November 3, 1999

To: All South Island Forest District Licencees

Dear Sir:

To assist in the preparation and approval of year 2000–2004 Forest Development Plans (FDP) submitted for approval within the South Island Forest District (SIFD) and in recognition of the Cost Driver Initiative the following guidance is provided for several items of the Operational Planning Regulation (OPR) and the Forest Practices Code Act of British Columbia (FPC Act). Many of the comments provided in this letter result from the review, comment and approval process of the 1999–2003 FDP within the SIFD. While this letter provides my expectations or advise for specific areas of the OPR with respect to FDP preparation; I must remind licencees that each FDP will be evaluated on its own merits and therefore departures from the guidance of this letter may occur in specific circumstances.

1. **OPR Section 2**
   Section 2(2) provides the authority to approve all or part of an FDP jointly with Ministry of Environment, Lands, and Parks (MOELP). In addition to the automatic legislated requirements of joint approvals under FPC Act section 41(6), FDPs covering those areas of the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan known as Special Management Zones (SMZ) (formerly known as Low Intensity Areas) will be jointly approved by Ministry of Forests (MOF) and MOELP. All FDP’s within the Clayoquot Land Use Decision Area shall be jointly approved by MOELP and MOF. Since the OPR now has different requirements for joint approval areas; please ensure your FDP addresses the appropriate requirements at the time of the FDP submission for review and comment.

2. **OPR Section 5**
   I remind licencees that subject to the OPR known information requirements for a FDP, the licencee must when preparing the FDP use the most comprehensive and accurate information available to the licencee.

3. **OPR Section 7**
   Section 7 provides the authority for the district manager (DM) to direct the referral of a FDP to a person or agency. The referral instructions for a particular FDP will be provided with the DM approval letter for your public review advertisement. Typically; the referrals will include:

   (a) MOELP - Habitat Protection;
   (b) MOELP - Water Management for community watershed portions of the FDP;
12. **OPR Section 18(1)(a)**
When providing mapping information regarding forest cover, if the licencsee has a GIS mapping format, I encourage licencsees to provide colour theme forest cover mapping for the entire area under the plan. While this colour theme mapping is not a mandatory OPR requirement, it greatly assists the public, agencies and statutory decision-makers in the review and approval of an FDP. Mapped forest cover polygon labels requires a definition in a legend of the mapping.

13. **OPR Section 18(1)(d)**
The 2000–2004 FDPs are not required to show an operability line.

14. **OPR Section 18(1)(e)(vi)**
Unless revised by subsequent statutory decision maker notification, the forest ecosystem networks (FEN) established under the approved Management Plans for Tree Farm Licence (TFL) 44 (outside Clayoquot Sound) and TFL 46 are the only known FENs for 2000–2004 FDP submissions in the SIFD.

15. **OPR Section 18(1)(e)(viii)**
Unless revised by subsequent statutory decision-maker notification, the SIFD has known scenic areas. Please refer to the November 13, 1998 and November 16, 1998 SIFD letters regarding scenic areas identifying how they are defined and the visual impact assessment requirements within the scenic areas.

16. **OPR Section 18(1)(e)(ix)**
Unless revised by subsequent statutory decision maker notification, only those ungulate winter ranges identified in the DM October 16 or 23, 1998 letters regarding the grandparenting of ungulate winter ranges are known ungulate winter ranges for the 2000–2004 FDPs.

17. **OPR Sections 18(1)(xii) and 18(1)(xiii)**
I recommend that fish streams and non-fish streams be colour coded for clear recognition on the FDP mapping. In addition, where the riparian classification of a stream, wetland or lake is known, I expect that this riparian information will be carried forward from previous FDPs or SPs at the scale of stream mapping required by the OPR for the area under the plan. For community watersheds, I recommend that the FDPs will show fish / non-fish stream information as well as the riparian classifications.

18. **OPR Section 18(1)(h)**
I expect that the FDP 1:20,000 scale mapping to identify roads that require road construction and existing roads that require modification. Unless a rationale is provided within a FDP, I expect that roads accessing and within information only cutblocks will be clearly identified on the FDP mapping and any access management table as information only roads. I will be reviewing in a FDP determination road densities within and accessing proposed cutblocks.
Land Use Decision area; copies of the assessments required under section 37 are not required at the time of submission for approval of a silviculture prescription. However; through the review and approval process or at a later time; a DM may request a copy of any assessment referred to under section 37 for a specific silviculture prescription. For areas within the Clayoquot Sound Land Use Decision area; I require all assessment under section 37 be submitted with the silviculture prescription.

Yours truly,

Cindy Stern
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South Island Forest District

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