

Backgrounder Defined Forest Area Management



What is Defined Forest Area Management (DFAM)?

The Ministry of Forests (MoF) is developing a policy framework to establish the obligations and opportunities for collaborative forest management within the province's 37 timber supply areas (TSA). This framework is commonly referred to as the Defined Forest Area Management or DFAM initiative. Under DFAM, specified licensees and BC Timber Sales (BCTS) will assume a collective responsibility for timber supply analysis and specified forest health activities within each timber supply area. Government will continue to set and enforce the standards.

Although DFAM imposes a collective responsibility, it does not impact on harvesting rights or obligations associated with each forest licence. DFAM is also intended to provide a foundation for more advanced stewardship activities such as strategic and tactical level planning, enhanced forest management and certification. DFAM will provide a forum within which licensees and BC Timber Sales can determine the additional forest management activities in which they want to participate on a voluntary basis and the level to which those activities would be carried out. For example, DFAM participants may wish to collaboratively pursue growth and yield studies, intensive silviculture, or sustainable forest management planning within the TSA.

How was the policy developed?

Over the past 18 months, the MoF has consulted with industry and other stakeholders to ensure that concerns and options to address these concerns were identified and reflected in the policy framework.

When do DFAM obligations take effect?

Enabling legislation to support the DFAM initiative is currently in the drafting stage and it is expected that the legislation will be passed in the spring 2003 sitting of the B.C. The legislation will not come into force until 2004 in order to address unresolved issues related to cost recovery mechanisms, the establishment of standards and the need to ensure sufficient opportunity for licensees and BCTS to prepare for the delivery of new obligations.

Who will be responsible for Forest Health and Timber Supply Analysis during 2003/04?

The MoF will retain the legal responsibility for forest health and timber supply analysis activities during 2003/04. However, the decision to have the legislation come into force in 2004 provides a one-year transition period, for licensees and BCTS to voluntarily carry out DFAM activities. During the transition period, which begins in April 2003, funding will be provided to DFAM groups through the Forest Investment Account to carry out these activities.

Timber Supply Analysis

Under the proposed legislation, DFAM participants in each TSA will be required to collaboratively carry out a timber supply analysis at least once every 5 years, except for units that are postponed by the chief forester in accordance with legislation. The chief forester will continue to hold responsibility for the determination of the allowable annual cut in TSAs. Timber supply analysis activities include:

<i>DFAM Obligations</i>	<i>Government Obligations</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Collect and prepare a data package 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Set standards for the data package ▪ Review and approve the data package
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Complete an analysis for the TSA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Set standards for the analysis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide information to the public and First Nations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consult with First Nations ▪ Determine the AAC for each TSA

Specified Forest Health Obligations

Under the proposed legislation, DFAM participants will be required to prepare a forest health strategy for the TSA. In addition, DFAM participants will be required to carry out detection and suppression treatment activities in TSAs where required to address bark beetle infestations. Under DFAM, forest health activities include:

DFAM Obligations	Government Obligations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Prepare an annual DFAM Forest Health Strategy consistent with the provincial Forest Health Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Define performance measures for specific strategies and tactics
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Conduct detailed aerial and ground surveys for the TSA, where required	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Conduct annual aerial overview survey on all provincial forestsProvide the annual province-wide forest health overview
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Conduct bark beetle detection and treatments to standards established in the Forest Health Strategy and to a level approved by government	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Conduct aerial treatment of defoliator epidemics
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Produce an annual report describing bark beetle performance measures and costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Monitor and evaluate activities

Who is required to participate in DFAM?

Under DFAM a “core” group consisting of BCTS and holders of replaceable forest licences will be required to share the cost and performance of timber supply analysis and forest health activities. Due to the significant variation of licence types in TSAs across the province, a provision will be included in the proposed legislation that allows for additional licences to be specified as DFAM participants. The implications of including additional licence types, such as non-replaceable forest licences and pulpwood agreements, will be examined further during the transition period. Area-based licences, such as tree farm licences, woodlot licences and community forest agreements, whose allowable annual cut is not part of the TSA, will not be subject to DFAM obligations.

How are licensees organized within DFAM?

Under DFAM, licensees within each timber supply area will generally be free to choose organizational and delivery structures that best suit their particular needs. The proposed legislation will enable the application of regulations in the event of situations where DFAM participants are unable to reach agreement on cost sharing or dispute resolution.

How will DFAM obligations be enforced?

Administrative remedies and penalties, similar to those for non-compliance with forest practices, will be applied to licensees failing to comply with DFAM obligations. Remedies include:

- remediation orders;
- ability by government to access licensee’s funds for the purpose of carrying out the obligation; and
- administrative penalties, which may include fines.

The obligation to perform is placed collectively upon the ‘core’ DFAM group, but penalties can also be applied to individuals in the ‘core’ DFAM group.

Where to go for more information?

The Ministry of Forests has developed background summaries that provide more detailed technical information on the specific DFAM obligations. A DFAM website is being developed to provide further information and updates as the DFAM initiative evolves. This website will be accessible through the Ministry of Forests homepage: www.gov.bc.ca/for