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## Scope of Practice for Registered Forest Technologists

November 2010

### GUIDELINES

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## Background

The Applied Science Technologists of BC (ASTTBC) approached the Association of BC Professional Foresters (ABCPF) in November 2001, suggesting that the two organizations consider how forest technologists might best be regulated in an era of professional reliance. The councils of both organizations endorsed the joint task force's report recommending that forest technologists be regulated under the *Foresters Act* as Registered Forest Technologists (RFTs) within the (re-named) Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABCFP).

The proposed revised *Foresters Act* was tabled in the legislature as Bill 5 in March 2003 and was declared on June 20, 2003.

During the spring of 2003, the association's bylaws were re-written to reflect the new *Foresters Act*. These bylaws were also revised to further clarify the status and rights of RFTs. The revised bylaws were approved in September 2003.

The rights of RFTs to independently practise aspects of professional forestry rely on a council guideline to clarify these bylaws. The initial set of guidelines was approved by the ABCFP council in November 2003.

These guidelines are intended to be a 'living document' in that council recognizes that forestry, as a profession is evolving. As a result, the relationships and scope of practice of all members will also evolve. In this regard, the Board of Examiners has been charged with reviewing the guidelines periodically.

## Overview

Professional foresters, forest technologists, special permit holders and associate members are integral components of the forestry team. They have cooperated well in providing sound forest practices for British Columbia. Changes include the implementation of the results-based *Forest and Range Practices Act* with its considerable emphasis on professional reliance.

Section 20 (2) of the revised *Foresters Act* grants RFTs the right to engage in aspects of the practice of professional forestry to the extent consistent with their education, training and experience<sup>1</sup>:

- a) independently, if carrying out functions described in the bylaws for this purpose;
- b) when executing, supervising the execution of or inspecting work designed by a professional forester ... or special permit holder; or
- c) under the supervision of a professional forester ... or special permit holder.

Bylaw 6.1.2. requires council to establish those aspects of professional forestry where RFTs may practice independently. All aspects of professional forestry demand that a member is both responsible and accountable for that work undertaken. This document represents the required guideline.

In all cases, like RPFs special permit holders and associate members, RFTs must only carry out work for which they are qualified, competent and proficient based on their education, training and experience and are expected to comply with the *Foresters Act* and the bylaws of the ABCFP.

This document reviews the *Foresters Act* and the association's bylaws with respect to RFTs' independent scope of practice. It provides a general overview of the roles of professional foresters, forest technologists, associate members and non-members, with examples on the four general practice areas. No attempt has been made to cover every situation; rather, the intent is that the reader extrapolates from the examples provided.

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<sup>1</sup> RFT practice rights in no way limit the legislated practice rights of Registered Professional Foresters (RPFs), which remain the entire scope of professional forestry as defined in the *Foresters Act*.

## Legislative Framework

Section 1 of the *Foresters Act* defines the practice of professional forestry as:

*for fees or other remuneration, advising on, performing or directing works, services or undertakings which, because of their scope and implications respecting forests, forest lands, forest resources and forest ecosystems, require the specialized education, knowledge, training and experience of a registered member, an enrolled member or a special permit holder, and includes the following:*

- a) planning, advising on, directing, approving methods for, supervising, engaging in and reporting on the inventory, classification, valuation, appraisal, conservation, protection, management, enhancement, harvesting, silviculture and rehabilitation of forests, forest lands, forest resources and forest ecosystems;*
- b) the preparation, review, amendment and approval of professional documents;*
- c) assessing the impact of professional forestry activities to
  - i. verify that those activities have been carried out as planned, directed or advised,*
  - ii. confirm that the goals, objectives or commitments that relate to those activities have been met, or*
  - iii. advise or direct corrective action as required to conserve, protect, manage, rehabilitate or enhance the forests, forest lands, forest resources or forest ecosystems;**
- d) auditing, examining and verifying the results of activities involving the practice of professional forestry, and the attainment of goals and objectives identified in or under professional documents;*
- e) planning, locating and approving forest transportation systems including forest roads;*
- f) assessing, estimating and analyzing the capability of forest lands to yield a flow of timber while recognizing public values related to forests, forest lands, forest resources and forest ecosystems;*

Section 20 of the *Foresters Act* limits the practice of professional forestry to members of the Association of British Columbia Forest Professionals and requires as a matter of law that:

A person must not engage in the practice of professional forestry unless that person is

- a) admitted under Section 14 as a professional forester,
- b) a holder of a special permit allowing the person to engage in the practice of professional forestry, or
- c) an enrolled member acting under the supervision of a professional forester.

However, the *Foresters Act* Section 20 permits RFTs to engage in activities that fall within the definition of professional forestry practice when carrying out work designed by an RPF or Special Permit holder, under the supervision of an RPF or Special Permit holder, or independently, when doing work authorized under the bylaws.

The ABCFP bylaws provide that:

*6.1. Registered members shall:*

*6.1.2. In the case of Registered Forest Technologists:*

*6.1.2.1. May engage in aspects of the practice of professional forestry to the extent consistent with their education, training and experience:*

*6.1.2.1.1. While executing, supervising the execution of or inspecting work designed by a registered professional forester or special permit holder acting within the scope of their permit;*

*6.1.2.1.2. Under the direct supervision of a registered professional forester or special permit holder acting within the scope of their permit; or*

*6.1.2.1.3. Independently, if carrying out those aspects of professional forestry practice within the following general practice areas as are described in guidelines established by council from time-to-time:*

*6.1.2.1.3.1. Forest measurements;*

*6.1.2.1.3.2. Silviculture;*

*6.1.2.1.3.3. Forest Operations; and*

*6.1.2.1.3.4. Forest Protection.*

*6.2. The guidelines established pursuant to Bylaw 6.1.2.1.3. will take into account the:*

6.2.1. *Level of education required for;*

6.2.2. *Complexity of; and*

6.2.3. *Scope of accountability and authority that may be assumed for, a given task or set of tasks within each of the areas of practice listed in Bylaw 6.1.2.1.3.*

## **The Roles of Registered Forest Technologists in the Forestry Team**

Registered Forest Technologists work within the forestry team that includes registered professional foresters, associate members, resource professionals, technicians, technical and administrative staff.

RFT functions and accountabilities within the sphere of professional forestry practice are more narrowly defined than RPFs. There is an emphasis on shorter time frames, stand level issues, practical skills, and operating within technical parameters, guidelines and protocols. Recognition of the consequence of actions and decisions helps define this scope of practice.

The functions and accountabilities of an RPF encompass all aspects of professional forestry, including those that may be performed and assumed by an RFT. They are generally more broadly defined and may address forest and landscape scale issues including the design of complex forest management regimes. They often involve management time frames, integration and interpretation of data from a variety of sources and drawing conclusions to provide professional opinions or prescriptions for and on behalf of the employer or client.

The use of professional seal and signature (whether signed and/or sealed) is both a means to formally accept responsibility for works completed within one's scope of practice and qualifications, and an obligation under the association's bylaws. Accordingly, both RPFs and RFTs are expected to sign off appropriate work products.

## **Areas of Independent Practice**

### **Purpose and Limitations**

The areas of independent practice for a qualified<sup>2</sup> RFT have been grouped into four aspects as indicated in Bylaw 6.1.2.3 and are described below. The descriptions and the examples provided are intended to illustrate the range of potential areas for independent forest technology practice. They do not provide a comprehensive listing

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<sup>2</sup> All RPFs, RFTs and associate members must only practise within their individual levels of competency. Simply because an area of practice is specifically mentioned as an area of independent practice does not mean that an individual necessarily has the competency to work independently in that area.

or a complete definition of the scopes of practice for registered forest technologists. For example, just because a type of activity is not specifically listed does not mean that it can not be practised independently.

There are two considerations used to determine the areas of independent practice:

1. The project must fall within the four RFT areas of practice.
2. The complexity, scope and implication of the project, with respect to forests, forest lands, forest resources and forest ecosystems, must be achievable using the core RFT educational foundation and additional experience and training.

NB: Foundation education provides the basis for career learning and development

The *Foresters Act* specifies that the practice of the profession includes, “auditing, examining and verifying, certifying the results of activities involving the practice of professional forestry, and the attainment of goals and objectives identified in or under professional documents.” This section of the act requires the forest professional to assess whether certain results and/or strategies have been achieved as specified by professional documents such as Site Plans and Operational Plans as defined in the *Forest and Range Practices Act*. Personnel who are conducting an analysis regarding the achievement of results and/or strategies that may be in compliance specified within these professional documents will generally have to be forest professionals. The activities noted above are often the responsibility of the compliance and enforcement staff of the government. Refer to the scope of practice as defined in the *Foresters Act* and to the April 1, 2005 agreement between the ABCFP and the Ministry of Forests in Appendix B of these guidelines.

#### **Qualification, Competence and Authority to Practice**

These guidelines may not adequately reflect the ability and competencies of more experienced accomplished RFTs.

A distinction exists between competence to carry out a project and the authority necessary to accept professional and legal responsibility for it.

An RFT may have developed the competence to accept projects with complexity and consequence beyond the scope of practice identified in the bylaws or this guideline. This type of project would be outside the scope of independent practice for an RFT.

Competence is defined as knowledge and skill acquired through education and experience.

Authority is a legally assigned level of “right to practice”. It cannot be accepted unless it has been assigned. It is assigned to ABCFP members based on education, internship and examination.

Qualification is a standard of compliance. An individual must be both competent and have the legal authority to be qualified.

A professional is qualified when he/she has both legal authority and competence.

These scope of practice guidelines are not intended to capture all of the potential examples involving the practice of forestry by Registered Forest Technologists. However, members who have specific operational questions about their practices are invited to contact the ABCFP Practice Advisory Service. <http://www.abcfp.ca>

### **Supervision**

Section 2(3) (b) (i) of the *Foresters Act* allows non-members to engage in the practice of professional forestry while under the supervision of a registered member.

A forest professional acting independently who supervises other members or non-members must carry out and document due diligence to ensure that the other members or non-members are capable and competent to carry out those duties. The supervising forest professional is legally accountable, per aspect of authority, for all work carried out under their supervision, be it direct and or indirect.

Giving a forest professional or non-member a manual, plan, instructions, etc. on its own does not constitute supervision.

Members may refer to the ABCFP Supervision Guideline. <http://www.abcfp.ca>.

### **Forest Measurements**

Forest measurements refer to the knowledge and skills required to measure and describe the forest resource. Professional aspects include the planning, execution, supervision and monitoring to meet forest management objectives.

- Measurements are carried out by foresters, technologists, technicians,
  - mensurationists, biometricians
  - inventory designers, photo interpreters, mapping specialists
  - resource specialists
  - timber cruisers, log scalers, waste and residue surveyors
  - timber supply modellers, GIS analysts and timber analysts

Measurements are the initial stage or source of information for forest management.

The forest measurement practice area generally refers to:

- mensuration - the measurement of forest resources.
- biometrics
  - the specifics of sampling, log measurements, tree measurements
  - the application of efficient and statistically sound measurement techniques
  - the appropriate sampling methodologies
- photo interpretation - the delineation, classification, estimation, stratification and measurement of forest attributes
- mapping - coordinate systems, transformations on spatial and non-spatial data, development, maintenance and interpretation of metadata.

Measurement practices are also carried out by technical specialists, such as Accredited Timber Evaluators, Accredited Timber Cruisers, log scalers, and waste and residue surveyors.

Some areas of independent RFT practice can include:

- Preparing forest surveys and sample designs including the quality assurance measures necessary to achieve the design objectives
- Preparing, implementing, and supervising operational, reconnaissance, or forest inventory data collection
  - including quality assurance and control
- Supervising, implementing and collecting timber appraisal data
- Compiling and producing measurement reports
- Compiling and analyzing:
  - stand and stock tables
  - post-harvest survey data
  - cruise compilation
  - stand value determination

- Preparing, reviewing, and submission of appraisal data
- Preparing reports per measurement data, for higher-level planning
- Preparing, implementing and supervising operational reconnaissance and forest inventory data collection
  - including the quality assurance and quality control
- Preparing inventory or operational maps
- Establishing and locating existing control for mapping, field surveys and ortho-photo projects
- Photo interpretation and ground verification
- Stratifying aerial photo or remote sensed data.
- Classifying, interpreting and stratifying data for input to various forest data models
- Creating thematic maps based on existing information or data collected through photo interpretation and/or field surveys
- Documenting processes, procedures and data resolution

Some forest measurement functions that are within the scope of practice of an RFT are:

- Cruise plans
- Cruise compilations and appraisal data submission
- Stand evaluation reports
- Waste and residue reports
- Verification of cutting permit and site Plan requirements
- Riparian classification
- Fish stream identification

**Examples:**

There are two considerations used to determine scope of practice:

1. The project must fall within the four RFT areas of practice.
2. The complexity, scope and implication of the project, with respect to forests, forest lands, forest resources and forest ecosystems, must be achievable using the core RFT educational foundation and additional experience and training.

NB: Foundation education provides the basis for career learning and development

The following examples demonstrate the application of these two considerations to determine the RFT Scope of Practice.

**Timber Cruising  
Scenario/Issue**

This scenario uses appraisal cruising and cutting permit cruise plans, as well as non-standard "cruise" information, to illustrate the scope of practice progression from a non-member through to an RPF.

A licensee carries out their own cruising to meet ministry cutting permit appraisal requirements, but may also use the data for corporate planning and valuation, research projects and inventory supplements.

**Non-member**

Appraisal cruising in BC is heavily regulated by government policies and procedures.

1. Cruising falls within the measurements area of practice.
2. Aspects of cruising based on procedures in a manual that do not require professional judgement\* or the educational foundation of an RFT are not the practice of professional forestry and can be done by a non-member.
3. A non-member can only carry out the aspects of cruising that are the practice of professional forestry under the supervision of an ABCFP registered member.

**Accredited Timber Cruiser (ATC) or Accredited Timber Evaluator (ATE)**

Even though aspects of cruising and cruise planning/designing may be procedural based, the consequences of a misunderstood or misdirected modification of these procedures can be serious in nature.

\* See the definition of professional judgement in the glossary section of this document.

1. Cruising falls within the measurements area of the practice of professional forestry. Aspects of cruising that do not require professional judgement\* or the educational foundation of an RFT or RPF may be done independently by the ATC or ATE.

**Accredited Timber Cruisers and Accredited Timber Evaluators may:**

- Practice procedure based cruising in accordance with the ATC/ATE scope of practice.

**RFT**

If an aspect of cruising is based on a methodology that requires technical expertise it is an area of restricted practice and requires an ABCFP registered member to carry out that practice.

1. Methodology including design or measurement complexity that fall within the RFT education and training.
2. If the project requires a professional opinion to be offered and/or included in a professional document and the opinion requires technologist level knowledge and experience, then the RFT can provide the professional opinion as a professional document.

**RPF**

If the project falls outside the RFT general practice areas or if the planning, methodology, complexity or results require a broader educational foundation than that of an RFT, then the project may be beyond their scope of practice.

1. If the project is to collect data and information to be used in conservation planning, the project would likely fall within an RFT measurements scope of practice. However, the use of the data for conservation is not included in the RFT practice area and an RPF is required.
2. If the project did not have a conservation objective it may be captured within the RFT practice area, however if the methodology requires BSc level mathematical, statistical knowledge and design complexity it would likely be outside the RFT scope of practice and an RPF is required.
3. If a professional opinion is to be offered and/or included in a professional document and the project has significant complexity and implications, with respect to forests, forest lands, forest resources and forest ecosystems, then the project is outside the scope of RFT practice and an RPF is required.

Other disciplines such as waste and residue planning and sampling, photo interpretation and analysis and forest resource inventory fall within the measurements area of practice and the same logic will apply to determine the scope of practice for an RFT.

## **Silviculture**

Silviculture refers to the applied knowledge which enables forest professionals to meet forest management objectives through the design and implementation of stand-level prescriptions to produce target conditions. To design and implement stand-level prescriptions, the forest professional must incorporate knowledge of: ecosystem classification and interpretation; silvical characteristics and associated vegetation; limiting factors to tree and stand development; natural disturbance regimes, stand dynamics; soil properties, hydrology, and topography; current science and research; social expectations, cultural values and economics. Combining this knowledge with understanding of silvicultural operations, a forest professional can design and implement plans that influence the growth, composition and character of future forest stands.

Silviculture activities include:

- Silvicultural operations (site preparation, planting, thinning, fertilizing, brushing and weeding, pruning and surveys)
- Forest tree nursery operations
- Ecological site assessments as part of the site plan
- Crop-planning
- Monitoring stand-level conditions

Some aspects of professional forestry practice in silviculture that may be conducted independently by an RFT include:

- Preparing, implementing and supervising site preparation and silviculture surveys, including quality control and assurance measures
- Preparing, implementing and supervising survey activities
- Supervising and implementing site preparation treatments, planting projects and stand tending activities including quality control and assurance
- Reporting on silviculture activities and survey results.

- Declaring Milestones<sup>3</sup> (Regen Delay and Free Growing), when substantiated by appropriate survey data
- Collecting data for pesticide-use permits and providing recommendations to RPFs for pest management plans/prescriptions
- Collecting data and making recommendations to RPFs to be included in the creation and amendment of site plans.

i.e. Reviewing the applicability of the stocking standards at the time of survey and making recommendations for amendments required to meet long term stewardship objectives

**Examples:**

There are two considerations used to determine scope of practice:

1. The project must fall within the four RFT areas of practice.
2. The complexity, scope and implication of the project, with respect to forests, forest lands, forest resources and forest ecosystems, must be achievable using the core RFT educational foundation and additional experience and training.

NB: Foundation education provides the basis for career learning and development

The following examples demonstrate the application of the two considerations to determine the RFT scope of practice.

**Non-member:**

Non-members complete a number of operational functions in the silviculture program including tree planting, spacing, brushing, weeding, pruning and site preparation. Non-members also have an important role with contractors based on the functions listed above, particularly in the logistics of the various silviculture programs. This includes working for a contractor in a supervisory role to ensure the work is completed to the standards required.

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<sup>3</sup> Milestone declarations do not belong to the ABCFP. They are an obligation liability management instrument used by the government and tenure holders, as set out in FRPA. There are currently three milestones – post-harvest, regeneration, and free growing.

Where professional judgments\* are necessary to determine whether the work meets requirements specified by site plans, legal requirements or specification of the licence, or if a professional opinion is to be offered, or if the complexity, scope or implications of the work require RFT level education and experience, then this is within the scope of practice of an RFT.

\* See the definition of professional judgement in the glossary section of this document.

A non-member can only carry out the aspects of silviculture that are the practice of professional forestry under the supervision of an ABCFP registered member.

### **Silvicultural Accredited Surveyor (SAS)**

Though aspects of silviculture surveys may be procedural based, the consequences of misunderstood or misdirected modification of these procedures can be serious in nature.

1. Silviculture surveys fall within the silviculture area of the practice of professional forestry. Aspects of silviculture surveys that do not require professional judgement\* or the educational foundation of an RFT or RPF may be done independently by the SAS.

\* See the definition of professional judgement in the glossary section of this document.

Silviculture Accredited Surveyors may:

- Practice procedure based silviculture surveys in accordance with the SAS scope of practice.

### **RFT**

The definition of the practice of professional forestry in the *Foresters Act* includes the supervision of silvicultural activities. This supervision is within the scope of practice of the RFT.

An example of an RFT doing a silviculture survey is as follows. The RFT receives a map for an area requiring free-growing confirmation and reviews the approved prescription, amendments, and history of stand activities. The RFT collects the stand data or supervises the data collection. The RFT subsequently reports on the data, making recommendations for future treatments or administrative results. In the event that the survey data substantiates that an area has achieved the prescribed free growing stocking standard requirements, the RFT can make the milestone declaration.

Post harvest-assessments are also within the RFT scope of practice. The RFT can conduct a post-harvest inspection of a cutting area to report on its status/condition relative to site plan prescribed outcomes. The RFT reports on the data, making recommendations for future treatments or administrative results.

### **RPF**

The site plans and amendments to site plans are the responsibility of the RPF. Projects where complexities and/or implications with respect to forests, forest lands, forest resources and forest ecosystems are outside the scope of RFT practice is the responsibility of the RPF. Government regulation states that a person who has an obligation to establish a free growing stand (holder of an agreement) may submit a written declaration that the obligation has been met on an area to the extent that is practicable even if an area does not meet the stocking standards. This requires interpretation beyond the survey results and is therefore the responsibility of an RPF.

Forest professionals recognize that current “milestone” declarations are a tenure holder function and a measure of legal obligation and does not indicate that the long-term stewardship obligations have been met. The RPF monitors the legal conformance of cutblocks within their responsibility with the assistance of RFTs.

\* See the definition of professional judgement in the glossary section of this document.

### **Forest Operations**

Forest operations include the planning, executing, supervising and monitoring of forest harvesting and road construction operations to meet forest management objectives. The forest professional must consider forest stand characteristics, soil types, hydrology, topography, timber types, socio-economic values and costs. Considering these factors in combination with forest road and cutblock engineering, knowledge and skills; forest professionals design, develop, implement, and monitor forest operations activities.

Forest operations activities include:

- Collecting data and developing site plans
- Developing road and cutting permit documents
- Planning of road and harvest areas and related infrastructures
- Supervising forest road construction, maintenance and de-activation
- Supervising forest harvesting operations

The aspects of professional forestry practice that may be conducted independently by an RFT include:

- Collecting data for road site plans
- Completing or supervising stand-level data collection
- Preparing access plans for a variety of traditional and non-traditional uses such as: recreation trails; power lines; mining, oil and gas, and other resource use access
- Planning and layout of cut block and road locations
- Preparing and submitting road and cutting permit applications
- Supervising harvesting and road construction operations, performing quality control and quality assurance functions for harvest and road operations (e.g. pre-works and audits)

Some professional documents or processes accepted as within the RFT independent scope of practice of “forest operations” include:

- Road layout and design where the RFT has used the appropriate qualified registered professional to sign off<sup>4</sup>
- Road permit applications
- Cutting permit applications
- Appraisal data submissions
- Gulley assessments
- Riparian classifications
- Wind throw assessments
- Visual impact assessment
- Road pre-works and associated as-built inspections and sign-off
- Harvesting pre-works and associated inspections and sign-off
- Post-harvest assessments

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<sup>4</sup> (i) road sections where terrain stability is an issue, and: (ii) crossings as required by the ABCFP-APEGBC Joint Practice Board Guideline for Professional Services in the Forest Sector–Crossings). Of note, the word “design” used here is a term of art and is not intended to infer design functions as contemplated under the Engineers and Geoscientists Act. (Note: refer to ABCFP-APEGBC Joint Practice Board Guideline for Professional Services in the Forest Sector – Crossings [http://www.abcfp.ca/regulating\\_the\\_profession/documents/guideline-crossings.pdf](http://www.abcfp.ca/regulating_the_profession/documents/guideline-crossings.pdf) )

- Road deactivation plans where the RFT has used the appropriate qualified registered professional to sign off road sections where terrain stability is an issue

**Examples:**

There are two considerations used to determine scope of practice:

1. The project must fall within the four RFT areas of practice.
2. The complexity, scope and implication of the project with respect to forests, forest lands, forest resources and forest ecosystems must be achievable using the core RFT educational foundation and additional experience and training.

NB: Foundation education provides the basis for career learning and development.

The following examples demonstrate the application of the two considerations to determine the RFT Scope of Practice.

Before road recce or layout begins the RFT consults the Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) to determine the results or strategies that need to be considered in the layout to ensure that all activities integrate those results or strategies at the stand level.

**Non-member**

Non-members complete a number of operational functions in forest operations including laying- out roads and cutting boundaries, and collecting survey data. Non-members also have an important role with contractors doing the functions listed above. This includes working for a contractor in a supervisory role to ensure the contract work is completed to the standards required.

Where professional judgments\* are necessary to determine whether the work meets requirements specified by site plans, legal requirements or specification of the licence, or if a professional opinion is to be offered, or if the complexity, scope or implications of the work require RFT level education and experience the project falls within the RFT scope of practice. For example, the individual components of road and cutblock layout are not the practice of professional forestry but of the combined whole (final cutblock and road location).

A non-member can only carry out the aspects of forest operations that are the practice of professional forestry under the supervision of an ABCFP registered member.

**RFT**

The definition of the practice of professional forestry in the *Foresters Act* includes planning, locating and approving forest transportation systems including forest

roads; this falls within the scope of practice of the RFT. An example of an RFT approving the forest transportation system would be the signing and sealing of the Road Layout and Design (RLAD) or the road site plan.

\*See the definition of professional judgement in the glossary section of this document

The road site plan is the application of the FSP results or strategies (R/S) at the site level. The RFT can take responsibility for the road site plan when confirmation of meeting the R/S is performed through comparison of tables, charts, maps and instructions not requiring analysis and/or the synthesis of data at the landscape level.

An example would be confirmation of the road not going through spatially located old growth management areas or that spatial Marbled Murrelet (MAMU) habitat targets will be met. The RFT is operating within technical parameters, guidelines and protocols.

### **RPF**

Where landscape level data must be compiled, analyzed and/or synthesized to make a professional judgment that the road is consistent with the R/S, the project falls within the RPF's scope of practice.

The RPF is responsible when site plans address forest and landscape issues that require the design of complex forest management regimes to achieve long-term outcomes. They involve integration and interpretation of data from a variety of sources and the drawing of conclusions to provide professional opinions or prescriptions.

### **Forest Protection**

Forest Protection refers to the knowledge and skills related to forest insects, disease, natural hazards, wildfire and forest fuels as they relate to forest management.

The work of forest protection is carried out by technicians, technologists, foresters and resource specialists such as fire ecologists, entomologists, forest pathologists, forest health technicians and technologists, fire behaviour specialists, fuel management specialists, fire management specialists and air operations specialists.

The forest protection practice area generally refers to:

- Assessing fire hazards
- Planning for prescribed burn prescriptions to meet management objectives
- Planning for wildland fire management
- Recognizing and identifying forest insects and diseases

- Sampling, measuring and reporting insect and disease damage
- Forecasting and modeling of insect, disease and natural events at the stand and landscape level

Wildfire suppression is commonly carried out by non-members.

Some landscape level aspects of the protection practice involve professional forestry.

Some aspects of professional forestry that may be conducted independently by an RFT include:

- Planning of fuel management related to harvesting or silviculture treatments, insect and disease hazards
- Prescribing burning prescriptions for silvicultural treatment, forest health management and ecological restoration
- Preparing survey sample designs
- Implementing and supervising forest surveys including the quality assurance measures
- Recommending activities to meet forest health or wildland fire management objectives

**Examples:**

There are two considerations used to determine scope of practice

1. The project must fall within the four RFT areas of practice.
2. The complexity, scope and implication of the project, with respect to forests, forest lands, forest resources and forest ecosystems, must be achievable using the core RFT educational foundation and additional experience and training.

NB: Foundation education provides the basis for career learning and development

The following examples demonstrate the application of the two considerations to determine the RFT scope of practice.

**Non-member  
Wildfire Suppression**

- Carry out duties required for wildfire suppression
- Implement treatments and carry out operations specified by a plan

The operational management and suppression of wildland forest fires if specified in plan developed by a forest professional, are not a restricted practice. Some other unrestricted areas may include:

- Burn-off or backfires conducted as part of fire suppression.
- Planning for safety and site resources
- Defining the applicants' liability in the event of a fire escape.

#### **Insect and Disease Management**

- Beetle probing
- Survey work based on published manuals and procedures
- A non-member can only carry out the aspects of forest protection that are the practice of professional forestry under the supervision of an ABCFP registered member.

#### **RFT**

If the projects become complex and require integrated knowledge, they are restricted and require an RFT. Some restricted areas may include:

- Conducting an analysis of data and preparing recommendations for any of the following:
  - Fire hazard assessments
  - Site rehabilitation
  - Fire pre-org and/or preparedness plans
  - Community wildfire protection plans
  - Insect and disease management
  - Prescribing actions to control outbreaks
  - Conformance of activities with contracts and/or plans

The expertise of a forest professional is required for functions such as planning, directing, supervising and reporting on activities at the following "stand" level:

- Applying site rehabilitation including reforestation
- Insect and disease control
- Ensuring the quality of data collected

- Assessing the magnitude of impacts to forest resource values
- Implementing landscape level plans and other landscape level directions that apply to the stand level activity
- Designing sampling plans for data collection for incidence of insects, diseases and hazards
- Preparing plans
- Supervising and preparing reports
- Preparing and approving abatement and rehabilitation plans

**RPF**

- Preparing and approving strategies to address:
  - Resource management burns
  - Landscape level mitigation and reforestation
  - Insect and disease control
- Designing methodology to assess achievement of results and strategies
- Developing the portions of fire management plans that relate to land management objectives
- Conducting analysis of data and synthesis of information to develop plans and strategies for protection related issues

## Appendix A: Glossary of Terms

**Accredited Timber Cruiser (ATC)** - an associate member of the ABCFP authorized to carry out and be professionally accountable for the field aspects of timber cruising such as collecting cruise related data and attesting to its completeness, correctness and clarity.

**Accredited Timber Evaluator (ATE)** - a senior or supervisory associate member of the ABCFP authorized to carry out and be professionally accountable for the planning, organizing, training, quality assurance and reporting aspects of timber cruising.

**Forest Professional** - a member of the ABCFP authorized to carry out the practice of professional forestry in BC.

**Manual** - A document authorized by forest professionals that contains information, instructions, rules and procedures for carrying out a specific function such as timber cruising for appraisal purposes or silviculture surveying.

**Non-member** - a person who is not a member of the ABCFP.

**Professional Judgement** - Professional judgement will be required when the complexity, scope and implication of the project, with respect to forests, forest lands, forest resources and forest ecosystems, requires the core educational foundation and additional experience and training of the RFT or RPF.

**Silvicultural Accredited Surveyor (SAS)** - an associate member of the ABCFP authorized to carry out and be professionally accountable for the field aspects of silviculture surveying such as collecting silviculture related data and attesting to its completeness, correctness and clarity.

**Wildfire Suppression** - all activities concerned with detecting, locating, controlling and extinguishing a fire to protect resources and natural wilderness.

**Wildfire** - An unplanned or unwanted natural or human caused fire, as contrasted with a prescribed fire (from the Glossary of the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Center).

## Appendix B: April 1, 2005 Agreement Between the ABCFP & the Ministry of Forests

(on following page)



Distribution: HEN, ABCFP  
 Document name: G:\!Workgrp\Administration\Letters\C&E Staff and the Foresters Act.doc sds  
 Contact: Dan Graham, Director, HEN, Ph: 356-9785, Fax: 387-2539  
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April 1, 2005

Mr. Jerome Marburg, LL.B., MBA  
 Association of BC Forest Professionals  
 1030 – 1188 West Georgia Street  
 Vancouver, British Columbia  
 V6E 4A2

Dear Jerome Marburg:

**Re: Compliance and Enforcement Staff and the *Foresters Act***

This will confirm the agreement reached between the British Columbia Forest Service (BCFS) and the Association of British Columbia Forest Professionals (ABCFP) regarding the application of the Foresters Act to the compliance and enforcement functions within the BCFS:

(1) Subject to paragraph 2, if a BCFS compliance and enforcement officer is:

- (a) making decisions or determinations about subject matter that falls within the definition of the practice of professional forestry under the Foresters Act; and
- (b) those decisions or determinations go beyond the measurement of objective physical states of being, so as to require the synthesis or analysis of information or data at a level requiring the specialized education, knowledge, training and experience of a registered member of the ABCFP,

the compliance and enforcement officer must then:

- Be a registered member;
- Rely on advice of a registered member for that decision or determination; or
- Be supervised by a registered member in making those decisions or determinations.



VANCOUVER 2010

Jerome Marburg

(2) The exercise of prosecutorial discretion, that is, deciding when or if to take any compliance or enforcement action, whether or not touching on matters within the scope of paragraph 1, does not constitute the practice of professional forestry and is not within the jurisdiction of the ABCFP.

I trust the foregoing accurately represents our agreement. If so, please signify your agreement by signing both copies of this letter in the space indicated below and by returning one executed copy to me for our files.

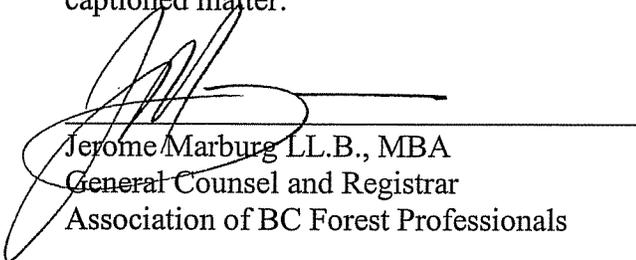
Jerome, thanks for your help in coming to a resolution on this.

Yours truly,



Dan Graham  
Director  
Compliance and Enforcement Branch

I confirm that this letter accurately reflects the agreements the parties have reached on the captioned matter:



Jerome Marburg LL.B., MBA  
General Counsel and Registrar  
Association of BC Forest Professionals

1 APRIL 2005  
Date



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*Ensuring BC's Forests Are In Good Hands.*