
ALBERNI VALLEY COMMUNITY FOREST CORPORATION

Alberni Valley Community Forest Forest Stewardship Plan Supporting Document 2024-2029

(To accompany the FSP, but not part of the FSP)



Date: May 31, 2024

Prepared by:

Authorized by:



I certify that this work fulfills accepted standards and that I did personally supervise this work

I certify that this Forest Stewardship Plan is authorized on behalf of the Alberni Valley Community Forest Corporation.

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1.0 Introduction

This supporting document provides additional information in support of the Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) **but is not part of the FSP**. This means that the content of this supporting document does not create specific legal obligations. Rather, the purpose of this document is to:

1. provide rationale related to the results and strategies, stocking standards and measures described in the FSP, and
2. provide plain language interpretative information related to the content of the FSP to assist with understanding the plan document and how it relates to the Management Plan and to the subsequent operational planning and implementation process.

This FSP (#3) is a replacement to FSP #2 for the Alberni Valley Community Forest. FSP #3 includes minor amendments, clarifications and updates to the plan content consistent with the Chief Foresters Guidance on the Replacement of Forest Stewardship Plans (March 2016). The major changes that are brought forward in FSP #3 include:

- Inclusion of objectives and results relating to the *Order for the Recovery of Marbled Murrelet (Brachyramphus marmoratus)*, dated Nov. 19th, 2021.
- Addition of strategies for the management of Interpretive sites, recreation, sites, and recreation trail, in order to provide consistency with the AVCFC Community Forest Agreement Application and Forest Management Plan (April 16, 2009).
- Changes to the even aged stocking standards to include a new deciduous management standard in the CWHxm 01 and 06 site series. The stocking standard rationale also provides clarification relating to mixedwood management regimes, and the Local Geographic Free Growing Competition Assessment Criteria.
- Changes to the stocking standards for FPPR S.44(4) areas to provide consistency with the 2023 Silviculture Survey Procedures Manual.

The FSP is not an operational plan and as such does not provide specific information about future roads and harvest blocks. This occurs in the next and subsequent phases of operational planning through cutting permit and road permit applications and is further communicated and shared in advance with First Nations and interested community members and stakeholders.

This supporting document is structured to mirror the FSP document (heading numbers etc) to facilitate cross-reference and interpretation. Table headings use a different color scheme to help differentiate the documents. To facilitate interpretation, it is recommended that both documents be read side by side.

The FSP is designed to indicate where within the community forest landbase (forest development units) future planning and development activities may take place and what strategies and results will be applied to guide and ensure these activities conform with established resource management objectives.

The FSP public review process is a key opportunity for First Nations, stakeholders and community members to provide input into the development and applicability of resource

management strategies and results that will guide operational planning and development.

The core elements of the FSP subject to the review and approval process are:

- Results and strategies related to government objectives (including higher level plans),
- Stocking standards that detail regeneration and free-to grow standards consistent with maintaining or enhancing future timber supply, the existing timber supply analysis and forest management assumptions,
- Measures to prevent the introduction or spread of invasive plants and manage natural range barriers where applicable.

2.0 Date of Submission

The date of submission of the AVCF FSP#3 is May 31, 2024. This plan is submitted to the Ministry of Forest for approval and will be effective upon the date which it is approved.

3.0 Term of the FSP and Commencement

The term of the replacement forest stewardship plan is 5 years.

The commencement date of the plan will be determined at the time of approval.

4.0 FSP Map and Forest Development Units

4.1 Forest Development Units

The Forest Development Units (FDU's) indicate areas that will contain forest development activities and that will have a common set of objectives, results and strategies.

The two FDU's (Sproat and Taylor) were determined based on their geographic separation and differences in the applicability of government objectives. The Taylor FDU falls within SMZ 17 and is subject to higher-level plan objectives related to old growth and sustaining forest ecosystems that do not apply to the Sproat FDU.

4.2 Designations in Effect

Section 14.3 of the Forest Planning and Practices Act requires that any of the following 'things' that have legally been designated and are in effect at the time of FSP submission be listed and identified on the FSP maps. The list of potential 'designations' includes:

- ungulate winter ranges
- wildlife habitat areas

- fisheries sensitive watersheds
- lakeshore management zones, including specifying the width of the zone, if the zone is identified on a map accompanying the establishment of the lakeshore management zone,
- scenic areas,
- lakes identified as an L1 lake under section 49 (1) (b) (ii) if the lake has been identified on a map accompanying the identification,
- community watersheds
- old growth management areas
- area in which commercial timber harvesting is prohibited by another enactment,
- cutting permit and road permit held by the agreement holder if that is the person required to prepare the plan, and,
- road permit or timber sales licence granted or entered into by the timber sales manager.

Table 2 in the FSP lists the only three designations that apply to the AVCF (Scenic Areas, Community Watershed, and Old Growth management Areas). Existing road authorities are listed in section 4.4. These are also shown on the FSP Maps. None of the other designations currently apply.

4.3 FRPA Section 196 / FPPR Section 110 Areas

This refers to areas (roads, blocks) that were previously included under forest development plans or other plans prior to the FSP. There are no areas within the FSP area to which FRPA S.196 or FPPR S.110 apply.

4.4 Areas subject to a Road Permit

The following table lists road sections that are designated as FSR's and/or subject to an existing road permit (AVCFC and clients other than the AVCFC).

Sproat FDU		Taylor FDU	
Road Licence/ID	Type / Client	Road Licence/ID	Type / Client
R18553 Various	AVCFC	R18553 Various	AVCFC
R07669 AS120G	RP / WFP	7954 10 S Taylor	FSR / DM SIFD
R07669 AS3	RP / WFP	7954 102	FSR / DM SIFD
		7954 97	FSR / DM SIFD

4.5 Other existing tenures/obligations within the FSP Area

The following information is not required in the FSP and is provided for reference purposes only. It lists other miscellaneous tenures, authorities or obligations in effect (or under application) at the time of submission that are within the FSP area but not covered by FSP requirements. These include:

Feature	Sproat FDU	Taylor FDU
Traplines	TR0107T407	
Guide Outfitter Areas	1000674 (Lingl)	100671 (Deluca)
Water Licence (Power)		PD 76152 (Sutton Creek) 1409880 (ROW Penstock) 1409881 (Power line) PD 76148 (Klitsa Creek) 140877 (ROW Penstock) 1409878 (Power line)
Water Licence (Domestic)	PD29600, PD29601	
Gravel Pit		1407672 Sand/gravel quarry
Recreation Trail		REC6390 Gibson-Klitsa Trail
Growth and Yield Plot:	5-3A-501R, 504R, 5-4B-505R, 509R	5-4C-506R
Research Plot	EP0708.07.27 SIFD Fd	
Mineral Tenures	843030, 737222, 737282, 842478, 844694	506020, 575455

4.6 Provincial Old Growth Deferrals

The British Columbia Government and the Ministry of Forests announced on November 2, 2021 the deferment of priority old growth stands in BC as a step in implementing the Old Growth Strategy. Numerous deferred stands are located within the AVCF. The AVCFC will map, field verify, and protect old growth stands, and work with the Hupacasath and Tseshaht First Nations, and the Ministry of Forests as an old growth strategy is completed. This is addressed further in section 4.5 of the FSP.

4.7 Other Plans

4.7.1 Higher Level Plans

The Vancouver Island Land Use Plan Higher Level Plan Order, the Order Establishing the Sproat Lake Landscape Unit and Objectives, and the Order for *Recovery of Marbled Murrelet (Brachyramphus marmoratus)*, are legally established higher-level plans that apply to the AVCF and have objectives that must be addressed in the FSP. These are addressed in section 5.1 of the FSP.

4.7.2 AVCF Management Plan

The *Alberni Valley Community Forest Agreement Application and Management Plan* document (April 2009) includes the land use vision, goals and guiding principles for the community forest along with a full description of the resource values and characteristics of the community forest landbase. The Management Plan also includes the allowable annual cut calculation and assumptions. These have been approved by government, and set the initial direction and development scope for the AVCF. The plan also includes an analysis of the AAC uncertainties related to alternative management approaches that remain unresolved for the community forest (for example old growth harvesting, riparian buffer standards, recreation feature management). The FSP does not resolve or define these issues or add constraints beyond legal requirements. Instead it retains flexibility so that these can be addressed through the start up phase and through the broader process of community forest development planning and consultation.

The AVCF Management Plan includes a series of resource management objectives and strategies for timber and non-timber values that are consistent with FRPA objectives and were included in the Management Plan in consideration of future FSP requirements. These objectives are not in conflict with FRPA objectives and requirements but in many cases provide more specific guidance about how FRPA objectives may be achieved on the AVCF land base. These objectives and strategies were reviewed during FSP preparation and some were included into the FSP strategies and results where considered appropriate. That some details and strategies were not directly incorporated into the FSP does not negate their relevance to the management of the community forest as they continue to provide direction at the Management Plan level.

The AVCF Management Plan also includes some elements of resource management that are not explicitly covered within the scope of the Forest Stewardship Plan - usually because there are no explicit objectives, orders or designations that exist within the community forest area that apply to these elements. Examples of these include recreation objectives, non-timber (or botanical) forest products objectives, educational, and tourism opportunities. The application of these objectives and initiatives to the management of the community forest therefore remains a function of implementing the management plan.

4.7.3 Hupacasath Land Use Plan

The Hupacasath First Nation (HFN) Land Use Plan (HLUP) is a strategic higher-level plan that defines the Hupacasath First Nation's land and forest values and management objectives at the territorial level and defines Hupacasath cultural and resource values for Hupacasath Use Areas. Both AVCF FDU's (Sproat and Taylor) fall within their respectively named Hupacasath Special Management Land Use areas (Sproat and Taylor) and are subject to the Special Management Area standards contained in phase 2 of the Hupacasath Land Use Plan.

The AVCF Management Plan endorses the Hupacasath Land Use Plan recognises that some of the HLUP requirements (such as riparian buffers) exceed those of the Forest and Range Practices Act and may have AAC implications that have yet to be resolved. While the FSP does not automatically embed HLUP requirements it does reiterate the AVCF's Management Plan commitment to adhering to the overall objectives of the HLUP and to conducting ongoing referral on a case-by-case basis of proposed roads and blocks to the Hupacasath and Tseshaht First Nations. This will provide an active mechanism to review and consider the application of the Land Use Plan standards to proposed developments on a site-by-site basis.

5.0 Results, Strategies and Measures

The objectives, strategies and results statements are the core elements of the FSP and are documented in the green tables 5.1.1 to 5.3.1 in the FSP document.

The name and type of objective are shown in the header of each table. Objectives are transcribed into each table directly from their source in a higher-level plan, legislation or government order, and are shown in *italics*. Results and strategies or practice requirements for each objective are included in 'normal text' in the center of each table.

"Result" means a description of:

- (a) measurable or verifiable outcomes in respect of a particular established objective, and
- (b) the situations or circumstances that determine where in a forest development unit the outcomes will be applied;

"Strategy" means a description of

- (a) measurable or verifiable steps or practices that will be carried out in respect of a particular established objective, and
- (b) the situations or circumstances that determine where in a forest development unit the steps or practices will be applied.

The FDU to which the objective, results and strategy applies is indicated in the footer of each table.

The following tables in this document mirror those presented in the FSP but contain interpretative information and rationale to support the results and strategies included in the FSP.

5.1 Land Use Objectives (FSP S. 5.1)

5.1.1 Order Establishing Sproat Lake Landscape Unit and Objectives

5.1.1a Sproat Lake Landscape Unit Objective 1

5.1.1a	Order Establishing Sproat Lake Landscape Unit and Objectives	Objective 1: Old Growth Management Areas
<p>This objective and the prescribed results and strategies address the management and replacement of designated old growth management areas and specify permissible circumstances and activities whereby OGMA's may be subject to or impacted by operational activities. The strategy and result are essentially a reiteration of the objective statement reflecting the legal requirements.</p> <p>1. The result/strategy is measurable or verifiable because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sproat Lake Landscape Unit Plan established Old Growth Management Areas (OGMAs) polygons and associated objectives that limit road construction and timber harvesting activities within the OGMAs. The strategy commits to not constructing road or harvesting timber within the OGMA polygons except as allowed in the approved Landscape Unit Plan. • OGMAs are spatially delineated and mapped. • The AVCFC will report its harvesting activities consistent with FPPR S. 86. • The AVCFC will report any changes to OGMA's to the DDM at the end of each calendar year <p>2. The result/strategy is consistent with the objective set by government because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To contribute to the conservation of biodiversity, the strategy commits to not constructing roads or harvesting timber, except as allowed in the objectives. <p>Section 13.3.9.2 of the AVCF management plan addresses landscape level biodiversity and includes a strategy to work with regulatory agencies to relocate OGMA's to better correspond with recreational areas and those that are difficult to access using conventional harvest methods. This process would be separate from normal operational planning activities to which these results and strategies apply and any proposed location or configuration changes would need to be consistent with landscape unit planning, this objective and subject to approval by government.</p>		
<p>Objectives, Strategies and Results apply to these Forest Development Units</p>		<p>Sproat ✓ Taylor ✓</p>

5.1.1b Sproat Lake Landscape Unit Objective 2

5.1.1b	Order Establishing Sproat Lake Landscape Unit and Objectives	Objective 2 Wildlife Tree Retention
<p>This objective and the prescribed results and strategies govern the establishment and maintenance of wildlife tree retention within the AVCF.</p>		
<p>1. The result/strategy is measurable or verifiable because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sproat Lake Landscape Unit Plan established wildlife tree retention targets by BEC variant within the landscape unit. The strategy commits to identifying Wildlife tree retention areas that meet the target amounts in the Landscape Unit Plan. • The AVCF will report its harvesting activities consistent with FPPR S. 86. <p>2. The result/strategy is consistent with the objective set by government because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To contribute to the conservation of biodiversity, the strategy is commits to not constructing roads or harvesting timber, except as allowed in the objectives. • The strategy also commits to identifying wildlife tree retention areas consistent with the targets as specified in the objectives. 		
<p>The strategy is consistent with AVCF Management Plan objectives and strategies for stand level biodiversity (S 13.3.9.3) and section 3(7) Variable Retention Harvesting of the Hupacasath Land Use Plan.</p>		
<p>Objectives, Strategies and Results apply to these Forest Development Units:</p>		<p>Sproat ✓ Taylor ✓</p>

5.1.1c Sproat Lake Landscape Unit Objective 3

5.1.1c	Order Establishing Sproat Lake Landscape Unit and Objectives	Objective 3: Special Management Zone 17
<p>This objective specifies that 25% of the total forested area of SMZ 17 be retained as mature and old forest (>80 years of age). The prescribed results and strategies commit the AVCFC to working with other licensees operating in the SMZ to meet this objective and limit harvesting in mature or old forest if the spatial targets within the SMZ drop below the prescribed threshold. It also recognizes that the AVCFC is responsible for the portion of the SMZ falling within the Taylor FDU.</p>		
<p>This strategy also addresses HLP Objective 1a. See table 5.1.2a for detailed rationale and additional considerations related to this objective.</p>		
<p>1. The result/strategy is measurable or verifiable because:</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It provides clear targets by SMZ, limiting harvesting in certain instances. • It outlines details on how the harvesting in respect of the targets will be assessed. 		
<p>2. The result/strategy is consistent with the objective set by government because:</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It outlines a result/strategy that seeks to maintain the 25% of mature forest target within the area of each SMZ. • It outlines a result/strategy that is consistent with the relationship between the VIHLP Order and Landscape Unit Planning. 		
<p>The strategy is consistent with AVCF Management Plan objectives and strategies for landscape level biodiversity (S 13.3.9.2).</p>		
<p>Objectives, Strategies and Results apply to these Forest Development Units:</p>		<p>Taylor ✓</p>

5.1.2 Vancouver Island Land Use Plan Higher Level Plan Order

The Vancouver Island Land Use Plan, Higher Level Plan (VIHLP) Order (effective December 1, 2000) establishes Resource Management Zones and Resource Management Zone Objectives within the area covered by the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan (VILUP). The Taylor FDU exists within Special Management Zone (SMZ) 17- Strathcona Taylor.

When objectives specified in the Higher Level Plan (HLP) Order are narrow and specific, the results/strategies included in the AVCF FSP must be based directly on what is specified in the HLP Order objective.

SMZ #17 exists beyond the boundaries of the Taylor FDU. The AVCFC is only responsible for the portions of the SMZ that exists within the Taylor FDU.

SMZ #13 borders and occasionally overlaps the southern tenure boundary in the Taylor LU. The SMZ 13 area that is located within the Taylor LU is located in inoperable areas, outside of

the timber harvesting landbase. For the purpose of this FSP, VILUP objectives for SMZs have not been included for SMZ 13.

5.1.2a VILUP HLP IIA Objective 1a

5.1.2a	Vancouver Island Land Use Plan Higher Level Plan Order	Section IIA Objective 1a
<p>This objective relates to sustaining forest ecosystem structure and function by creating or maintaining mature and old forest.</p> <p>The strategy for managing this objective is that same as for Objective 3 of the Sproat Lake Land Use Plan (table 5.1.1c) and the following rationale and considerations apply equally to both.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The result/strategy is measurable or verifiable because:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It provides clear targets by SMZ, limiting harvesting in certain instances.• It outlines details on how the harvesting in respect of the targets will be assessed.2. The result/strategy is consistent with the objective set by government because:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It outlines a result/strategy that seeks to maintain a minimum of 25% of mature forest target within the area of each SMZ.• It outlines a result/strategy that is consistent with the relationship between the VIHLP Order and Landscape Unit Planning.3. Additional information for the Delegated Decision Maker to consider:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Mature Forest Reference to “mature” forests in the Higher Level Plan Order objective is understood to mean mature plus old forest. The result/strategy and backgrounder document reflect this interpretation.b) Relationship to Landscape Unit Planning The VIHLP Order states that mature seral forest targets for Objective 1(a) will be established through landscape unit planning. However, in the transition section of the VIHLP Order it is indicated that in the event that landscape units and objectives are not established in an area within 2 years of the date that the order takes effect, the objective will be implemented in the area. Because more than 2 years has passed since the VIHLP Order took effect, Objective 1(a) must be implemented.<p>The result/strategy for maintenance of the targets outlined in the FSP is an interim step. AVCFC will work with other licensees to further define these criteria across the SMZ.</p>		

c) For all SMZs – Forest Structure

The VIHLP Order states:

“mature seral forest is defined as generally 80-120 years or older, depending on species and site conditions”. The structure of mature seral forest generally includes canopies that vary vertically or horizontally, or both. The age and structure of the mature seral stage will vary significantly by forest type and from one biogeoclimatic zone to another.”

For this Forest Stewardship Plan, the actual age of the forest is being used to determine how much area must be left to maintain mature seral targets. This is the best information available for the entire area within the SMZs.

For this FSP, maintaining the mature plus old seral target area within the SMZ is not an issue. There is either sufficient mature plus old seral forest or other factors limiting the amount of harvest available in the amount of harvest available in the SMZ.

Objectives, Strategies and Results apply to these Forest Development Units

Taylor ✓

5.1.2b VILUP HLP IIA Objective 1b

5.1.2b

**Vancouver Island Land Use Plan
Higher Level Plan Order**

Section IIA Objective 1 b

This objective and result or strategy addresses retention of structural forest attributes and elements with important biodiversity functions within cutblocks within the Taylor FDU. It is consistent with objectives and strategies for stand level biodiversity contained in the Management Plan (13.3.9.3) and for variable retention standards contained in section 3(7) of the Hupacasath Land Use Plan.

1. The result/strategy is measurable or verifiable because:

- It describes structural forest attributes that may be retained.
- It describes management areas in which these attributes will exist.
- The objective itself is narrow, and it has been written into a result/strategy.

2. The result/strategy is consistent with the objective set by government because:

- The result/strategy provides for stand diversity within cutblocks.
- The objective itself is narrow, and it has been written into a result/strategy.

3. Additional information for the Delegated Decision Maker to consider:

Structural Forest Attributes and Elements Structural forest attributes and elements will be retained through the results/strategies in other portions of this FSP including:

- Wildlife tree retention areas within cutblocks. FPPR S. 66 and 67 set out the requirements for wildlife tree retention areas;
- Coarse woody debris (CWD) retention. FPPR S. 68 sets out the requirement for coarse woody debris retention.

In addition:

- CWD & wildlife trees can be augmented at the stand level by including these structural forest attributes in streamside reserves, basal area (BA) retention in riparian management zones (RMZs), wildlife tree patches (WTPs) and in partial cut harvesting systems,
- Some riparian management area (RMA) retention as well as other cutblock retention may be non-contiguous within cutblock boundaries and distributed throughout cutblocks.

Qualified professionals generally consider these elements during the development of site plans. The result/strategy provides for stand diversity within or adjacent to cutblocks. Limitations placed on cutblock size and silvicultural systems within SMZs will assist in providing horizontal diversity within future stands.

Objectives, Strategies and Results apply to these Forest Development Units

Taylor ✓

5.1.2c VILUP HLP IIA Objective 1c

5.1.2c

Vancouver Island Land Use Plan Higher Level Plan Order

Section IIA Objective 1 c

This objective and associated results and strategies specify the use of a variety of silviculture systems and patch sizes and limits maximum block size to 5ha for clearcuts, clearcut with reserves or seed tree silvicultural systems or to 40 ha for shelterwood, selection or retention silvicultural systems. This applies to the Taylor FDU. (Note that the maximum (clearcut / NAR) block size in the Sproat FDU is 40 ha as per FPPR S. 64.

A definition of silviculture systems including the retention system can be found in the Silviculture Systems Handbook for British Columbia (2003).

<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/publications/00085/silvsystemshdbk-web.pdf>

The retention system involves:

- a. retaining individual trees or groups of trees to maintain structural diversity over the area of the cutblock for at least one rotation, and
- b. leaving more than half the total area of the cutblock within one tree-height from the base of a tree or group of trees, whether or not the tree or group of trees is inside the cutblock.

This strategy is consistent with objectives and strategies for stand level biodiversity contained in the AVCF Management Plan (S13.3.9.3) and with objective 3(7) for Variable Retention Timber Harvesting in the Hupacasath Land Use Plan, which provides further operational guidance for implementing variable retention.

1. The result/strategy is measurable or verifiable because:

- The silvicultural system is specific to a cutblock.
- The cutblock size, shape, and distribution are measurable.

2. The result/strategy is consistent with the objective set by government because:

- The result/strategy provides for a variety of patch sizes and shapes across the landscape, specific to the silvicultural system being used.
- The objective itself is narrow, and it has been written into a result/strategy.

3. Additional information for the Delegated Decision Maker to consider:

a) Silvicultural Systems

A variety of silvicultural systems are to be applied across the community forest area, and represent a variety of retention levels. The silvicultural system and therefore the degree of retention, is determined by site characteristics, and the values that are present in the area when developing site plans. It is expected that each opening will have some level of retention based on these characteristics and values.

b) Patch Distribution

Patch distribution is described in the Landscape Unit Planning Guide as areas with a similar age, generally within a 20-year range. An accepted tool for assessing and guiding patch size distribution across a Landscape Unit is a patch size distribution analysis. If one is completed for the Taylor FDU within the FSP, (which is within SMZ 17), it could provide direction for meeting the distribution of the natural disturbance patterns as described in the Landscape Unit Planning Guidebook (LUPG). Patch size distribution analysis and the subsequent recommendations are focused on new harvesting or disturbed area 20 years or younger, as denoted by the relevant forest cover inventory label. To complete the analysis, areas may be grouped into units based on Natural Disturbance Types (NDT) and like biogeoclimatic zones.

c) Varying Levels of Retention

The spatial distribution of dispersed or other forms of retention areas may be varied to take advantage of natural structural diversity. Differences in site conditions between cutblocks –such as the size of riparian and stream buffers and size of buffers for windthrow management – are expected to dictate a variety of retention patch levels and sizes. Site conditions such as topography, windthrow potential, visual management objectives, wildlife constraints and harvest system also affect retention patch levels and shapes.

Objectives, Strategies and Results apply to these Forest Development Units

Taylor ✓

5.1.2d VILUP HLP Objective 2

5.1.2d	Vancouver Island Land Use Plan Higher Level Plan Order	HLP Objective 2
<p>This objective provides for exceptions to Objective 1, allowing for cutblocks larger than 5 or 40 ha in the Taylor FDU in the event that harvesting is carried out to recover timber that was damaged by fire, insects or wind or other similar events.</p> <p>1. The result/strategy is measurable or verifiable because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cutblocks size (> 5 or 40 ha as the case may be) is measurable. • The existence of structural characteristics incorporated into the cutblock is verifiable. <p>2. The result/strategy is consistent with the objective set by government because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The objective itself is narrow, and it has been written into a result/strategy. <p>3. Additional information for the Delegated Decision Maker to consider:</p> <p>Salvage of damaged timber may require exceeding the cutblock size described in Objective 1(c). The size of cutblocks associated with salvage of damaged timber are normally determined considering a variety of factors including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the extent of damaged timber; • the financial viability of recovering the damaged timber; • present and potential fire hazard; and • the impact of the associated forest values. 		
Objectives, Strategies and Results apply to these Forest Development Units		Taylor ✓

5.1.3 Objectives prescribed under FRPA S.149

5.1.3a Order for the Recovery of Marbled Murrelet, Objectives for MAMU nesting habitat

5.1.3a	Order for the Recovery of Marbled Murrelet (<i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>), Nov. 2021	
<p>This objective and associated results and strategies specify the area of suitable Marbled Murrelet (MAMU) habitat, and minimum habitat thresholds for the Sproat Lake - Eastern Vancouver Island (EVI), and Sproat Lake – West and Northern Vancouver Island (WNVI) Landscape Unit Portions, within the K2D area.</p> <p>1. The result/strategy is measurable or verifiable because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAMU spatial data is available to use in operational planning. <p>2. The result/strategy is consistent with the objective set by government because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The objective itself is narrow, and it has been written into a result/strategy. <p>3. Additional information for the Delegated Decision Maker to consider:</p>		

- In the Sproat FDU, no MAMU habitat has been identified.
- The Taylor FDU is split between the Sproat EVI and Sproat WNV I Landscape Unit Portions. The AVCF has committed to conserving all suitable MAMU habitat.
- Special situations where harvest will be allowed include those where it is required for road access, other infrastructure, to address safety concerns, or where there is no other practical alternative, as per S. 3(3) of the Order.

Objectives, Strategies and Results apply to these Forest Development Units	Sproat ✓
	Taylor ✓

5.1.3b FPPR S. 7(2) Notice target and minimum WHA, OGMA, and Aspatial MAMU Requirements

5.1.3b FPPR S. 7(2) Notice	
<p>The FPPR S. 7(2) Notice establishes target and minimum WHA, OGMA, and aspatial MAMU requirements, and is applicable to the Sproat WNV I Landscape Unit (LU) portion. The Sproat EVI LU portion is not covered by the FPPR S.7(2) Notice. The FPPR S. 7(2) Notice only applies to the Taylor FDU, within the K2D area.</p>	
<p>1. The result/strategy is measurable or verifiable because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAMU spatial data is available to use in operational planning. 	
<p>2. The result/strategy is consistent with the objective set by government because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The objective itself is narrow, and it has been written into a result/strategy. 	
<p>3. Additional information for the Delegated Decision Maker to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To date, a working group has not convened to ensure MAMU habitat is maintained within the Sproat WNV I Landscape Unit Portion. • The AVCF has committed to participating in such a working group with other licensees, and the South Island Natural Resources District. • Within the Sproat WNV I area, the AVCF has committed to conserving all suitable MAMU habitat which will contribute to meeting FPPR S. 7(2) targets, until such time as a working group can complete planning. 	
Objectives, Strategies and Results apply to these Forest Development Units	Taylor ✓

5.2 Objectives prescribed under FRPA S.149

5.2.1 Objectives set by government for soils [FPPR s.5]

5.2.1	Objectives set by government for soils [FPPR S.5]	Soils
<p>The AVCF is exempt from the requirement to write a result or strategy for the objective set by government for soils. The AVCF undertakes to comply with the FPPR S.35 practice requirements related to soil disturbance limits and permanent access structure limits. This is consistent with soil conservation objectives and strategies contained in section 13.3.10 of the AVCF Management Plan.</p>		
<p>Objectives, Strategies and Results apply to these Forest Development Units</p>		<p>Sproat ✓ Taylor ✓</p>

5.2.2 Wildlife

5.2.2	Objectives set by government for wildlife [FPPR S.7]	Wildlife
<p>This result/strategy is consistent with wildlife objectives and strategies contained in section 13.3.6 of the AVCF Management Plan and with standards for managing red and blue listed species contained in section 2(8) of the Hupacasath Land Use Plan.</p>		
<p>A Notice indicating for the survival of species at risk in the South Island Forest District specifies the amount, distribution and attributes of wildlife habitat required for “Queen Charlotte” Goshawk, Marbled Murrelet, and Scouler’s Corydalis.</p>		
<p>Licensees operating within the SIFD are exempt from the obligation of preparing a result or strategy in relation to the objective set out in FPPR s. 7(1) for the Queen Charlotte Goshawk as noted in the Order establishing WHA 1-006 dated February 10, 2005.</p>		
<p>Licensees operating within the SIFD are exempt from the obligation of preparing a result or strategy in relation to the objective set out in FPPR s. 7(1) for the Scouler’s Corydalis as noted in the Order establishing WHA 1-190 to 1-197dated May 25, 2006.</p>		
<p>1. While the notice does specify the amount, distribution, and attributes of suitable habitat required, results/strategies relating to marbled murrelet can be found under the MAMU order in section 5.1.3</p>		
<p>2. Additional information for the Delegated Decision Maker to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Determination of Amount as Described in the Notice In the Notice, the use of non-contributing land base and old growth management areas is for the single purpose of calculating the amount. It is not used for determining distribution or attributes. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) “Queen Charlotte” Goshawk 		

As per Order – Wildlife Habitat Areas # 1-006, Part 4, “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 Queen Charlotte Goshawk in the South Island Forest District” a R/S for Queen Charlotte Goshawk is no longer required.

c) Scouler’s Corydalis

The Notice refers to the *Accounts and Measures for Managing Identified Wildlife* (Identified Wildlife Management Strategy Version 2004) in the Distribution for Scouler’s Corydalis. IWMS 2004 indicates that this does not occur in the area of the FSP therefore no result/strategy was written. In addition to this, an exemption have been given from the obligation of preparing a result or strategy in relation to the objective set out in FPPR s. 7(1) for the Scouler’s Corydalis as noted in the Order establishing WHA 1-190 to 1-197 dated May 25, 2006.

More information on these species at risk may be found in the publication: Interfor and the government of BC. 2003. A field guide to species at risk in the coast forest region of British Columbia BC Gov’t publication series. 151 pp. and in BC’s Coast Region Species & Ecosystems of Conservation Concern: Factsheets and User’s Guide, January 2011 online document <http://www.geog.ubc.ca/biodiversity/factsheets/>

d) Other

Other identified wildlife species that have not been indicated in the notices can be given consideration for management under FPPR S. 70(2) practices. This includes two masked sensitive occurrences that occur in the FSP area, one outside of the Sproat FDU and one within the Taylor FDU. Confidential information regarding these masked occurrences have been provided to the AVCF by the Conservation Data Centre.

e) Regionally Important Wildlife

FPPR S. 7(1)(b): No regionally important wildlife species have been identified in an Order as per FPPR S. 7(2)(a).

f) Specified Ungulate Species

FPPR S. 7(1)(c): No Ungulate winter ranges have been spatially established for the area of the plan. No Notices have been provided as per FPPR S. 7(2)(b).

Objectives, Strategies and Results apply to these Forest Development Units	Sproat ✓
	Taylor ✓

5.2.3 Water, Fish, Wildlife and Biodiversity within Riparian Areas

5.2.3

Objectives set by government for Water, Fish, Wildlife and water, fish, wildlife and biodiversity Biodiversity within within riparian areas (FPPR S. 8) Riparian Areas

This result and strategy is consistent with objectives and strategies contained in section 13.3.2 and 13.3.3 of the AVCF Management Plan and is consistent with the objectives and intent of the water quality [3(2)] and riparian buffer [3(4)] standards contained in the Hupacasath Land Use Plan. While the latter prescribes 30m buffers for small streams and 50m buffers for fisheries –sensitive zones – these standards are not unilaterally adopted by the FSP in favour of a more flexible, site-specific approach as outlined in the results and strategies and in the following rationales.

1. The result/strategy is measurable or verifiable because:

- It specifies that management decisions will determine in which portions of the riparian standards results/strategies will apply.
- It specifies the circumstances and conditions under which different portions of the results/strategies will apply.
- It specifies that the results/strategy applies to the riparian management area, riparian management zone, or riparian reserve zone.
- If the applicable practice requirements specified in FPPR S. 47 to 53 are adopted by the AVCF as results/strategies for establishment of riparian reserves, riparian widths, and management areas, they are measurable or verifiable against the practice requirements specified in FPPR S. 47 to 53 for riparian widths and management criteria.
- If the AVCF does not consider the applicable practice requirements specified in FPPR S. 47 to 49 to be a good management strategy for non-fish bearing streams within a community watershed, the AVCF is responsible for having prepared, prior to commencement of the primary forest activity, a written rationale signed by a qualified professional that is consistent with FPPR Schedule 1 S. 2 riparian factors and *Legislated Riparian Assessment in BC Professional Practice Guidelines (FPBC, CAB, APEGBC)*. The rationale for operating outside of the practice requirements must contain riparian management area, riparian reserve zone, and riparian management zone widths for each feature that are measurable and verifiable.
- Retention of trees within a riparian management zone will be consistent with FPPR S.52. The AVCF will be responsible for recording pre-harvest basal area within each riparian management zone, adjacent to primary forest activities, and the site plan stage.

2. The result/strategy is consistent with the objective set by government because:

- It adopts the FPPR practice requirements associated with this objective as results or strategies under this FSP.
- Where exceptions to those adopted results/strategies exist, (i.e. riparian widths and restrictions in a riparian management area for non-fish bearing streams within a community watershed) the FPPR Schedule 1 S. 2 riparian factors are relied upon as a test for acceptability of the exception. A written

rationale, signed by a qualified professional supporting the exception, will address all of the riparian factors, and form a test of consistency with the objective set by government. This rationale will be approved by the delegated district decision maker prior to the commencement of the primary forest activity.

3. Additional information for the Delegated Decision Maker to consider:

a) Written Rationale

As above, the results/strategies associated with riparian widths, and restrictions in a riparian management zone rely on the FPPR Schedule 1 S. 2 riparian factors as a test for acceptability of the exception. A written rationale signed by a qualified professional supporting the exception, will address all of the riparian factors, and form a test of consistency with the objective set by government. This ecological rationale will address the FPPR Schedule 1 S. 2 riparian factors:

- a) The type of management regime that is required for a riparian area, having regard to:
- (i) The need to buffer the aquatic ecosystem of a stream, wetland or lake from the introduction of materials that are deleterious to water quality or fish habitat,
 - (ii) The role played by trees and understory vegetation in conserving water quality, fish habitat, wildlife habitat and biodiversity,
 - (iii) The need to maintain stream bank and stream channel integrity,
 - (iv) The relative importance and sensitivity of different riparian classes of streams, wetlands, and lakes in conserving water quality, fish habitat, wildlife habitat and biodiversity;
 - (v) The type, timing or intensity of forest practices that can be carried out within the context of a management regime referred to in i) above;
 - (vi) 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.

b) Small non-fish bearing streams that do not pose a risk to water quality within the community watershed are candidates for alternate riparian management area, riparian reserve zone, and riparian management area widths. The FPPR riparian widths are based on management for fish streams. Small streams which would have been classified as S6 outside of the community watershed, are now considered S5 if they are >1.5m and <3.0m. In many cases these streams have little or no risk of sedimentation or water quality impacts within the community watershed and pose no risk to fish habitat. Leaving riparian buffers in these areas can have a large impact on timber harvesting operability. Alternate riparian management prescriptions may consider (but is not limited to) the following components of the ecological rationale when comparing the relative riparian reserve zone needs between stream classes, lakes or wetlands:

- i) Stream order, connectivity within the watershed and risk of an adverse impact on water quality or fish habitat,
- ii) Windthrow potential estimated to cause introduction of materials that are

<p>deleterious to water quality, destabilization of stream banks, and degradation to stream channel integrity,</p> <p>iv) Non-fish riparian habitat (eg. amphibian),</p> <p>v) Soil sensitivity,</p> <p>vi) Terrain stability, and/or</p> <p>vii) The role of forest shading in controlling an increase in stream temperature where streams may lead to fish habitat.</p> <p>c) Basal area retention retained within a riparian management zone will be maintained based on the table in FPPR S.52. Particularly for smaller streams (eg. non-fish bearing S4 and S3 streams within a community watershed), it may be necessary to have the flexibility to use either dispersed or grouped retention that can be applied broadly throughout each riparian feature across the block area so long as it is adjacent to the area of primary forest activity. For example, in areas with operational constraints, windthrow concerns, or forest health concerns, retention could be grouped rather than leaving an even distribution of individual stems. Pre-harvest basal area will be calculated and recorded in the site plan along with a basal area retention strategy for each riparian feature.</p>	
<p>Objectives, Strategies and Results apply to these Forest Development Units</p>	<p>Sproat ✓</p> <p>Taylor ✓</p>

5.2.4 Community Watersheds

5.2.4	Objectives set by government for water in community watersheds (FPPR S. 8.2)	Community Watersheds
Description	<p>The entire FSP area is within the Sproat Lake Community Watershed. A CWAP update for the watershed was completed in 2000 by G. Horel for Weyerhaeuser. Subsequent updates were completed for BCTS in 2012/13 by Warren Cooper RPF for BCTS, and by Drew Brayshaw PGeo in 2018. The AVCF is currently working with BCTS and other licensees within the Sproat Community Waterhshed on a 2024 CWAP update.</p>	

The result is consistent with objectives and strategies contained in section 13.3.2 and 13.3.3 of the AVCF Management Plan and is consistent with the objectives and intent of the water quality [3(2)], roads [3(3)], riparian buffer [3(4)] and Landslide Hazard [3(5)] standards contained in the Hupacasath Land Use Plan.

1. The result/strategy is measurable or verifiable because:

- The environmental indicators are measured and tracked as Equivalent Clearcut Area (ECA), road density, and mass wasting potential as defined by the 1999 *Community Watershed Assessment Procedure Guidebook* and the 2020 *Watershed Assessment and Management of Hydrologic Risk and Geomorphic Risk in the Forest Industry* procedures, and are measurable or verifiable.
- The environmental indicators are derived from a Geographic Information System (GIS) map base, information managed within the community watershed. The environmental indicator outputs from a GIS (which is primarily area, lengths, and elevation) are measurable or verifiable.
- The result/strategy outlines that calculation methodology and environmental indicators used to determine risk to aquatic resources are specified in the 1999 Coastal Watershed Assessment Procedure Guidebook (CWAP), which are measurable or verifiable. The same procedure will be used in the 2024 update.
- Community Watersheds listed in this FSP are consistent with those supplied by government.

2. The result/strategy is consistent with the objective set by government because:

- Monitoring of key environmental indicators listed the 1999 Coastal Watershed Assessment Procedure Guidebook (CWAP) has been seen by government as an effective means of managing risks of cumulative hydrological effects of road construction and cutblock harvesting that could result in a material adverse impact on water quality and quantity.

3. Additional information for the Delegated Decision Maker to consider:

- Relationship to practice requirements, government objectives, and other results/strategies in the FSP Through FPPR Practice Requirements (e.g. FPPR S. 35, 37, 38, 39, 40, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 79, and 82 which have either direct or indirect affect on water quality and quantity), combined with the management guidelines outlined in this FSP (using key indicators from the Coastal Watershed Assessment Procedures), and combined with the other results/strategies in this FSP, the risk of road construction and cutblock harvesting to community watersheds can be managed at a level consistent with the objectives set by government.
- ECA Indicator
Currently, components of the *Coastal Watershed Assessment Procedure (CWAP) Guidebook, Second edition, Version 2.1, 1999* are used when considering cumulative hydrological effects. Although ECA is only one indicator of potential cumulative hydrological effects on watershed health, ECA is a reasonable initial indicator to determine proceeding with additional monitoring. ECA has been used as a limit on watershed units and has been a

standard strategy for limiting increases to potential peak flow since the introduction of the CWAP guidebooks (1995, 1999).

- Road Density**
 As per the 1995 and 1999 Coastal Watershed Assessment Procedures, when calculating road density, roads that have been confirmed as being permanently deactivated are not included in the road density calculations. It is understood that road deactivation, especially for those with risk, is beneficial to hydrological function of a watershed or sub-basin.
- Estimating Primary Forest Activities Material Adverse Impacts**
 The term “estimated” is used in the result/strategy in the context of determining if primary forest activities resulted in material adverse impacts because it is sometimes difficult to determine if changes in channel morphology (or other influences on fish habitat) are the result of natural or anthropogenic influences. In most cases, a comparison of similar adjacent stream reaches (that include reaches potentially affected by cutblock harvesting and road construction as well as reaches where no harvesting activities have occurred) is made to determine the likelihood of material adverse impacts due to primary forest activities.
- Defining Cumulative Low to Moderate Risk for adverse Hydrological Effects**
 For a guide in defining cumulative low to moderate risk thresholds for adverse hydrological effects, the AVCFC proposes to use CWAP scores derived from each of the major environmental indicators and organize them into a risk summary table. Average resultant scores between 0 and 0.3 would be defined as a low risk of cumulative hydrological impacts. Average resultant scores between 0.3 and 0.6 would be defined as moderate risk, with 0.6 being in the upper range of moderate. The table is used as a guide because there may be instances where a single score may be significantly high as to place extra consideration on that environmental indicator. In these instances, professional judgment will be required.

Figure 1. Cumulative Risk Table

Impact Category	Indicator	Risk										
		Low	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9
Peak Flow	Rd. km/ km*	0	0.3	0.6	0.9	1.2	1.5	1.8	2.1	2.4	2.7	>3.0
Surface Erosion	Rd. km/km*	0	0.3	0.6	0.9	1.2	1.5	1.8	2.1	2.4	2.7	>3.0
Peak Flow Index	ECA	0.00	0.06	0.12	0.18	0.24	0.30	0.36	0.42	0.48	0.54	>0.60
Mass Wasting	% logged class>60%	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	>10
	# landslides	0	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.8	1.0	1.2	1.4	1.6	1.8	>2.0
	# landslides hitting MS	0	0.4	0.8	1.2	1.6	2	2.6	3.2	3.8	4.4	>5.0
	Km/km2 road>60%	0	0.03	0.06	0.09	0.12	0.15	0.2	0.25	0.3	0.35	>0.40

- Cumulative Effects**
 Monitoring the risk to water quality and quantity is completed most efficiently by assessing the cumulative effects of the key indicators outlined in the CWAP. The key indicators are peak flow (index = roads), surface erosion (index = roads), peak flow index (index = ECA), and mass wasting potential (indices = logging, landslides, and roads). Road measurements do not include roads that have been permanently deactivated.

- Registered Community Water Licenses:

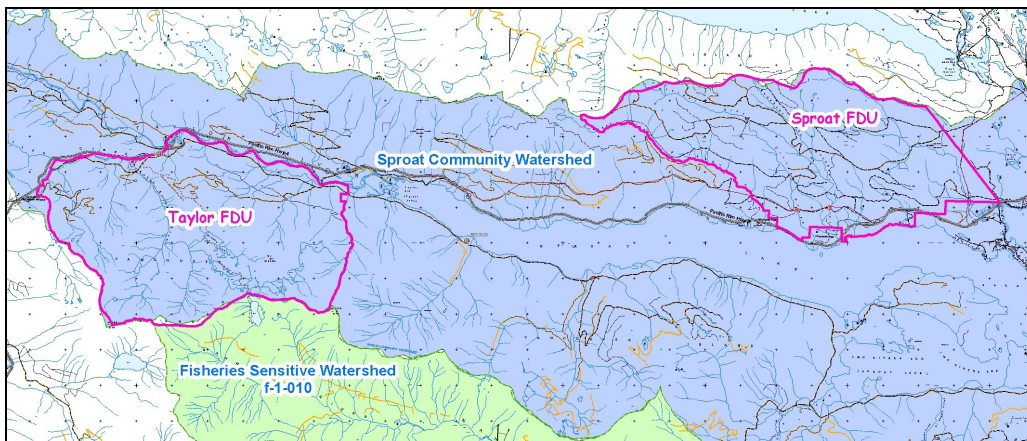
Watershed	Area Identifier	Area of Concern	LU
Sproat	930.021	35,427.8 ha	Sproat

The following water licenses are located within the two FDU's.

Sproat FDU		Taylor FDU	
Licence No.	Purpose	Licence No.	Purpose
C034482	Domestic	C132366	Power
		C115539	Power

In addition there are multiple water licence holders along the lakeshore adjacent to the Sproat FDU who draw water from Sproat Lake. The waterwork of record for the community watershed is attributed to the Hupacasath First Nation and is located on the Sproat River.

Designated Community Watersheds within the FSP Area:



Objectives Strategies and Results apply to these Forest Development Units: **Sproat** ✓
Taylor ✓

5.2.5 Wildlife and Biodiversity – Landscape Level

5.2.5 Objectives set by government for wildlife and biodiversity – landscape level [FPPR S. 9] Wildlife and Biodiversity – landscape level

The result/strategy is consistent with objectives and strategies for landscape level biodiversity contained in the Management Plan section 13.3.9.2.

1. The result/strategy is measurable or verifiable because:

- For the landscape level objectives, the AVCFC adopts sections 64 and 65 of

<p>the FPPR as results or strategies. The result/strategy is therefore measurable or verifiable against the practice requirements.</p> <p>2. The result/strategy is consistent with the objective set by government because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The landscape level strategy allows for cutblock size for the portion of the FDU that is within SMZ 17 to be managed in accordance with VILUP Objective 1 (c) or 2. 	
<p>Objectives Strategies and Results apply to these Forest Development Units:</p>	<p>Sproat ✓ Taylor ✓</p>

5.2.6 Wildlife and Biodiversity – Stand Level

5.2.6	Objectives set by government for wildlife and biodiversity – stand level [FPPR S 9.1]	Wildlife and Biodiversity – stand level
<p>The result and strategy is consistent with objectives and strategies for stand level biodiversity contained in the Management Plan (13.3.9.3) and the standards 3(7) for variable retention contained in the Hupacasath Land Use Plan.</p> <p>1. The result/strategy is measurable or verifiable because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For the stand level objectives, wildlife tree retention will be in accordance with the minimum retention specified in the Sproat Landscape Unit Order or with S.66 of the FPPR. S.67 of the FPPR is adopted by the AVCFC as a result/strategy. This practice requirement is readily verifiable. <p>2. The result/strategy is consistent with the objective set by government because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The stand level result/strategy describes a strategy that is established in order to meet expectations in Landscape Unit Planning. 		
<p>Objectives Strategies and Results apply to these Forest Development Units:</p>		<p>Sproat ✓ Taylor ✓</p>

5.2.7 Cultural Heritage Resources

5.2.7	Objectives set by government for cultural heritage resources [FPPR S. 10]	Cultural Heritage Resources
Description	<p>The AVCF lies within the asserted traditional territories of the Hupacasath and Tseshahst First Nations.</p> <p>Representatives of the Hupacasath and Tseshahst First Nations sit on the Board of Directors for the Alberni Valley Community Forest Corporation.</p>	
<p>The result/strategy is consistent with commitments, objectives and strategies for cultural heritage resources contained in the AVCF Management Plan (11.7 and 13.3.5) and with standards and expectations contained in the Hupacasath Land Use Plan.</p> <p>1. The result/strategy is measurable or verifiable because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It outlines that the strategy applies to the AVCFC; • It involves ongoing referral of proposed development to the Hupacasath and Tseshahst First Nations to assist in identification of special cultural heritage resources (which are defined in the result/strategy). • It sets out a process to follow – deciding whether a special cultural heritage resource (CHR) is to be conserved or protected. Once a decision on protection or conservation is made, parameters are set for conducting harvesting or road construction activities in the vicinity. • It relates to the Hupacasath and Tseshahst First Nations. • Mature cedar and cypress are identified as special cultural heritage resources: whether the AVCFC has provided the most recent cedar/cypress inventory and/or updates is verifiable; where cedar and cypress are planted is verifiable. • Whether the AVCFC has assisted First Nations, who have requested, in developing a strategy for and in the identification of western red cedar or cypress for monumental art within their traditional territory is measurable and verifiable. <p>2. The result/strategy is consistent with the objective set by government because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It commits the AVCFC to road construction and cutblock harvesting activities that are consistent with the objective; • It commits to communication about potential cultural heritage resources with the affected First Nations; involving the referral of potential timber harvesting and road construction and requesting information on special cultural heritage resources. • A process for conservation or protection of the special cultural heritage resources is laid out. • It focuses on conservation or protection of special cultural heritage resources that meet the definition, are threatened by primary forest activities, are not 		

otherwise conserved or protected, and are capable of being addressed in the context of the FSP;

- If outlines a strategy for addressing potential cultural heritage resources that may be discovered during road construction or harvesting activities;
- The 5 factors in FPPR Schedule 1 S. 4; were considered in its development.

3. Additional information for the Delegated Decision Maker to consider:

a) The Cultural Heritage Strategy

This strategy outlines a series of steps that address how the AVCFC will respond to special cultural heritage resources, and potential special cultural heritage resources prior to and during road construction and cutblock harvesting activities under this FSP.

This strategy recognizes the importance of maintaining tangible or spatial ties so that those objects, sites or locations deemed special cultural heritage resources can be adequately conserved or protected.

Identification of special cultural heritage resources includes annual referral of potential harvest and road construction activities to First Nations. Subsection 1 does not limit how a potential special cultural heritage resource is identified. Subsection 2 states that identification of site-specific cultural heritage resources includes information sharing and/or consultation with First Nations.

The AVCFC understands that it is beneficial to communicate with First Nations early in planning and expects that information sharing and consultation will not be limited to one year at a time, but will take into consideration whatever information is available. Information sharing will be done prior to the submission of any cutting permit and/or road permit application as per subsection 4.

Primary forest activities will only commence such that they are consistent with subsections 5-7.

The AVCFC realizes that identification of cultural heritage resources is integral to following the result/strategy and thereby being consistent with the objective. The AVCFC also recognizes:

- More work needs to be done to have special cultural heritage resources identified;
- Special cultural heritage resources may be specific to a First Nation and a geographic location.
- There is an obligation to consider cultural heritage resources previously identified by First Nations under the objective set by government for cultural heritage resources.

b) Herbicide Use: First Nations have expressed concern related to the health of wildlife, and plants and berries gathered from those sites as well as potential impacts on water quality, over the potential use of herbicide. The AVCFC Management Plan section 11.8.1 provides for the potential use of herbicide under restricted conditions.

Some invasive plants, as listed in the *Invasive Plant Regulation of FRPA*, have begun

to appear within the general area of the FDU. Some of these plants (in particular, knotweeds) are resistant to manual methods of eradication and introduce risk in particular should they reach riparian areas.

Should the AVCFC wish to apply herbicide to an area within the FDU, a Pest Management Plan would be required.

Referral of these plans to First Nations would occur at that time.

- c) Karst – Concern has been expressed regarding protection of karst features in relation to cultural sites and water quality. The AVCFC will use the Karst management Handbook for British Columbia in developing cutblocks and roads in order to mitigate impacts to karst. A karst evaluation by a qualified professional is conducted where significant karst features are encountered in the field.
- d) Access management – Interest has been expressed with regards to maintenance of access for exercising aboriginal rights. AVCFC has committed to ongoing referral of proposed harvesting and road construction operations. Potential road deactivation could also be discussed at these meetings. In some cases, roads may have to be deactivated for environmental reasons – or, they may be planned as short-term access only.

Objectives Strategies and Results apply to these Forest Development Units:

Sproat ✓
Taylor ✓

5.2.8 Recreation

5.2.8	Interpretative forest sites, recreation sites and recreation trails [FRPA 56(1)]	Recreation Features
<p>This section and associated objectives and strategies were added to the FSP to reflect the high interest in recreation trails and recreation opportunities and values expressed during the public input received during the FSP review. By including them in the FSP their importance is recognised and formally highlighted.</p> <p>FSP #3 has been updated to include strategies relating to recreation that were included in the AVCFC Community Forest Agreement Application and Forest Management Plan (April 16, 2009).</p> <p>1. The result/strategy is measurable or verifiable because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It outlines that the strategy applies to the AVCFC, • It involves ongoing referral to local user groups, and • It sets out a process and considerations for planning primary forest activities where they conflict with recreation features. <p>2. The result/strategy is consistent with the objective set by government because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no legally established objectives for recreation features within the AVCF. 		
Objectives Strategies and Results apply to these Forest Development Units:		Sproat ✓ Taylor ✓

5.3 Objectives Established under the GAR

5.3.1 Visual Quality Objectives for the South Island Forest District

5.3.1	Objectives Established under the Government Actions Regulation	Visual Quality Objectives
<p>The result/strategy is consistent with Visual Landscape Objectives and strategies described in section 13.3.6 of the AVCF Management Plan.</p> <p>1. The result/strategy is measurable or verifiable because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It outlines that the AVCFC will only carry out forest practices if each cutblock and road is designed to be consistent with applicable visual quality objectives; • The result/strategy applies within the scenic areas as established in the South Island Forest District on November 13, 1998. <p>2. The result/strategy is consistent with the objective set by government because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It outlines that the result/strategy applies on within the scenic areas as 		

established in the South Island Forest District on November 13, 1998;

- It commits that forest practices within the AVCFC's control will be designed and carried out to be consistent with the visual quality objectives in scenic areas. The AVCFC's intent is to have cutblocks and road designs evaluated to ensure visual quality objectives are met prior to the commencement of operations.

3. Additional information for the Delegated Decision Maker to consider:

- The Visual Quality Objectives (VQOs) were set pursuant to GAR S. 7(2) for the South Island Forest District by *Order to Establish Visual Quality Objectives for the South Island Forest District* effective December 15, 2005, as shown on the map titled *South Island Forest District, Visual Quality Objectives Established Under Section 7(2) GAR order*, dated December 1, 2005.

Established Visual Quality Objectives in FSP area:

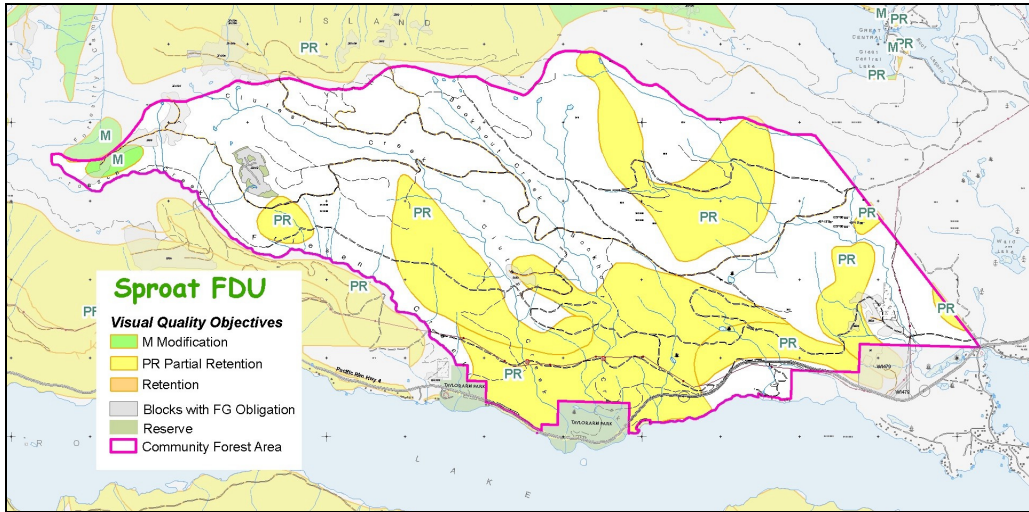


Figure 1 VQO for Sproat FDU

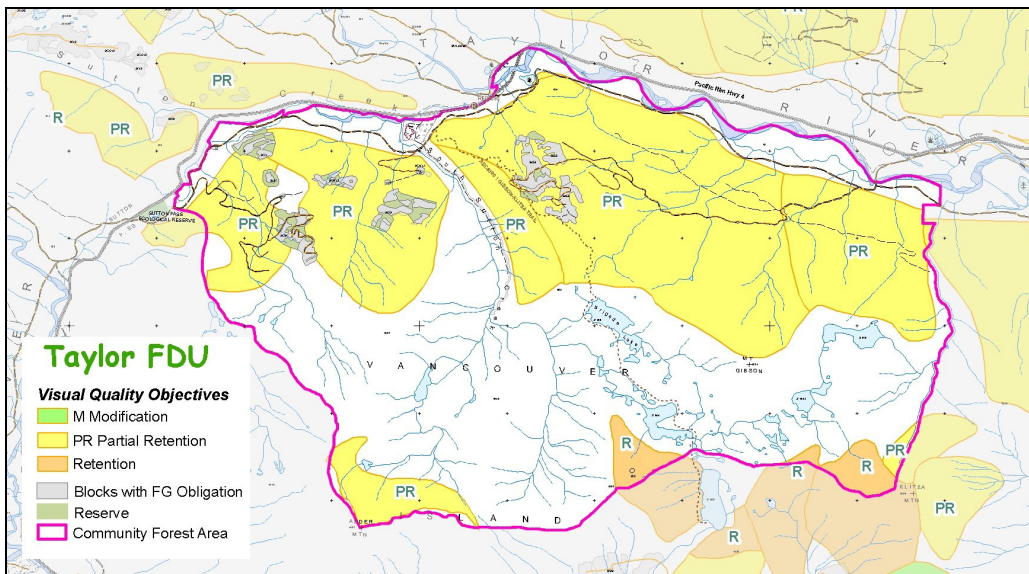


Figure 2 VQO for Taylor FDU

Objectives Strategies and Results apply to these Forest Development Units:

Sproat ✓
Taylor ✓

5.3.2 Karst Resources Objectives

5.3.2	Objectives Established under the Government Actions Regulation	Karst Resources Objectives
<p>The result/strategy is consistent with the 2010 Order to Identify Karst Resource Features, which identifies surface and subsurface karst features within the South Island Resource District</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The result/strategy is measurable or verifiable because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karst features are mapped in accordance with the 2003 <i>Karst Inventory Standards and Vulnerability Assessment Procedures for British Columbia</i> • The 2003 <i>Karst Management Handbook for British Columbia</i> provides guidance for development of appropriate management practices when conducting primary forest activities in karst terrain. 2. The result/strategy is consistent with the objective set by government because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It ensures that primary forest activity does not damage karst resource features as per FPPR S.70(1). • It requires the AVCFC to complete annual reporting requirements for karst resource features as per FPPR S.86(3)(b). 3. Additional information for the Delegated Decision Maker to consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karst features are found within the AVCF and are shown on the FSP map. There is more potential to map these features as they are located. • Appendix 1 of the 2010 Order to Identify Karst Resource Features contain surface and subsurface elements of karst systems as per GAR Section 5(1)(a). While known karst features are found within the AVCF, none of these areas are listed within the order. 		

Measures

5.4.1 Measures to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive plants

5.4.1	Measures to Prevent the Introduction and Spread of Invasive Plants	
<p>These measures are consistent with best practices for preventing the introduction and spread of invasive plants.</p>		
<p>These measures apply to these Forest Development Units:</p>		<p>Sproat ✓ Taylor ✓</p>

5.4.2 Measures Related to Natural Range Barriers

5.4.2	Measures to Mitigate the Effect of Removing or Rendering Ineffective Natural Range Barriers.
There are currently no range agreements within either of the FDU's included in this FSP.	
These measures apply to these Forest Development Units:	Sproat ✓ Taylor ✓

6.0 Stocking Standards

6.0	Stocking Standards
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The stocking standards are based on the Vancouver Forest region Reference Guide for FDP Stocking Standards (Sept. 7, 2021), the Chief Foresters Guidance on Tree Species Composition at the Stand and Landscape Level, Chief Forester memos regarding broadleaf management, and the 2023 Silviculture Survey Procedures Manual. • BEC zones and variants not included within the AVCF licence area have been excluded from the Table A stocking standards. • Stocking standards for FPPR S.44(4) areas have been included in Table B. Stocking standards have been updated for consistency with the 2023 Silviculture Survey Procedures Manual. This section also provides guidance for post-harvest assessments. • Alternative species for root rot treatment have been included in the Table A stocking standards. Douglas-fir laminated root rot is widespread in many areas of the AVCF. A rationale in support of alternate root rot stocking standards, and site plan guidance is included in Appendix 2 of the FSP. • Deciduous management standards for site series 01/06 and 05/07 of the CWHxm have been included. These standards will be used for broadleaf management regimes, and deciduous leading strata within mixedwood management regimes. A rationale in support of the use of deciduous management strategies and site plan guidance is included in Appendix 2 of the FSP. • Mixedwood standards are consistent with Coastal Mixedwood Stand Structure Surveys for the Coastal Forest Region in S. 9.3.3.1 of the 2023 Silviculture Survey Procedures Manual. • The Local Geographic Free Growing Assessment Criteria has been included and is consistent with the Coast Area FG Guidance in Appendix 8.1 of the 2023 Silviculture Survey Procedures Manual. • The stocking standards are consistent with the AVCF Management Plan and Hupacasath Land Use Plan. 	

These measures apply to these Forest Development Units:

Sproat ✓

Taylor ✓

7.0 Referral and Review

Referral has been completed for FSP #3. No comments were made as a result of the referral process. The 2023 referral list includes:

- Hupacasath First Nation
- Tseshaht First Nation
- City of Port Alberni
- BC Timber Sales
- Western Forest Products
- Trapline holder TR0107T407
- AVCFC Board of Directors
- Bingo Bay Residents (adjacent landowners)
- Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District
- Island Timberlands
- Alberni District Secondary School
- Alberni Valley Outdoor Club
- Sproat Lake Community Association
- Alberni Valley News
- Greenmax Resources
- Hiking and Trails Website
- Ministry of Environment
- Ministry of Forests

A referrals package is included as a supporting document to FSP#3.

8.0 Revisions

A list of major revisions made have been included as a supporting document to FSP#3.

Minor grammatical changes have been made throughout this document and are not listed in this section.

- Letter Clarifying the Nature of Licensee's Obligations Regarding Scenic Area Management In SIFD
- Order to Establish Visual Quality Objectives for the South Island Forest District