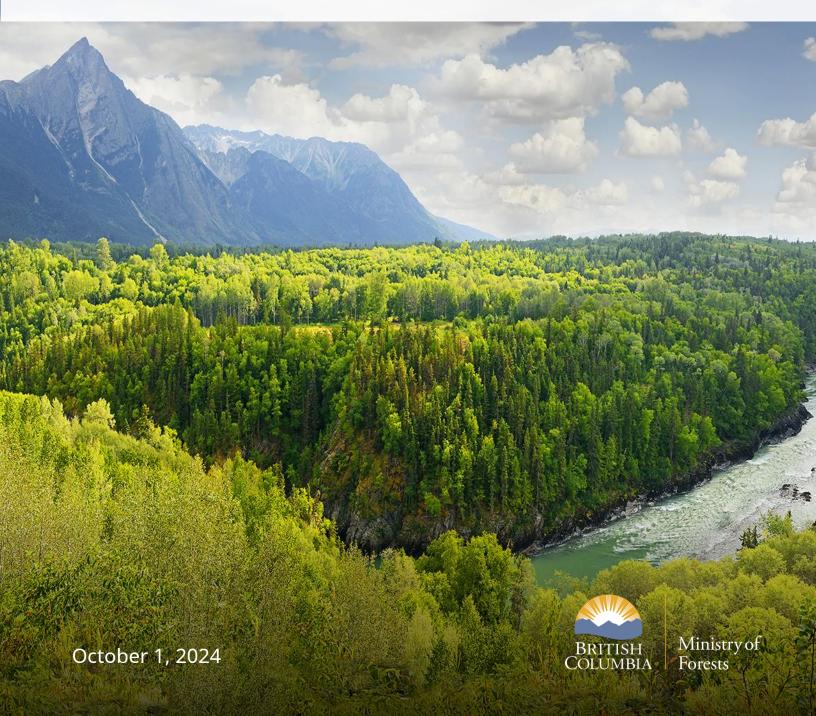


# **FOREST INVESTMENT PROGRAM**

2025/26 Annual Operating Plan Intake Submission Guide



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# **Annual Operating Plan Overview**

The Forest Investment and Reporting Branch (FIRB) oversees and coordinates the delivery of government silviculture on British Columbia's public managed land where there are no legal obligations for silviculture and creates a strategic Forest Investment Program (FIP) Annual Operating Plan (AOP). Detailed information about the Forest Investment Program is available at: Forest Investment Program - Province of British Columbia (gov.bc.ca).

This document highlights the FIP AOP Intake process for proposed activities and projects for the 2025/26 completion year. All received submissions will be reviewed and if approved, will be included in the AOP funding request for the new fiscal year.

FIRB has published a <u>FIP Funding Criteria document</u> that outlines eligible activities and funding criteria considerations. All applicants must review the FIP Funding Criteria to ensure the submission requests are eligible. Any activity type requiring business case pre-approval must be discussed with FIRB staff prior to form submission.

Proposed activity information may be shared with delivery partners and First Nations to support cross-sector collaboration on investments. Shared information would be limited to activity, project name (if applicable), ministry contact, planned dates and location.

# **Intake Key Dates and Milestones**

Date	Activity & Milestones				
October 1	Intake Open				
	FIP Intake Open Houses - 10 sessions				
Oct 1-Nov 17	<ul> <li>Additional sessions may be added on a request basis.</li> </ul>				
OCC 1-NOV 17	FIRB branch members are available for direct assistance upon				
	request.				
Nov 17-Nov 29	Submission window closes				
1100 17-1100 29	<ul> <li>FIRB compiles all submissions to build a draft provincial FIP AOP.</li> </ul>				
	FIRB staff review submissions and connect with districts and				
	recipients to clarify, if needed.				
Dec-Jan	FIRB staff review submissions and summarize proposed FIP AOP				
	for District Manager package.				
	<ul> <li>Prepare and send package to District Managers for information,</li> </ul>				
	awareness, and issues identification				

	FIRB Final internal review with adjustments based on feedback
	from District Managers and rank projects and adjust to anticipated
Mid-Feb	budget.
	Notify District/Recipients/BCTS of Funded Projects.
	Notify Districts/Recipients/BCTS of Unfunded Projects.
Early April	Permission to Spend Letters Sent based on Budget Estimates.
A	Budgets loaded.
August	Final Budget letters sent.

#### **Intake Open House Schedule**

FIRB will host 10 Open House sessions using MS TEAMS. Attendance is optional. No sign up required.

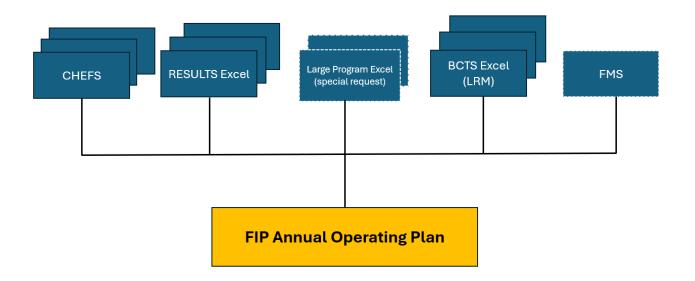
Each session will provide the same information which includes an overview of the FIP intake process, highlights of the online form's content and key functions to enable application process with an opportunity to ask questions.

Below are the date, time and link for each session.

- Open House 1 FIP 2025/26 AOP Intake Oct 1: 1:30-2:30 Tuesday
- Open House 2 FIP 2025/26 AOP Intake Oct 3: 10:30-11:30 Thursday
- Open House 3 FIP 2025/26 AOP Intake Oct 7: 10:30-11:30am Monday
- Open House 4 FIP 2025/26 AOP Intake Oct 9: 1:30-2:30 Wednesday
- Open House 5 FIP 2025/26 AOP Intake Oct 21: 1:30-2:30 Monday
- Open House 6 FIP 2025/26 AOP Intake Oct 23: 2:30-3:30 Wednesday
- Open House 7 FIP 2025/26 AOP Intake Oct 28: 9:30-10:30 Monday
- Open House 8 FIP 2025/26 AOP Intake Oct 31: 1:30-2:30 Thursday
- Open House 9 FIP 2025/26 AOP Intake Nov 12: 2:00-3:00 Tuesday
- Open House 10 FIP 2025/26 AOP Intake Nov 14: 10:00-11:00 Thursday FIP Intake will close on Nov 17.

# **FIP AOP Intake Inputs**

2025/26 will use multiple intake formats depending on applicant type.



**RESULTS Data Extract in Excel**: Some districts use RESULTS to collect their planning information. FIRB will create a RESULTS report for each district in the mailout. Districts may use the RESULTS dataset to confirm activities and update data for use for 2025/26.

CHEFS Online FIP AOP Intake Forms: Forms will be used by Ministry staff and partners for their activity submissions.

Large Program Excel: Some partners manage large reforestation programs and may use an Excel template for their opening-based submissions. This option is offered directly through FIRB staff.

BCTS: FIRB will coordinate with BCTS to acquire their planned data from Land Resource Manager.

FMS: Forest Management System deployment initiated in 2023. Districts who are actively using FMS with valid planning records in scope for FIP 2025/26 AOP intake may contact Meiching.tsoi@gov.bc.ca before October 21.

#### **Use of RESULTS Excel Planned Activities - Optional**

This section is applicable for districts who want to use the prepared RESULTS planned dataset. Excel containing below data was attached in the email mailout to district staff.

A report was prepared for activities with planned dates between 2025-04-01 and 2030-03-31 on government responsible openings with additional information on the opening's current NSR and IMM areas, regeneration and free growing due dates with any declarations to assist in assessing priority.

Many situations may require adjustments to the original planned areas such as new catastrophic events, planned activities no longer required or orphaned by already completed accomplishments, or date adjustments due to operational conditions.

Districts who want to use the RESULTS dataset must review the file and confirm which activities are valid for 2025/26 FIP AOP Intake.

#### **RESULTS Planned Excel Instructions**

- Do not make any changes to the columns in Excel.
- Remove activity rows to be EXCLUDED in the 2025/26 FIP AOP.
- Only Activities checked "Yes" for "Included in the AOP" will be added to 2025/26 FIP AOP.
- Provide data: mandatory data, treatment hectares, activity description and estimated unit cost and additional cost information see table below.
- Do not add NEW activities to this spreadsheet. New activities must use the <u>Forest Investment Program Annual Operating Plan Intake Submission Form.</u>
- Return confirmed Excel list to FIRB contact to <u>Meiching.tsoi@gov.bc.ca</u> before November 17.

Planned RESULTS Excel mandatory and conditional data entry

			Data	
Col	Field	Requirement	Туре	Notes
Α	Submitter Email	Mandatory	Text	
В	Submitter Name	Mandatory	Text	
	Submitter Phone			
C	Number	Mandatory	#	
D	Ministry Contact Email	Conditional	Text	Enter if different than Submitter
Е	Mgmt Unit Type	Picklist	Text	Specify Type
F	TSA	Picklist	Text	Use if TSA
G	Other Unit	Conditional	Text	Enter Licence if TFL, WL, FNWL, CommFor
Н	Alliance	Picklist	Text	
I	BCTS Office	Picklist	Text	Enter if applicable
J	BCTS Field Office	Picklist	Text	Enter if applicable

1	Recipient/ Partner/		ĺ	
K	Organization	Picklist	Text	Enter if applicable
	Specify Unknown			Provide if Recipient/Partner/Organization Name not
L	Organization	Optional	Text	available in picklist
M	Project led by FN(s)	Mandatory	Yes/No	The project is awarded to an Indigenous business entity/community, which will be accountable for its successful delivery.
N	Project in partnership with FN(s)	Mandatory	Yes/No	The project is conducted in alignment with Indigenous interests, but Indigenous peoples are not held accountable for its delivery. Examples include prioritizing planting in areas to protect riparian zones identified by First Nations but the planting contract is awarded to non-indigenous contractor without partnership with a First Nation.
0	Project with involvement of FN(s)	Mandatory	Yes/No	Proposals have been consulted with First Nations, but the direct contemporary benefits to Indigenous communities are not identified.
		For viewing or	ly to deter	mine to include/exclude for 2025/26 AOP –
P-AT	RESULTS Data	Do not make c	hanges to	data
AU	Include in AOP (Yes/No)	Mandatory	Yes/No	
AV	Fiscal Yr	Fiscal Year	Picklist	2025/26 only
AW	Estimated Cost per Ha (\$)	Mandatory	\$	Provide unit cost per hectare, not required for planting
AX	Planned Hectares (ha)	Mandatory	###	
AY	Access Cost (\$)	Optional	\$	Only provide if access cost required for activity delivery.
AZ	Estimated Cost per Tree (\$/tree)	Mandatory (for planting)	\$	Provide cost per tree for planting
BA	Planned Trees	Mandatory (for planting)	###	Total trees for the Activity Treatment Unit
ВВ	Planting Implementation (\$)	Optional	\$	Includes pay plots and planting contract oversight and supervision.
ВС	Seedling Protection (\$/tree)	Optional	\$	Provide purchase cost of the seedling protection supplies.
BD	Fertilization at time of planting (\$/bag)	Optional	\$	Provide the purchase cost of the fertilizer.
BE	External Seedling Purchase (\$)	Optional	\$	This is only for seed not owned by Forest Investment and Reporting Branch, subject to approval
BF	External Delivery Agent Sowing (\$)	Optional	\$	This is only for nursery cost for growing seedlings. This does not include administrative time for data entry.
BG	Water Quality Monitoring (\$)	Optional	\$	Applies to Forest Nutrient Management Only.  Enter if required
вн	Number of Water Quality Monitoring Sites	Optional	#	Applies to Forest Nutrient Management Only.  Enter if required
BI	Archaeological Assessment (\$)	Optional	\$	Applies to Forest Nutrient Management Only. Enter if required
BJ	Comments	Optional		

#### **FIP AOP Online Intake Forms**

#### How to Access Online Forms

FIP AOP Intake will use web-based forms.

Please make sure there is <u>no duplication entry</u> with the RESULTS Excel method, if used.

Online forms require authentication. Each form is identical but uses different log in methods.

Log in Method	FIP AOP Intake Form weblink			
IDIR	Generalized Silviculture Form (IDIR)  Road Rehabilitation Form (IDIR)  Forest Nutrient Management (IDIR)			
Business BCeID	Generalized Silviculture (Business)  Road Rehabilitation (Business)  Forest Nutrient Management (Business)			
Basic BCeID	Generalized Silviculture (Basic)  Road Rehabilitation (Basic)  Forest Nutrient Management (Basic)			

<sup>\*</sup>Basic BCeID is used if you do not have registered Business BCeID. Information on BCeID.

#### Form Themes

Activities are separated into different themes to assist with improved data collection.

Form	Activity entries		
	Opening-based activity		
	Monitoring Survey (planting to Free Growing Surveys) & Brushing Surveys		
	Surveys for Site Preparation		
	Site Preparation		
	Planting		
	Brushing		
	Utilization of Uneconomic Fibre		
Conoralized	Spacing and Thinning & Surveys		
Generalized Silviculture	Research Trial		
Silviculture	Overstory Removal		
	Innovative Timber Sales Licence Survey (BCTS Only)		
	Bulk Activity		
	Eligibility Assessments		
	Innovative Timber Sale Licence Development (BCTS Only)		
	Archaeological Impact Assessments and Studies		
	Minor Road Improvements/Deactivation		
	Customized AOP Entry Required (Not listed in available defaults)		

Form	Activity entries
	Opening-based activity
	Monitoring Survey (Planting to Free Growing) & Brushing Surveys
	Surveys for Site Preparation
	Planting Prescription
Road	Planting
Rehabilitation	Bulk Activity
	Archaeological Assessments
	Eligibility Assessments for Road Rehabilitation
	Strategic Planning for Road Rehabilitation
	Customized AOP Entry Required (Not listed in available defaults)
Forest Nutrient	Eligibility Assessments for Forest Nutrient Management (Fertilization)
Forest Nutrient	Forest Nutrient Management (Fertilization)
Management	Customized AOP Entry Required (Not listed in available defaults)

#### FIP Intake Forms - Getting Started

<u>Appendix A</u> shows all form sections for all forms. Users are encouraged to review form contents to understand the data requirements for activity(s) required for your intake. Some entry boxes are conditional and used when required.

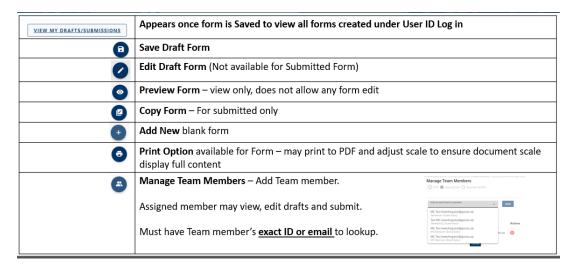
The web-forms are **context sensitive** and will appear based on selection of checkboxes. Data with "\*" is mandatory when they appear on the form.

#### Online Form Functions

Video resources:

- Overview of FIP Intake with basic form functions
- Form core functions, saving drafts and sharing with other team members

You can create a new form to practice, save, copy and share with other team members to understand how the form works.



Save Drafts and Sharing Forms with Assigned Team Members (of same authentication type) Summary of key features to save, collaborate and copy in <u>Appendix B</u> and <u>video</u>.

You will be able to:

- Save Drafts saving will highlight any missing mandatory data in red.
- Share and collaborate with assigned team members of the same login Type.
- Assign individual forms (no bulk sharing capability).
- Assign team members. They can edit and submit forms.
- Copy <u>submitted</u> forms. This will produce a new report to reduce time for entry of common header information. The copied form will have the same data. Please remove pre-existing AOP activities in the copied form to avoid duplicate activity submissions.
- Delete Draft forms. Deleted Drafts cannot be restored.
  - o Submitted forms cannot be modified or deleted by submitters.
  - o Submitted forms can be deleted by FIRB but only upon request.

#### Mandatory Set up – Log into Platform

A User ID must be used to log into the Online Form Platform <u>once</u> for the name to appear in "Manage Team Members" to share.

#### Add Team Members

Collaboration is only available for the same user login type. No sharing allowed across log in types (eg. business BCeID cannot share with IDIR form).



Hint: Create and Use Basic BCeID to share and collaborate on submissions if your TEAM belongs to different user types (eg. BCeID business, IDIR - government)

#### Send Submitted Form Submission to Yourself

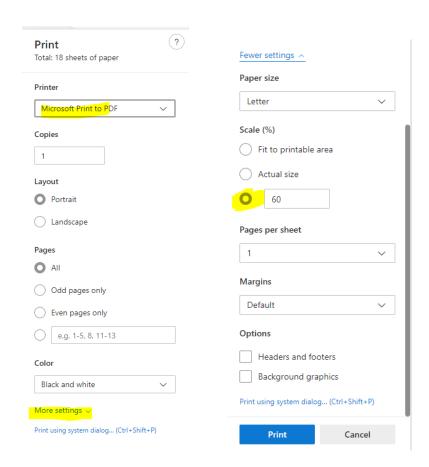
Email the form to yourself upon Submission Completion for a reference copy for your records. The section below provides guidance on how to print to PDF with the correct resolution to see full form content.



#### Improving Visibility for Online Data Entry and Printing Form (Zoom In and Out, Print Scale)

Forms may appear large with truncated data. You can zoom in and out by using the **Ctrl** button and **Scroll** dial on mouse to assist in viewing your data entry.

Print Form has Print Settings "More Settings" to enable Scale (%) options. You may set print form to .pdf for the preferred scale so that you can have a permanent PDF with the correct resolution.



# FIP Online Intake Form – Expectation, Content, Submission Requirements

#### Alignment with FIP Funding Criteria

Submitters must ensure that their submitted activities align with <u>FIP funding eligibility criteria</u>. Some activities require business case approval with <u>FIRB staff</u> and must have discussion with FIRB staff approval for inclusion into the AOP.

You may contact an <u>Integrated Investment specialist</u> for assistance for any ineligible FIP activities to determine alignment with other funding sources.

#### Form Submission Organization

<u>A new form</u> must be used for each district, management unit and recipient/organization combination or project.

#### Examples:

- A partner may operate within two districts two forms must be used for each district.
- A partner works under a recipient agreement and for the district two forms must be used for each contract arrangement.
- Partner conducts work that spans two management units within the same district two forms must be used for each management unit for the district.
- Project-based submission is created under one form. This is to allow FIRB staff to review the sum of all activities associated with the project.

<u>Multiple forms</u> may be submitted to assist with managing the workload. There is no restriction on how many forms submitted but ensure there are <u>no duplicate</u> activity entries.

Forms may be copied to reduce header data entry. When doing this, please ensure the copied activities are removed so that there are no duplicative entries in the new form.

#### **Spatial Requirements**

FIP Intake requires mandatory spatial for all land-based activities.

Spatial data of the proposed activity information may be shared with delivery partners and First Nations to support cross-sector collaboration on investments. Shared information would be limited to activity, project name (if applicable), ministry contact, planned dates and location.

- RESULTS Opening ID is mandatory for all opening-based activities.
- BC Geomark usage is an alternate, if no Opening ID is available, or for larger proposed areas.

BC government has a Geomark Web Service to create and translate spatial files from a variety of formats and projections into a consistent data standard.

Appendix D has instructions on how to create a Geomark with supplemental videos.

#### Intake Form Content, Definition and Requirement

All mandatory fields on the Intake Form will have red "\*".

Contact Information and Administration Information

Fields	Requirement	Description
Confirmation checkbox	Mandatory	
Submitter email, Name, Phone Number	Mandatory	
Is the Submitter the same person as Project Lead	Mandatory	
Project Lead email, Name	Conditional	Mandatory, if Submitter is not the same person as the Project Lead. Project Lead is the person responsible for project management and outcomes.
Ministry Contact email	Mandatory	Provide email of the Ministry Contact representative for the work in the district.
Location for the Activity/ Natural Resource District	Mandatory	Mandatory, if Submitter is not the same person as the Project Lead. Project Lead is the person responsible for project management and outcomes.
Program Administrator (Alliance)		Identify who will be the administrator fort he activity delivery: District, BCTS or Third Party Administration/Recipient Agreement Holder
Recipient	Mandatory if triggered	Third Party Administration will trigger Delivery Partner list. If Name is not available, use NOT ON LIST Enter your own.
Management Unit	Mandatory	Will trigger dropdown to select TFL, TSA or entry for Licence Number. Only one management unit may be used by on the form. Use another form for another management unit

#### What Type of Application Do You Want to Submit?

Does the submission need to reference multiple activities within a district or is the submission project based.

- When many activities on multiple openings or many bulk activities are included in the same form, activities are reviewed independently. The use of multiple forms to organize submissions is allowed.
- When submitting a project-based submission under ONE Application, all activities are interdependent and must be considered as ONE for review and approval.

#### Project Name

- Provide a project name for project based submission. All activities in a project based form are considered interdependent and will be reviewed as a set.
- Road Rehabilitation must have a project name.

#### First Nation Checkboxes

Indicate any that applies for the activity entry.

#### First Nations Participation Categories and Definitions

Delivered by First Nation(s)	The project/activity is awarded to a First Nation business entity/community, which will take full responsibility for its successful delivery.
In partnership with First Nation(s)	The project/activity is awarded to a non-Indigenous entity, which is accountable for its delivery. During the project, First Nation contractors are, or will be, hired by the recipient. Or a non-Indigenous recipient forms a partnership with First Nation(s), and the funding is awarded to the formed partnership.
In collaboration with First Nation(s)	The project/activity is not awarded to an Indigenous business entity/community, but First Nations are involved in project planning. First Nations are not accountable for project delivery. For example, prioritizing planting in areas to protect riparian zones identified by First Nations, where the planting contract is awarded to a non-Indigenous contractor without direct partnership with a First Nation.

Under current policy, FIP recipients and delivery partners are required to complete First Nations information sharing on all FIP projects. First Nation information sharing responses are compiled and provided to Districts. District offices are required to complete First Nations Consultation.

#### Mandatory Data – Opening-based

- Activity Description use picklist
- Opening ID (must exist in RESULTS)
- Estimated Unit Cost/ha
- Planned Hectares
- BC Geomark must provide if No Opening ID available

#### Mandatory Data - Planting

- Planting Description Refer to technique code usage based % free growing target stocking.
- Recent Disturbance History for Planting. Select the history of the last event requiring planting. More than one allowed.
- Planting Intent. Select purpose for the planting. More than one allowed. Road Rehabilitation form does not require this.
- Opening ID (must exist in RESULTS)
- Estimated Unit Cost/Tree
- Planned Trees
- Planned Hectares
- BC Geomark must provide if No Opening ID available

#### Planting – Additional Extra Costs and Non-Plant species information

Data entry is activated by the checkbox and becomes a mandatory entry: planting implementation cost, seedling protection cost, fertilization at time of planting cost and plant species (non-tree species). External seedling purchase costs and external delivery agent costs require pre-approval from FIRB staff.

#### Mandatory Data - Bulk Activity

- Activity Description use picklist
- Cost Estimate
- Planned Hectares
- BC Geomark mandatory for areas where locations are known.

#### Mandatory Data - New Activity (Default Activity Not Available)

Must split activities into individual entries. Do not lump.

- Cost Estimate
- Comments

#### Mandatory Data – Forest Nutrient Management and Surveys

- Activity Description use picklist
- Cost Estimate
- Planned Hectares
- BC Geomark
- Comments Must provide information regarding forest nutrient management including project description, goals, objectives, method, partners, indicate if multi-year project and any First Nations information share status and district's buy in on the project.

Additional Data - Forest Nutrient Management

Checkbox will enable mandatory entry.

- Foliar analysis cost
- Water quality monitoring cost
- Number of water quality monitoring sites
- Archaeological Assessments cost

#### Additional Data - Miscellaneous

Access Cost

Most activities will have "Funds for access". Checkbox will enable mandatory entry.

Business case approval confirmed

<u>FIP funding criteria</u> indicates specific activities that require business case approval. Checking indicates FIRB approval received.

Activity is a part of multi-year commitment (appears in different activity category)

Check if the activity is a continuation of a multi-year commitment to an existing ongoing project that has been approved by FIRB.

#### **Large Program Excel**

Please contact your local <u>FIRB staff</u> if you have a large silviculture program requiring an alternate method.

#### **BCTS**

FIRB will communicate with BCTS on FIP AOP intake data requirements for 2025/26. <u>Appendix C</u> contains the data requirements to be provided by Excel.

The <u>Online General Silviculture Form</u> will be used for Innovative Timber Sale Licence Development.

Please provide completed forms to <u>Yann.A.Bourdon@gov.bc.ca</u> and <u>Sara.Lazaruk@gov.bc.ca</u> before November 17.

#### **FMS**

Districts who are actively using FMS with valid planning 2025/26 records for FIP AOP intake can contact <u>Meiching.tsoi@gov.bc.ca</u> before October 21. This provides lead time to coordinate with FMS Team for data extraction, confirmation and update of additional data required for the intake.

## **Next Steps after Submission**

FIP Intake will close on November 17. FIRB will compile all received submissions. After data quality review, the total estimated costs will be calculated and the initiation of the internal review. Target dates and steps are highlighted in <u>AOP Intake Key Dates and Milestones</u>.

# **FIP Intake Business Support**

Questions regarding FIP activity eligibility and business case discussions may be directed to FIRB team.

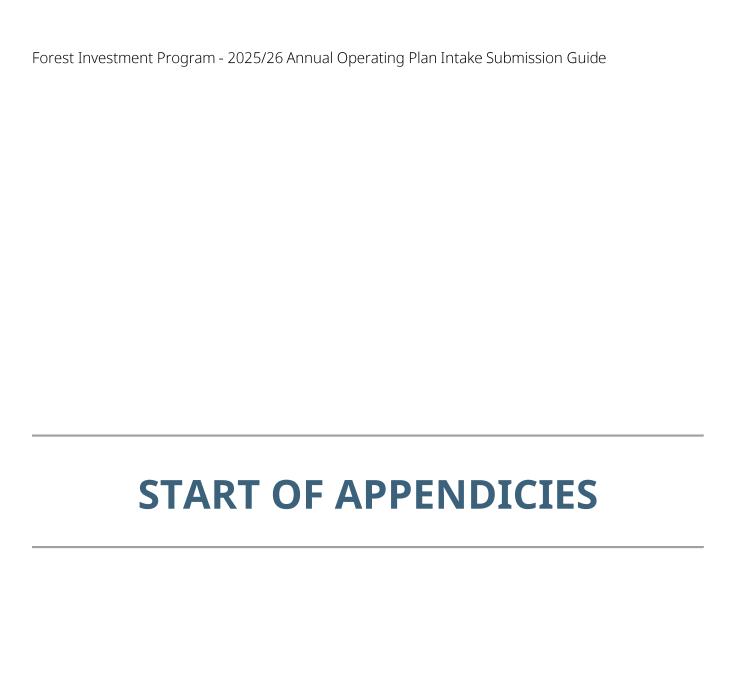
Area/District	Role/Subject Matter	Name	Contact
North & South Area	Manager Planning and Program Delivery	Jessica Gunn	Jessica.Gunn@gov.bc.ca 250-674-4623
North Area DKM, DCM, DSS, DND,	Forest Investment Officer	Jennifer Plummer	Jennifer.Plummer@gov.bc.ca 250-876-6706
DVA, DVA, DPG, DPK, DPC, DFN District(s)	Forest Investment Specialist	Karyn Roseboom	Karyn.Roseboom@gov.bc.ca 778-702-0039
Provincial	CFA & Woodlot & FN Woodlands Liaison	Karyn Roseboom	Karyn.Roseboom@gov.bc.ca 778-702-0039
South Area	Forest Investment Officer	Carolyn Krawchuk	Carolyn.M.Krawchuk@gov.bc.ca 250 420-6301
Cariboo Region DCC, DQU, DMH District(s)	Forest Investment Specialist	Karen Stout	<u>Karen.Stout@gov.bc.ca</u> 778 362-4675
Thompson Okanagan Region DCS, DKA, DOS District(s)	Forest Investment Specialist	Kristin Hendry	Kristin.Hendry@gov.bc.ca 250 554-7165
Kootenay Boundary Region DRM, DSE District(s)	Forest Investment Specialist	Mike Andres	Michael.Andres@gov.bc.ca 250 805-2329
Provincial	Road Rehabilitation	Kristin Hendry	Kristin.Hendry@gov.bc.ca 250 554-7165
		Melanie Plett	Melanie.Plett@gov.bc.ca 778 974-5638
Provincial	Forest Nutrient Management	Jason Hutchinson	Jason.Hutchinson@gov.bc.ca 250 850-1676
		George Simpson	George.Simpson@gov.bc.ca 778 671-2683
Coast Area	Forest Investment Lead	Melanie Plett	Melanie.Plett@gov.bc.ca 778 974-5638

DCK, DSQ, DSC, DCR, DQC, DNI, DSI District(s)	Technical Officer, Forest Carbon	Jason Hutchinson	Jason.Hutchinson@gov.bc.ca 250 850-1676		
	Forest Investment Specialist	George Simpson	George.Simpson@gov.bc.ca 778 671-2683		
BCTS	Forest Establishment Officer	Sara Lazaruk	Sara.Lazaruk@gov.bc.ca 250 570-0402		
BCTS	Forest Investment Specialist	Yann Bourdon	<u>Yann.a.Bourdon@gov.bc.ca</u> 250 805-6934		
Intake	Intake Process (Form)	Mei-Ching Tsoi	Meiching.Tsoi@gov.bc.ca 778 974-3437		
Intake	Geomark Assistance	Jeff Kruys	<u>Jeff.Kruys@gov.bc.ca</u> 778 403-6375		

# For Funding Outside of FIP

If you suspect you may require additional or different funds for some of your proposed projects, contact a regional Integrated Investment Specialist below. Examples of activities which may also fall under different programs include burning, forest health treatments, habitat enhancement, and innovative new types of projects.

North Area	South Area	Coast Area
Northeast Region	Cariboo Region	South Coast Region
Melanie Webster Integrated Investment Specialist 250 850-1859 Melanie.Webster@gov.bc.ca	Nicole Strand Integrated Investment Specialist 250 985-0063 Nicole.Strand@gov.bc.ca	Aaron Smeeth Integrated Investment Specialist 778- 647-2002 Aaron.Smeeth@gov.bc.ca
Omineca Region	Kootenay Boundary Region	West Coast Region
Tory Ross Integrated Investment Specialist 250 649-4355 Tory.Ross@gov.bc.ca Skeena Region	Graham Brown Integrated Investment Specialist 250 420-6177 Graham.Brown@gov.bc.ca Thompson-Okanagan Region	Graham Wells Stewardship/Integrated Investment Specialist 250 736-6888 Graham.Wells@gov.bc.ca
Aaron Benterud Integrated Investment Specialist 778-702-1400 Aaron.Benterud@gov.bc.ca	Rhona Boyd Integrated Investment Specialist 778 943-7088 Rhona.Boyd@gov.bc.ca	



# **Appendix A – FIP AOP Intake Submission Form Data Content**

Below is the full content of the AOP Intake form on all possible entries. Online version will be context sensitive with sections and data entry items appearing based check box selection.

You may create a draft submission to experiment with entry to become familiar with form's content, functionalities, saving and assigning team members. You can always delete your practice draft forms.

#### Section: Identification



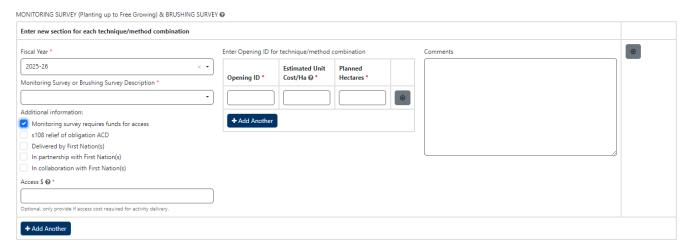
Location for the Activity: Natural Resource District <b>©</b> *
•
Select the District for the activity. Only one District may be used per form. Region selection can be used by Regional projects or contacts.
Program Administrator (Alliance) •
•
Identify who will be the administrator of the activity delivery
BCTS Office *
·
Deliver Detects
Delivery Partner *
The individual/firm who will be completing the activity
Provide the Delivery Agent, Recipient, Licensee, Company or Organization Name 🖸 *
Provide the Delivery Agent, Necipient, Licensee, Company of Organization Name V
Please enter name
Specify which management unit for the activities for this FIP Intake form. Only one management unit allowed per form. *\mathbb{O} *
specify which management unit for the activities for this FIP intake form. Only one management unit allowed per form.
Only one management may be used for the intake form. Create new form if required for extra management unit.
TSA Name <b>⊘</b> *
DA NOIDE &
TFL Name ② *
•
CFA Number ② *
Enter licence number (eg, K)
Woodlot or First Nations Woodlands Tenure Number 🕢 *
Enter the Woodlot Tenure (eg. W _ ) or FN Woodlands Tenure Number (eg. N _ )
Other Unit 🖸 *
Please enter other management unit type
/hat type of application do you want to submit? *
Many activities on multiple Openings or many bulk activities  Project-based submission under ONE Application. All activities are interdependant and must considered as ONE for review and approval.
ROJECT-BASED SUBMISSION APPLICATION - SELECTED
Il activities for this application form will be considered a ONE PROJECT and will be reviewed together. No partial approvals allowed.
o not add any activities not associated with this PROJECT. Use a new form for other activities.
roject Name <b>②</b> *

#### Section: Checkboxes – will vary based on form

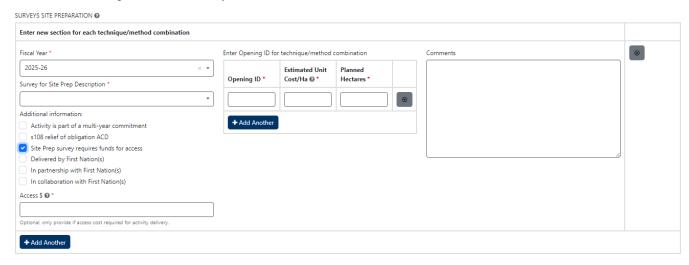
Opening-based activity <b>②</b>	Bulk Activity <b>②</b>
Monitoring Survey (Planting to Free Growing) & Brushing Surveys	Eligibility Assessments
Surveys for Site Preparation	Innovative Timber Sale Licence Development (BCTS Only)
Planting Prescription	Archaeological Assessments
Site Preparation	Minor Road Improvements/Deactivation
Planting	Select all activities required. Entry selections will appear on the form
Brushing	
Utilization of Uneconomic Fibre	New Activity (not listed) ②
Spacing and Thinning & Surveys	Customised AOP Entry Required (Not listed in available defaults)
Research Trial	Only use when activity is not provided
Overstory Removal	
Select all activities required. Entry selections will appear on the form	
Opening-based activity   Monitoring Survey (Planting to Free Growing) & Brushing Surveys  Surveys for Site Preparation  Planting Prescription  Site Preparation  Planting  Planting  Select all activities required. Entry selections will appear on the form	Bulk Activity  Archaeological Assessments Eligibility Assessments for Road Rehabilitation Strategic Planning for Road Rehabilitation Select all activities required. Entry selections will appear on the form New Activity (not listed)  Customised AOP Entry Required (Not listed in available defaults) Only use when activity is not provided
	Bulk Activity   Eligibility Assessments for Forest Nutrient Management (Fertilization)  Forest Nutrient Application (Fertilization)  Select all activities required. Entry selections will appear on the form  New Activity (not listed)   Customised AOP Entry Required (Not listed in available defaults)  Only use when activity is not provided

#### **Opening-Based**

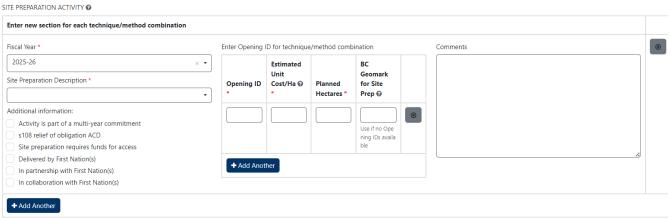
#### Section: Monitoring Survey (Planting up to Free Growing & Brushing Survey



#### Section: Surveys for Site Preparation



#### Section: Site Preparation (General Silviculture)



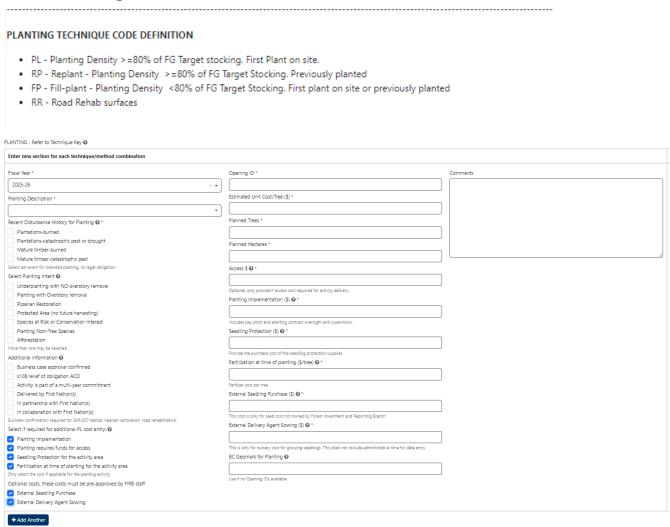
includes activities and costs associated with preparing sites for tree planting including trenching, ripping, burn, etc., and road rehabilitation and where required, includes danger tree assessment and falling. Do not include Overstory Removal or Road Rehabilitation.

#### Section: Site Preparation (Road Rehabilitation)

SITE PREPARATION ACTIVITY @					
Enter new section for each technique/method combination					
Fiscal Year *	Enter Opening	ID for techniqu	e/method comb	ination	Comments
2025-26 × <b>▼</b>		Estimated		ВС	
Site Preparation Description *	Opening ID	Unit Cost/Ha @	Planned Hectares *	Geomark for Site Prep ②	
Additional information: Activity is part of a multi-year commitment s108 relief of obligation ACD Site preparation requires funds for access				Use if no Ope ning IDs availa ble	
Delivered by First Nation(s) In partnership with First Nation(s) In collaboration with First Nation(s)	+ Add Anot	ther			
	Optional, only pro	ovide if access cost	required for activi	ity delivery.	

Includes activities and costs associated for road rehabilitation

#### Section: Planting



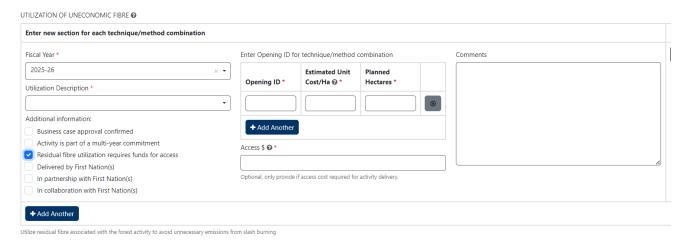
Note: Road Rehabilitation Planting – does not have a Recent Disturbance History and Planting Intent requirement.

s all activity and costs associated with a planting activity including (planting contracts, planting implementation, pay plots, fertilization (tea-basq) at time of planting, seedling protectors, reporting activities) and where required, includes danger tree assessments and falling

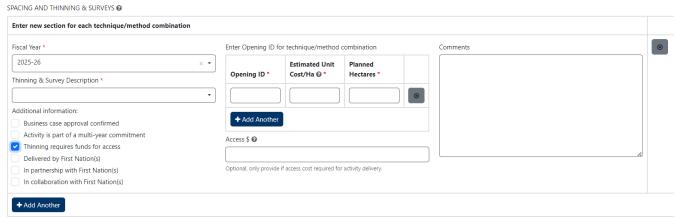
#### Section: Brushing



#### Section: Utilization of Uneconomic Fibre

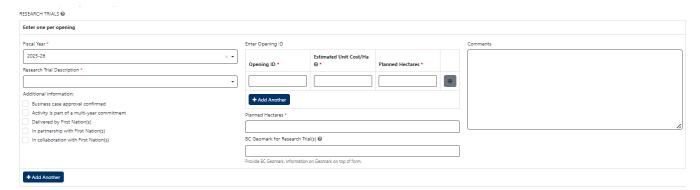


#### Section: Spacing and Thinning & Surveys

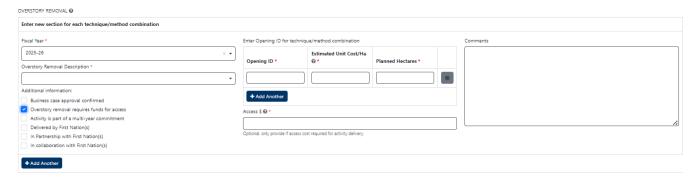


Spacing and/or thinning to release growth in pre-commercial aged stands. Includes any costs associated with conducting a thinning (spacing) activity including prescription development, layout and treatment and where required, includes danger tree assessments and falling.

#### Section: Research Trial

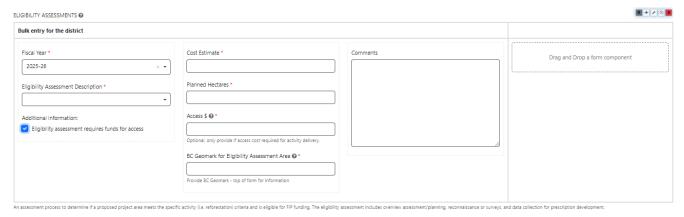


#### Section: Overstory Removal



#### **Bulk Entry**

#### Section: Eligibility Assessments

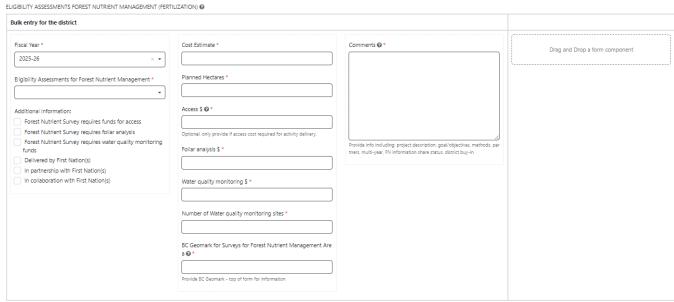


#### Section: Innovative Timber Sale Licence Development (BCTS Only)



Activities directly related to the development of the TSL. Such costs typically include cruising, layout, assessment, referrals, roads and deactivation attributed to the TSL

#### Section: Surveys for Forest Nutrient Management (Fertilization)



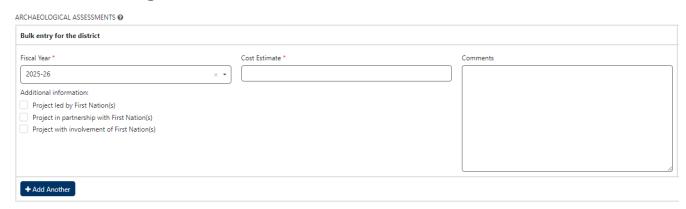
An assessment process to determine if a proposed project area meets fertilization criteria and is eligible for FIP funding. The eligibility assessment includes overview assessment/planning, reconnaissance or surveys, and data collection for prescription development

#### Section: Forest Nutrient Management (Fertilization)

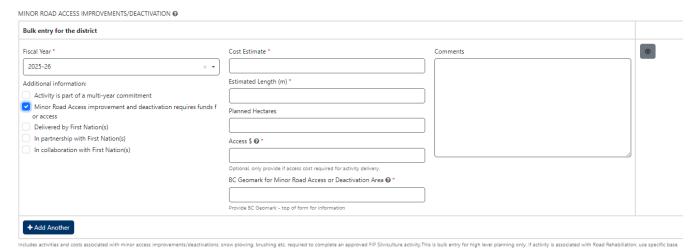
FOREST NUTRIENT APPLICATION (FERTILIZATION)

Bulk entry for the district Fiscal Year \* Cost Estimate \* Comments 🕡 ' × • 2025-26 Planned Hectares \* Forest Nutrient Management Type I confirm that a written request from a First Nation or Wat Access \$ 0 \* er User Group for water quality monitoring has been recei ved or written approval has been granted by FIP.  $^{\star}$ Additional information: Provide info including: project description, goal/objectives, methods, par Water quality monitoring \$ \* Forest Nutrient Application activity requires funds for acc Forest Nutrient Application requires water quality monito Number of Water quality monitoring sites \* Archaeological Assessments cost required Delivered by First Nation(s) In partnership with First Nation(s) Archaeological Assessments \$ \* In collaboration with First Nation(s) BC Geomark for Forest Nutrient Management Area 🕖 \* Provide BC Geomark - top of form for information

#### Section: Archaeological Assessments



#### Section: Minor Road Improvements/Deactivation



#### Section: Eligibility Assessments for Road Rehabilitation



1. An assessment process to determine if a proposed project area meets the road rehabilitation criteria and is eligible for PP funding. The eligibility assessment includes overview assessment/planning, reconnaissance or surveys, and data collection for prescription development

#### Section: Strategic Planning for Road Rehabilitation



#### Section: Customized AOP Entry Required (not listed in available defaults)

NEW ACTIVITY (DEFAULT ACTIVITY NOT AVAILABLE AND PROVIDE ONE ACTIVITY PER ENTRY @ Bulk entry for the district Fiscal Year \* Opening ID (if applicable) Comments \* 2025-26 Cost Estimate \* Additional information: Business case approval confirmed Activity is part of a multi-year commitment Planned Hectares (if applicable) Access cost required Delivered by First Nation(s) In partnership with First Nation(s) Access \$ @ \* In collaboration with First Nation(s) Optional, only provide if access cost required for activity delivery. + Add Another

Only use if the activity is not available from default options. Do not use this for multiple/combined activities.

# Appendix B: CHEFS Form - Saving, **Sharing, Copying**

Each CHEFS form authentication-series can only be shared within the same series.

For example: Business BCeId cannot share with Basic BCeID; IDIR cannot be shared with BCeID,

You must use the CHEFS Link to access the form, entry and form management.

Each initiated form will have its own unique Confirmation ID.

Saved form (draft) will enable the same user to log in to continue to add/modify and submit the form at a later date.

Saved Draft can be Shared with assigned TEAM members of <u>same</u> authentication series.

#### ONLY ONE FORM CAN BE SHARED AT TIME - NO BULK SHARING

Anyone assigned to TEAM can view, modify delete, and/or submit the form. Basic tracking of current form's status, creation, updated and submission dates and user for the form.

Once the form is submitted, the form's content cannot be changed or deleted.

Upon submission, user should send an email of the form to themselves for their record and reference as it contains content and Confirmation ID.

Once Form Intake closes, you will not be able to access your submitted forms.

#### A 2024/25 FIP Annual Operating Plan Intake Working Template



Your form has been submitted successfully

If you wish to keep a record of this submission, you can keep the following Confirmation ID: F89B2CE9 MEMAIL A RECEIPT OF THIS SUBMISSION

You may copy a submitted form to save time on entering header information.

All the form's data entry items are copied over therefore details within the form must be manually deleted to ensure there is no duplicate entry.

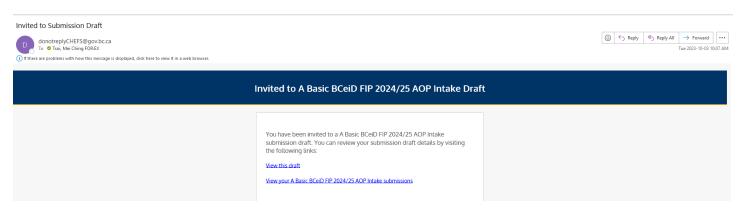
#### **Save and Share**



Enter username of same authentication type (searchable) and Add

# Manage Team Members IDIR ○ Basic BCeID ○ Business BCeID Enter a name, email, or username ▼ ADD Team members for this submission: Name Username Email Actions MC Tsoi Testerbasic □ Tsoi MC Testerbasic □ CLOSE

Adding new user to form sends an email to allow them to access Draft. User must Log in with credentials to view/edit form.



#### **View and Edit**



#### Copy



#### **Create New**



# Appendix C – BCTS AOP Intake Requirement

Provide information only for the 2025/26 Year – please see Excel template for data order

Spreadsheet will have separate tabs for different data requirements for Opening-based, Planting and Bulk areas.

Field Name	Requirement	Conditions	Opening Based	Planting	Bulk Areas
Submitter Email	Mandatory		X	Х	X
Submitter Name	Mandatory		X	Х	X
Submitter Phone Number	Mandatory		Х	Х	X
Ministry Contact Email	Mandatory		Х	Х	X
TSA	Use for TSA only/Dropdown	Use for TSA only	Х	Х	X
BCTS Office	Use for BCTS only/Dropdown	Use for BCTS only	Х	Х	Х
BCTS Field Office	Use for BCTS only/Dropdown	Specify Field Office	Х	Х	X
District	Mandatory/Dropdown		Х	Х	X
Fiscal Yr	Mandatory/Dropdown	2025-26 only	X	X	X
Activity	Mandatory/Dropdown		X	X	X
Base/ Tech/ Method	Mandatory/Dropdown		X	Х	X
LRM Block ID	Optional		X	Х	X
LRM Activity ID	Optional		X	Х	X
Licence Number	Optional		Х	Х	
Cutting Permit	Optional		Х	Х	
Cutblock	Optional		Х	Х	
Opening ID	Mandatory Entry		X	Х	

Estimated Cost per Tree (\$/tree)	Mandatory Entry			Х	
Estimated Cost per Ha (\$)	Mandatory Entry		X		
Estimated Cost (\$)	Mandatory Entry				X
Planned Trees	Mandatory Entry			Х	
Planned Hectares (ha)	Mandatory Entry		X	Х	X
Access Cost (\$)	Optional, enter if required		X	Х	Х
Planting Implementation (\$)	Optional, enter if required			Х	
Seedling Protection (\$)	Optional, enter if required			Χ	
Fertilization at time of planting (\$)	Optional, enter if required			X	
External Seedling Purchase (\$)	Optional, enter if required	Must have FIRB approval		Х	
External Delivery Agent Sowing (\$)	Optional, enter if required	Must have FIRB approval		Х	
Archaeological Assessments (\$)	Optional, enter if required		Х	X	Х
BC Geomark	Mandatory if no Opening ID	Mandatory for Bulk Areas	Х	Х	Х
Comments	Optional	Optional	X	Х	X

## **Appendix D -BC Geomark**

Spatial is required for program review. Specifying an existing RESULTS Opening ID number is sufficient. For projects that are not attached to an existing Opening, BC government has a Geomark Web Service to create and translate spatial data from variety of formats and projections into a consistent data standard.

Information on Geomark Web Service below.

- Geomark Web Service Province of British Columbia (gov.bc.ca)
- Spatial Format Conversion to Geomark: <u>Create Geomark from file (gov.bc.ca)</u>

When you create a Geomark for a polygon, the polygon is assigned a unique web address or URL. That URL is now a representation of the geometry of your polygon. You can then paste this URL in the CHEFS form to specify the location of your proposed activity. The URL will look something like this: <a href="https://apps.gov.bc.ca/pub/geomark/geomarks/gm-F07114595E0A4D1398B12D9346A964A6">https://apps.gov.bc.ca/pub/geomark/geomarks/gm-F07114595E0A4D1398B12D9346A964A6</a>

Note that these URLs will be valid for 90 days by default. Any Geomark URLs that are submitted to the FIP AOP Intake will be added by an automated process to a Geomark Group that retains them permanently.

The method you use to obtain a Geomark URL for your project location depends on whether you currently have the location stored in a spatial data file, and if so, what format that file is in. Refer to the following table for a recommended method based on the type of data you have and the applications you have access to.

#### **BC Geomark Videos:**

- Using BC Geomark where there is No Opening ID
- Method 1-Draw location directly in Google Earth Pro
- o Method 2- Submit locations from KML/KMZ directly from Google Earth Pro
- o Method 3-Upload spatial data to the Geomark Web Service
- Method 4a-Use Script Tool in ArcGIS (ArcMap)
- Method 4b-Use Script Tool in ArcGIS Pro

### **BC Geomark Method Matrix**

		Application			
		No GIS apps	Google Earth Pro	ArcGIS Desktop 10.x	ArcGIS Pro 3.x
Spatial Data File Type	No file, but can draw project location on a map	Method 1 (Google Earth required)	Method 1	Method 1 (Google Earth is easier)	Method 1 (Google Earth is easier)
	.kml or .kmz	Method 3	Method 2	Method 2 (Google Earth is easier), Method 3 or Method 4	Method 2 (Google Earth is easier), Method 3 or Method 4
	.geojson	Method 3	Method 3	Method 3	Method 3
	.gpkg	Method 3	Method 3	Method 3	Method 3
	.gml	Method 3	Method 3	Method 3	Method 3
	.wkt	Method 3	Method 3	Method 3	Method 3
Spat	.shp (shapefile)	Method 3	Method 3	Method 4	Method 4
	.gdb (file geodatabase)	Method 4 (ArcGIS required), or request data in a different format, e.gkml, and then use Method 2 or 3		Method 4	Method 4

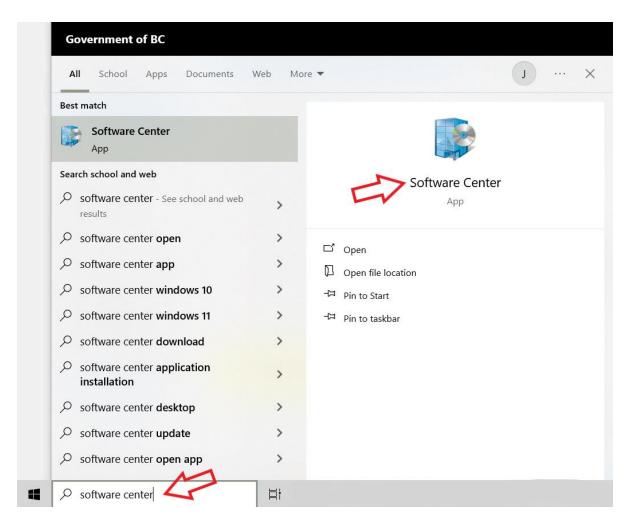
# Method 1: Draw the location directly in Google Earth Pro

Use this method in a situation in which you do not currently have the location of your proposed activity saved in a spatial data file, such as a .kml file, but you would be able to draw the (at least approximate) location of the proposed activity on a map in Google Earth Pro.

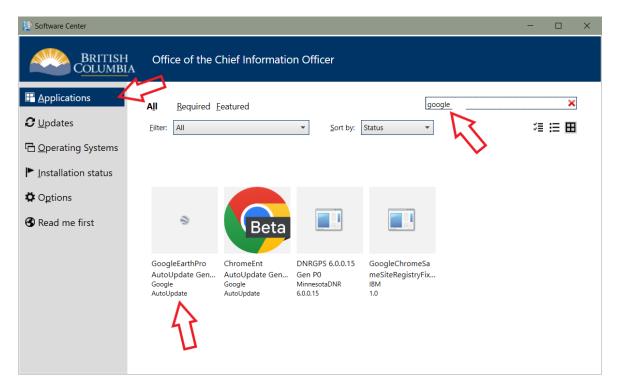
In this case, you will need to install and use Google Earth Pro.

If you are a BC Government Employee:

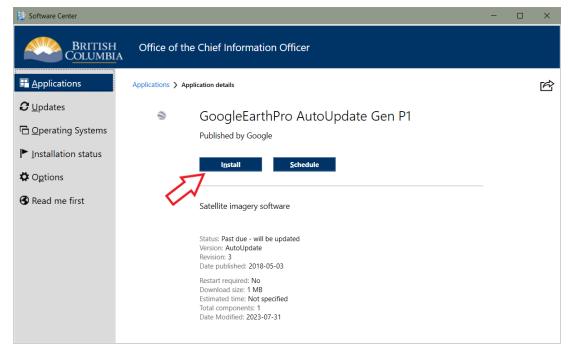
• Start the Software Center application on your laptop or workstation by clicking your Start button (or the search box next to the Start button), then type "software center", and click the Software Center application in the search results.



• In Software Center, select "Applications" in the right-hand menu, then type "google" in the search box. If you don't already have Google Earth Pro installed, you should see an item in the search results named "GoogleEarthPro AutoUpdate Gen P1".



• Click on the GoogleEarthPro item, it should bring you to this screen, where you can click the Install button to install it.

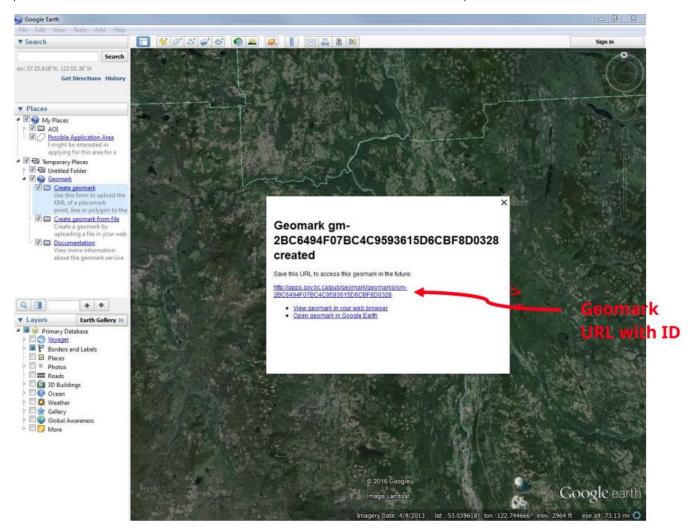


If you are not a BC Government employee, you can download the Google Earth Pro installation package from the <u>Google Earth website</u>.

With Google Earth Pro installed, you can now follow the instructions in the tutorial for drawing a polygon and creating a Geomark URL directly in Google Earth Pro here:

create geomark in googleearth tutorial.pdf (gov.bc.ca)

Once you have created the Geomark URL in Step 16 of that tutorial, right-click the link to copy it, and paste the link into the CHEFS form or Excel document where it is requested.

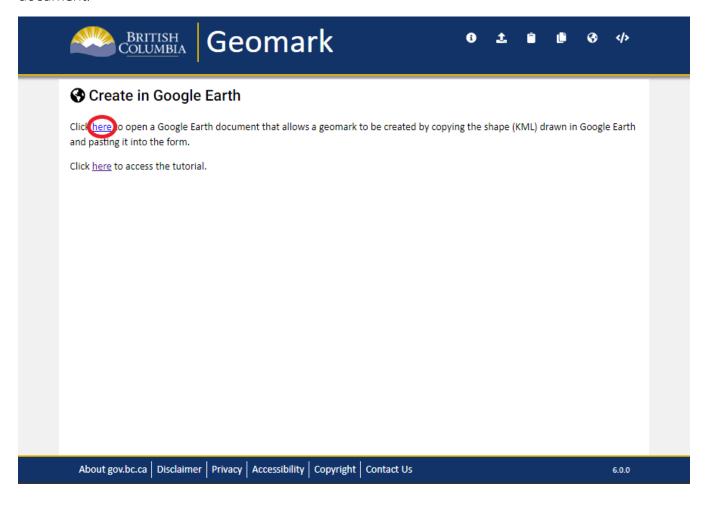


# Method 2: Submit locations from a .kml or .kmz file directly in Google Earth Pro

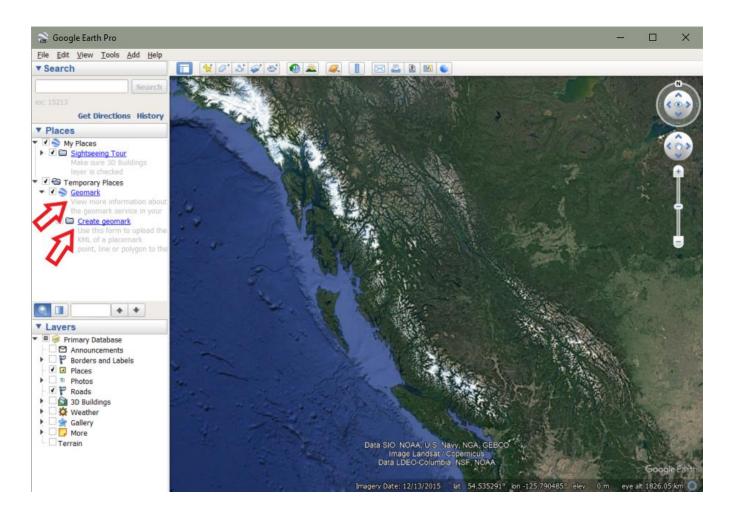
Use this method if you have already created, or were given, spatial data in a .kml or .kmz file, and you believe that it contains the polygon for your proposed activity. You must have Google Earth installed, or you are willing and able to install it and use it.

If you need to install Google Earth Pro, follow the installation instructions in Method 1 above.

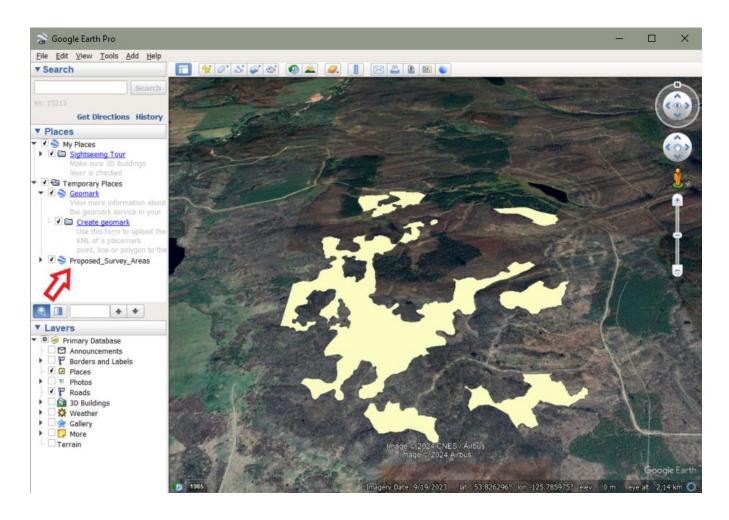
Then, visit the <u>Geomark – Create in Google Earth</u> page and click the link to open a Google Earth Prodocument.



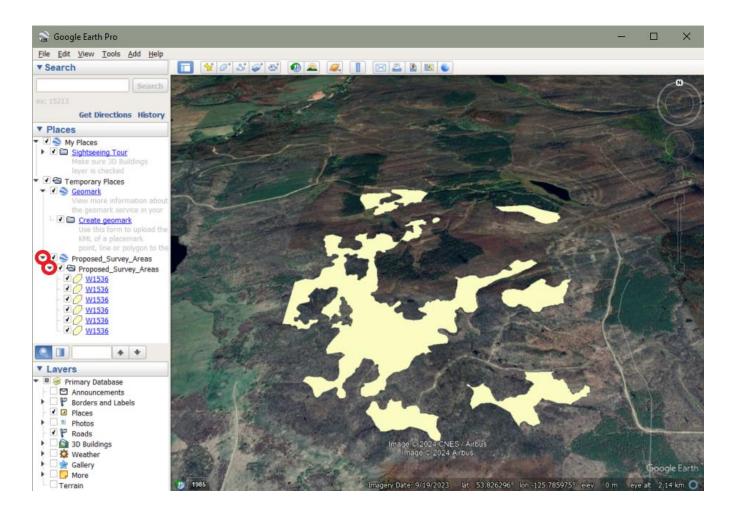
After clicking that link, your browser may open the downloaded file in the Google Earth Pro application directly, or it may only download the file, named index.kml, to your downloads folder. In the latter case, start Windows File Explorer, go to your Downloads folder, and double-click the index.kml file. It should open in the Google Earth application. You should see an item, "Geomark", and another item, "Create geomark", listed under "Temporary Places" in the Places section.



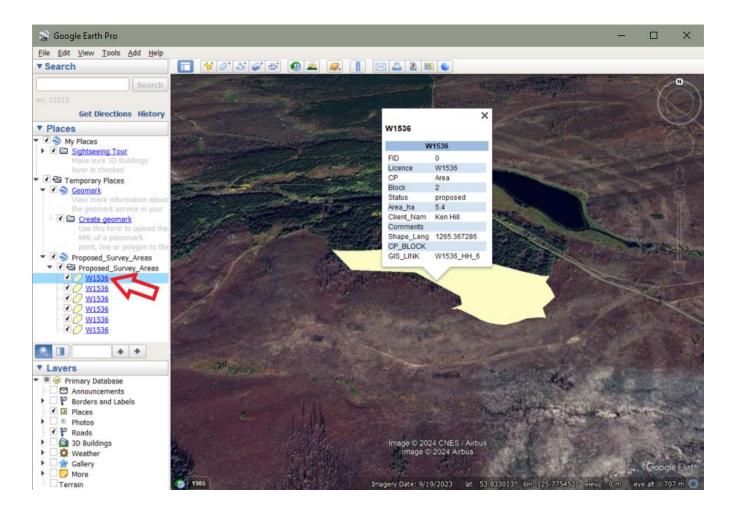
With the Google Earth Pro application open, click on the File menu at the top left of the window, and select **Open**. Select the .kml or .kmz file containing your project location(s). The map will then zoom to the extent of all features in the file, and you should see the file listed under "Temporary Places" in the Places pane.



If there is a small black triangle symbol to the left of the checkbox, click on that triangle symbol to expand that item and see the list of features in the file listed underneath. (If another item appears below, and it also has a triangle to the left of the checkbox, click that triangle to expand it as well, and so on.)



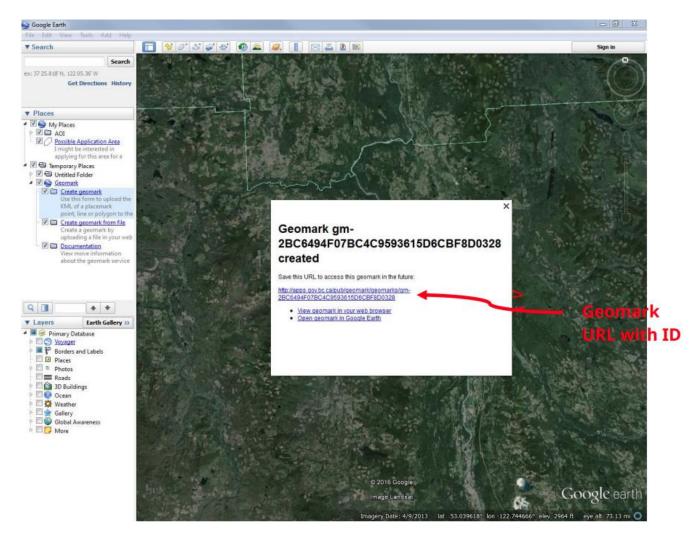
In the example above, the .kml file contains six separate features. If you single-click one of the names in the list (in the example above, one of the "W1536" labels), you should see the list of attributes (if any exist) of that feature in a pop-up table on the map. If you double-click the name, you will see a pop-up table with the feature's attributes, and the map will zoom to that feature as well. Use these actions to determine for yourself which feature is associated with which activity.



At this point, consider which features comprise the single activity area that you want to create a Geomark URL for. Using the above example:

- If all six features should be considered a single activity area, then you can follow Steps 10 through 16 in the tutorial. For Step 10, you would be right-clicking the folder item named "Proposed\_Survey\_Areas" just above the six polygon items.
- If you need to create a Geomark URL for only one of the six features, you can also follow Steps 10 through 16 in the tutorial; however, for Step 10, right-click only that feature in the list that represents the activity area, and select Copy. Continue through to Step 16.
- If a subset of these six items are considered a single activity area, then follow Step 8 of the tutorial to create a new folder item, and copy the features you need into that new folder. Then follow Steps 10 through 16; in Step 10, you would right-click the new folder item you created, and click Copy.

Once you have created the Geomark URL in Step 16, right-click the link to copy it, and paste the link into the CHEFS form or Excel document where it is requested.



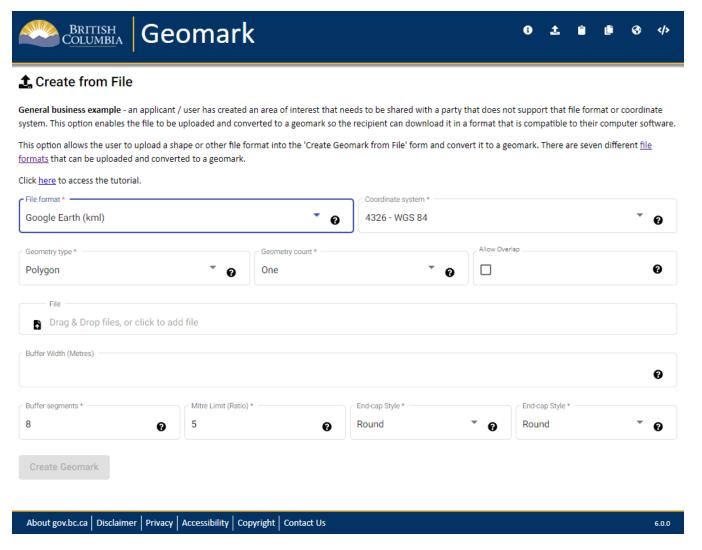
# Method 3: Upload a spatial data file to the Geomark Web Service

Use this method if you have spatial data in a file format other than .gdb (file geodatabase) – examples are .kml, .kmz, .gpkg, .gml, .geojson, .wkt, or .shp (shapefile). You do not need to use Google Earth Pro or ArcGIS applications for this method.

Data in a .gdb folder (file geodatabase) cannot be uploaded to the Geomark Web Service; your data can only be viewed in the ArcGIS or QGIS applications. See Method 4 if you are an ArcGIS user. If you are not an ArcGIS user, you may need to contact the source of the data and request it in another format, such as a .kml file.

For the other formats listed above, you can simply upload your file to the Geomark Web Service and see where the spatial features are located on a map on the website. Also, if necessary, you can download the spatial data in a different file format such as .kml, so that you can edit it in Google Earth Pro.

To upload your file, visit the Geomark "Create from File" form by clicking here.

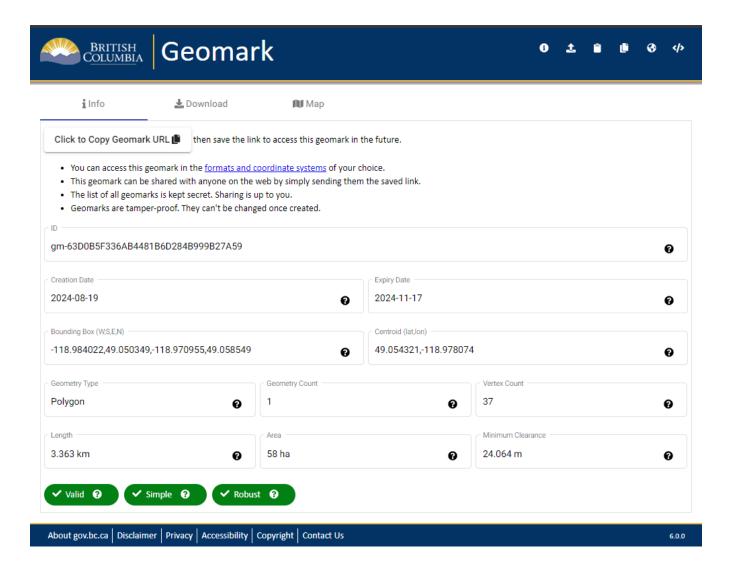


- 1. Select your file format from the "File format" drop-down list.
- 2. For "Coordinate system", first try leaving it as the default selection, 4326 WGS 84, unless you know that your file is saved in one of the other coordinate systems in the drop-down list.
  - Note that for .geojson file format, as well as .kml and .kmz, 4326 WGS 84 will be the only coordinate system available to choose, because these formats do not support any other coordinate system.
- 3. For "Geometry type", leave this as Polygon.
  - o If you specify Polygon but your file actually contains lines or points, then you will get an error message after you click the "Create Geomark" button (step 9).
  - FIP activity locations should always be defined as a polygon or multipolygon. If your spatial file contains only points or lines, the Geomark Web Service can convert them to polygons by buffering them by a distance that you specify. Select LineString or Point as

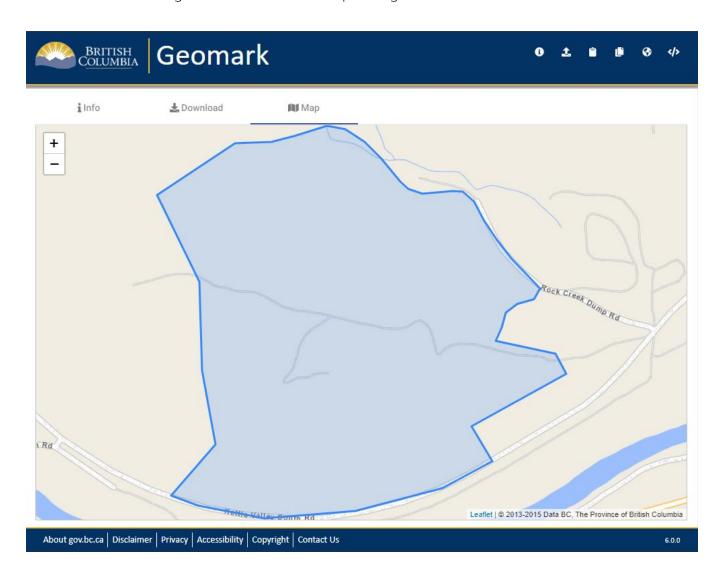
appropriate from the drop-down list for "Geometry type", and be sure to also enter a number greater than zero in the "Buffer Width (Metres)" text box.

- 4. For "Geometry count", choose Many.
  - o If you know that your file only contains a single feature (polygon or multipolygon), you can leave it as the default choice, One. If you choose One, but your file does contain multiple features, then only the first feature will be read.
- 5. For "Allow Overlap", leave the checkbox unchecked.
- 6. For "Buffer Width (Metres)", leave this blank.
  - o If you chose LineString or Point for "Geometry type" (see point 4 above), then enter a number greater than zero for "Buffer Width (Metres)".
- 7. Leave the default selections for "Buffer segments", "Mitre Limit (Ratio)", "End-cap Style" and "End-cap Style".
- 8. Drag and drop your file into the "File" text box, or click inside the "File" text box and you will be prompted to select your file.
  - o If your data is in a shapefile, consider following Method 4 below to acquire Geomark URLs for it using an ArcGIS script tool. If you cannot use ArcGIS, read on.
  - o Note that a shapefile normally consists of several files with the same name and the extensions .shp, .dbf, .shx, .sbn, .sbx, .prj, and possibly others. For the Geomark service, you only need to upload the .shp file alone, as this file contains the geometry of the feature. However, the .shp file does not contain the info about the coordinate system, so you must select the appropriate one for this shapefile from the "Coordinate system" drop-down list.
  - o If you know that your shapefile is in an unusual coordinate system that isn't found in the "Coordinate system" drop-down list, then you should create a new .zip file that contains all of the files that comprise the shapefile, including a .prj file which contains the coordinate system information. Then rename the .zip file to .shpz, and upload the .shpz file to Geomark service instead. You will need to change your "File format" selection to ESRI Shapefile inside a ZIP archive (shpz), and set the "Coordinate system" to 4326 WGS 84 (this choice will be overridden by the actual coordinate system as defined in the .prj file).
- 9. Click the "Create Geomark" button.

If all goes well, you should see a screen like this:

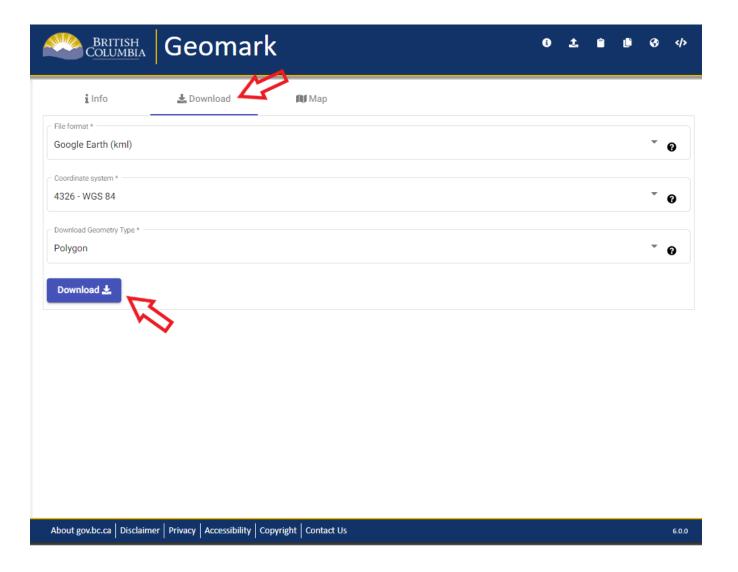


Click the "Map" tab and check to make sure that the polygon is located where you expect.



If the polygon or multipolygon is displaying in the location you expect, go back to the Info tab and click the button labeled "Click to Copy Geomark URL". Then you can paste the URL into the form or document where you are being asked to provide it.

If you want to download the spatial data in another file format, such as .kml, click the Download tab, select a file format and a coordinate system, and click the Download button.



#### Common Problems

- The spatial file uploaded successfully, but the map shows many other polygons that I don't want to include for this project.
  - o Explanation: Your file contains multiple features (polygons and/or multipolygons). The Geomark service has combined them all into a single multipolygon and assigned it a Geomark URL. If your project is represented by only one of these features, or a subset of them, you need to create a new spatial file that contains only that/those feature(s) and upload that file to Geomark instead.
  - o Solution:
    - If your file is already in .kml or .kmz format, you should view the contents of your file in Google Earth Pro and create a Geomark URL for only the appropriate polygon(s). See Method 2 above.

- If your file is in another format, click the "Download" tab to download your spatial data in a new .kml file. Then follow the steps in Method 2 to create a Geomark URL for only the polygon feature(s) that you select.
- If you have your data in a shapefile or file geodatabase, you can use the script tool in ArcMap or ArcGIS Pro to automatically populate your spatial datasets with a Geomark URL for each feature. See Method 4 below.
- Error after clicking the "Create Geomark" button: Multi-geometry has overlap which is not supported
  - Explanation: Evidently, your file contains multiple features (polygons and/or multipolygons) and there is overlap between at least two of the features, resulting in this error.
  - o Solution:
    - If your file is already in .kml or .kmz format, you should view the contents of your file in Google Earth Pro and create a Geomark URL for only the appropriate polygon(s). See Method 2 above.
    - If your file is in another format, click the "Download" tab on the Geomark site to download your spatial data in a new .kml file. Then follow the steps in Method 2 to create a Geomark URL for only the polygon feature(s) that you select.
    - If you have your data in a shapefile or file geodatabase, you can use the script tool in ArcMap or ArcGIS Pro to automatically populate your spatial data table with a Geomark URL for each feature. See Method 4 below.
- Error after clicking the "Create Geomark" button: Geometry is outside the valid area for coordinate system WGS 84 (4326). Check the geometry and coordinate system.
  - o Explanation: The file that you uploaded is not stored in the coordinate system you selected.
  - o Solution:
    - Try changing the "Coordinate system" selection to one of the other choices, and click the "Create Geomark" button again.
    - If your data is in a shapefile, look for the .prj file and open the file in a text editor application, such as Notepad in Windows. You should see the name of the coordinate system inside that file.
    - Ask the person who created the file if they can tell you what coordinate system it uses. If it is a coordinate system that is not available in the drop-down list, ask if they can send you the data in .kml format instead.

# Method 4: Use a script tool in ArcGIS Desktop (ArcMap) or ArcGIS Pro

Use this method if you are an ArcGIS user and you have spatial data for your proposed project(s) stored in a shapefile or a feature class in a file geodatabase, or in another format that can be converted to a shapefile or a feature class in a file geodatabase.

If you are using ArcGIS Desktop (ArcCatalog & ArcMap) version 10.x or ArcGIS Pro 3.x, you can use an existing Python script tool to populate a field in a feature class or shapefile attribute table with Geomark URLs for each feature (polygon or multipolygon). This is much more efficient than creating a spatial data file for each individual feature and uploading each of them to the Geomark Web Service.

## Method 4a: Using the tool in ArcMap (ArcGIS Desktop 10.x)

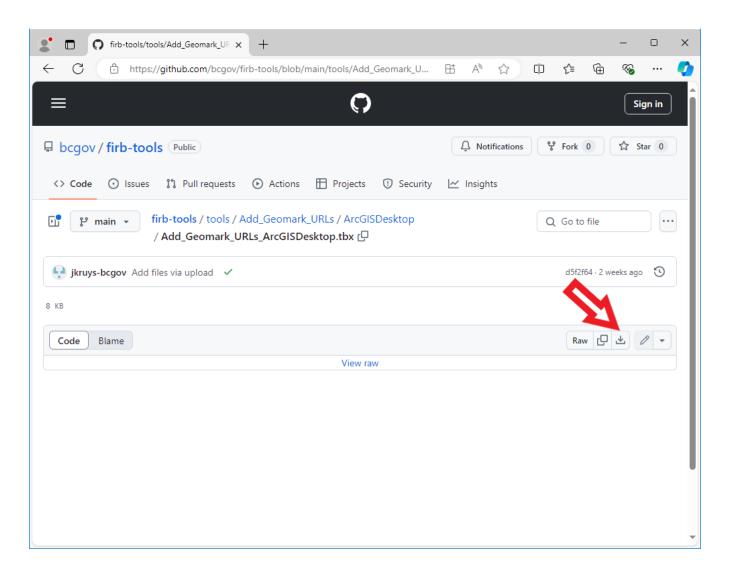
If you are using a BC Government GTS remote desktop environment and you have access to the W: drive (mapped to \spatialfiles.bcgov\work), try entering the following path in Windows File Explorer: W:\for\VIC\HIR\Library\Add\_Geomark\_URLs\ArcGISDesktop.

If you are outside BC Government or you cannot access this folder, you can download the files for the script tool from GitHub instead. In a web browser, go to <a href="https://github.com/bcgov/firb-tools/tree/main/tools/Add Geomark URLs/ArcGISDesktop">https://github.com/bcgov/firb-tools/Add Geomark URLs/ArcGISDesktop</a>.

You should see a list of two files:

- Add\_Geomark\_URLs\_ArcGISDesktop.tbx
- add\_geomark\_py2.py

First, click on the first filename. This is a link that takes you to a new page. Now click the Download File button, with this symbol:

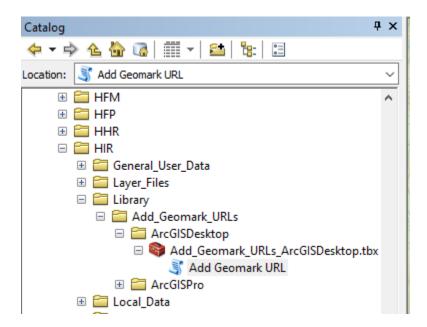


Now click the Back button on your browser, and then click on the second file, named add\_geomark\_py2.py. This takes you to a new page where you can click the Download File button again. Save both files to the same folder on a local drive or a network drive that you have access to when using ArcMap.

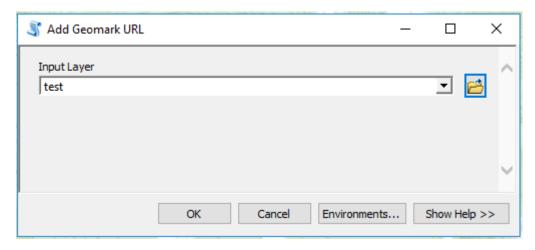
Start ArcMap and load a file-based spatial dataset that you would like to add Geomark URLs to. This is generally either a shapefile or a feature class in a file geodatabase. If your file is in another format such as .kml or .geojson, use the Conversion tools in the toolbox to convert the file to a shapefile or a feature class in a file geodatabase.

In the Catalog pane (which you can open by clicking the Windows menu, then Catalog), browse to the folder where you saved the files you downloaded from GitHub, or to

W:\for\VIC\HIR\Library\Add\_Geomark\_URLs\ArcGISDesktop if you can access it. In that folder, you should see a toolbox named Add\_Geomark\_URLs\_ArcGISDesktop.tbx. Expand that, and you should see a script tool named Add Geomark URL.

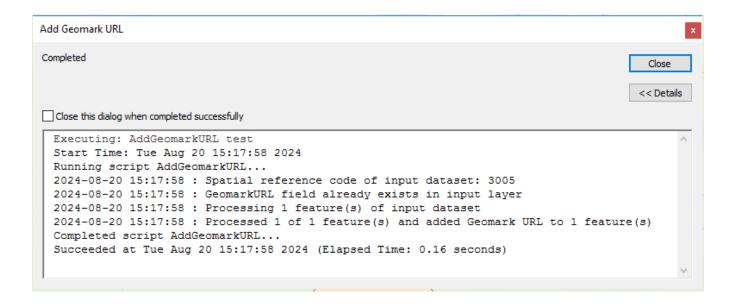


Double-click the script tool to start it. You should then see a form prompting you to select a map layer. Note that if the map layer you choose currently has a selected set of records, then the tool will only write Geomark URLs to those selected records.



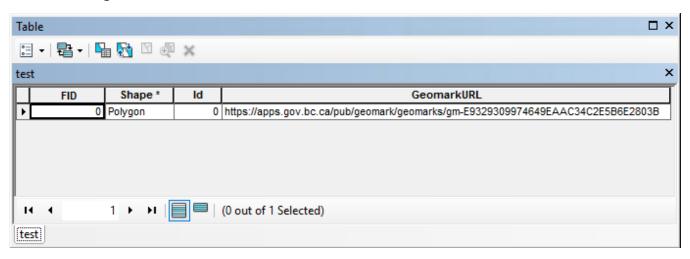
After selecting a map layer, click the OK button to run the tool.

As the tool runs, there should be a status window displaying messages. If there is a button labeled "Details >>", click that to expand the window and view the messages.



If the last message indicates that all of your selected records were processed, then you can close the status window by clicking the Close button.

Now right-click the layer in your map's Table Of Contents pane, and select Open Attribute Table. (If you already had it open, you should close it and open it again.) You should see the new GeomarkURL field containing Geomark URLs.



Now you can copy and paste those URLs into the form or document where they are needed. You can also try pasting a URL into your web browser address bar, then clicking the Map tab on the web page it takes you to, to verify that it is the same polygon as the one you chose in your map layer.

## Method 4b: Using the tool in ArcGIS Pro

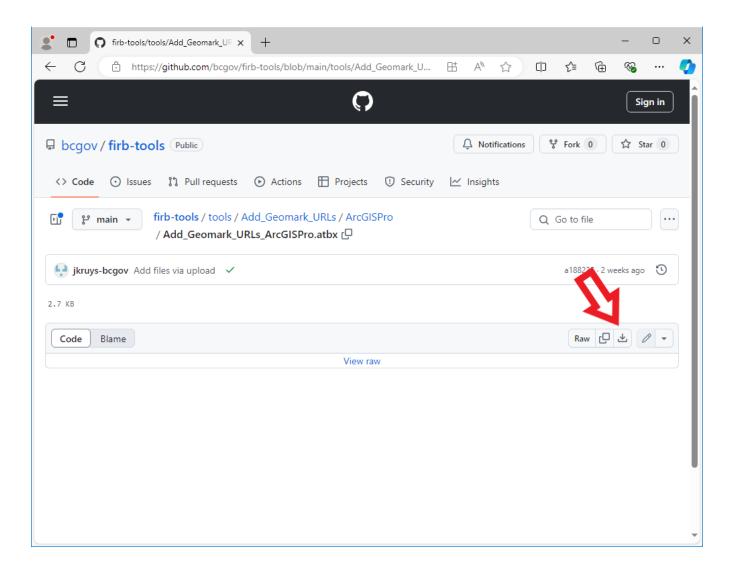
If you are using a GTS desktop environment and you have access to the W: drive (mapped to \spatialfiles.bcgov\work), try going to the following path, using Windows File Explorer: W:\for\VIC\HIR\Library\Add\_Geomark\_URLs\ArcGISPro. If you can see that folder, then you will be able to access the toolbox file and the script tool directly there from ArcGIS Pro.

If you are outside BC Government or you cannot access this folder, you can download the files for the script tool from GitHub instead. In a web browser, go to <a href="https://github.com/bcgov/firb-tools/tree/main/tools/Add\_Geomark\_URLs/ArcGISPro">https://github.com/bcgov/firb-tools/Add\_Geomark\_URLs/ArcGISPro</a>.

You will see two files:

- Add\_Geomark\_URLs\_ArcGISPro.atbx
- add\_geomark\_py3.py

Click the first file, which takes you to a new page. Now click the Download File button, with this symbol:

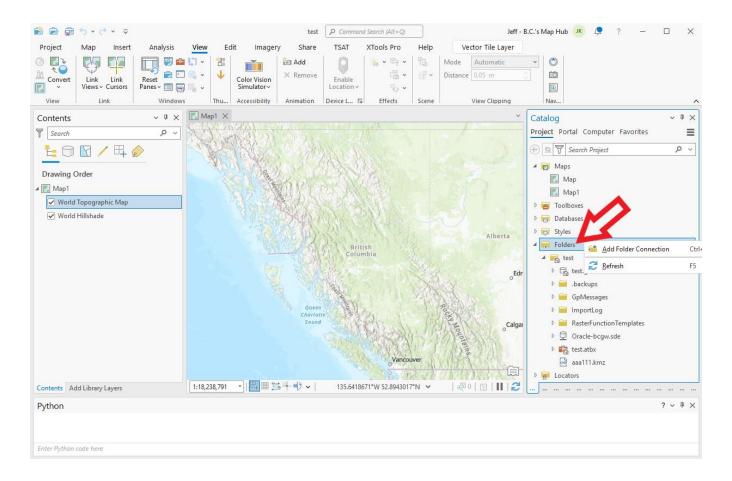


Save the file to a local drive or a network drive that you have access to when using ArcGIS Pro. You do not need to download the second file, add\_geomark\_py3.py; that file is provided only for reference. The Python code found in the .py file is also embedded in the .atbx file.

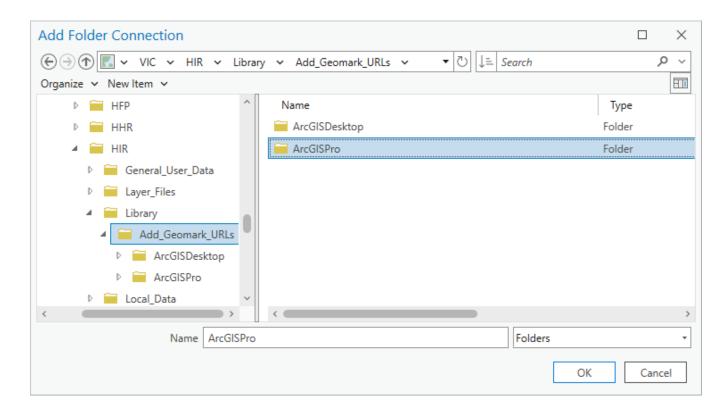
Start ArcGIS Pro and load a file-based spatial dataset that you would like to add Geomark URLs to. This is generally either a shapefile or a feature class in a file geodatabase.

In the Catalog pane (which you can open by clicking the View menu, then Catalog Pane), right-click the Folders item and select Add Folder Connection add a folder connection to the folder where you saved the file that you downloaded from GitHub, or to

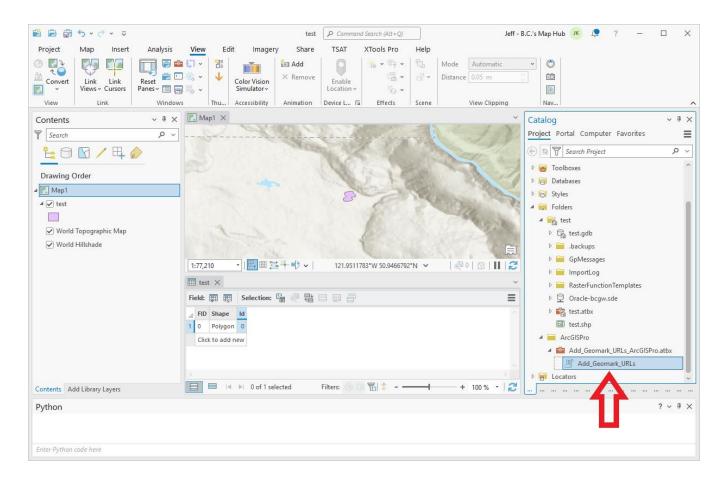
W:\for\VIC\HIR\Library\Add\_Geomark\_URLs\ArcGISPro if you can access it.



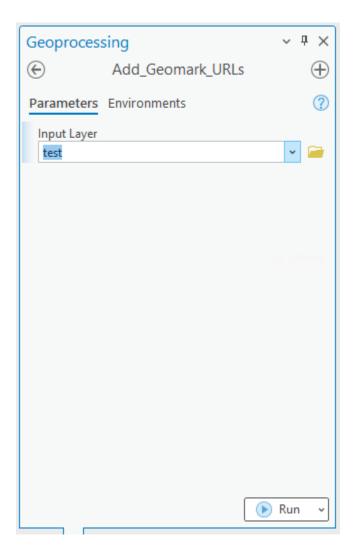
You should see a pop-up folder browser where you can browse to W:\for\VIC\HIR\Library\Add\_Geomark\_URLs. Select the folder named ArcGISPro and click OK.



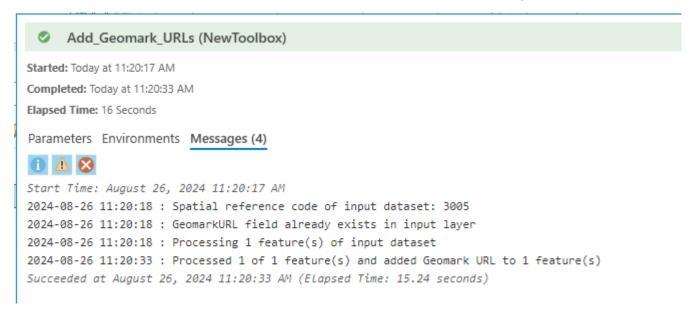
After you've added the folder, expand the Folders item in the Catalog Pane. You should see a folder named **ArcGISPro**, and when you expand that, you should see a toolbox named **Add\_Geomark\_URLs\_ArcGISPro.tbx**. Expand that, and you should see a script tool named **Add\_Geomark\_URLs**.



Double-click that script tool to run it. You should then see the tool ready to run in the Geoprocessing Pane. You are prompted to select a layer where the Geomark URLs will be written. Select the layer from the drop-down list and click Run.

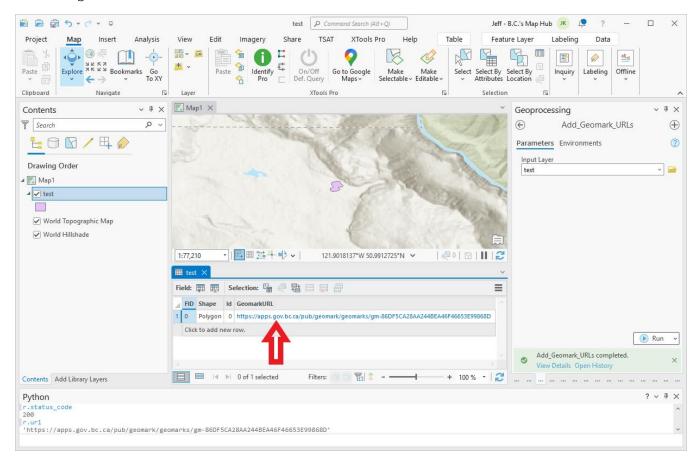


Click the "View Details" while or after the tool runs. You will see status messages.



If the last message indicates that all of your selected records were processed, then you can close the status window by clicking the X button at the top right of the pop-up.

Now right-click the layer in your map's Contents pane and select Attribute Table. (If you already had the table open, you should close it and open it again.) You should see the new GeomarkURL field containing Geomark URLs.



Now you can copy and paste those URLs into the CHEFS form or Excel document where they are requested. You can also try pasting a URL into your web browser address bar, then clicking the Map tab on the web page it takes you to, to verify that it is the same polygon as the one you chose in your map layer.