lumber Manufacturers' Association Pilot Proposal – Summary Description

The Cariboo Lumber Manufacturers' Association (CLMA) is coordinating a proposal for a results-based pilot being developed by licensees in the Cariboo Forest Region. The goals of the pilot are to:

- maintain, and, where practical, enhance the quality of forest management in order to pursue environmental sustainability, community stability and economic security,
- meet the targets and objectives of the Cariboo-Chilcotin Land Use Plan (CCLUP),
- provide opportunities for involvement in forest management planning for First Nations and stakeholders,
- introduce fundamental improvements to the regulatory framework that significantly decrease administrative costs to industry and resource ministries. This includes piloting new aspects of the regulatory framework, as well as revising existing aspects.
- shift administrative effort in industry and resource ministries from managing processes to managing for values.

A Steering Committee, consisting of representatives from each of the participating licensees and staff from the CLMA, will oversee the pilot.

A copy of the pilot proposal will be made available for public review. The pilot will also be reviewed by the Regional Resource Board to ensure consistency with the CCLUP.

The pilot proposes to:

- implement a one-plan concept in the regulatory framework, referred to as a “Forest Stewardship Plan,”
- promote a shift towards in-field practices based on environmental values and risks.

The proposed Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) is a multi-year strategic plan covering all forest activities for up to five years. The FSP will describe how licensees will manage for environmental and social values, including community stability, employment generation, and First Nations involvement. It will also identify specific measurable outcomes, and demonstrate how targets in the CCLUP will be achieved.

FSPs will focus on the landscape or forest level. Forest Development Plans will not be prepared for areas covered by FSPs, and FSPs will not contain site-level information or describe practices for specific blocks or stands. Licensees will continue to prepare site-level harvesting and reforestation plans and forward them to resource agencies; however, the agencies will not review them. Each licensee will be responsible for the format and content of site-level plans.

The concept of the FSP is to address development issues and strategies over a multi-year period. Licensees will have the flexibility to shift the location of road development and harvesting within the timeframe covered by the FSP.

The pilot proposes that FSP content, review and amendment requirements will not automatically be affected by changes to the Code or other legislation. Such changes will be taken to the licensee Steering Committee to determine the extent to which they should be incorporated into the planning framework established by the pilot.

The public review process for the FSP will focus on the proposed strategy and measurable outcomes identified in the FSP. Public and agency comments regarding FSP strategies and objectives will be summarized, and licensees will discuss their approach for addressing the comments. Consultation with First Nations will comply with existing provincial government policy.

The Forest Service will review the FSP for approval. BC Environment will continue to have joint approval for aspects of the plan covering areas where the current Code or CCLUP calls for joint approval. Resource agency comments and requested changes will be limited to the targeted outcomes and the strategy to achieve those outcomes. Agency comments will not address the wording or format of FSPs, or recommend specific practices.

To reduce administrative efforts of both government and licensees, the emphasis will shift from reviewing site-level plans and carrying out inspections, to conducting annual assessments. Resource agencies will likely also carry out spot inspections during the year. In the event of non-performance, resource agencies will continue to have a mandate for enforcement. Forest Practice Board audits and investigations will be limited to assessing the achievement of outcomes described in the FSP.

Throughout the pilot, licensees will follow in-field practices necessary to maintain environmental values. Where licensees or resource agencies identify practices that can achieve the same results more economically, in-field practices will be revised. Where possible, licensees, in cooperation with resource agencies, would like to develop in-field practices that are commensurate with the environmental and social issues found in the areas covered by the pilot project.

Licensees will report annually on pilot achievements. Reports will also incorporate the results of annual assessments by resource agencies regarding the achievement of targets and outcomes contained in FSPs. These reports will be made available to the public and resource agencies.

After five years, the licensees will undertake an extensive assessment to determine the overall effectiveness of the pilot in achieving the goals outlined in this proposal. Assessments will report on cost reductions and efficiencies gained by industry and government, as well as impacts on environmental and social issues. This information will be made public.