

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Proposed Strategic Forest Management Area in the Southern Great Bear Rainforest

What is a Special Forest Management Area?

A Special Forest Management Area is a designation, enabled in the *Great Bear Rainforest (Forest Management) Act*, that prohibits commercial timber harvesting activities within a defined area.

Why is an SFMA being proposed?

The proposed SFMA would enable Kwiakah to implement their vision of “regenerative forestry” which they define as “a holistic and science-backed approach to forestry that will encourage carbon-storing old growth characteristics in logged forests.”

This initiative aligns with the Province’s endorsement of the Old Growth Strategic Review Report and commitment to a new integrated management approach for old growth forests that provides for environmental, economic, and reconciliation benefits.

The Great Bear Rainforest is co-managed within a broad network of agreements, conservation finance, carbon offsets and protected areas and continues to be an innovation lab for new ideas, approaches and partnerships.

Which activities are affected by the designation of an SFMA?

No activities other than commercial timber harvesting are affected by the designation of a SFMA.

How will the SFMA be managed?

The proposed SFMA will be managed collaboratively by the Province and Kwiakah First Nation.

How will public access be impacted?

Public access will not be impacted by the designation.

How will existing forestry roads in the proposed SFMA be impacted?

As the proposed SFMA is within an area currently authorized for forestry operations under Tree Farm Licence 45 there are existing forestry permit roads in a number of locations. Work to deactivate many of these roads will be undertaken over the near term. Deactivation prevents access by motor vehicles, removes bridges and culverts and prevents erosion to protect adjacent aquatic habitats and water quality.

Are any private lands impacted by the proposed SFMA?

No. There are no private lands included in the proposed SFMA.

How will forestry be impacted by the creation of the SFMA?

Forestry activities will not be affected beyond the SFMA. The license for TFL 45 is held by Interfor, who is working collaboratively with Kwiakah First Nation on a business agreement for the harvesting rights associated with this area.