



# **Guideline: Professional Practice of Forestry in Saskatchewan**

**March 2022**

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### BACKGROUND

#### ASFP Membership Requirements under *the Forestry Professions Act, 2013*

In May, 2013, *The Forestry Professions Act*, was amended to give Saskatchewan forestry professionals ‘right to practice.’ This means that any person wishing to practice professional forestry in the province must be a member of the Association of Saskatchewan Forestry Professionals (ASFP). This paper is intended to provide implementation guidance to workers and employers in the forestry sector.

Two sections of the Act speak to ‘right to practice.’ First, section 2(m) of the Act defines the “professional practice of forestry” as follows:

“...the provision of services in relation to the development, management, conservation and sustainability of forested land\*\* where those services require knowledge, training and experience equivalent to that required to become a member pursuant to this Act, and includes all or any of the following:

- (i) the planning, classification, inventory, mapping, measurement, certification, appraisal and evaluation of forested land;
- (ii) the development, implementation, examination or auditing of programs for harvesting and renewal of forested land;
- (iii) the conservation, reclamation, improvement or protection of forested land for forestry purposes; and
- (iv) the administration, inspection or monitoring of forested land.”

\*\* “forested land” as defined in *The Forest Resources Management Act* means;

Section 2 (1)

(f) “forest land” means:

- (i) any Crown resource land that is designated as a provincial forest pursuant to the regulations;
- (ii) any Crown land described in a forest management agreement, a term supply licence or a forest product permit;
- (iii) any Crown land administered by the Ministry of Agriculture or the Ministry of Environment that:
  - (A) in the opinion of the minister, has a forest ecosystem as the predominant ecosystem;or
  - (B) is prescribed as forest fringe timber supply land; and
- (iv) an undeveloped road allowance that:
  - (A) in the opinion of the minister, has a forest ecosystem as the predominant ecosystem; and
  - (B) shares a boundary with lands described in subclauses (i) to (iii);but does not include any Crown mineral or Crown mineral lands as those terms are defined in *The Crown Minerals Act*;

Second, the Act prohibits unauthorized practice:

23.01(1) No person shall engage in the professional practice of forestry unless the person is a practising member who:

- (a) is registered with the association as a professional forest technologist;

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- (b) is registered with the association as a professional forester; or
- (c) is registered with the association as a restricted member pursuant to subsection 19(6)

This prohibition does not apply to a person working under the professional supervision of a practicing ASFP member, a member of the Canadian Forces, a person responding to an emergency, a professional agrologist, a professional surveyor, a professional engineer or professional geoscientist, or a prospector.

Not all forestry work carried out under these headings, even many services performed in an independent or self-directed manner, necessarily constitutes the professional practice of forestry. This is because professional practice is not defined simply by the type of forestry work involved (i.e., inventory or harvesting), but by the nature and complexity of the services provided.

Professional practice typically involves undertaking activities, assessments, prescriptions, planning, recommendations, or determinations that involve the synthesis or analysis of information and which require professional judgment, discretion, and accountability. As the Act states practice becomes professional “where those services require knowledge, training and experience equivalent to that required to become a member pursuant to this Act.”

In contrast, forestry sector services characterized primarily by following regular procedures, practices, and instructions generally would not be regarded as professional practice. Examples of following procedures are:

- Taking objective measurements that do not require further analysis,
- Carrying out procedures or instructions described in a manual,
- Undertaking repeatable practices to be followed in clearly-defined circumstances as described in an employer’s Standard Operating Procedure document,
- Following an operational map describing specific practices to be followed in different management zones, or
- Assigning ratings based on observable attributes described in a classification regime.

Many of the non-professional duties described above require high levels of skill, training, and experience to do well. However, they would not be considered professional forestry practice because they are primarily the execution of guidance, protocols, and directives contained in professionally prepared plans and documents.

The Association of Saskatchewan Forestry Professionals regulates, through registration, professional foresters, professional forest technologists and restricted members (these are practising members). All forestry professionals - have the right to engage in aspects of the practice of professional forestry to the extent consistent with their education, training and experience.

#### **What is the difference between an RPF and an RPFT?**

The Association of Saskatchewan Forestry Professionals does not differentiate between the professional forestry practice of the forester and the technologist. The primary difference between the two categories of professionals, related to the practice of professional forestry in Saskatchewan, is education. In general, Registered Professional Foresters have completed a forestry based university program (often four years) while Registered Professional Forest Technologist have completed a forestry based college or technology program (two to three years). All new members to the association complete

a two year member in training program and must successfully pass a registration examination to be registered as fully practicing forestry professionals.

The ASFP recognizes that other jurisdictions do differentiate between the practice of foresters and technologists.

**As a guide, for association members and the public, forestry professionals are responsible and accountable for the following services on forested land in Saskatchewan:**

(i) The planning, classification, inventory, mapping, measurement, certification, appraisal and evaluation of forested land means:

- Generally planning, directing, and reporting on the inventory, classification, valuation, appraisal, conservation, protection, management, enhancement, harvesting, silviculture and rehabilitation of forested land;
- The development and management of forest management plans including:
  - Timber inventories
  - Vegetation inventory
  - Yield projections and all associated data and analysis
  - Timber growth and yield curves
  - Economic valuation of timber
  - Forest growth models
  - Annual allowable cut calculations
    - assessing, estimating and analyzing the capability of forest lands to yield a flow of timber while recognizing public values related to forested land
  - Landbase description (analysis and reporting)
  - Forecasting/timber supply analysis
  - Harvest planning (spatial harvest sequence)
  - Monitoring reports
  - Ecological and site classification of forested lands
- The development and management of plans and programs for harvesting and renewal of forested land including:
  - Annual and five-year operating plans for harvesting, reforestation and transportation activities
  - Silviculture/regeneration strategies (prescriptions or pre- and post-harvest assessments)
  - Road / transportation plan
  - Wildfire protection and control plan
  - Reforestation program
  - Forest Genetic Resource Management
  - Pesticide (herbicides/insecticides) plans and reports
  - Supervise regeneration or harvest programs
  - Scaling populations
  - Timber production audits
  - Field operations inspection reports
- Involvement in planning processes with other professionals and the public in the development of integrated forest management plans

(ii) The development, implementation, examination or auditing of programs for harvesting and renewal of forested land means:

- Audits (forest management performance and environmental protection)
- Assessing the impact of professional forestry activities to verify that those activities have been carried out as planned, directed or advised,
- Confirm that the goals, objectives or commitments that relate to forestry activities have been met, or advise or direct corrective action as required to conserve, protect, manage, rehabilitate or enhance forested lands;

(iii) The conservation, reclamation, improvement or protection of forested land for forestry purposes means:

- Planning, directing, and reporting on the conservation, protection, enhancement and rehabilitation of forested lands;
  - Wildfire management
  - Prescribed burn plan
  - Forest health (pesticide, forest insect and disease programs)
  - Genetic controlled parentage program plans
  - Erosion control program
  - Road stabilization program
  - Reclamation management
  - Visual resource management and impact assessment

(iv) The administration, inspection or monitoring of forested land means:

- 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;
- Development, implementation and monitoring of regulations, standards and policies pertinent to forest resource management and protection
- Development of permanent sampling program
- Development of integrated forest resource management plans and administration of forested land
- Regulators' planning

Non-members may provide these services provided they are supervised by a Saskatchewan registered forestry professional.

### **What documents must a practicing forestry professional sign in Saskatchewan?**

If the content of the document includes work within the scope of professional forestry practice it should be signed/sealed by a registered forestry professional

Following are examples of forestry related documents, non-inclusive, which a practicing member must sign/seal. In each circumstance, the member shall use his/her discretion as to whether the application of the Professional Seal and signature conforms to the Forestry Professions Act, the Association By-laws, policies and is consistent with their own education, training and experience.

- plans that are submitted for approval by regulator.
- plans that are approved by regulator.

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- attestations (documents required by law, where regulation requires qualified person, reports for public viewing).

The following examples of forestry related documents, non-inclusive, are not likely to require a forestry professional's seal or signature:

- internal documents that are not destined for public.
- routine correspondence.

The Association of Saskatchewan Forestry Professionals is developing a digital seal process through a 3<sup>rd</sup> party service. It is expected to be available to members in late 2022. Members can expect to have a guide for the use of their seal: when it must be used and what it must contain-name, designation, number, association, etc.