Klahoose First Nation

Cortes Community Forest Co-operative

Cortes Forestry General Partnership

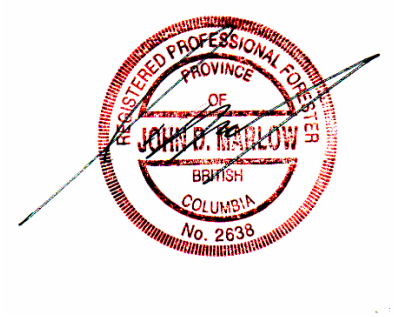
Community Forest Agreement K4G

Forest Stewardship Plan

December, 2014

Cortes Forestry General Partnership
Klahoose First Nation
Cortes Community Forest Co-Operative

Prepared by:



December 22, 2014

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Table of Contents

1.0 Introduction
- 1.1 Acronyms used in this FSP

2.0 Public Review and Comment
3.0 Higher Level Plans
4.0 Objectives Set By Government, Results and Strategies
- 4.1 Objectives Set By Government for Soils
- 4.2 Objectives Set By Government for Timber
- 4.3 Objectives Set By Government for Wildlife
- 4.4 Objectives Set By Government for Water, Fish, Wildlife, and Biodiversity within Riparian Management Areas
- 4.5 Objectives Set By Government Wildlife and Biodiversity – Landscape Level
- 4.6 Objectives Set By Government for Biodiversity – Stand Level
- 4.7 Objectives Set By Government for Cultural Heritage Resources
- 4.8 Objectives Set By Government for Visual Quality

5.0 Stocking Standards
6.0 Measures to Prevent the Introduction and Spread of Invasive Plants
7.0 Revisions

Appendices
Appendix 1 - FSP Maps
Appendix 2 - Referral Summary
Appendix 3 - Stocking Standards

1.0 Introduction

Community Forest Agreement K4G was awarded to the Cortes Forestry General Partnership (CFGP) in 2012 following many years of negotiations, community meetings, open houses, and many deep philosophical discussions regarding how our public forests should be cared for. A sense of solid forest ethics and respect for the forest environment is prevalent throughout the island and the public wish for a "better" way of doing business permeates island culture.

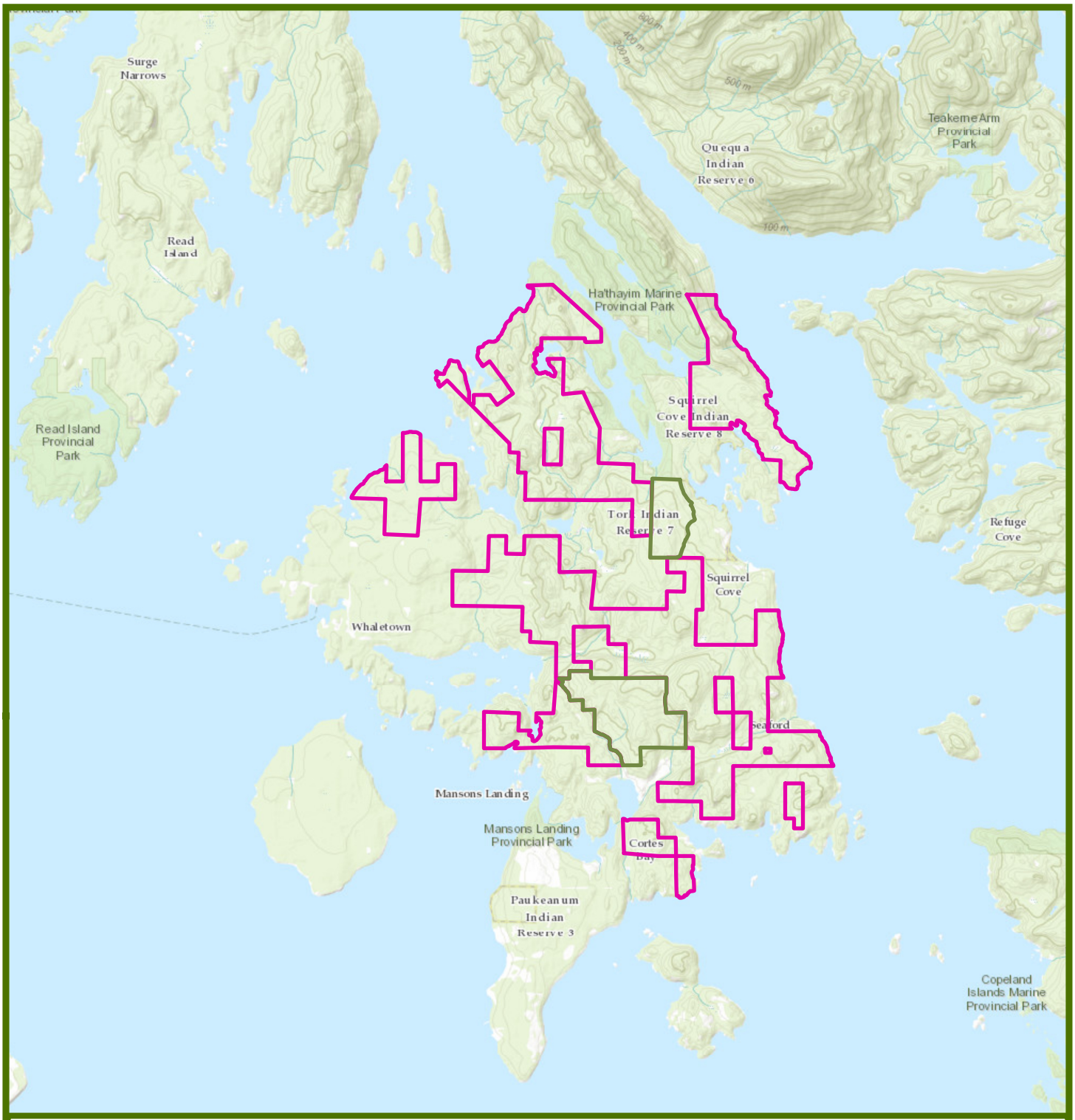
The 'Vision', 'Mission Statement', 'Values', and 'Governing Principles' of forest management at Community Forest Licence K4G are clearly outlined in the 'Community Forest Operating Plan (CFOP)' dated July 2014 and the spirit and intent of that document will guide all operations at this Community Forest Licence.

Key principles in the CFOP include, but are not limited to (from CFOP, 2014):

- long-term sustainability of the forest ecosystem
- financial viability of the Community Forest undertaking
- balance of community economic and social objectives with forest sustainability
- management of recreational trails and forest roads in consultation with community consultation
- identification and appropriate management of important natural features and their surroundings
- identification and special management of environmentally sensitive areas
- timber harvesting and entrepreneurship that invests in value-added manufacturing
- biodiversity, hydrological functions, wildlife habitat, recreational and visual quality
- non-timber resources for tourism and recreation
- innovation in all aspects of CFA management
- the promoting of safe work practices

This Forest Stewardship Plan has been prepared for the CFGP, which is a legal entity established in June 2012 to reflect the community's wish for the non-aboriginal people of Cortes Island to be equal partners with the Klahoose First Nation in the Community Forest Venture.

Community Forest Licence K4G contains the majority of the public lands on Cortes Island (See Figure 1) with the exception of Woodlot Licence W0090 (Klahoose First Nation). Blocks North1, Core, and South 1are included in CFA K4G. Blocks North 2 and South 2 are presented on Figure 1 as possible future additions to the CFA area. The FSP is a higher level (landscape level) plan which is a legal requirement of the CFA designed to provide 'Results and Strategies' to specifically address 'Objectives Set by Government' both in legislation and as outlined in higher level plans.



Cortes Community Forest
Overview Map
K4G

Licensee: Cortes Forestry General Partnership
Forest Region: Coast
Forest District: Powell River
Reference Map: 92K005,006,015,016
Datum: Nad 83
Projection: Albers
TSA: 39 Sinshine Coast
TSB: 39C
Date Drafted: December 11, 2014
By: Rockview Resources Ltd.

Community Forest Area

N
W E
S

1:200,000

1.1 Acronyms used in this FSP

In this Forest Stewardship Plan:

"CFGP"	means Cortes Forestry General Partnership
"CFOP"	means Community Forest Operating Plan
"CFA"	means Community Forest Agreement
"SRMP"	means Sustainable Resource Management Plan
"FDU"	means Forest Development Unit
"FPPR"	means Forest Planning and Practices Regulation
"FRPA"	means Forest and Range Practices Act
"FSP"	means Forest Stewardship Plan
"MFLNRO"	means Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (formerly Ministry of Forests and Range – MOFR)
"OGMA"	means Old Growth Management Area
"VILUP"	means Vancouver Island Land Use Plan
"VQO"	means Visual Quality Objective

1.2 Forest Development Units

For the purpose of the FSP, all land included in Cortes Community Forest Licence K4G are included in one Forest Development Unit. 'Results and Strategies' outlined in this FSP apply to all of the Community Forest areas.

2.0 **Public Review and Comment**

The announcement below and the FSP are posted on www.cortesisland.com, www.Klahoose.org, www.cortescommunityforestcoop.wordpress.com . The announcement was also published in the Discovery Islander bi-weekly newspaper.

CORTES FORESTRY GENERAL PARTNERSHIP
2015 – 2020 FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN
Community Forest Agreement K4A

A Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) for the Cortes Community Forest Licence K4G has been submitted to the Ministry of Forests for review and approval and is now also available for public review.

The FSP provides 'Results and Strategies' for key 'Objectives Set by Government' through legislation. The map of the current land status of areas included in the CFA is included with this FSP.

Copies of the FSP can also be viewed online at www.cortesisland.com, www.Klahoose.org, www.cortescommunityforestcoop.wordpress.com as of January 1, 2015.

This FSP is available for review and comment for a 60 day period. Please contact John Marlow, R.P.F., General Manager, Cortes Forestry General Partnership, (jmarlow@gicable.com) (or 250 830-8099) or Kristen Scholfield-Sweet (usualmagic@gmail.com) for copies of the FSP.

In order to receive consideration prior to FSP approval, comments must be received by March 1, 2015 although comments regarding this FSP are appreciated at any time throughout the year.

3.0 Higher Level Plans

This FSP falls under the jurisdiction of 3 main 'Higher Level Plans': 1) Vancouver Island Land use Plan, February 2000, 2)Cortes Landscape Unit – Sustainable Resource Management Plan – 2012, and 3) Cortes Forestry General Partnership – Community Forest Operating Plan – July 2014.

VILUP - 2000

Cortes Island is included in the VILUP as General Resource Management Zone (GRMZ) 32 – Quadra-Cortes. Clear objectives are set for GRM 32 and operations at CFA K4G are consistent.

GRMZ 32 objectives are available at http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/tasb/SLRP/plan90.html

Cortes Landscape Unit – SRMP – 2012

The Cortes Landscape Unit – SRMP identifies 7 'Significant Resource Values including:

- Fish, Wildlife, and Biodiversity
- Provincial Parks, and Protected Areas
- Private Land
- Forest Resources
- Mineral Resources
- Recreation

In consideration of these values, specific "Protected Areas and Old Growth Management Areas (OGMA's) are established.

The Cortes Landscape Unit – Sustainable Resource Management Plan – 2012 is available at http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/tasb/slrp/pdf/srmp/Sunshine-Coast/CORTES%20LU%20May12.pdf

Cortes Forestry General Partnership – Community Forest Operating Plan – July 2014.

The CFOP has been created on Cortes Island following intensive community consultation, and clearly echoes the wishes of the majority of the community. The "Community Forest Management Philosophy" of CFA K4G is presented in the CFOP and this philosophy is adopted by the CFGP. All operations at CFA K4G will strictly adhere to the Cortes Forestry General Partnership – Community Forest Operating Plan.

The Cortes Forestry General Partnership – Community Forest Operating Plan – July 2014 can be found at https://cortescommunityforestcoop.wordpress.com/

4.0 Objectives Set By Government

Section 149 of the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) authorizes the Lieutenant Governor in Council to set objectives for 11 key subjects including 1) Soils, 2) Timber, 3) Wildlife, 4) Riparian Areas, 5) Fisheries Sensitive Watersheds, 6) Biodiversity at the Landscape Level, 7) Biodiversity at the Stand Level, 8) Cultural Heritage Resources, 9) recreation resources features, and 10) Visual Quality Objectives.

These objectives are specified in Section 5 of the Forest Planning and Practices Regulation. There are no "Known" Fisheries Sensitive Watersheds of Recreation Resource Features within the lands of CFA K4G so a detailed Results / Strategies matrix is not provided in the FSP.

4.1 Objectives Set by Government Soils (FPPR Section 5)	
Objective	*The Objective Set by Government for soils is, without unduly reducing the supply of timber from British Columbia's forests, to conserve the productivity and hydrological function of soils.*
Practice Requirements	The CFGP will comply with FPPR Section 35 (soil disturbance limits) and FPPR Section 36 (permanent access structures limits).
Result or Strategy	In accordance with FPPR Section 12.1(1), the CFGP is exempt from the requirement to specify intended Results and strategies set out in FPPR Section 5.

4.2 Objectives Set by Government – Timber (FPPR Section 6)	
Objective	*The Objective Set by Government for timber are to:* *a) Maintain or enhance an economically valuable supply of commercial timber from British Columbia's Forests* *b) Ensure that delivered wood costs, generally, after taking into account the effect on them of the relevant portions of this regulation and the Act, are competitive in relation to equivalent costs in relation to regulated primary forest activities in other jurisdictions, and* *c) Ensure that the provisions of this regulation and the Act that pertain to primary forest activities do not unduly constrain the ability of the holder of an agreement to exercise the holder's rights under the agreement.*
Result or Strategy	As per section 12(8) of the FPPR, Results and Strategies are not required for the Objectives Set by Government for Timber

4.3 Objectives Set by Government – Wildlife (FPPR Section 7)	
Objective	*1)The Objective Set by Government for Wildlife are without unduly reducing the supply of Timber from British Columbia's Forests, to conserve sufficient wildlife habitat in terms of amount of area, distribution of area, and attributes of those areas for:* *a) The survival of species at risk* *b) The survival of regionally important wildlife, and;* *c) The winter survival of specified ungulate species* *2) A person required to prepare an FSP must specify a Result or a Strategy in respect of the objective stated under subsection (1) only if the minister responsible for the Wildlife Act gives notice to the person of the applicable* *a) species referred to in section 1, and* *b) indicators of the amount, distribution and attributes of wildlife habitat described in section (1)*
Description	Eighteen wildlife species of management concern are known or expected to be present in the Cortes LU. These include red and blue-listed species, and regionally significant species. Special habitats which can be protected under FRPA for species like Mountain Goats and Grizzly Bears are not present in the Cortes LU (CFA area). Conversely, Marbled Murrelet nesting habitat has been identified and is included in the OGMAs for the CFA area.
Result or Strategy	In the Cortes LU, the species of concern when identifying OGMAs was Marbled Murrelet. A total of 28 'Good' or 'Superior' Marbled Murrelet polygons are identified and OGMAs overlap each of these.

4.4 Objectives Set by Government – Water, Fish, Wildlife, and Biodiversity in Riparian Areas (FPPR Section 8)	
Objective	*The Objective Set by Government for water, fish, wildlife, and biodiversity within riparian areas is, without unduly reducing the supply of timber from British Columbia's forests, to conserve at the landscape level the water, fish, wildlife and biodiversity associated with those riparian areas.*
Result or Strategy	
Stream Riparian Class	CFGP will undertake to comply with Section 47 of the FPPR
Wetland Riparian Class	CFGP will undertake to comply with Section 48 of the FPPR
Lake Riparian Class	CFGP will undertake to comply with Section 49 of the FPPR
Restrictions in a Riparian Management Area	CFGP will undertake to comply with Section 50 of the FPPR
Restrictions in a Riparian Reserve Zone	CFGP will undertake to comply with Section 51 of the FPPR
Restrictions in a Riparian Management Zone	CFGP will undertake to comply with Section 52 of the FPPR
Temperature Sensitive Streams	CFGP will undertake to comply with Section 53 of the FPPR
Fan Destabilization	CFGP will undertake to comply with Section 54 of the FPPR
Stream Crossings	Default practice requirements outlined in Section 55 FPPR will be followed
Fish Passage	Default practice requirements outlined in Section 56 FPPR will be followed
Protection of Fish and Fish Habitat	Default practice requirements outlined in Section 57 FPPR will be followed
Use of Livestock in Riparian Areas	NA
Fisheries Sensitive Watersheds (FPPR Section 8.1)	NA – No 'Fisheries Sensitive Watersheds' have been designated in the CFA area.
Community Watersheds (FPPR Section 8.2)	NA – No 'Community Watersheds' established within the CFA areas. *Several 'Domestic Water Sources' are known to exist within the CFA area. These locations are indicated on the FSP map and water supplies are protected at those locations site specifically (subject to site specific agreements with water users).

4.5 Objectives Set by Government – Wildlife and Biodiversity Landscape Level (FPPR Section 9)	
Objective	*The Objective Set by Government for wildlife and biodiversity at the landscape level is, without duly reducing the supply of timber from British Columbia's forests and to the extent practicable, to design areas on which timber harvesting is to be carried out that resemble, both spatially and temporally, the patterns of natural disturbance that occur within the landscape.*
Result or Strategy	**Cutblock Size:** Harvest areas at CFA K4G will be classified as "General Forestry", or "Salvage / Rehabilitation". **Salvage / Rehab** areas include blowdown salvage, disease and / insect infestations, over-mature red alder, etc. Where appropriate reserve trees are available, those trees will be maintained. Patch cuts are permissible with a maximum block size of 5.0ha. **General Forestry** further classified as: 1) High Retention areas = >50% retention* 2) Medium Retention = 20% to 50% retention* 3) Low Retention = <20% retention* * Retention measured as Basal Area of Volume. There is no cutblock size limit at 'High Retention' cutblocks. Medium and Low Retention cutblocks have a maximum cutblock size of 5ha. ** Patch cuts not exceeding 2.0ha are acceptable in areas identified as having a high or very high risk of post-harvest blowdown. **Cutblock Adjacency:** FPPR section 65 applies for all harvesting of General Forestry cutblocks at CFA G4G.

4.6 Objectives Set by Government – Wildlife and Biodiversity Stand Level (FPPR Section 9.1)	
Objective	*The Objective Set by Government for wildlife and biodiversity at the stand level is, without duly reducing the supply of timber from British Columbia's forests to retain wildlife trees.*
Result or Strategy	**Cutblock Size:** Harvest areas at CFA K4G will be classified as "General Forestry", or "Salvage / Rehabilitation". **Salvage / Rehab** areas include blowdown salvage, disease and / insect infestations, over-mature red alder, etc. Where appropriate reserve trees are available, those trees will be maintained post-harvest. Patch-cuts are permissible with a maximum block size of 5.0ha. **General Forestry** further classified as: 1) High Retention areas = >50% retention* 2) Medium Retention = 20% to 50% retention* 3) Low Retention = <20% retention* * Retention measured as Basal Area of Volume. There is no cutblock size limit at 'High Retention' cutblocks (Section 64 FPPR). Medium and Low Retention cutblocks have a maximum cutblock size of 5ha. ** Patch cuts not exceeding 2.0ha are acceptable in areas identified as having a high or very high risk of post-harvest blowdown. **Cutblock Adjacency:** FPPR section 65 applies for all harvesting of General Forestry cutblocks at CFA G4G. **Wildlife Tree Retention** – The Cortes Landscape Unit LRMP (2012) specifies a target of 9% Wildlife Tree retention across the Biogeoclimatic Class (CWH xm1). Although this level of retention will be provided by landscape level reserves throughout the CFA area, a minimum of 9% will be designated at the cutblock level either by in-stand dispersed retention, in-stand clumped retention, or adjacent reserve areas.

4.7 Objectives Set by Government – Cultural Heritage Resources (FPPR Section 10)	
Objective	*The Objective Set by Government for Cultural Heritage Resources is to conserve, or if necessary, protect cultural heritage resources that are:* *a) The focus of a traditional use by an aboriginal people that is of continuing importance to that people, and* *a) Not regulated under the Heritage Conservation Act*
Description	K4G lies entirely within the asserted traditional territory of the Klahoose First Nation. K4G also lies within the asserted traditional territory of the Homalco and Sliamon First Nations (overlapping territories). For the purpose of forest-based activities on Cortes Island, Homalco and Sliamon typically defer comment to Klahoose.
Result or Strategy	Prior to the issuance of CFA K4G, detailed traditional use mapping was completed (Shawn Black, Researcher, Klahoose First Nation, February 2000). All of Cortes Island is classifies as either as 'Terrestrial High Intensity Use Area', or Terrestrial Moderate Use Area'. As the licensee of CFA K4G is the Klahoose First Nation, all cutblocks, roads, plans, etc. are referred to Klahoose First Nation*. Members of the Klahoose First Nation are trained in CHR surveys and where requested, detailed CHR surveys will be completed.

4.8 Objectives Set by Government – Visual Quality (FPPR Section 9.2)	
Description	*Substantial areas of Cortes Island have been designated as "Scenic" and for those areas Visual Quality Objectives are established (see FSP map). The established Visual Quality Objective sets acceptable levels of visual alteration for each Landscape Unit.*
Result or Strategy	Forest management activities at CFA K4G will be consistent with the Visual Quality Objectives established for the Cortez LU and as defined in FPPR Section 9.2.

5.0 Stocking Standards

The FSP must describe the Stocking Standards that will apply at CFA K4G. These standards are provided in Appendix 3.

6.0 Measures to Prevent the Introduction and Spread of Invasive Plants

Appendix 4 contains the 'Invasive Plants Regulation' where "Known" invasive plants of British Columbia are recognized. The main invasive plant species on Cortes Island is Scotch Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*). This species is common throughout Cortes Island along roadsides and in open fields. The best method of control for this species is to cut the larger plants at ground level and to pull the smaller plants with roots attached. Once Scotch Broom is established, several control treatments are required to keep the species from spreading.

Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus discolor*) is not indicated in the Invasive Plants Regulation but this is also an introduced species which can aggressively spread. For both Himalayan Blackberry and Scotch Broom, the most effective method of control is prompt and successful reforestation of cutblocks to preferred and acceptable species (thereby shading out the invasive species).

The other main group of invasive species include bull thistle (*Circium vulgare*), and Canada Thistle (*Circium arvense*) as well as a variety of grass species. These species are generally found along roadsides and are often spread via roadside seed mixtures applied for sedimentation control and slope stabilization.

It is a general policy at CFA K4G that native plants are allowed to vegetate skid trails and roadsides where experience has shown that natural vegetation is effective. Where roadside application of grass-seed mixture is required, seed mixtures free of invasive plant seed will be used. When roads are built at CFA K4G, road surfacing is generally created onsite either by developing gravel quarries or drilling and blasting rock quarries. As the surface vegetation and humus layer of the soil is removed in the development of these rock sources, the surface material is 'clean' gravel of rock and will minimize the spread of invasive plants.

Appendix 1 – FSP Maps

Included as separate attached to FSP and posted for public and agency review.

Appendix 2 – Referral Summary

Referral summary to be included in Final FSP submission following agency and public review.

Appendix 3 – Stocking Standards

The current default MoFLRNO Stocking Standards "Reverence Guide for FDP Stocking Standards" is adopted for the initial operating term of CFA K4G. This document is included as a separate submission (attachment) to the FSP document and is posted for public review.