



FRPA GENERAL BULLETIN

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Wildlife tree retention (WTR): Interim guidance for district and licensee staff

Introduction

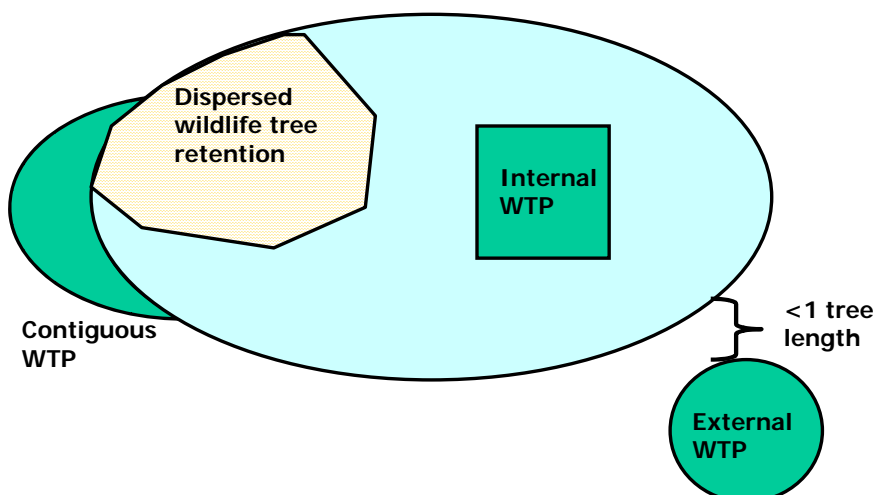
This document provides interim guidance regarding business rules for Wildlife Tree Retention information submission requirements and information management. This guidance has been developed in conjuncture with the document "*Wildlife Tree Retention - Management Guidance*" (currently under development).

Background

Clear business rules are needed to enable efficient revenue and Cutting Permit (CP) processing, and to ensure that reported results at harvest completion are comparable to the operational plan (FSP/FDP), appraisal, and CP to enable effective compliance assessment. See Table 1 for a summary of business processes, and Table 2 for information management specifics regarding submission standards and storage for each type of WTR. Figure 1 illustrates the difference between *internal*, *external*, and *contiguous* wildlife tree patches (WTPs).

Consistent with section 86 of the Forest Planning and Practices Regulation (FPPR), licensees are required to report annually the location and approximate size of all associated wildlife tree retention areas in a form and manner satisfactory to the minister.

Figure 1: Dispersed retention and internal, external, and contiguous WTPs



Interim Guidance

Cutting permit application (licensee)

CP applications submitted via the ESF (Electronic Submission Framework) are confined to the peripheral boundaries of each cutblock. CP applications do not identify *internal* WTPs or delineate areas of dispersed wildlife tree retention. As well, *contiguous*, or *external* WTPs must not be identified as internal to the peripheral cutblock boundary

However, licensees have the option to submit planned *contiguous* and *external* WTPs to the district, outside of ESF. District's may chose to develop a stand-alone process to highlight and track these planned *contiguous* and *external* reserves until a corporate systems solution can be developed. See Table 2 for more information on how this may be submitted and stored.

Business case:

Licensee submission of information regarding the planned *external* and *contiguous* WTPs allows the district to determine whether a legal right or title (e.g. private land) already encumbers the WTP ("stating") and to red flag this to the licensee. In addition, though not a legal encumbrance at the CP application stage, these planned *external* and *contiguous* WTPs will be flagged as a potential conflict during any subsequent tenure stating that overlaps them.

The optional *contiguous* and *external* WTP submission does not affect clearance of the CP to which those WTPs are associated.

Appraisal submission (licensee)

The appraisal submission (map) **must** show partial harvest areas (location and partial cut %) and planned WTPs that are *internal* to the peripheral cutblock boundary (a requirement of both the Coast and Interior Appraisal Manuals). The map may also show planned *contiguous* WTPs and *external* WTPs, however these WTPs do not form a part of the appraisal submission.

Business case:

The optional *contiguous* and *external* WTP submission does not affect the cruise or appraisal. Submission of planned WTP information at the appraisal stage will enable more effective C&E risk assessment.

Cutting permit document (district)

There is no need to identify *internal*, *contiguous*, or *external* WTPs or to delineate areas of dispersed retention in the Exhibit A map. Internal reserves fall within the Exhibit A boundary: we do not make "donuts" to exclude internal reserve areas. Showing the areas under harvest authority does not exclude any legislative or regulatory requirements for specific reserve areas related to the block.

For CPs issued under FDPs, there should be a clause in the Schedule B of the CP document, describing as reserved timber, the WTPs mapped in the appraisal submission. For CPs issued under FSPs, there is no need for Schedule B to reference WTPs.

No reference is needed to dispersed wildlife tree retention in the CP (under FDPs or FSPs).

Business case:

There continues to be a need for wording in Schedule B of CPs issued under FDPs, describing WTPs as reserved timber. Under FRPA there is no need to reference WTPs in Schedule B, and forest management results are assessed through reporting requirements in section 86 (3)(a)(iv) of the FPPR. See Table 3 for more information.

RESULTS submissions (licensee)

Annual report submissions through RESULTS (**R**eporting **S**ilviculture **U**dates and **L**and status **T**racking **S**ystem) require mapping of actual *internal*, *contiguous*, and *external* wildlife tree retention areas as part of the forest cover update. Actual WTPs will be registered in the LRDW (Land and Resource Data Warehouse), and will indicate a legal encumbrance when statusing subsequent tenure applications.

Each *contiguous* WTP may relate to only one cutblock. Each *external* WTP may relate to one or more cutblocks; however, if related to more than one cutblock, the total area of the WTP is split between these cutblocks when calculating area in WTPs per cutblock.

Dispersed wildlife tree retention is indicated in RESULTS submissions as a layer of reserve trees (Layer 1).

Business case:

The final WTPs are used by district C&E staff for actual-to-plan comparisons (if there is a difference, there also may be Revenue implications), and by Tenures staff for statusing and adjudication for future CP applications.

Following the RESULTS harvest completion submission, WTPs are assessed for compliance with section 66 of the FPPR by calculating the amount of WTP as a proportion of the disturbed area (including internal reserves) plus contiguous reserves plus external reserves.

Table 1: Business process summary table

	Planned		Actual
	Appraisal submission ¹	Cutting Permit document	RESULTS reporting
Internal WTP	Mandatory mapping, submitted via ECAS	For CPs under FDPs, a clause in Schedule B of the CP will refer to appraisal map For CPs under FSPs, no reference is needed.	Mandatory mapping in forest cover submission. Will show as a legal encumbrance in subsequent staturing
Contiguous WTP	Optional submission by licensee. Districts can use this information to check for conflicts when adjudicating future CP applications Planned contiguous WTPs outside the harvest authority area are not a legal encumbrance and do not affect the appraisal.	No mention or mapping is needed , either under FPC or FRPA. Make a note on the adjudication report of potential concerns with staturing of CP applications over planned contiguous WTPs.	Mandatory mapping in forest cover submission. Will show as a legal encumbrance in subsequent staturing.
External WTP	Optional submission by licensee. Districts can use this information to check for conflicts when adjudicating future CP applications Planned external WTPs are not a legal encumbrance and do not affect the appraisal.	No mention or mapping is needed , either under FPC or FRPA. Make a note on the adjudication report of potential concerns with staturing of CP applications over planned external WTPs.	Mandatory mapping in forest cover submission. Will show as a legal encumbrance in subsequent staturing.
Dispersed wildlife tree retention	Mandatory delineation of areas by harvest type, with partial cut percent, in appraisal submission.	No mention needed.	Mandatory mapping , as a layer of reserve trees in forest cover submission. Will show as a legal encumbrance in subsequent staturing.

¹ The electronic appraisal submission may in future be bundled with an electronic CP application.

Table 2: Information management summary table

	Planned internal	Planned contiguous	Planned external	Planned dispersed	Actual internal	Actual contiguous	Actual external	Actual dispersed
Storage	Stored in ECAS. Districts may also choose to store internal planned WTPs in an SDE layer for C&E risk assessment.	If submitted with the appraisal, stored in ECAS. Whether or not submitted with the appraisal, recommend that districts maintain this information in an SDE layer for future CP checks. In future, ESF will be enabled to accept this information in the same digital submission as the FTA submission.	Recommend that districts maintain this information in an SDE layer for future CP checks. In future, ESF will be enabled to accept this information in the same digital submission as the FTA submission.	Stored in ECAS.	LRDW	LRDW	LRDW	LRDW
Format	PDF, district may digitize or accept in xml/gml	Xml/gml or pdf (via ECAS) (district decision)	Xml/gml or pdf (via ECAS) (district decision)	Pdf	Xml/gml	Xml/gml	Xml/gml	Xml/gml
Mapping	Should meet mapping standards for WTPs outlined in RESULTS mapping standards.	Should meet mapping standards for WTPs outlined in RESULTS mapping standards.	Should meet mapping standards for WTPs outlined in RESULTS mapping standards. Due to the likelihood that external WTPs are located in inoperable terrain, the boundary may be approximated for mapping purposes.	Cruise data must meet standards outlined in the Cruising manual (available at www.for.gov.bc.ca/hva/manuals/cruising/pdf.htm). Information on procedures for percent reductions is available in Chapter 5 of the Cruise Compilation manual (www.for.gov.bc.ca/hva/manuals/cruisecompilation/ch5.pdf) and at www.for.gov.bc.ca/hva/manuals/cruisecompilation/PercentReductionNotes.htm . Appraisal submission must meet map content described in Coast and Interior Appraisal manuals: "delineation of areas by harvest method (ground, cable, or helicopter, etc.) and partial cut percent." (www.for.gov.bc.ca/hva/manuals/listofmanuals.htm).	Must meet mapping standards for WTPs outlined in RESULTS mapping standards (available at www.for.gov.bc.ca/his/results/). Optional detail in RESULTS includes detailed species, species %, height, age, density, crown closure, SI, and basal area. Each WTP may relate to only one cutblock.	Must meet mapping standards for WTPs outlined in RESULTS mapping standards (available at www.for.gov.bc.ca/his/results/). Optional detail in RESULTS includes detailed species, species %, height, age, density, crown closure, SI, and basal area. Each external WTP may relate to one or more cutblocks; however, if related to more than one cutblock, the total area of the WTP is split between these cutblocks when calculating area in WTPs per cutblock.	Must meet mapping standards for WTPs outlined in RESULTS mapping standards. (available at www.for.gov.bc.ca/his/results/). Optional detail in RESULTS includes detailed species, species %, height, age, density, crown closure, SI, and basal area. Each external WTP may relate to one or more cutblocks; however, if related to more than one cutblock, the total area of the WTP is split between these cutblocks when calculating area in WTPs per cutblock.	Must meet mapping standards for openings outlined in the Silviculture Information Submission Guide (available at www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/publications/00026/index.htm). Entered as dispersed Layer 1 trees; attribute info required.

Table 3: Legislative provisions for wildlife tree retention and guidance for Cutting Permits

	FDP (Code/transition)	FSP (FRPA)
WTPs	<p><i>Operational and Site Planning Regulation:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Section 36.2 (2): the Site Plan requires “mappable reserves, including (i) reserves for the retention of wildlife trees (ii) riparian management areas” - Section 39(2) (d): The Silviculture prescription describes the location of “mappable reserves, including (i) reserves for the retention of wildlife trees, and (ii) riparian reserve zones. <p>Guidance: include a Schedule B clause referring to the mapped WTPs in the appraisal submission.</p>	<p><i>Forest Planning and Practices Regulation:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Section 66(1) Default practice requirement for 3.5% related to a cutblock and 7% of the total area of cutblocks over a 12 month period - Section 86(3) (a)(iv): the location and approximate size of all associated wildlife tree retention areas are reported annually to government (before June 1) - Section 67, which states: “An agreement holder must not harvest timber from a wildlife tree retention area unless the trees on the net area to be reforested of the cutblock to which the wildlife tree retention area relates have developed attributes that are consistent with a mature seral condition.” <p>Guidance: no reference needed in CP (rely on reporting requirements in section 86 (3)(a)(iv))</p>
Dispersed wildlife tree retention	<p><i>Operational and Site Planning Regulation:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Section 18(1)(u): the FDP must include “the general objectives respecting the target levels of retention for coarse woody debris and wildlife trees”. - Section 18.1 and 18.2: FDPs require specific information regarding the characteristics of leave trees. <p>Guidance: no reference needed in CP</p>	<p><i>Forest Planning and Practices Regulation:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Section 16 requires that stocking standards be specified in the FSP. - Section 34(1) requires that Site Plans identify standards units and stocking standards that apply to those SUs. <p>Guidance: no reference needed in CP</p>

Definitions (from Forest Planning and Practices Regulation)

- “wildlife trees” means a tree or group of trees that provide wildlife habitat and assist in conservation of stand level biodiversity
- “wildlife tree retention area” means an area occupied by wildlife trees that is located
 - in a cutblock,
 - in an area that is contiguous to a cutblock, or
 - in an area that is sufficiently close to the cutblock that the wildlife trees could directly impact on, or be directly impacted by, a forest practice carried out in the cutblock

Summary

The bulletin provides a clear set of business rules that will facilitate the efficient preparation and subsequent processing of cutting permit applications, and outlines the basic reporting structure requirements to ensure effective compliance monitoring and the assessment of results under the FRPA legislative framework

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