

## The Forest Practices Code

The Forest Practices Code is a comprehensive set of legal requirements for timber harvesting in British Columbia. The Code includes the act itself, regulations, and standards. The government has also published a series of guidebooks that provide recommendations on how to comply with the standards and regulations. The guides become legally enforceable when inserted in plans, prescriptions, and contracts. The code was passed in July 1994; regulations were approved in January and February, 1995, and the code took effect on June 15, 1995. Companies were to substantially comply with the code in 1995 and to be in full compliance by June 15, 1997. The code is a massive undertaking that provides for strategic planning, specifies forest practices for forest and range agreements, and outlines procedures and administrative structures for implementation. Its topics include planning; forest roads, trails, and landings; timber harvesting; silviculture; soil conservation and erosion control; domestic water quality; riparian management; range management; wildlife and habitat; biodiversity; recreation and visual landscape; culture and heritage; and wilderness. The regulations establish the type and contents of plans and prescriptions required before forest operations may commence and may specify a particular practice or process. The standards expand on the regulations and provide for specific practices. They can be issued by the chief forester, and they may be incorporated into the regulations.<sup>27</sup> The regulations under the code address the following topics:

Planning	Strategic Planning Operational Planning
Field Practice	Forest Fire Prevention and Suppression Forest Service Road Use Range Practices Silvicultural Practices Timber Harvesting Practices Tree Cone, Seed and Vegetative Material
Administration	Administrative Review and Appeal Procedure Forest Practices Board Provincial Use Board Security for Forest Practice Liabilities
Enforcement	Administrative Remedies
Transitional	Cutblock and Road Review <sup>28</sup>

The code requires resource objectives to be consistent with the provisions of the Land and Resource Management Plans. The code requires operational plans for forests, including Forest Development Plans, five year blueprints for where and how logging will occur, how riparian areas will be protected, silviculture prescriptions, and other decisions related to harvesting; Five-year silvicultural plans for stand management; and Range-use plans governing livestock grazing, building of fences, and limiting the spread of noxious weeds.