

BCCFA Conference May 27 2025

Breakout Session: Forest Landscape Plans (FLPs) and Community Forests

Session Description: This informative session will provide an update on the FLP pilots, how CFA holders are approaching their role and participation, as well as how important drivers like wildfire are being incorporated.

Speakers:

- Ken Nielsen, General Manager, Chinook CFA
- Randy Spyksma, President, BCCFA and Manager Logan Lake CF, and Quesnel Forest Landscape Planning Pilot Project facilitator
- Barry Snowdon (FLP Team Lead, MOF)

Moderated by – Randy Spyksma

Notes compiled by - Eden Hardcastle

Topics Discussed:

- An update of the FLP pilots
- The integration of CFAs into FLP processes

Key Points:

- FLPs are a “new” tactical planning process that will eventually replace FSPs and FOMs, can act as a catch-all to integrate a number of large-scale management objectives
- Introduced through Bill 23 and FRPA (2021) to create a new regime that features government-to-government dialogue and brings the Province, Nations, and Licensees to the table (“tripartite”)
- There are current efforts to incentivize CFAs and FNWLs to participate in FLP processes
- There is nothing currently in legislation that indicates FLPs have to follow an existing management unit boundary
- FLP process is lengthy and consuming: there is potential for stakeholder and committee participation fatigue, especially when local Nations may be involved in several processes
- Necessary reporting encourages monitoring and accountability

- Communication with other local Nations is critical, even if not involved in FLP process

Learning from pilot projects

- Mutual trust and understanding is required between all parties
- Seek cultural awareness training for non-Indigenous individuals with Nation involved in FLP prior to beginning the process
- Sort out governance and seek a third party facilitator within parties and/or at the table
- Plan for participant turnover due to participation fatigue, changes to management, and exterior stressors
- Understand what is currently in place and how it looks in the future to ensure what changes need to be made in order to achieve desired outcomes with FLP
- Develop a vision and associated scope to guide the process; convert vision to planning and modelling guidelines
- Avoid too many subcommittees: requires trust from all parties
- Avoiding the FLP process may have ramifications for the future – participation may be required at a later date and may be more complicated and less flexible
 - Managers can elect to *not* engage, but allow for their area to be included in FLP process, or not allow for their area to be included in FLP process
 - There may come a point where participation is required
 - “There is a likelihood that the government may require CFAs to be part of the planning process, or First Nations CFA partners may require the CFA to be a part of the process.”

Key answers from Q&A:

- CFAs can be excluded from the FLP table (as discussed regarding the 4 Sunshine Coast CFAs not included in Sunshine Coast FLP)
 - Should be discussed with District Manager if early on in planning process
 - CFAs could have been excluded from the planning process for simplicity
 - Possible to sit down with First Nations outside of FLP planning to discuss
- From a First Nations perspective, non-Indigenous entities need to be patient with First Nations during FLP and all forestry processes
 - Some of the most recent residential school closures were less than 30 years ago, which is a very condensed timeline to be rapidly bringing Nations to planning tables and expect them to participate with all relevant parties. Reconciliation and healing takes time and trust

- FLPs are created *with* the Nations, and are not a provincial process that are happening *to* the Nations. It is important that this is reflected with care and compassion throughout the planning process
- Consent and trust are ongoing and cannot be taken for granted
- Speaks to seeking sensitivity training and learning opportunities for non-Indigenous entities included in FLP planning
- How are external stakeholders included in the process when FLPs are intended to be government-to-government?
 - Meetings with all relevant licensees at the table; conversations about how decisions will be made, integrating existing resource management plans
 - Engaging with a planning committee and aiding in developing outcome goals for the land base
- FLPs must be consistent with existing land use plans, however if LRMPs are outdated, lacking specific values, or did not include First Nations participation, it is possible to revisit these plans with WLRS representation at the table
- How can FLPs integrate with provincial parks, mining and exploration, and other large-scale landscape planning?

Resources:

The Ministry website on FLPs:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/managing-our-forest-resources/forest-landscape-plans>

TEDxWhistler: *I am an ancestor* | T'ec Georgina Dan

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5UmkV_2HZ4M