

PART IV: ALRF Tenure and Regulatory Requirements



8. TENURE AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

8.1 ALRF regulatory overview

This section describes the legislative and regulatory framework of forest management tenure for the Aleza Lake Research Forest.

The legal basis for ALRF land and forest management is provided by 3 tenure instruments (permits and licenses) issued by the Province of British Columbia. These provide legal access to the ALRF land area and designated provincial forest roads for management activities, these tenures are the legal framework within which all ALRF forest land management activities must occur.

The nature and scope of these three ALRF tenure instruments are:

- Special Use Permit (SUP) 23615, which also enables this Management Plan.
- Occupant License to Cut L45514. And,
- Road Use Permit(s) for designated sections of provincial forest roads within the ALRF.

Current legislation and enabling regulations specific to the administration and management of these ALRF tenures include, but are not limited to:

- a) The *Forest Practices Code of BC Act* and regulations, applying to administration and management of the Special Use Permit. As per SUP 23615, the ALRF tenure-holder is required to prepare a Management Plan with specified content requirements, and submit this Plan to the Province for approval.
- b) The provincial *Forest Act*, applying to administration and management of the Occupant License to Cut as a minor tenure under the Act.
- c) The *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA) for administration and regulation of the Occupant License to Cut as a “minor tenure” under FRPA and the related *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation* (FPPR)*.
- d) Other provincial legislation applicable to this Management Plan include but are not restricted to: the *Ecological Reserves Act*, the *Mining Act*, the *Wildlife Act*, the *Environmental Management Act*, the *Agricultural Land Commission Act*, and the *Wildfire Act*. Federal legislation includes the *Federal Fisheries Act*, and the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*.

* For greater clarity, it is noted that the FPPR applies to the ALRF tenure to the extent specifically provided for (and/or not excluded by) this regulation and as authorized under this Management Plan. Further, consistent with Special Use Permit 23615 and the administration of “minor tenures” under FRPA, the ALRF tenure holder is not required to prepare Forest Stewardship Plans.

The Province may, at its discretion, amend or replace legislation and regulations, or related permits and licenses, pertaining to the above.

8.2 Special Use Permit

Special Use Permit (SUP 23615) issued by MFLNRORD describes the land area of the Aleza Lake Research Forest and the terms and conditions of the permit, and requires that the Research Forest be managed under the terms and conditions of a Management Plan approved by the District Manager.

The SUP authorizes the ALRFS to occupy and manage this area of Crown Land as per its terms and conditions, including:

- a) Authorizing use of this area of Crown Land for research and educational purposes.
- b) Mandating that the permittee (the ALRFS) prepare and submit a Management Plan for the Aleza Lake Research Forest, and specifying required content for the Plan.
- c) Providing the general terms under which forest management and related research and education activities on the ALRF will be conducted. And
- d) Allowing the building and operation of the Aleza Field Education Centre at a designated location within the permit area (as per SUP Addendum approved July, 2014).

8.3 License to Cut

Occupant License to Cut L45514 issued by the MFLNRORD, Prince George District, provides legal cutting authority for timber harvesting on behalf of the Aleza Lake Research Forest Society within the ALRF, within the scope of the Special Use Permit and the approved ALRF Management Plan, and an approved Allowable Annual Cut (or AAC).

8.4 Permits Related to Roads

A Road Use Permit (currently RUP-01-113-OT) issued by MFLNRORD, Prince George District authorizes the use and maintenance of several road sections designated in the Road Use Permit, by the Aleza Lake Research Forest Society. Specific terms and conditions are specified in this RUP, which are subject to amendment and replacement by the Province, from time to time, including via Road Permits (RP's).

Road sections currently permitted to the Aleza Lake Research Forest Society (via the RUP) as of 2017-18 include:

- The centrally-located Aleza Lake Forest Service Road (FSR 4311.01) which runs approximately north-south from Upper Fraser Road at Km 0 (junction with provincial highway) to its terminus at the Bowron River Oxbow (+/- Km 11), and,
- Several forest roads directly tributary to above FSR, as designated in the RUP, including designated sections of the East Branch, West Branch, and Beaver - Bear Roads within the ALRF.



Several permanent forest roads within the ALRF have their management and use authorized and delegated by the Province to the ALRF Society through Road Use Permits (West Branch Road, ALRF)

Please refer to ALRF road permit documents as updated from time to time for specific current descriptions of permitted road sections.

On the ALRF, in addition to roads permitted to the ALRF by the Province under Road Use Permits or Road Permits, the

ALRF Society may construct other forest roads and access trails under the authority of Special Use Permit 23615. For roads constructed under SUP authority, the ALRF will report their location to the Province via updates to the provincial forest inventory.



Black bears are quite common in the ALRF and Upper Fraser region, often frequenting young forest and herbaceous areas to feed

8.5 Higher-level Direction and Guidance for ALRF Planning

8.5.1 Guidance on Landscape-level Biodiversity (Old Forest) Objectives

Higher-level guidance on landscape-level “old forest” management for the Aleza Lake Research Forest is provided by a memorandum issued by the Province (BC Integrated Land Management Bureau, 2009) entitled *“Guidance regarding the relationship between Landscape Level Biodiversity (old forest) Land Use Objectives and Research Forests in the Prince George Timber Supply Area”*. (Included for reference as Appendix B).

ALRF landscape- and stand-level strategies for old-forest conservation and management under this Management Plan will be consistent with the above Guidance document, as detailed in the Landscape-level Strategies of this plan.

8.5.2 Direction from the Visual Quality Objectives Order

The *Order for the Establishment of Visual Quality Objectives (VQO's) for the Prince George Forest District*, established by the District Manager under the *Government Actions Regulation* (Dec. 7th, 2005) provides legal direction from the Province for management of Scenic Areas established under the regulation. ALRF forest operations will be consistent with the direction of the above VQO Order, as amended from time to time.

8.5.3 The Prince George Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP)

The Prince George Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) is a non-statutory but significant guidance document for land use planning in the Prince George Natural Resource District. Its original stated term was 10 years from 1999 to 2009. As of the time of writing of this ALRF Management Plan, the LRMP not been renewed, cancelled, or replaced by government.

The LRMP can be regarded as useful information and guidance for general resource planning in the District because: (a) the LRMP was produced through a Provincial consensus-based public planning process, (b) it outlines management objectives applicable to the entire LRMP area, and (c) it provides broad objectives and strategies for designated resource management zones within the LRMP area.

Under the LRMP, the stated management intent for the Aleza Lake Research Forest is:

“to provide a secure land base on which to conduct long term scientific research studies in silviculture and forest ecology, including the associated education and demonstration activities.” The LRMP further indicated that the: management of the ALRF *“...will recognize the need to manage for non-timber forest resources while doing specific studies that differ from currently accepted methods and standards.”*

The LRMP notes the high fish and wildlife habitat values present in the lower Bowron River valley both within and adjacent to the ALRF. The LRMP also specifically highlighted the Bowron valley section *“below the 2,200 foot (670 metre) elevation contour from Box Canyon...”* (upstream of the ALRF) *“...to its confluence with the Fraser River”* (downstream of the ALRF), and notes that *“back channels of both the Bowron and Willow Rivers provide important rearing areas for salmon, and wet forest complexes provide good habitat for moose and fur bearers.”*

The ALRF Management Plan will continue to be consistent with the above intent and resource values indicated in the Prince George LRMP, while also providing more specific and updated direction to ALRF resource management over and above the general direction provided in the LRMP.



The moist forests typical of the ALRF are good habitat for moose. As illustrated here, moose in this area prefer areas close to both good browse (often in logged areas) and mature forest for thermal and hiding cover.

8.5.4 Guidance from the Willow River-Upper Fraser Community Plan

This ALRF Management Plan considers, is consistent with, and complementary to, the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George's Willow River-Upper Fraser Community Plan (1996), subject to any superseding statutory or other direction provided to the ALRF tenure-holder by the Province.

8.5.5 Agricultural Land Reserve

Much of the Aleza Lake Research Forest is within the Agriculture Land Reserve (ALR, see Map Appendix A2). This management plan will be consistent with the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* and associated regulation(s). Timber production, harvesting, silviculture and forest protection are permitted uses of the ALR under Section 2(f) of the *Agricultural Land Use, Subdivision and Procedure Regulation*. Permanent buildings and structures proposed or built within the ALRF are and will be authorized within, and consistent with these regulations, including consultation and review by the Fraser-Fort George Regional District, via established processes and regulations as amended from time to time.

8.5.6 Range and Forage

No provincially-issued Grazing Licenses or Permits are known to exist within the ALRF landbase. No natural range barriers are known to exist within the ALRF. Therefore, no results and strategies for range management on the ALRF are known or are proposed under this plan.