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DISCUSSION SUMMARY

Goals for Weyerhaeuser's Draft Detailed Forest Management Plan

Decisions on the management of forests in Alberta are made through Detailed Forest Management Plans (DFMPs), which are developed in consultation with the public. Weyerhaeuser is now preparing a DFMP for its Drayton Valley Forest Management Agreement (FMA) area. As part of this plan, the company will set sustainable harvest levels and plan its forest harvesting methods and reforestation activities in a way that is integrated with other forest users.

Weyerhaeuser has completed the first phase of the DFMP process by identifying values and establishing goals. During this phase, Weyerhaeuser prepared draft forest management goals that were based on a balance of ecological, societal and economic values. Weyerhaeuser then requested

input on the proposed goals from 38 key stakeholder groups who were believed to have an interest in forest management issues in the FMA area; comments were received from six of the 38 groups. Stakeholder groups did not necessarily comment on all goals and, in some cases, similar comments were made by more than one group. Weyerhaeuser's Forest Advisory Committee also provided input to the goal statements. A



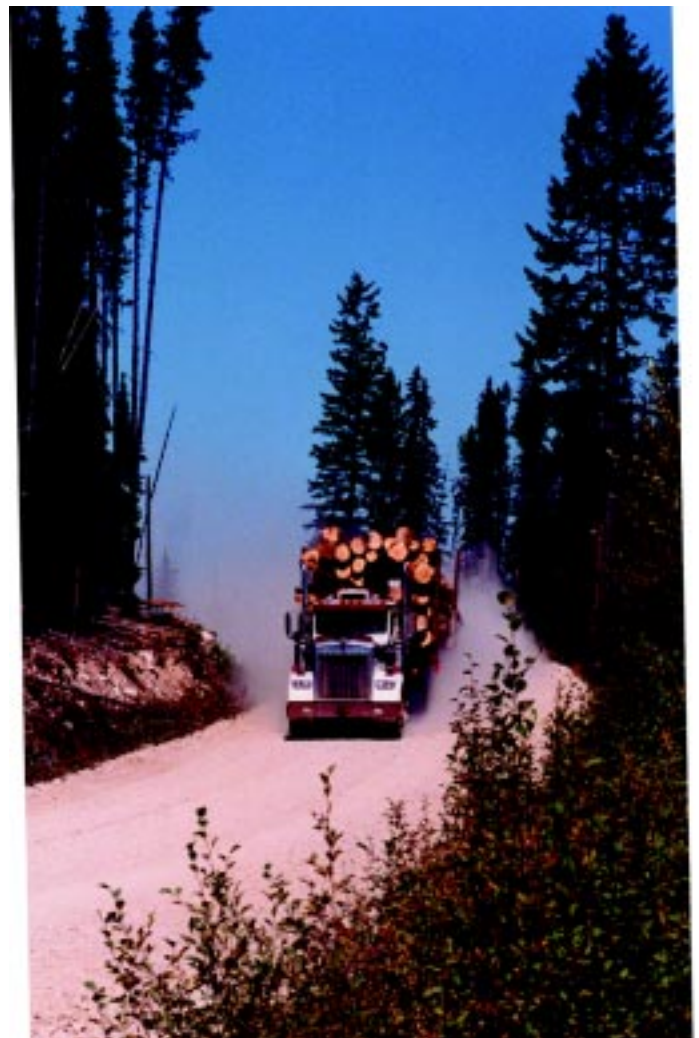
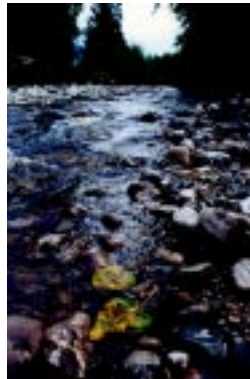
summary of all comments received and Weyerhaeuser's response is part of this short report.

In response to stakeholder feedback, Weyerhaeuser modified the values and goal statements to expand upon and further clarify and define the intent of the goals. The values and goal statements, listed below, were submitted to Alberta Environmental Protection in early 1999, and approved by the Department as submitted. Based on the



feedback received, Weyerhaeuser views these values and goals as comprehensive and an effective basis for moving to stage two of the DFMP process. From these values and goals, Weyerhaeuser will develop its forest management strategies, which will ultimately lead to specific plans and objectives for the FMA area. As the plans and objectives are prepared, Weyerhaeuser will address the issues identified by stakeholders. There will be further opportunities for public input during stage two. Weyerhaeuser appreciates the time and effort contributed by stakeholders to date and looks forward to additional public participation in the second stage of this process. Stage three will be the actual implementation of the DFMP, which includes a requirement for monitoring of Weyerhaeuser's progress toward meeting the goals.

VALUE	DESCRIPTION
Ecological	Ecological values will be integrated into the planning process through guidelines that are based on the following principles: 1. Maintain landscape diversity and stand structure within the range of natural variability. 2. Conserve habitat for threatened and endangered plant and wildlife species. 3. Maintain the integrity of watersheds
Societal	Societal values will be integrated into the planning process through: 1. A public involvement process that ensures the public has an opportunity to convey to Weyerhaeuser their issues and concerns on forest management. 2. Adherence to government legislation and policy.
Economic	Economic values will be integrated into the planning process by adopting a management strategy that recognizes economic needs of other stakeholders and provides an acceptable return to Weyerhaeuser shareholders.



Forest Management Goals for Weyerhaeuser Canada Ltd.'s Forest Management Agreement

GOAL STATEMENT	INTENT
Ensure that Weyerhaeuser's Drayton Valley facilities remain globally competitive with respect to fibre supply from the FMA area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an acceptable return to Weyerhaeuser's shareholders. • Provide an economic return to Alberta. • Maintain our economic viability in order to contribute to the local economy. • Maintain access to and security of the timber resource. • Provide for low cost / good value timber.
Maintain forest diversity at the stand and landscape level in terms of structure, composition, and function.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain habitat for rare and endangered species. • Maintain habitat for all species (eg, biodiversity). • Develop site specific riparian forest guidelines. • Improve our knowledge of the response of fish and wildlife to our forest management activities. • Ensure access is aligned with ecological values. • Maintain a forest of all different age classes over time.
Maintain the productive capacity of the forest.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain soil productivity.
Improve public acceptance of Weyerhaeuser's Drayton Valley forest management activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain meaningful input and advice from the public on our forest management activities. • Educate and communicate with the public about the forest. • Demonstrate commitment to and progress towards improving skills in forest management and knowledge of ecosystem processes. • Maintain access to and security of the timber resources. • Recognize social values. Align our practices with public values. • Manage in a socially acceptable manner.
Integrate with the management activities of other resource.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage access issues related to Weyerhaeuser's forest management activities. • Work cooperatively with other resource users such as: other timber stakeholders, the oil and gas industry, grazing disposition stakeholders, etc. • Work cooperatively with recreational and tourism stakeholders. • Minimize visual impacts. • Cooperate with all land neighbors. • To work proactively to build mutually beneficial relationships with First Nations.
Protect unique archeological and ecological sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect ecologically significant areas such as the tufa on the upper Brazeau River, the Marshybank Ecological Reserve, etc.
Maintain the integrity of watersheds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop site specific riparian forest guidelines. • Ensure Weyerhaeuser's operations do not unduly diminish water quality, water quantity and timing.
Increase the sustainable harvest level of deciduous and coniferous timber from the FMA area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve timber utilization. • Maximize the utilization of lands for forest production. • Improve forest growth and yield through the application of enhanced forest management. • Decrease loss of timber from natural causes.



Overview of Comments Received

Stakeholders, in their review of the draft goals, noted the following main issues and concerns. They are listed roughly according to the number of times the issue or concern was mentioned by the six groups that responded; the number in () is the number of groups that mentioned the issue or concern. More details on each concern or issue along with Weyerhaeuser’s response are provided on the following pages.

1. Watershed protection and water quality in the North Saskatchewan River (3)
2. Tourism (specifically, use of the forest resource for (eco) tourism and the impacts of tourism on wilderness areas) (3)
3. Access management and impact of increased access on wildlife (2)
4. Protection of biodiversity (2)
5. Protection of old-growth forests (2)
6. Mechanisms for ensuring FMA operations are conducted in a sustainable manner (2)
7. Impact of FMA activities on wilderness in the adjacent portions of Jasper National Park and/or the Bighorn Wildland (2)
8. Logging west of the Forestry Trunk Road (2)
9. Identification and protection of environmentally significant and sensitive areas (1)
10. Cooperative management of regional forest ecosystem protection concerns (1)
11. Maintenance of forests as carbon dioxide sinks (1)
12. Impact of FMA activities on roads (1)

Summary of Comments and Responses

1. Watershed protection and water quality in the North Saskatchewan River

Comments stressed the need to ensure that watersheds in the Eastern Slopes are protected for the benefit of downstream Alberta users and for those outside the province who rely on water generated in the Eastern Slopes. Many forests in the Eastern Slope watersheds occur on lands that have limited capacity for regrowth. The goal statement should also reflect the need to minimize the impact of Weyerhaeuser’s operations on water quantity and timing of flow.

Weyerhaeuser’s response: “Maintain the integrity of watersheds” was added as one of the ecological values, while also remaining as a goal. Weyerhaeuser recognizes the importance of sensitive sites within its FMA area (which is only a small portion of the overall Eastern Slopes) and endeavours to manage them in a way that does not compromise their watershed-protection ability. The intent of the goal statement was modified to reflect the need to minimize operational impacts on water quantity and timing of flow. Determining how to do this will be part of the next stage in developing the DFMP.

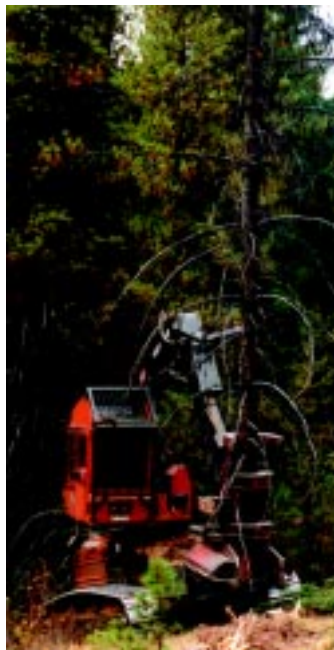
2. Tourism (specifically, use of the forest resource for (eco) tourism and the impacts of tourism on wilderness areas)

Although three stakeholders mentioned tourism, few concerns were noted. One specifically commented on the need to “provide for the growing ecotourism operators in the vicinity”; another simply noted that tourism was not mentioned in the goal statements; and a third would like Weyerhaeuser to take into account tourism impact on the wilderness area. Others, while not mentioning tourism specifically, did express concerns about increased access



and the potential impact on wildlife and the wilderness experience (see points 3 and 7).

Weyerhaeuser's response: The intent of the goal relating to integration with the management activities of other resource users was modified to state: "Work cooperatively with recreational and tourism stakeholders," while recognizing that further discussion may be needed to clarify what "cooperation" means to the various stakeholders.



3. Access management and impact of increased access on wildlife

It was noted that industry creates thousands of kilometres of new access every year in Alberta and with the growth in ATV use, accessibility of the backcountry to motorized recreation is affecting both fish and wildlife. Direct threats to wildlife include pressure from both legal and illegal hunting, and indirect threats include the disturbance of grizzly bears and other wary species as a result of higher levels of human use. Access during and after forestry operations is a fundamental element of shaping the use within the area by other parties and needs stronger emphasis in the goal statements.

Weyerhaeuser's response: The statement "Ensure access management is aligned with ecological values" was added to the intent of the goal statement dealing with maintenance of forest diversity. Furthermore, in the development of the DFMP, Weyerhaeuser will take a lead role in preparing an access management policy for the FMA area that deals with a) access created by Weyerhaeuser, and b) the compa-

ny's role as an FMA holder with other access developers. It will be important for Weyerhaeuser to maintain good communications with other users to optimize use of roads and coordinate access.

4. Protection of biodiversity

It was suggested that Weyerhaeuser should adopt the protection of biological diversity as a key public value. Another stakeholder commented that the value of biodiversity was not explicitly captured by any of the goals, although the second one was closest; having a goal that refers to the "maintenance of regionally viable populations of native species" could be helpful.

Weyerhaeuser's response: The goal of "maintaining forest diversity" is thought to address concerns about protecting biological diversity. "Biodiversity" was added as an example to clarify the intent of the statement "Maintain habitat for all species." While Weyerhaeuser can affect the habitat type available across the FMA area, the provincial government is responsible for determining regionally viable population levels for various species.

5. Protection of old-growth forests

The maintenance of significant areas of old-growth forest is considered to be an important public issue, and many of these forested areas also protect watersheds. It was recommended that protection of old-growth forests be added as a goal statement.

Weyerhaeuser's response: The goal pertaining to maintenance of forest diversity includes maintaining "a forest of all different age classes over time." This would include provision for age classes of forest that are older than those that would normally be considered solely for timber production. The key questions of how and where this will be done and how much will be maintained will be addressed in the development of the DFMP.

6. Mechanisms for ensuring FMA operations are conducted in a sustainable manner

Several concerns were raised about increasing the sustainable harvest level of timber from the FMA area, about Weyerhaeuser's plans to increase yields, and the company's ability to conduct its forest management operations in a sustainable manner. Particular concerns were expressed about forest sustainability on the thin-soiled, slow-growing Eastern Slopes.



Weyerhaeuser's response: Sustainable forest management is key to Weyerhaeuser's business goals as well as being a matter of public policy. The company believes the next forest management plan will create significant improvements in strategies that support sustained yield management. Weyerhaeuser's intent is to improve forest growth and yield through the application of enhanced forest management, which involves going beyond what is required by regulation. Strategies would include minimizing the amount of land needed for uses other than growing trees, integrating tree growth with other uses, and reclaiming



abandoned lands. Strategies to improve forest yield would involve improving the longevity and growth of the current and next generation of trees, including thinning, stand tending, mixed wood management, and tree improvement (through breeding, for example).

7. Impact of FMA activities on wilderness in the adjacent portions of Jasper National Park and/or the Bighorn Wildland

Areas of Jasper National Park that border Weyerhaeuser's FMA provide excellent opportunities for wilderness experiences, so visual and noise effects should be minimized to protect these opportunities. The Bighorn Wildland would also

be affected by nearby logging in the FMA, which is why logging west of the Trunk Road is opposed (see #8).

Weyerhaeuser's response: Various approaches, including the use of buffers, could be used to alleviate concerns about intrusion along the boundaries of the park and the wildland. Access is one key part of this issue, and access management cannot be done unilaterally. Weyerhaeuser can lead the efforts to resolve this issue, with support from others, recognizing that options may include restricting access. This particular circumstance should be considered in the development of the access management policy described in #3.



8. Logging west of the Forestry Trunk Road

Logging west of the Forestry Trunk Road should not be undertaken to protect watershed, wildlife habitats, the integrity of Jasper National Park and the Bighorn Wildland, and to provide for expanding eco-tourism opportunities in the area.

Weyerhaeuser's response: The Alberta government, through its integrated resource planning policy, has said there is an opportunity to harvest timber west of the Forestry Trunk Road. In principle, Weyerhaeuser supports logging west of the Trunk Road in its FMA area, while recognizing that the amount and type of timber harvesting will be appropriate to the resource management objectives for this particular area. Weyerhaeuser will not do any logging in that area until the DFMP is completed and specifies what operating conditions will prevail there.

9. Identification and protection of environmentally significant and sensitive areas

It was suggested that a goal statement be added to "Identify and protect environmentally significant and sensitive areas."

Weyerhaeuser's response: The current goal statements address protection for watersheds, habitats for rare and endangered species, archeological and ecological sites. Candidate sites for Special Places are in addition to these sites, and there are two candidate sites in the FMA area: Wapiabi and Thunder Lake. Further discussion is needed to clarify the distinctions between "unique", "significant", and "sensitive."

10. Cooperative management of regional forest ecosystem protection concerns

Cooperative management of concerns related to regional ecosystem forest protection needs to be considered – for example, maintaining natural disturbance process and patterns through mechanisms other than logging. These include management of fire, insects and disease, particularly in the area between the boundaries of the FMA area and Jasper National Park.

Weyerhaeuser's response: Terms of reference issued by the Province for developing the DFMP outline the necessity for Weyerhaeuser, the provincial government, and other provincial stakeholders to work cooperatively to achieve regional goals on ecosystem management, forest protection, etc. This process would certainly also include appropriate federal agencies,

such as Parks Canada, but outside the FMA area, Weyerhaeuser expects the Alberta Land and Forest Service to take the lead role.

11. Maintenance of forests as carbon dioxide sinks

As concern grows over the issue of climate change, scientific research is telling us that standing mature forests can play an important role in absorbing carbon dioxide. Canada's standing forests represent one of the world's two most important CO₂ "sinks."

Weyerhaeuser's response: Weyerhaeuser does not yet have a policy on this issue and defers to government policy for guidance at this time.

12. Impact of FMA activities on roads

One group expressed concern about road damage due to increased hauling [of logs], with specific reference to Highway 11.

Weyerhaeuser's response: This is not a strategic issue to be addressed by the DFMP, but potential damage to road quality due to log-hauling activity is a concern. Weyerhaeuser's main concern on this issue is public safety and the company has a number of activities underway in cooperation with local municipalities to ensure that public safety is protected.

