Government of Alberta ■

Sustainable Resource Development

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File: 06322-010

December 16, 2009

Dan Rollert Woodlands Manager Hinton Wood Products 760 Switzer Drive Hinton, Alberta T7V 1V7

Dear Mr. Rollert:

Subject:

APPROVAL - HINTON WOOD PRODUCTS

FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN TERMS OF REFERENCE

Thank you for your September 21, 2009 submission of the Hinton Wood Products Forest Management Plan Terms of Reference (TOR). The TOR is approved. Please ensure the requirements of the "Alberta Forest Management Planning Standard" are met.

We look forward to working with you on the development of your Forest Management Plan.

If you have any questions regarding this approval please contact Liana Luard at (780) 427-0395.

Sincerely,

Vicky Bossé

Acting Senior Manager

Vicky Bosse

CC:

Bill Tinge, Forestry Manager, Foothills Area





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September 21, 2009

Ms. Vicky Bossé
Acting Manager, Forest Planning Section
Sustainable Resource Development
8th fl Great West Life Building
9920 - 108 Street
Edmonton, AB T5K 2M4

Dear Ms. Bossé:

Re: Hinton Wood Products DFMP Revised Terms of Reference

Please find enclosed, for your review and approval, a revised copy of the Hinton Wood Products Detailed Forest Management Plan Terms of Reference. The significant changes to the document, from the last approved version, include:

- Change in coniferous utilization to the 15/11 standard.
- Summary of current AAC's at the currently approved operational adjustment levels (15/10).
- Updated timeline to reflect submission of a beetle plan in December 31, 2009 and a full DFMP by September 30, 2010.
- Revisions to the aboriginal communities which HWP is required to keep apprised and solicit input from regarding the DFMP.

I can be reached by phone at 780-865-8181 or by email at <u>Richard.Briand@WestFraser.com</u> if you have any questions or concerns about the enclosed document.

Best Regards,

Richard Briand, RPF

Management Forester

Hinton Wood Products, a Division of West Fraser Mills Ltd.

cc: Kevin Vander Haeghe – Integrated Planning Forester, Forest Management – Foothills Area

Dan Rollert - Woodlands Manager, Hinton Wood Products

Rick Bonar - Chief Biologist and Planning Coordinator, Hinton Wood Products



Terms of Reference

Detailed Forest Management Plan



Revised September 2009

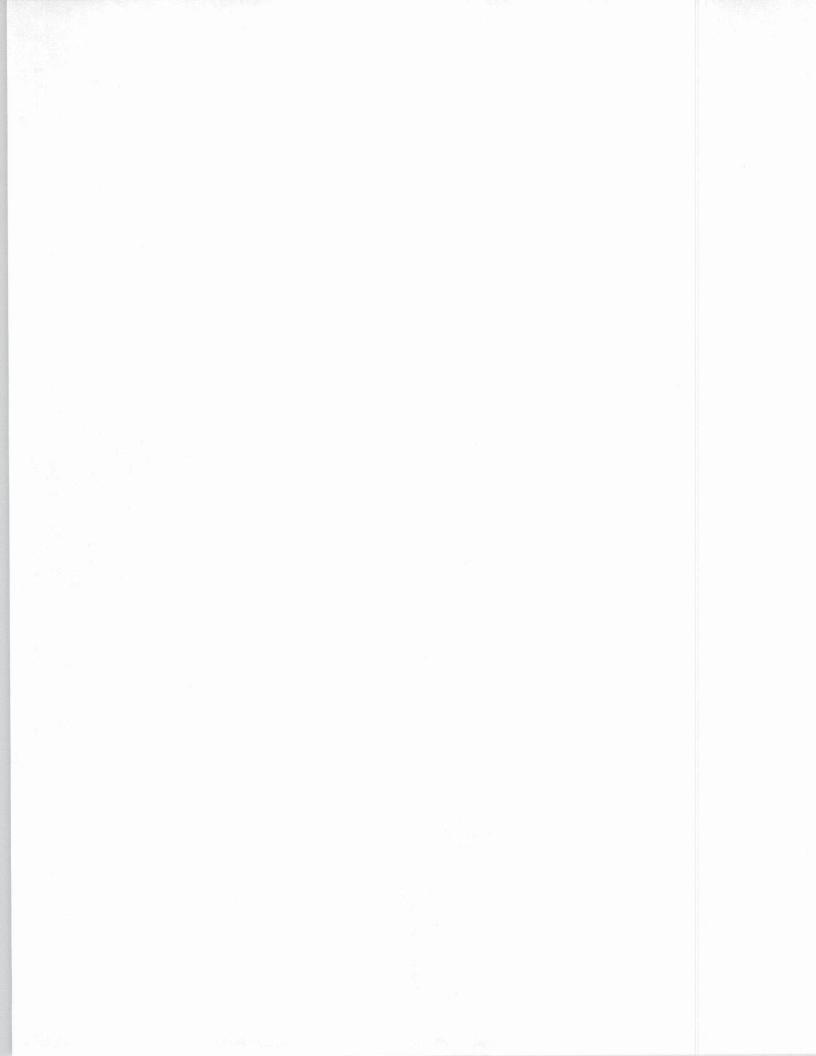




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1. Introduction

This document is an amendment to the Terms of Reference (ToR) which was approved by Alberta on September 14, 2007. Copies of the request and approval letters are provided in Appendix A. This document describes the process to be used for developing and implementing the next revision to the Detailed Forest Management Plan (DFMP) for the FMA area managed by Hinton Wood Products, a division of West Fraser Mills Ltd (the Company). It follows the process described in the Alberta Forest Management Planning Standard (version 4.1 – April 2006). The Terms of Reference describes the process from the point of starting work on a Detailed Forest Management Plan to starting work on the next DFMP.

2. Background Information

Hinton Wood Products (HWP) and its predecessor companies have a history of sustainable forest management of the Hinton Alberta Forest Management Area (FMA) that started with the signing of the original Forest Management Agreement (the Agreement) in 1954 and commencement of operations in 1956. Hinton Wood Products is committed to practicing Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) through stewardship of the forest resources. SFM involves management of all the forest resources (not just timber) in consideration of the full spectrum of forest values, for environmental, social, and economic sustainability. The Hinton Wood Products FMA is currently registered to the ISO 14001 and CAN/CSA Z809 standards.

With the exception of a small amount of timber (8,500 m³/yr conifer and 1,500 m³/yr deciduous) available for commercial timber permits, Hinton Wood Products is the only forest company with tenure on and authority to manage the FMA timber resource. Under authority of the Agreement, Hinton Wood Products is responsible for all timber management planning on the FMA.

The annual allowable cut (AAC) was established in 1998 at the 10/8 utilization standard. Operational adjustments to the AAC at the 15/10 standard have been approved and are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. Fibre Allocation on the Hinton Wood Products FMA.

Allocation #	Tenure Holder	Utilization Standard	Туре	AAC Volume (m³)	Percent of AAC
FMA-8800025	Hinton Wood Products	15/10	Coniferous	1,526,500	99.4
FMA-8800025	Commercial Timber Permit	15/10	Coniferous	8,500	0.6
Total				1,535,000	100.0
FMA-8800025	Hinton Wood Products	15/10	Deciduous	150,275	99.0
FMA-8800025	Commercial Timber Permit	15/10	Deciduous	1,500	1.0
Total				151,775	100.0



3. FMA Description

The Hinton Wood Products Forest Management Area is located in west-central Alberta, within the Foothills and Rocky Mountain natural regions. The Area is roughly bounded by the town of Edson on the east, Jasper National Park on the west, the Brazeau River to the south, and the Berland River to the north. The Forest Management Units (FMU's) encompassed by the FMA are E1N, E3N, E4N, E5N, E7N, E8N and E11N.

The Hinton Wood Products FMA was divided into two sustained yield units for the 1999 Forest Management Plan. The Loomis Forest (58.5%) is north of the Athabasca River, and the Crossley Forest (41.5%) is south of the Athabasca River. The Loomis Forest contains the Athabasca, Berland and Marlboro Working Circles (administrative units). The Crossley Forest contains the Embarras and McLeod Working Circles. Working Circles are further subdivided into 136 operating Compartments, which were originally established on the basis of average age of stands and other operational considerations. The intent for the new DFMP is to create a single sustained yield unit.

The FMA has been mapped to the ecosite level following the hierarchical ecological classification developed for West-Central Alberta (Beckingham *et al* 1996). There are four Natural Subregions within the FMA: Upper Foothills (50%), Lower Foothills (30%), Subalpine (15%), and Montane (1%).

The FMA is situated on the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains. Topography varies from steep slopes and ridges in the west to more gently rolling hill topography in the east. Elevation decreases from west to east with a corresponding northeast drainage pattern. Major watersheds within the FMA include the Athabasca River in the north and the North Saskatchewan River in the south.

Morainal deposits account for the largest single deposit type on the area. Colluvial deposits are common at higher elevations in the west while aeolian materials tend to be associated with the Montane valleys and passes. Organic deposits are scattered throughout the area.

The FMA is dominated by lodgepole pine and white spruce forests. The strong influence of fire is evident in the large tracts of even-aged lodgepole pine stands that occur throughout the FMA. Pine is also found in mixture with other species including black spruce, white spruce and aspen. White spruce occurs in pure stands or in mixtures with pine or aspen. Mixedwood and deciduous stands (aspen is the primary deciduous species) are relatively common in the Lower Foothills, but become increasingly rare as elevation increases. Organic sites are dominated by black spruce and eastern larch.



4. Goals

This ToR provides a framework to develop a new Detailed Forest Management Plan (DFMP) for the FMA. The key goals are:

- 1. Develop the DFMP following sustainable forest management principles to address a mix of both timber and non-timber values.
- 2. Maximize the coniferous Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) at the 15/11 utilization standard.
- 3. Determine the deciduous AAC at the 15/10 utilization standard.
- 4. Include pine management strategies intended to reduce the amount of mature and over-mature lodgepole pine stands on the FMA.
- 5. Develop stratum specific regeneration standards that link to yield assumptions made in the timber supply analysis.
- Combine Crossley and Loomis sustained yield units to create one sustained yield unit for the FMA area.

5. Timelines

A two-stage approach to the development of a new forest management plan was approved in December 2008. A subsequent meeting was held in Edmonton on September 11, 2009. At that meeting HWP requested an extension to the submission date of the Beetle Plan to December 31, 2009. The extension was approved at the meeting. The timelines for the September 2010 FMP were also discussed although no decision was made at the time. Further discussion on the FMP timelines are required. Currently, the key deadlines are as follows:

- December 31, 2009
 - Submit MPB amendment which will include the following:
 - Focus on MPB risk reduction
 - Include the recommendation of a new AAC
 - Address water, caribou, trumpeter swan and grizzly bear issues
 - Submission of a 5 year spatial harvest sequence
- October-November 2009
 - Hinton Wood Products and Sustainable Resource Development representatives will continue discussions regarding the current status of several strategic planning initiatives currently underway. These include the landuse framework, the water-for-life strategy and grizzly bear and caribou recovery programs. The outcome of the assessment will be a decision on the submission timeline for the Forest Management Plan. The current timeline for submission of the FMP is September 30, 2010. Given the high level of uncertainty related to the provincial initiatives and the implications they may have on forest management planning, it is possible that an FMP would have a very short shelf life.



- September 30, 2010 (unless otherwise agreed)
 - Submit FMP that meets the requirements of the Alberta Forest Management Planning Standard

Figure 1 highlights major deadlines in working towards this goal. The most critical deadlines are submission and review of the DFMP. Other deadlines will be reviewed regularly at each Plan Development Team (PDT) meeting and revised as level of effort required for each task becomes clearer. If it becomes apparent that any of these deadlines will not be meet, all members of the PDT will be informed in a timely manner to allow corrective action to ensure that the final deadline will not be compromised.

The following provides some additional detail to assist in interpreting Figure 1. The coloured bars represent periods of time when work will be occurring on various plan components. Dates for submission, review completion and approval are indicated by symbols. Unless otherwise stated, these dates refer to the final working day of the month.

The landbase will be updated to reflect disturbances up to April 30, 2008 for both the beetle plan and the FMP. As a result, the landbase used in the 2010 FMP will be approximately $2\frac{1}{2}$ years out of date.

The analysis report will include all technical documentation for plan components including the net landbase determination, landscape assessment, yield curve development, timber supply analysis, and non-timber assessments. Most of these plan components will be submitted initially as separate documents, but will be combined under one cover to form the Analysis Report.

6. Internal and External Communication

Communication within the Plan Development Team will be addressed by the following:

- Regular meetings
- Distribution of meeting minutes
- Distribution of documents and spatial data layers discussed at meetings.

The Forest Management Planning Forester, Forest Management Branch will be responsible for ensuring that all appropriate personnel within ASRD are informed of decisions made by the Plan Development Team and consulted where necessary. The Management Forester, Hinton Wood Products, with ensure that all appropriate company personnel are consulted and advised of PDT progress.

Information on the company and its operations, including FMPs, approvals, annual reports, stewardship reports and ground rules, will be made available to the public on the HWP website.

Communication with interested parties and stakeholders external to ASRD and Hinton Wood Products will be handled through the Public Involvement Program and the Aboriginal Consultation program. Both are summarized later in this document.

Hinton Wood Products A division of West Fraser Mills Ltd.

Terms of Reference Detailed Forest Management Plan

Figure 1. Hinton DFMP Preparation Timeline (revised September 2009).

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FMP					September 30, 2010 Submission	010 Submission	$\overline{}$

Submission = Review completed + Agreement in principle < Approval
Unless otherwise stated, submission, review, agreement in principle and approval dates refer to the last working day of the month.



7. Public Involvement Program

The goals of the Public Involvement Program are to:

- Give the public an opportunity to become proactively involved in the management of the Forest Management Area;
- 2 Use the public participation process to help improve the Hinton Wood Products Sustainable Forest Management System (SFM) for its Forest Management Area;
- 3 Provide awareness of the opportunity for interested parties to participate through a local public advisory group (FRAG) member or by direct communication with Hinton Wood Products;
- 4 Collect, consider and respond to all input provided by interested parties;
- 5 Establish a list of interested parties to participate in continual improvement of the Hinton Wood Products SFM System; and
- 6 Increase general awareness and understanding of sustainable forest management.

The major strategy used in seeking involvement from the public in the development of the DFMP will be the Forest Resources Advisory Group (FRAG). This Group was established to provide organized and regular public input to Hinton Wood Products, including feedback, comment, and input into development of the values, goals, objectives, and targets (VOITs) that form a key component of the DFMP and our CAN/CSA Z809-02 registered Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Plan. FRAG was also established to select or identify and respond to issues, and consider and recommend actions and policies to Hinton Wood Products. FRAG is not a decision making body and Hinton Wood Products is not required to accept FRAG recommendations but is required to provide a rationale for decisions made. Currently FRAG has representation from the following interested parties:

- Hinton & District Chamber of Commerce
- United Steelworkers
- Hinton Ministerial Association
- Coal Association of Canada
- Town of Hinton
- Canadian Forest Service
- · Hinton Good Companions
- Alberta Teachers Association
- Hinton Environmental Association

- Hinton Fish & Game Association
- Yellowhead County
- Jasper National Park
- Hinton All Terrain Vehicle Society
- Alberta Trappers Association
- Hinton Training Centre
- Friends of Switzer Park
- · Hinton Neighbour Link
- Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada

There are three agencies that sit on FRAG and act in an advisory role (i.e. they are non-voting members): Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Foothills Model Forest, and Alberta Energies & Utilities Board (participates on an as-required basis).

FRAG will be asked to review and provide comment on the final draft of the DFMP. Their comments and the company's response will be included in the final DFMP submission.



In addition to FRAG, Hinton Wood Products will use letters to various stakeholders and advertisements in local newspapers to seeking input into the development of values, goals, indicators, and targets (VOITs) for the new DFMP. Other portions of the Public Involvement program which are more fully described in the Hinton Wood Products SFM Plan include:

- Open Houses
- Public Notification of the Initiation of the Compartment Planning Process
- 1-800 Number

- Website
- Recreation Program
- AOP Document
- Public Opinion Survey

8. Aboriginal Consultation

Hinton Wood Products understands and acknowledges that Aboriginal peoples (including Treaty, non-Treaty, and Metis) are part of the human society who have values, knowledge, and uses in respect of the Hinton FMA. In addition, Aboriginal peoples are accorded special rights and interests through treaty, constitutional law, common law and government policy. Many of these special rights and interests are not clearly defined and remain the subject of debate and judicial processes. Hinton Wood Products is committed to the preferential involvement of Aboriginal peoples in sustainable management planning for the FMA and by recognizing and where possible addressing these special rights and interests through the following:

- Timely dialogue with local aboriginal communities regarding FMA activities to understand the implications of our operations upon the special rights and interests of aboriginal peoples with the intent of respecting and addressing those rights and interests whenever it is reasonably possible to do so,
- Ensuring FMA activities continue to provide opportunities for ongoing use of land and resources by Aboriginal people,
- Conservation of specific sites culturally or spiritually important to local aboriginal communities,
- Consideration of traditional knowledge into our sustainable forest management planning,
- Active support of socio-economic capacity building in local aboriginal communities, and
- Support of social and cultural events and organizations within local aboriginal communities.

Hinton Wood Products has developed an action plan to ensure Aboriginal communities have been adequately engaged and given an opportunity to provide input into the development of the Forest Management Plan and CSA Z809-02 registered Sustainable Forest Management system. The company intent is to coordinate activities for the SFM Plan and the DFMP wherever possible. Some elements required by CSA may have to be done independent of consultations for the DFMP. Initial discussions with local communities regarding the DFMP were completed in 2005. Additional meetings were



held in 2006 to provide updates to these communities. Written records will be maintained of these meetings and will be made available to SRD upon request.

Specifically, Hinton Wood Products will undertake aboriginal engagement activities with the following communities:

Aboriginal Community	Status	Mandatory/Voluntary Consultation
Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation	First Nation	Mandatory
Aseniwuche Winewak Nation (AWN)	Non-Status*	Mandatory
O'Chiese First Nation	First Nation	Mandatory
Ermineskin Tribe	First Nation	Mandatory
Foothills Ojibway	Non-Status	Voluntary
Nakcowinewak Nation	Non-Status	Voluntary
Mountain Cree (Small Boys)	Non-Status**	Voluntary
Sunchild First Nation	First Nation	Voluntary
Bighorn Chiniki	Non-Status***	Voluntary

^{*} While the AWN is not technically a recognized First Nation, their situation is unique and the Alberta government recognizes that they should be treated that same as First Nation when conducting consultation.

HWP will keep each of these communities apprised as to the status of the development of the management plan as per the FMP Communication Plan. This process was initiated with consultation of proposed values, objectives, indicators, and targets.

9. Resources

Human resources required to complete the DFMP include the PDT members, government and Hinton Wood Products staff, FRAG members, consultants and other experts as required. Physical resources required for the DFMP include meeting rooms at the Hinton Wood Products offices and ASRD offices in Hinton, Edson and Edmonton.

The key information required for the plan is outlined in Table 2; the technological resources that will be used are described in Table 3. Other technological resources required to address other values such as carbon accounting and FireSmart will be identified during the course of plan development. The complete range of values to be addressed will be identified by the PDT.

Table 2. Information requirements for the DFMP

Data	Description
Alberta Vegetation Inventory	Approved (2001 photography, AVI 2.1 standards).
Ecological Land Classification	Completed for entire FMA in 2004 using Ecosystem Classification guide for West Central Alberta
Permanent Growth Sample Plot Data	Repeated measurements on approximately 2700 plots dating back to the 1960's.
Government base data	Including waterbodies, hydrology, FMA boundaries

Some members of the Mountain Cree are members of the Ermineskin First Nation

^{***} The Bighorn Chiniki live on a federal Indian Reserve near Nordegg but are not recognized by Alberta as a separate First Nation – they are part of the Stoney First Nation.



Data	Description	
Updated hydrology	HWP has created a new hydrology layer for the FMA.	
LiDAR	SRD has provided LiDAR data which HWP intends to use to assess steep slopes, riparian areas and create new hydrology and watershed layers.	
Road data	From company and government sources.	
Dispositions	Includes well sites, pipelines, powerlines, etc.	
Seismic data	Updated using 2001 orthophotos.	
Performance Survey Data	Collected to ARS protocols & earlier test protocols (2004-2008).	
Compartment harvest plans	To be used for landbase netdown and spatial harvest sequence.	

Where data is used for net landbase development, the format requirements described in Annex 1, Section 3.7 of the Planning Standard will be followed. The net landbase documentation will describe the tolerance parameters used in generating the final classified landbase and explain how sliver polygons were handled.

Table 3. Technological resources available for the DFMP

Purpose	Resource	
Timber supply analysis	Woodstock, Spatial Woodstock and Stanley	
Yield curve development	GYPSY and MGM	
Hydrological analysis	FMP HAM and/or Alberta ECA	
Habitat supply	Critter Cruncher and Wild Weasel, FMF grizzly bear habitat analysis, caribou analysis	
Species at Risk	Species Conservation Strategies	
Natural Range of Variability	Modeling by David Andison done for 1999 FMP. Further modeling on fine-scale patterns to come.	



10. Roles and Responsibilities

Hinton Wood Products and Alberta Sustainable Resource Development have assembled a Plan Development Team (PDT) that will be the central group responsible for development of the DFMP. Table 4 describes PDT membership.

Table 4. Plan Development Team Core members.

Position	Affiliation
Forest Management Planning Forester	ASRD—Forest Management
Integrated Operational Planning Forester	ASRD—Foothills Area
Approvals Forester	ASRD—Foothills Area
Area Wildlife Biologist	ASRD—Fish and Wildlife
Management Forester	Hinton Wood Products
Chief Biologist / Planning Coordinator	Hinton Wood Products
Planning Forester	Hinton Wood Products

Other technical experts from the Alberta government and Hinton Wood Products will be consulted on an as needed basis to address specific areas of concern. Additional technical experts are listed in Table 5. This list may be added to if additional expertise is determined to be necessary during the course of DFMP development.

Table 5. Additional technical experts.

Position	Affiliation	Function
Senior Forester –Operating Ground Rules	ASRD— Timber Operations Harvesting and Renewal Section	Operating Ground Rules Lead
Senior Resource Analyst	ASRD—Resource Analysis Section	Timber supply
Growth and Yield Forester	ASRD—Resource Analysis Section	Growth and Yield
Stewardship/Public Affairs Coordinator	Hinton Wood Products	Public consultation
Senior Silviculture Forester	Hinton Wood Products	Tree improvement and silviculture
Operations Coordinator	Hinton Wood Products	Harvest Operations
Landuse Coordinator	Hinton Wood Products	Landuse



11. Participation of Experts, other Interests, and Government

Hinton Wood Products will attempt to ensure that its DFMP will meet the requirements of the Planning Standard (process described in section 17) and comply with all other relevant legislation (provincial and federal). To ensure these requirements, Hinton Wood Products will consult with experts on an as needed basis. This process will be developed more fully during the planning process.

12. Operating Ground Rules Determination

The Alberta Sustainable Resource Development lead in the ground rule determination will participate in DFMP meetings to ensure that operational issues are considered during the VOIT and TSA design. Within this process a separate Terms of Reference will be agreed to. The intent is to develop new Operating Ground Rules concurrently with the development of the DFMP.

13. Submission Requirements

Approved FMPs and reports are public documents and Alberta shall make these available for public review by posting them on the departmental website, as well as through printed copies. According to Alberta's standards for submissions, Hinton will submit the following:

- i. five paper copies of the DFMP,
- ii. one single digital copy of technical files,
- iii. five digital copies (password protected and password supplied, .pdf format),
- iv. a RFP validated checklist describing the extent of compliance with applicable standards included with each submission.

14. Conflict of Interest

All parties involved in DFMP development process will represent the interests only of the organization they are officially representing. Persons who may be involved in discussions where there could be a conflict of interest are expected to declare the conflict of interest and exit the discussion. If it becomes apparent that an individual is not representing the interests of his or her agency, the individual will be approached and given the opportunity to address the situation. If the potential conflict is not addressed to the satisfaction of the PDT, the dispute mechanism process (section 18) will be invoked.

15. Decision-Making Methods

Plan components will be submitted to the government for approval or agreement in principle as they are completed. This progressive approach of submitting separate components is intended to streamline the final approval process.

Where approaches to development cannot be agreed upon by the PDT, or where there is difficulty in obtaining agreement in principle for a plan component, the matter will be referred according to the dispute resolution mechanism described in section 18.



16. Mechanism to Adjust the Process

A considerable amount of time will elapse between writing the ToR and final submission of the DFMP. Over this length of time, it is reasonable that changes may occur that would make it necessary to revise the processes described in the ToR. Some examples of changes that would require a revision to the ToR include changes in government policy or company management directives, availability of additional information or issues raised through the public participation process. The ToR will be revised on an as-needed basis to reflect the current planning environment and availability of new information.

17. Authority for Decisions

The Alberta provincial government has final approval authority for the timber supply analysis, inventories, samplings program, yield curves and supporting documentation and the completed Detailed Forest Management Plan.

The Interpretive Bulletin, "Forest Management Planning Roles, Responsibilities and Approval Authorities," in the Planning Standard describes four main elements of the decision making process:

- A. The Plan Development Team is formed to resolve technical details of a forest management plan and is to reach agreement in principle on all components of the plan prior to its completion;
- B. If the PDT cannot reach agreement in principle, the Senior Manager, Forest Planning Section, can decide to end the FMP development process. When this occurs the Company must submit the plan components and supporting documents to Alberta. Depending on the state of the plan, a review will result in either an Approval Decision being issued, or in Alberta setting a precautionary AAC that will be followed by operators until an acceptable FMP is approved;
- C. When an FMP is submitted for appraisal, an Approval Review Committee chaired by the Senior Manager, Forest Planning Section, reviews it and provides recommendation to the Executive Director, FMB to assist his final decision on an FMP;
- D. Final approval of all FMP components is given when the FMP is approved by the Executive Director of Forest Management Branch issuing an approval decision.

18. Dispute Resolution

Where the Plan Development Team cannot reach agreement on matters pertaining to development of the Hinton Wood Products DFMP, the matter will be referred to the Senior Manager - Forest Planning Section, the Area Manager - Foothills Area and the Woodlands Manager - Hinton Wood Products. If the Woodlands Manager, the Area Manager and the Forest Planning Section Senior Manager cannot reach agreement, the matter will be referred to the Executive Director – Forest Management Branch, ASRD, and Chief Forester (Alberta) – West Fraser Mills, and the Hinton Wood Products Woodlands Manager for resolution.



The goal through out the process is to allow quick resolution of issues. To further this goal, the Plan Development Team will strive to resolve issues, but if it becomes apparent that a decision cannot be reached, they will refer the matter to the Woodlands Manager and Forest Planning Section Manager. They will take the same approach of referring matters to the next stage where agreement cannot be reached. Time is of the essence in dispute resolution and deadlines will be respected.

19. Access to Information

All Plan Development Team members will have access to documents and data discussed in PDT meetings. Information used for timber supply analysis (TSA) and yield curve development will be made available to the government for review; this information may not be used for other purposes without the Company's permission. Decisions about public access to information will be made on a case specific basis in a manner consistent with Company policy and the Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

20. Stewardship Reports

Hinton Wood Products produces an annual stewardship report which demonstrates progress towards or achievement of the VOITs in the Sustainable Forest Management Plan. Many of the VOITs in the DFMP will overlap with the SFMP, these VOITS will be reported on annually. Hinton Wood Products will complete a stewardship report five years after approval of the DFMP which will describe the progress towards fulfillment of the DFMP commitments. A detailed commitment matrix will be included in the DFMP document.

21. Forest Inventory

The approved forest inventory was based on 2001 aerial photography. The Planning Standard dictates that inventories may not be used for forest management planning if they have been completed more than 10 years prior to the effective date of the DFMP. Hinton Wood Products will work with Alberta to determine an appropriate re-inventory schedule.

22. Transition Plan

Certain standards described in the Alberta Forest Management Planning Standard may be extremely difficult for Hinton Wood Products to meet given the timelines for approval and limited resources available. None have been identified at this time. If further clarification of standards by ASRD makes such outages apparent, the Plan Development Team will determine a course of action acceptable to ASRD, which still allows Hinton Wood Products to meet its timeline of a September 2010 submission.



Appendix A – Terms of Reference Approval Letters and FMP Extension Letters