



Twenty-five years ago, in 1995, the Forest Practices Board began its work. In celebration of our 25 years, we combed through our archives to identify forest and range practice tips and suggestions that are still relevant today. Every two weeks in 2020, we shared a sound forest or range practice tip and a link to a past report that covered the issue. Here they are again.

<p>1</p>	<p>Practices Around Small Streams</p> <p>The audit found that the company’s harvesting practices around certain non-fish streams were carried out with a high degree of sensitivity. Vegetation was retained close to these streams, machinery was not allowed within five metres and timber was felled and yarded away from these streams, where it was safe and practical to do so. The company carried out similar practices around drainages that aren’t defined as streams in the Code and where that degree of protection wasn’t legally required.¹</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>Bridge Maintenance</p> <p>Know what bridges you are responsible for, inspect them and complete maintenance as soon as possible to ensure you are in compliance: “The trend was notable enough that the Board issued a special report, asking licensees to ensure that their bridge maintenance and inspection programs are up to date, as well as ensuring any required repairs are completed in a timely manner.”²</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Water Management</p> <p>Overall, the audit found licensee practices to be effective in minimizing erosion. In most locations, licensees adequately protected roads from structural failures using armouring and well-placed drainage features...promptly deactivated temporary roads...revegetated exposed soils and successfully directed ditch water onto the forest floor and away from stream channels.³</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Cattle Grazing and Riparian Values</p> <p>The grazing schedule is based on the expected forage production of the uplands, however in dry years the riparian vegetation may be the main forage in the pasture. Where maintenance of riparian values is a priority, the range use plan grazing schedules should be determined on the basis of riparian sensitivity rather than forage capacity of the uplands.⁴</p>

¹ [Audit of Timber Harvesting and Road Construction, Maintenance, and Deactivation – Riverside Forest Products Ltd., Lumby Division, Forest Licence A20191](#), FPB/ARC/25

² [2001 Annual Report, Bridge Maintenance not up to Code –Non-Compliances in Bridge Inspections and Maintenance](#), FPB/SR/05

³ [Audit of Water Management in Norns and Springer Creek Community Watersheds](#), FPB/ARC/82

⁴ Special Report: [Effect of Cattle Grazing near Streams, Lakes and Wetlands](#), FPB/SR/11

5	<p>Manage Landslide Risk</p> <p>Licensees should use a decision-making framework to manage landslide risk and clarify the respective roles of terrain stability professionals and forest resource managers (see the Board’s Reiserter Creek complaint investigation for more discussion of this concept). Licensees should also develop objective criteria for triggering when a terrain stability field assessment must be conducted, to provide consistency in application across their operations.⁵</p>
6	<p>Watershed Assessments</p> <p>While watershed assessments are no longer required under provincial legislation, they are still useful tools to help resource managers develop strategies for protecting drinking water, preserving fish habitat and preventing flooding.⁶</p>
7	<p>Consultation with Range Users</p> <p>The licensee must improve its consultation with range users and, in a timely manner, modify practices (where feasible) to mitigate impacts.⁷</p>
8	<p>Fire Preparedness</p> <p>This 2011 special investigation looked at preparation to prevent wildfires and adhere to the Wildfire Act. Tips for practitioners:⁸</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have standard procedures and checklists. 2. Provide 24-hr contact information to the fire centre. 3. Have sufficient fire tools onsite. 4. Select a representative weather station. 5. Operate in accordance with danger class restrictions 6. Have an adequate fire suppression system. 7. Maintain a fire watch. 8. Ensure engine equipment is clean and in good repair.
9	<p>Karst Stewardship</p> <p>There has been a shift of responsibility for <u>karst stewardship</u> [that] puts the onus on licensees, contractors and equipment operators to recognize karst and be aware of its significance and sensitivity. It also leaves it to licensees, and their resource professionals, to determine when expertise is required to plan and to carry out appropriate forest practices.⁹</p>
10	<p>Fire Hazard Abatement</p> <p>Opportunities to abate fire hazard start with the initial planning of a cutblock and continue through harvest and site preparation. Licensees could demonstrate due diligence by employing best management practices to abate fire hazard through all phases of development.¹⁰</p>

⁵ [Managing Landslide Risk from Forest Practices in British Columbia](#), FPB/SIR/14

⁶ Special Investigation Report: [The Effect of MPB Attack and Salvage Harvesting on Streamflows](#), FPB/SIR/16

⁷ [Impacts of Harvesting on Cattle Grazing near Quesnel](#), FPB/IRC/121

⁸ [Fire Preparedness Special Investigation](#), FPB/SIR/30

⁹ [Protecting Karst in Coastal BC](#), FPB/SR/31

¹⁰ [Fire Hazard Assessment and Abatement](#), FPB/SIR/24

11	<p>Must Ensure</p> <p>Several sections of FRPA, including sections 72, 79 and 81 of the <i>Forest Planning and Practices Regulation</i> (FPPR) establish requirements for road maintenance: the person responsible for a road or bridge <i>must ensure</i> that the road and structures are structurally sound and safe for industrial users, and that they are not adversely affecting a forest resource. This means that the person must take positive steps to “make certain” of these outcomes, including putting a system of checks and balances in place.¹¹</p>
12	<p>Responsibility for Professional Assessments</p> <p>As BC implements the new results-based legislation, responsibility is shifting from government to licensees for managing risk and deciding whether professional assessments are necessary before carrying out a forest practice. Under such a model, a licensee should clearly outline the parameters for any professional assessments to ensure that all risks are identified, and professional associations should [ensure] their members, when preparing assessments, either follow best management practices or provide a rationale for not doing so, particularly when operating in challenging terrain.¹²</p>
13	<p>Climate Change and Landslide Activity</p> <p>The number of slides...increased dramatically after large rainfall storm events. The Board suggests that forest managers and practitioners consider the possibility that large rainfall storm events may occur more frequently in the future...and should recognize this potential for increased slide activity when planning future roads and cutblocks in coastal areas of BC.¹³</p>
14	<p>Woodlot Management</p> <p>It is good practice to maintain records of ALL woodlot activities. Retain copies of woodlot-related correspondence and e-mails, including submissions, approved permits, photographs and maps, formal assessments, silviculture surveys and records of planting and other treatments.¹⁴</p>
15	<p>Land Use Plans Build Trust</p> <p>The Board strongly supports the concept of local land and resource use plans as a means of clarifying public objectives and priorities and helping to guide operational decisions. The land use planning process is also an effective means to build relationships and common understanding among stakeholders; identify and address conflicts; and enable forest development activities to occur with greater public acceptance.¹⁵</p>

¹¹ [Audit of Mamook Natural Resources](#), TFL 54, FPB/ARC/145

¹² [2003 Annual Report](#)

¹³ [Landslide Occurrence Following Major Rain Storms on Vancouver Island](#), FPB/SIR/27

¹⁴ Bulletin 010 – [What’s a Woodlot Licensee Required to Do?](#) (2010)

¹⁵ [Forest Planning and Development Near Begbie Falls](#), FPB/IRC/189

16	<p>Managing Risks to Public Values</p> <p>In areas where there are significant resource values at risk, licensees should...undertake a systematic, transparent and well documented decision-making process that shows appropriate consideration of the potential impacts of harvesting, silviculture systems and roads on the risks to public and third-party interests before proceeding.¹⁶</p>
17	<p>Professional Reliance</p> <p>In the Board’s opinion, a failure to meet government objectives for visual quality arose due to the licensee’s reliance on unsound professional assessments and a refusal to engage in dialogue with government officials and forest professionals who expressed concerns on several occasions. This is not the way professional reliance under the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) should work.¹⁷</p>
18	<p>Public Involvement</p> <p>At the strategic level, the Board believes BC needs a reinvigorated strategic planning process that...provides opportunity for the public to have input to strategic and landscape level objectives. This process ought to be led by government...at the operational level, licensees need to ensure the interested public is aware of planned site level activities, and has an opportunity to discuss any concerns before they proceed.¹⁸</p>
19	<p>Implementing Legislative Change</p> <p>As government amends FRPA, we reflect back on the substantial changes made to forest practices legislation in 1997-98. Following major legislative change, a period of stability is necessary:</p> <p>There has been much comment about the excessive bureaucracy and time-consuming and costly approval processes that have accompanied the introduction of the Forest Practices Code. The Board has observed that this is partly a “people” problem—or, more precisely, a problem of not enough trained and experienced people in the field with policy direction and a clear mandate to make decisions...Government and industry need to create...a stable working environment, with ongoing training and clear policy direction so that these people can implement the Code effectively and efficiently.¹⁹</p>
20	<p>Maintain Drainage Structures</p> <p>There are established ways to manage the risk of road-related failures...know what you are responsible for, identify the risks, regularly inspect, and take action based on those inspections or concerns expressed by the public.²⁰</p>

¹⁶ [Laird Creek Landslide](#), FPB/IRC/186

¹⁷ [Haida Gwaii Visual Quality Objectives](#), FPB/IRC/195

¹⁸ Bulletin 15, [Public Consultation](#) (2013)

¹⁹ [1998 Annual Report](#)

²⁰ [Maintenance of the Cook Creek Forest Service Road near Enderby, BC](#), FPB/IRC/202

21	<p>Tactical Forest Planning</p> <p>The outputs of tactical forest planning provide clear, measurable and operationally feasible direction to forest management at a scale that is appropriate to protect forest resources. With this level of planning in place, operational forest planning would be more robust and provide better on-the-ground management of BC’s forest resources.²¹</p>
22	<p>Access Management</p> <p>A novel approach to land use planning...was taken in development of the South Chilcotin Stewardship Plan (2014). The Tsilhqot’in National Government directly engaged in planning with forest licensees, with deliberations facilitated by government representatives...The planning initiative resulted in agreement on resource road management, including specific targets and measures respecting road access.²²</p>
23	<p>Managing Fish Habitat</p> <p>Greater attention must be paid to sediment management in all phases of a road including design, construction, maintenance and deactivation. Government needs to set clear expectations in regulation to minimize sediment to protect fish habitat and water quality.²³</p>
24	<p>Natural Range Barriers</p> <p>Improvements are required in how forest licensees plan and implement mitigation of impacts to natural range barriers. Range users also need to provide licensees with information on timbered range barriers on their tenures...Ultimately, effective mitigation of timbered range barriers requires forest licensees and range users to maintain open communication and respect for each other’s tenured rights and responsibilities.²⁴</p>
25	<p>Reforestation in the Dry IDF</p> <p>The survival of tree seedlings depends on the preparation and implementation of detailed site prescriptions that clearly identify and plan for micro-variations in site ecology to help protect seedlings from frost, drought, cattle and other forest health agents.²⁵</p>

²¹ [Tactical Forest Planning: The Missing Link Between Strategic Planning and Operational Planning in BC](#), FPB/SR/58

²² [Access Management and Resource Roads: 2015 Update](#), FPB/SR/49

²³ Special Investigation: [Conserving Fish Habitat under the Forest and Range Practices Act PART 2: An Evaluation of Forest and Range Practices on the Ground](#), FPB/SIR/52

²⁴ [Mitigation of Forestry Impacts to Natural Range Barriers](#), FPB/SIR/42

²⁵ [Reforestation in the Interior Douglas-fir Subzone: Are Reforestation Choices Meeting Objectives?](#), FPB/SIR/53