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| **Forest Stewardship Plan For the Sunshine Coast Community Forest** |
| **Community Forest Agreement K3F** |
| **SUPPORTING INFORMATION DOCUMENT (NOT FORMING PART OF THE FSP)** |
| **Sunshine Coast Natural Resource District****Sunshine Coast Timber Supply Area** |
| PREPARED BY: |
| Project #21-602January XX, 2025   |

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**Purpose of the Supporting Information Document**

The British Columbia government put into effect the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA) and the associated regulations, which is a results-based framework that maintains high environmental standards that are expected by the public. It encourages innovation by knowledgeable resource professionals and holds licensees responsible for the outcomes that result from forest management and primary forest activities. The regulations require a license holder to prepare a Forest Stewardship Plan that is consistent with resource management objectives that have been established by government.

The Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) is a landscape level plan, which is focused on establishing results, strategies and measures for conserving and/or protecting timber and non-timber resource values associated with forest management activities. The FSP states measurable and verifiable results, strategies and/or measures that must be consistent with objectives set by government for a variety of forest values (e.g. fisheries, wildlife, water, biodiversity, cultural values, visuals, recreation, etc.). Forest licensees work in cooperation with government agencies, First Nations, various stakeholders, and the general public to ensure that the provincial government’s objectives for the management, protection and conservation of forest resources are achieved.

The purpose of the Forest Stewardship Plan Supporting Document is to provide interpretive information and background documentation to First Nations and the general public. As such, this document accompanies and is consistent with the Forest Stewardship Plan, but is not part of the Forest Stewardship Plan.

# 1.0 Introduction

This Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) has been prepared to meet the legislative requirements outlined in the Forest and Range Practices Act and the *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation*, as well as additional associated provincial and federal legislation.

Within this FSP, objectives, results, strategies, measures and/or comments have been presented and developed to describe and facilitate forest management objectives as expressed by the British Columbia Provincial Government.

## 1.1 Definitions and Acronyms

This section defines a number of abbreviations used throughout the FSP document.

## 1.2 Forest Stewardship Plan

As previously described, the Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) is a requirement under Section 3 of the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA), which came into effect on January 31, 2004. This FSP has been drafted to be consistent and in accordance with the FRPA, the associated regulatory framework, provincial legislation, federal legislation as well as higher level plans and policy as described by the British Columbia Provincial Government.

The purpose of the FSP is to outline objectives set forth by the Government of British Columbia related to forest management activities proposed on crown lands. The achievement of the objectives, established within the FSP, is measured through results, strategies and/or measures. The intention of the objectives is to identify the strategic issues by describing a desired future condition for a particular resource or resource use, while results, strategies and/or measures describe how the desired outcome will be achieved.

**A result** is defined in the FPPR as a “description of measurable or verifiable outcomes in respect of a particular established objective, and the situations or circumstances that determine where in a Forest Development Unit the outcomes will be applied.”

**A strategy** is defined in the FPPR as a “description of measurable or verifiable steps or practices that will be carried out in respect of a particular established objective, and the situations or circumstances that determine where in a Forest Development Unit the steps or practices will be applied.”

This FSP, where applicable, embraces and outlines measurable and verifiable results, strategies and/or measures that are compatible with government established forest management and resource objectives.

## 1.3 Forest Development Units and Maps

The Forest Development Units (FDU’s) identified within the FSP are described in the FRPA simply as:

1. where forest development may occur during the term of the plan, and
2. within which, during the term of the plan, timber to be harvested or roads to be constructed are entirely located.

FDU’s are the broad geographic locations to which a common set of objectives, results, strategies and/or measures are applicable. The FDU’s identified in this plan extend outside the boundaries of the Sunshine Coast Community Forest tenure boundary for the intent to allow for primary forest activities to occur to provide access to the community forest. The FSP Maps and the Overview Map exhibit and describe the location of the FDU’s relevant to the Plan Holders’ FSP.



Figure #1. Forest Stewardship Plan Overview Map Outlining the Geographic Location of the Forest Development Units.

## 1.5 Professional Reliance and Accountability

Qualified resource professionals have a number of important roles and responsibilities to fulfill while conducting forestry management on public forest lands. A professional designation or title is given to an individual who has met criteria and registration requirements defined by a particular association. These criteria and requirements can include post-secondary education, competency requirements, articling periods as well as examinations. For example, the Foresters Act governs the Association of British Columbia Forest Professionals (ABCFP). The ABCFP is responsible for protecting the public interest in the practice of professional forestry by ensuring competency, independence, professional conduct as well as the integrity of its members. The association holds those practicing professional forestry accountable. In addition to the ABCFP, there are a number of other professional associations including the Association of Professional Biology (APB) and the Engineers and Geoscientists of British Columbia (EGBC) that have a role in the management of public forested land. Individuals registered with the APB and the EGBC often work closely and cooperatively with professional foresters when planning and prescribing forest management activities.

With the introduction of the FRPA, the Government of British Columbia mandated a move away from a regulatory and prescriptive environment to one that supports a results-based regime. This results-based regime involves a greater role for professionals from a variety of disciplines in regards to professional reliance and accountability. The Plan Holder recognizes the importance of professional reliance and accountability, and will endeavor to employ qualified professionals, in their respective fields of practice, where applicable and warranted. Although FRPA is silent on the use of professionals, the engagement of the qualified professionals will primarily take place during the preparation of site-specific operational plans, and supporting assessments, in order to provide a suitable level of due diligence in conducting forestry activities.

## 1.6 Forest Development Plan (FDP) Blocks and Declared Areas

This section of the FSP states that the Plan Holders and their associated forest tenures were not active during the Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act and, as such, do not have a history of planning or forestry activities when this legislation was active.

## 1.7 Site Plans and Standard Units

As described in Section 10 of the FRPA and Section 34 of the FPPR, the holder of a FSP must prepare a Site Plan in accordance with the prescribed requirements for any cut block and road prior to the commencement of timber harvesting or road construction. The purpose of the Site Plan document is to identify the approximate location of the cut block(s) and road(s), must be consistent with the FSP, FRPA and the regulations, and describe how the results and strategies contained within the FSP apply to the area. The Site Plan must also outline the standard units for the area, the soil disturbance limits and the stocking standards required to establish a free growing stand.

Although approval from government agencies is not required, the Site Plan is the basic operational plan that encompasses and balances all resource features and values. Standard units within the Site Plan indicate areas that generally possess uniformity in ecological characteristics, and result in similar silviculture management through the application of a stocking standard.

## 1.8 Stocking Standards

Section 16 of the FPPR states a person preparing a FSP must ensure that the plan specifies where and, situations or circumstances, when a stocking standard will apply to an area.

Stocking standards are the standards developed by the Plan Holder, and approved by government, that facilitate the establishment of a free growing stand as required under Section 44 of the FPPR. The stocking standards provided in Appendix 2 are applicable to the FDUs described in this FSP.

The majority of these stocking standards are intended to address even-aged silviculture systems and forest management activities, while one Intermediate Cut Stocking Standard has been developed to engage in intermediate cutting or the forest management activities listed in Section 44(3)(h) of the FPPR. For reference, a detailed rationale and supporting information document for the Intermediate Cut Stocking Standard has been included in Appendix 2 of the FSP.

Additionally, the Plan Holder has provided Single Entry Dispersed Retention Stocking Standards (SEDRSS) in Appendix 2. SEDRSS apply to cutblocks where a qualified professional has prescribed a Single Entry Dispersed Retention Silviculture System where the post-harvest basal area falls between 5m2/ha and less than 40m2/ha, and the retention trees are intended to contribute towards a regeneration and free growing obligations. The application of a Single Entry Dispersed Retention Silviculture System will require the completion of an assessment, by a qualified professional, that provides recommendations to support the achievement one or more of the following non-timber objectives:

* to ensure slope stability and the protection of soils;
* to meet a visual quality objectives;
* to ensure the protection of water, fish, wildlife and biodiversity within riparian areas;
* to protect water in a community watershed;
* to maintain or enhance wildlife habitat and biodiversity at the stand and landscape levels;
* to protect cultural heritage resources;
* to protect the wildland urban interface, high value infrastructure or high resource values wildfire events; or
* to assist in ecosystem restoration and resilience or the recruitment of old growth forest attributes/characteristics.

The Plan Holder will implement the damage criteria and survey methodologies indicated in the following publications:

* Single Entry Dispersed Retention Stocking Standard Framework Implementation Guide (Coast Region FRPA Implementation Team September 14, 2011.)
* Appendix 3: Coastal Second Growth Douglas–fir (Fdc) Retention Stocking Standard SEDRSS – Fdc (August 3, 2016)

Single Entry Dispersed Retention Harvesting is limited to a maximum of 10,000 m3, or 10%, of the Plan Holder’s five-year sum of allowable annual cuts measured at the end of a five year cut control period.

It is the intention of the Plan Holder to apply Section 44 of the FPPR to all situations where a free growing stand is required to be established under this FSP, and not apply Section 45 of the FPPR.

## 1.9 Cumulative Effect of Multiple and Overlapping Forest Stewardship Plans

This section of the FSP states that the Plan Holders will endeavor to work proactively and cooperatively with other forest tenure holders whose FSP’s identify FDU’s that overlap those described in the FSP. This point is important in ensuring that forestry resource values such as visual quality objectives, community watershed resource values or wildlife management objectives are managed cooperatively and appropriately when multiple forest tenure holders are planning forest development activities in a similar geographic area.

## 1.10 Notice of Review and Comment

As required under Section 20 and 21 of the FPPR, potentially affected stake holders, interested parties and the general public were made aware that the FSP was available for review and comment through an advertisement placed in the Coast Reporter. The advertisement provided notice and informed the public that the FSP was made available for review and comment at the Sechelt Public Library in Sechelt, BC during normal business hours and on the following website www.sccf.ca throughout the required 60-day review period.

Referral letters were also sent out to potentially affected stakeholders and interested parties, including Government Agencies and First Nations as required under Section 21 of the FPPR. These letters informed the potentially affected stakeholders and interested parties that the FSP was made available for review at the Sunshine Coast Community Forest’s office at Unit #213 – 5710 Teredo Street in Sechelt, BC from 9:00am to 3:00pm Monday to Thursday, and on the following website www.sccf.ca throughout the required 60-day review period.

Once received, as per Section 22 of the FPPR, the comments provided by the public, potentially affected stakeholders, First Nations, and Government Agencies, as a result of this review, were considered prior to the preparation of the final submission to the Ministry of Forests.

## 1.11 Section 14(3) Orders and Dates

This section of the FSP provides a table that details all of the Orders, the FDU in which they occur as well as the associated approval/designation dates that are applicable to the FDU outlined in the FSP.

# 2.0 Forest Resource Management Objectives, Results, Strategies and Measures

This section of the FSP outlines the broad forest resource management goals and objectives as described through higher level plans, objectives set by government and objectives in addition to those established by government. In addition to describing the forest management objectives, this section provides a number of results, strategies, measures and/or comments that will be implemented and used to measure and/or verify the successful achievement of the objectives to which they pertain.

## 2.1 Higher Level Plans and Land Use Objectives

Landscape Unit Plans are designed to establish the broader, strategic context for operational plans, often providing objectives that determine the combination of forest resources to be managed in a given area. They are a ‘higher level’ relative to operational plans and are a source of objectives that play an important role in determining the forest practices described in an operational plan.

The Sunshine Coast Community Forest is primarily located in the Sechelt and Chapman Landscape Units with very minor incursions into the Howe and Salmon Inlet Landscape Units. The location of these incursions into the Howe and Salmon Inlet Landscape Units are in areas currently considered inoperable and that will not be accessed during the term of this FSP. These Landscape Units have not been addressed in this FSP.

Landscape Units with approved Landscape Unit Plans at time of FSP submission are: Sechelt and Chapman. The Orders to establish these Landscape Unit Plans specify the objectives related to Old Growth Management Areas and Wildlife Tree Patches, which are also referred to as Wildlife Tree Retention Areas in the legal objectives. Objective #1 relates to Old Growth Management Areas, while Objective #2 relates to Wildlife Tree Patch retention requirements. These Orders and the legal objectives can be found in Appendix #1. Even though these Orders were established under older legislation, the objectives defined in the Landscape Unit Plans became continued under the FRPA.

## 2.2 Objectives Set by Government

Section 149 (1) of the FRPA describes objectives set by government with respect to forest management activities on crown lands. Specifically, this section states “The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations prescribing objectives in relation to one or more of the following subjects:

1. soils;
2. visual quality;
3. timber;
4. forage and associated plant communities;
5. water;
6. fish;
7. wildlife;
8. biodiversity;
9. recreation resources;
10. resource features and
11. cultural heritage resources”.

The following sections of the FSP detail the objectives set by government with specific reference to those described in the FPPR, as well as specify, where applicable, the associated results and/or strategies.

### 2.2.1 Soils (FPPR Section 5)

As stated in the FSP, the objective set by government for soils is to conserve the productivity and the hydrologic function of soils. However, Section 12.1 of the FPPR states a person required to prepare a forest stewardship plan is exempt from the requirement to prepare a result or strategy if the person undertakes to comply with Sections 35 (Soil Disturbance Limits) and 36 (Permanent Access Structure Limits) of the FPPR.

In order to meet the objective related to Section 35 – Soil Disturbance Limits, the Plan Holder will adopt the default practice requirements, which includes not exceeding a maximum of 5% of the net area to be reforested for sensitive soils, 10% of the net area to be reforested for non-sensitive soils and 25% for roadside work areas where decking, processing, loading, piling or disposing of logging debris are carried out. For the purposes of this section, soil disturbance is characterized as areas occupied by trails, compacted areas, areas of dispersed disturbance (ruts and gouges) and temporary trails that have not been rehabilitated.

In order to meet the objective related to Section 36 – Permanent Access Structure Limits, the Plan Holder will adopt the default practice requirement, which includes not exceeding a maximum of 7% of the net area to be reforested unless an acceptable rationale is provided, which are outlined in Section 36(1)(a) and (b) of the FPPR. Where the limit is exceeded, without rationale or justification, rehabilitation is likely required.

Additionally, forest tenure/agreement holders must meet practice requirements regarding soil conservation as outlined in Section 37 to 40 of the FPPR. These sections specify that primary forest activities must not cause landslides or gully processes, that natural surface drainage patterns are maintained and exposed soil is revegetated if there is the potential for sedimentation or erosion.

### 2.2.2 Timber (FPPR Section 6)

As stated in the FSP, “The objectives set by government for timber are to:

* 1. maintain or enhance an economically valuable supply of commercial timber from British Columbia’s forests,
	2. 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
	3. 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.”

However, Section 12(8) of the FPPR states that a person who is required to prepare a forest stewardship plan is exempt from the requirement to prepare results or strategies for an objective set by government for timber.

### 2.2.3 Wildlife (FPPR Section 7)

1. “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
	1. the survival of species at risk;
	2. the survival of regionally important wildlife, and
	3. the winter survival of specified ungulate species.”
2. “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 (a) species referred to in subsection (1) and indicators of the amount, distribution and attributes of wildlife habitat described in subsection (1).”
3. “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.”
4. “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.”

On December 29, 2005 a *Notice -* *Indicators of the Amount, Distribution and Attributes of Wildlife Habitat Required for the Winter Survival of Ungulate Species in the Sunshine Coast Timber Supply Area* was issued.

On March 2, 2006, a *Notice -* *Indicators of the Amount, Distribution and Attributes of Wildlife Habitat Required for the Survival of Species at Risk in the Sunshine Coast Forest District* was issued.

On December 2, 2021, a *Notice - Indicators of the Amount, Distribution and Attributes of Wildlife Habitat Required for the Survival of Marbled Murrelet (Brachyramphus marmoratus)* was issued.

In accordance with 7(2) of the FPPR, the following results, strategies or comments have been developed to address the wildlife species identified in Section 7(1) of the FPPR.

Refer to the FSP Map(s) for the location of the applicable Wildlife Habitat Areas.

**Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*)**

With respect to the Notice – Indicators of the Amount, Distribution and Attributes of Wildlife Habitat Required for the Survival of Species at Risk in the Sunshine Coast Forest District (March 2, 2006) for the Marbled Murrelet and the Notice - Indicators of the Amount, Distribution and Attributes of Wildlife Habitat Required for the Survival of Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*) (Dated December 2, 2021), the Plan Holder recognizes the approved Wildlife Habitat Areas described in the Order – Wildlife Habitat #2-084, 2-086 (Dated March 17, 2005), the Order – Wildlife Habitat Area #2-021 (Dated July 20, 2001), the Order – Wildlife Habitat Area #2-088 (Dated April 7, 2003), the Order – Wildlife Habitat Area #2-2-161 to 2-171 (Dated December 2, 2004), the Order – Wildlife Habitat Areas #2-084, 2-086 (Dated March 17, 2005) Order – Wildlife Habitat Area #2-597 various to 2-653 (Dated November 19, 2018), and the Order for the Recovery of Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*) (Dated December 2, 2021). Refer to Appendix #2a.

As stated in the FSP, the Plan Holder will be consistent with the Objectives for Marbled Murrelet nesting habitat outlined in the *Order for the Recovery of Marbled Murrelet (Brachyramphus marmoratus) – effective December 2, 2021* within the **Sechelt and Chapman Landscape Unit Portions** and **Sechelt Landscape Unit Aggregate** and theNotice - Indicators of the Amount, Distribution and Attributes of Wildlife Habitat Required for the Survival of Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*) (Dated December 2, 2021).

**Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos)***

Although not located with the FDU’s identified in the FSP, and with respect to the Notice – Indicators of the Amount, Distribution and Attributes of Wildlife Habitat Required for the Survival of Species at Risk in the Sunshine Coast Forest District (March 2, 2006) for the Grizzly Bear, the Plan Holder recognizes the approved Wildlife Habitat Areas described in the Order – Wildlife Habitat Area #2-206 to 210, 2-212 to 229, 2-232 to 238, 2-240, 2-242 to 249, 2-298 to 302 Sunshine Coast Forest District (Dated December 4, 2006), the Order – Wildlife Habitat Area 2-444 to 2-473, 2-491 to 2-493, 2-526 to 2-528, & 2-563 to 2-566 (Dated April 1, 2014), and the Order – Wildlife Habitat Area # 2-241. 2-271, 2-474 to 2-490, 2-516, 2-529 to 2-562, 2-596 (Dated June 20, 2014). Refer to Appendix #2b.

Additionally, the Order – Wildlife Habitat Areas #2-241, 2-271, 2-474 to 2-490, 2-516, 2-529 to 2-562, 2-596 (Dated June 20, 2014) states that, ‘pursuant to Section 7(3) of the *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation*, the person(s) required to prepare a Forest Stewardship Plan are hereby exempted from the obligation to prepare results or strategies in relation to the objective set out in Section 7(1) of the *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation* for Grizzly Bear in the Sunshine Coast Natural Resource District’. Therefore, the Notice requirements have been met and are considered to no longer be in effect.

Where an occurrence of Grizzly Bear is observed, within the FDU identified in the FSP, that is not located within an approved Wildlife Habitat Area, the Plan Holder will reference the Accounts and Measures for Managing Identified Wildlife – Grizzly Bear (Appendix #2b), and/or may engage the services of a qualified professional, in developing a suitable management strategy.

**Vananda Creek limnetic and benthic sticklebacks (*Gasterosteus sp. 16 & sp. 17*)**

Although not located with the FDU’s identified in the FSP, and with respect to the Notice – Indicators of the Amount, Distribution and Attributes of Wildlife Habitat Required for the Survival of Species at Risk in the Sunshine Coast Forest District (March 2, 2006) for the Vananda Creek sticklebacks, the Plan Holder recognizes the approved Wildlife Habitat Areas described in the Order – Wildlife Habitat Area #2-250 (Dated October 7, 2013). Refer to Appendix #2c.

Additionally, the Order – Wildlife Habitat Areas #2-250 (Dated October 7, 2013) states that, ‘pursuant to Section 7(3) of the *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation*, the person(s) required to prepare a Forest Stewardship Plan are hereby exempted from the obligation to prepare results or strategies in relation to the objective set out in Section 7(1) of the *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation* for Vananda Creek limnetic and benthic sticklebacks in the Sunshine Coast District’. Therefore, the Notice requirements have been met and are considered to no longer be in effect.

Where an occurrence of Vananda Creek limnetic and benthic sticklebacks is observed, within the FDU identified in the FSP, that is not located within an approved Wildlife Habitat Area, the Plan Holder will reference the Accounts and Measures for Managing Identified Wildlife – Vananda Creek limnetic and benthic sticklebacks (Appendix #2c), and/or may engage the services of a qualified professional, in developing a suitable management strategy.

**“Queen Charlotte” Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis laingi*)**

With respect to the Notice – Indicators of the Amount, Distribution and Attributes of Wildlife Habitat Required for the Survival of Species at Risk in the Sunshine Coast Forest District (March 2, 2006) for the Northern “Queen Charlotte’ Goshawk, the Plan Holder recognizes the approved Wildlife Habitat Areas described in the Order – Wildlife Habitat Area #2-2-673, 2-675, 2-676, 2-677 & 2-678 (Dated May 22, 2020), the Order of the Minister of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship – Wildlife Habitat Area #2-2-672, 2-679, 2-681, 2-682, 2-683 & 2-686 (Dated October 4, 2022), and the Order of the Minister of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship – Wildlife Habitat Area #2-680, 2-685, 2-702, 2-703 & 2-704 (Dated August 19, 2024). Refer to Appendix #2d.

Additionally, the Order – Wildlife Habitat Area #2-2-673, 2-675, 2-676, 2-677 & 2-678 (Dated May 22, 2020) states that, ‘pursuant to Section 7(3) of the *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation*, the person(s) required to prepare a Forest Stewardship Plan are hereby exempted from the obligation to prepare results or strategies in relation to the objective set out in Section 7(1) of the *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation* to the extent that the WHA’s address the amount included for Northern Goshawk in the Notice for the Sunshine Coast Natural Resource District’. Therefore, the Notice requirements have been met and are considered to no longer be in effect.

On March 26, 2019 the District Manager issued a letter, as well as suitability nesting habitat maps, to all forest tenure holders within the Sunshine Coast Natural Resource District regarding the management and protection of breeding and nesting habitat for the Northern Goshawk. Refer to Appendix #2d. The letter generally explains the expectations of the Ministry of Forests and the short and long term targets to protect Northern Goshawk breeding habitat. The Plan Holders, during pre-harvest planning and field engineering, will:

* Refer to the Accounts and Measures for Managing Identified Wildlife – Northern “Queen Charlotte” Goshawk
* Refer to the habitat suitability maps to determine the suitability class of the habitat proposed for timber harvesting.
* Conduct a field inspection to confirm the stand attributes are in keeping with the suitability class mapping during field engineering.
* Conduct a field inspection for Northern Goshawk presence, activity, sign or nests during field engineering.
* Engage the services of a qualified professional if presence, activity, sign or nests are observed to complete an assessment and provide recommendations related to maintenance and protection of suitable Northern Goshawk breeding and nesting habitat.

**Coastal Tailed Frog (*Ascaphus truei*)**

With respect to the Notice – Indicators of the Amount, Distribution and Attributes of Wildlife Habitat Required for the Survival of Species at Risk in the Sunshine Coast Forest District (March 2, 2006) for the Coastal Tailed Frog, until such time that the requirements of the Notice are met, during the planning phase of forestry operations the Plan Holder will work in cooperation with the Ministry of Forests and other Forest Tenure Holders to conserve sufficient wildlife habitat, to meet the requirements of the Notice, in the ‘Tailed Frog Management Areas’ and/or assist in the establishment or approval of proposed or additional Wildlife Habitat Areas (WHA’s) for the Coastal Tailed Frog under the following circumstances:

* The Coastal Tailed Frog is known to inhabit the area,
* The area contains habitat that is consistent with the ‘Accounts and Measures for Managing Identified Wildlife – for the Coastal Tailed Frog and the Notice,
* The Notice remains in effect, and
* The amount of habitat described and required in the Notice has not been met to date.

Refer to Appendix #2e.

The following provides a description of the Winter Survival of Ungulate Species in the Sunshine Coast Natural Resource District.

**Mountain Goat (*Oreamnos americanus*)**

Although not located with the FDU’s identified in the FSP, and with respect to the *Notice – Indicators of the Amount, Distribution and Attributes of Wildlife Habitat Required for the Winter Survival of Ungulate Species in the Sunshine Coast Timber Supply Area for the Mountain Goat* (December 29, 2005) , the Plan Holder will manage the applicable Ungulate Winter Ranges according to the General Wildlife Measures described in the Order – Ungulate Winter Range #U-2-003 (Dated May 7, 2012), the Order – Ungulate Winter Range #U-2-004 – Mountain Goat TFL 39, Block 1 (Sunshine Coast Forest District) (Dated August 11, 2010), and the Order – Minor Amendment to Ungulate Winter Range #U-2-015 Mountain goat (Sunshine Coast Forest District) (Dated July 23, 2016). Refer to Appendix #2f.

Additionally, the Order – Ungulate Winter Range #U-2-003 (Dated May 7, 2012) states that, ‘pursuant to Section 7(2) of the *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation*, the person(s) required to prepare a Forest Stewardship Plan are hereby exempted from the obligation to prepare results or strategies in relation to the objective set out in Section 7(1) of the *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation* for mountain goat winter range in the Sunshine Coast TSA’. Therefore, the Notice requirements have been met and are considered to no longer be in effect.

**Other Species at Risk, Managed Species, and Ecological Communities**

Other Species at Risk, Managed Species, or Red/Blue listed Ecological Communities may occur with the FDU’s outlined in the FSP. When encountered, the first step a forestry professional takes is to understand the biology and the ecological characteristics of any Species at Risk, Managed Species, or ecosystem in a specific geographic location and then determine if any legislative direction exists that may be applicable to the particular species. For example, a review of the Species at Risk Public Registry, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada and the British Columbia Conservation Data Center would be conducted. If a Species at Risk is an Identified Wildlife Management Species and an ‘Accounts and Measures’ or a ‘Recovery Strategy’ document is available, the Plan Holder would reference those documents in order to assist in developing an appropriate management strategy in conjunction with a qualified professional. Refer to Appendix #2g.

**Survival of Regionally Important Wildlife**

The government may designate one or more categories of wildlife as regionally important wildlife where the species are important to a region of British Columbia and may be adversely impacted by forest and range practices. As of the date of the FSP, there are no designated regionally important species in the FDU outlined in the FSP.

**Wildlife Habitat Features**

The government may identify categories of wildlife habitat features to protect certain bird nests, significant mineral licks and other localized habitat features. As of the date of the FSP, there are no designated wildlife habitat features in the FDU outlined in the FSP.

### 2.2.4 Water, Fish, Wildlife and Biodiversity in Riparian Areas (FPPR Section 8)

As stated in the FSP, 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.

Riparian areas occurs immediately adjacent to or in close proximity to the banks of streams, lakes and wetlands and includes both the area dominated by a continuous high moisture content and the adjacent upland vegetation that exerts an ecological and biological influence.

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Figure 2. Riparian Management Area showing the application of a Riparian Reserve Zone and a Riparian Management Zone along a stream channel. The figure was taken from the Forest Practices Code Riparian Management Handbook (December 1995).

In order to meet the objective set by government for water, fish, wildlife and biodiversity within riparian areas, the Plan Holder will adopt the default practice requirements outlined in Sections 47 (Stream Riparian Classes), 48 (Wetland Riparian Classes), 49 (Lake Riparian Classes), 50 (Restrictions in a Riparian Management Area), 51 (Restrictions in a Riparian Reserve Zone), 52(2) (Restrictions in a Riparian Management Zone) and 53 (Temperature Sensitive Streams) of the FPPR during the term of the plan.

Table 1. Riparian classifications as well as the widths of the riparian reserve and riparian management zones.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Riparian Class** | **Width or Area** | **Riparian Management Area** | **Riparian Reserve Zone** | **Riparian Management Zone**  |
| S1-A (Fish) | >100m  | 100m | 0m | 100m |
| S1-B (Fish) | 20-100m | 70m | 50m | 20m |
| S2 (Fish) | 5-20m | 50m | 30m | 20m |
| S3 (Fish) | 1.5-5m | 40m | 20m | 20m |
| S4 (Fish) | <1.5m | 30m | 0m | 30m |
| S5 (Non-Fish) | >3m | 30m | 0m | 30m |
| S6 (Non-Fish) | <3m | 20m | 0m | 20m |
| W1 | >5ha | 50m | 10m | 40m |
| W2 | 1-5ha | 30m | 10m | 20m |
| W3 | 1-5ha | 30m | 0m | 30m |
| W4 | 0.5-1ha | 30m | 0m | 30m |
| W5 | Complex >5ha | 50m | 10m | 40m |
| L1-A | >1000ha | 0m | 0m | 0m |
| L1-B | 5-1000ha | 10m | 10m | 0m |
| L2 | 1-5ha | 30m | 10m | 20m |
| L3 | 1-5ha | 30m | 0m | 30m |
| L4 | 0.5-1ha | 30m | 0m | 30m |

Additionally, Section 12(3) of the FPPR states ‘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’. To address the retention of trees within a riparian management zone, the Plan Holder follow a slightly modified version of the basal area retention levels described for minor tenure holders in Section 52 of the FPPR.

Table 2. Gross basal area retention within a Riparian Management Zone by riparian classification.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Column #1****Riparian Classification** | **Column #2****Gross Basal Area (m2/ha) to be Retained within Riparian Management Zone (%)** |
| S1-A | ≥ 20% |
| S1-B | ≥ 20% |
| S2 | ≥ 20% |
| S3 | ≥ 20% |
| S4 | ≥ 10% |
| S5 (Valley Bottom) | ≥ 10% |
| S5 (Non-Valley Bottom) | ≥ 0% |
| S6 | ≥ 0% |
| All Wetland Classifications | ≥ 10% |
| All Lake Classifications | ≥ 10% |

The basal area retention levels within the Riparian Management Zone will be specified within the Site Plan prior to timber harvesting operations. Through recommendations provided by qualified professionals, the retention trees will be selected based on the consideration of the factors that appear in Schedule 1, Section 2 of the FPPR as well as an assessment of the windthrow hazard. The following provides a list of the factors to be considered in the selection of the retention trees:

* 1. The need to buffer the riparian feature from the introduction of materials that are deleterious to water quality or fish habitat,
	2. The role played by trees and understory vegetation in conserving water quality, fish habitat, wildlife habitat and biodiversity,
	3. The role of the riparian management zone in maintaining stream bank and stream channel integrity and normally functioning drainage processes,
	4. The relative importance and sensitivity of the riparian feature/class in conserving water quality, fish habitat, wildlife habitat and biodiversity,
	5. The type, timing or intensity of forest practices that are proposed,
	6. The species composition and physical structure of the riparian management zone as it was prior to timber harvesting,
	7. The potential safety hazards,
	8. The role of the riparian management zone, where applicable, in maintaining the integrity of the associated riparian reserve zone,
	9. The risk as determined by a windthrow hazard assessment to ensure the identified basal area retention will have an acceptable exposure to damaging wind events,
	10. The risk, where applicable, as determined by a terrain stability field assessment, and
	11. The role of forest shading in controlling an increase in temperature within a temperature sensitive stream, if the increase might have a deleterious effect on fish or fish habitat.

The retained trees will consist of merchantable and non-merchantable coniferous and deciduous tree species and will be reasonably representative of the stand structure and composition of the Riparian Management Zone as it was prior to harvesting.

“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.”

Considering that no fisheries sensitive watersheds are identified in Schedule 2 of the FPPR within the Sunshine Coast Natural Resource District, no results and/or strategies are required to meet the objective set by government for fish habitat in fisheries sensitive watersheds.

### 2.2.6 Water in a Community Watershed (FPPR Section 8.2)

As stated in the FSP, the objective set by government for water in community watersheds is to prevent the cumulative hydrological effects of primary forest activities within the community watershed from resulting in (a) a material adverse impact on the quantity of water or the timing of flow of the water from the waterworks, or (b) the water from the waterworks having a material adverse impact of human health that cannot be addressed by water treatment required under (i) an enactment, or (ii) the license pertaining to the waterworks.

Existing community watersheds and objectives established under the Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act are grandparented into the FRPA. Within the FDU described in the FSP, a total of four (3) designated Community Watersheds exist. The applicable Community Watersheds include: Chapman, Gray, and Milne. Refer to Appendix #3.

The legislative requirements to address primary forest activities within community watersheds or in the vicinity of water that is diverted for human consumption by a licensed waterworks are found within Sections 59 (Protecting Water Quality), 60 (Licensed Waterworks), 61 (Excavated or Bladed Trails), 62 (Roads in a Community Watershed) and 63 (Use of Fertilizers) of the FPPR.

These legislative requirements combined with the strategy to communicate and cooperate with other forest agreement holders to complete a Watershed Assessment every five years, unless no primary forest activities are scheduled to occur are intended to address the objective. The Watershed Assessment, completed by a qualified professional, will reflect the current and proposed future conditions of the community watershed and address the key elements of the hydrologic and geomorphic processes in the watershed. Additionally, the Plan Holder will ensure that their planned primary forest activities are designed and implemented to be consistent with the results and recommendations of the Watershed Assessment.

### 2.2.7 Wildlife and Biodiversity – Landscape Level (FPPR Section 9)

As stated in the FSP, 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. In order to meet this objective, the Plan Holder will adopt the default practice requirements outlined in Sections 64 (Maximum Cutblock Size) and 65 (Harvesting Adjacent to Another Cutblock) of the FPPR during the term of the plan.

### 2.2.8 Wildlife and Biodiversity – Stand Level (FPPR Section 9.1)

As stated in the FSP, the objective set by government for wildlife and biodiversity at the stand level is to retain wildlife trees. For the Sechelt and Chapman Landscape Units, the Plan Holder will maintain stand level structural diversity by retaining wildlife tree patches/wildlife tree retention areas in accordance with Objective #2 of the applicable Order to Establish a Landscape Unit and Objectives. Refer to Appendix #1.

The size of wildlife tree patches or wildlife tree retention areas are based on a percentage of the area harvested and the ecosystem classification of the site. Unless there are exceptions described in the Order to Establish the Landscape Unit and Objectives, wildlife tree patches or wildlife tree retention areas are required to be retained until the trees on the harvested area, for which the retention applies, develop the attributes that are consistent with a mature seral condition. This is consistent with Section 67 of the FPPR. It is important to note that when these exceptions apply, the portion of the wildlife tree patch or wildlife tree retention area must be replaced with an area of equal or better stand characteristics.

### 2.2.9 Visual Quality (FPPR Section 9.2)

Visual quality management involves meeting Visual Quality Objectives (VQO) for designated or known scenic areas. VQO’s, within the FDU’s described within the FSP, have been established by government pursuant to Sections 7(1) and (2) of the Government Actions Regulation and the Schedule A Maps outlined in the Order of the Minister of Forests – Ministerial Order No. M299. Refer to Appendix #4.

The Plan Holder will design timber harvesting and road construction activities in a manner that is consistent with the established visual quality objectives that are in effect and applicable to the Scenic Areas in which the timber harvesting or road construction activities are located. Additionally, the Plan Holder will harvest timber and construct road in a manner consistent with the design and the visual quality objectives as provided through the completion of a Visual Impact Assessment, where warranted.

Table 3. Categories of Visually Altered Forest Landscapes and a definition of each category as described in Section 1.1 of the FPPR.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Category of Alteration** | **Characteristics of Cutblock or Road** |
| Preservation | Consisting of an altered forest landscape in which the alteration, when assessed from a significant public viewpoint, is (i) very small in scale, and (ii) not easily distinguishable from the pre-harvest landscape. |
| Retention | Consisting of an altered forest landscape in which the alteration, when assessed from a significant public viewpoint, is (i) difficult to see, (ii) small in scale, and (iii) natural in appearance. |
| Partial Retention | Consisting of an altered forest landscape in which the alteration, when assessed from a significant public viewpoint, is (i) easy to see, (ii) small to medium in scale, and (iii) natural and not rectilinear or geometric in shape. |
| Modification | Consisting of an altered forest landscape in which the alteration, when assessed from a significant public viewpoint, is (i) very easy to see, and (ii) is (a) large in scale and natural in its appearance, or (b) small to medium in scale but with some angular characteristics. |
| Maximum Modification | Consisting of an altered forest landscape in which the alteration, when assessed from a significant public viewpoint, is (i) very easy to see, and (ii) is (a) very large in scale, (b) rectilinear and geometric in shape, or (c) both. |

### 2.2.10 Cultural Heritage Resources (FPPR Section 10)

As stated in the FSP, the objective set by government for cultural heritage resources is to conserve, or, if necessary, protect cultural heritage resources that are (a) the focus of a traditional use by an indigenous people that is of continuing importance to that people, and (b) not regulated under the Heritage Conservation Act.

The Sunshine Coast Community Forest is entirely located within the traditional territory of the *shíshálh* Nation; therefore, the Plan Holder is committed to undertaking and engaging in meaningful consultation with the *shíshálh* Nation regarding any planned development activities and acknowledges the Shared Decision-Making (SDM) Process described in the *Foundation Agreement* established between the *shíshálh* Nation and the Province of British Columbia (October 4, 2018).

For those First Nations that do not enter into protocol agreements, the Plan Holder will work with the specific First Nations to ensure information sharing is conducted in a manner that is acceptable to the particular First Nations and the Ministry of Forests.

As, or when, requested by the *shíshálh* Nation, the Plan Holder will have a Preliminary Field Reconnaissance (PFR) and/or an Archaeological Impact Assessment completed by a qualified professional for cut blocks and roads proposed by the Plan Holder.

## 2.3 Objectives in Addition to Those Set by Government

As stated in the FSP, there are additional objectives that require the preparation of results, strategies or measures that are not included in Section 149(1) of the FRPA or Sections 5 through 10 of the FPPR. As previously mentioned, these sections specify the objectives set by government with regard to forest management and development activities on crown lands. The following sections detail the objectives not established by government, but those that still require the drafting of appropriate results, strategies or measures.

### 2.3.1 Objective set for Recreation Sites and Trails (FPPR Section 180, FRPA Section 56)

The Plan Holder recognizes that the Big Tree Recreation Site (REC5890), the Sechelt Heritage Forest (REC6206), and the Dakota Ridge Recreational Area (REC6516) have been established with objectives within the FDU’s described in this FSP.

The Plan Holder understands that there are multiple recreation features that are not currently recognized by designations or established objectives within and immediately adjacent to the FDU identified in the FSP. These recreation features may be very important to particular user groups or the general public. It is the intention of the Plan Holder, when these such features are encountered, to communicate and seek input from potentially affected user groups to ensure appropriate management strategies are developed. Refer to Appendix #6.

### 2.3.2 Resource Features (FPPR Section 70(1))

The Order to Identify Karst Resource Features in the Sunshine Coast Forest District was approved on September 30, 2010. As stated in the FSP, the Plan Holder has committed to engaging a qualified professional to complete an assessment related to karst caves, the important features and elements within very high or high vulnerability karst terrain and significant karst features and manage the area as outlined in the recommendations of the assessment. Additionally, the Plan Holder will provide any information related to karst features encountered, upon request, to the applicable government agency. Refer to Appendix #8.

### 2.3.3 Prevention of the Introduction & Spread of Invasive Plants (FPPR Section 17)

As stated in the FSP, 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.

The Invasive Plant Regulation provides a provincial listing of the plants that are considered weeds and have invasive habits. Refer to Appendix #5. Through the measures expressed in the FSP, the Plan Holder has committed to use a qualified professional to monitor the presence and spread of invasive plant species while conducting field related forest management activities within cutblocks and roads that are subject to a permit held by the Plan Holder within the FDU identified in the FSP as well as record any observed occurrences of invasive plant species and annually report their presence through the Invasive Alien Plan Program (IAPP) Application.

In areas where invasive plants have been identified and more than 0.25 hectares of continuous mineral soil has been exposed by road or landing construction or scarification within a cutblock (‘the disturbed area’), a qualified professional will prescribe revegetation activities based on a risk assessment for the site and the invasive plant species characteristics. Where re-vegetation is prescribed, the Plan Holder will re-vegetate the disturbed area within two years of disturbance and within the growing season, with the exclusion of the road surface of active roads, if such disturbance is likely to result in the introduction or spread of invasive plants species identified with the area, and such re-vegetation will materially reduce the likelihood or the spread of invasive plant species identified in the area.

Additionally, the Plan Holder will use Common #1 Forage seed mixture and will monitor the revegetated areas prescribed by a qualified professional.

### 2.3.4 Measures to Mitigate the Effect of Removing or Rendering Ineffective Natural Range Barriers (FPPR Section 18)

For the purpose of Section 48 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.

There are no agreements under the Range Act that apply to the FDU in the FSP. Accordingly, no measures have been specified for FPPR s.18 or s. 48.

# 3.0 Domestic Water Users and/or License Holder

There are a number of water licenses issued for domestic, irrigation, conservation, and/or power generation uses that are located within or immediately adjacent to the FDU described in the FSP. Given the significant number of water license holders, it was determined that notification of the availability of the FSP for public review and comment, by letter, was far too onerous. Instead, the Plan Holder is prepared and committed to make reasonable efforts to contact specific water license holders of proposed timber harvesting or road construction activities where there is a perceived potential for impact. Typically, this would include forestry development activities that are located in the general vicinity (< 100m) of their water intake or point of diversion. This communication will assist in the planning of forestry operations and will ensure that no adverse impacts to water diverted for human consumption will result from the activities of the Plan Holder.

As indicated within the section pertaining to Community Watersheds, the following sections of the Forest Planning and Practices Regulation pay specific regard to primary forest activities in areas that are in close proximity to community watersheds or where water is being diverted for human consumption: Sections 59 (Protecting Water Quality), 60 (Licensed Waterworks), 61 (Excavated or Bladed Trails), 62 (Roads in a Community Watershed) and 63 (Use of Fertilizers). Adhering to these legislative requirements as well as fostering constructive communication with potentially affected water license holders will ensure that adverse impacts are avoided.

# 4.0 Private Land Owners

There are a number of private lots that are located immediately adjacent to the Plan Holder’s FDU’s described in the FSP. Given the significant number of private land owners, it was determined that notification of the availability of the FSP for public review and comment, by letter, was far too onerous. Instead, the Plan Holder is prepared to make reasonable efforts to contact and inform private land owners of proposed timber harvesting or road construction activities where there is a perceived potential for impact. The Plan Holder will endeavor to work cooperatively with adjacent private land owners and take appropriate and reasonable measures to mitigate adverse impacts and ensure the maintenance of the values and features encompassed by the adjacent private property.

# 5.0 Climate Change

There is increasing evidence to support the occurrence of climate change in the Sunshine Coast Timber Supply Area; however, given the time scale at which climate change evolves and expresses itself, it is the opinion of the Plan Holder that it is the responsibility of government agencies to study and provide recommendations to forest tenure/agreement holders. The Plan Holder will continue to engage and stay current on the continuing discussions related to climate change in the Sunshine Coast Timber Supply Area and will amend the FSP should new and actionable information be made available.