

APPENDIX 1 TERMS OF REFERENCE



December 17, 2008

Robert Stokes, Manager
Forest Planning Section
Sustainable Resource Development
8th fl Great West Life Building
9920 - 108 Street
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2M4

Re: Slave Lake Pulp (S20) DFMP Amendment for Mountain Pine Beetle

Dear Robert;

The Slave Lake Pulp FMA contains a significant volume of Lodgepole Pine which is susceptible to attack by the mountain pine beetle. SRD surveys and log storage yard trapping programs confirm the presence of the beetle in the FMA, particularly in the south west regions of the FMA. The companies with coniferous tenure in the FMA believe it is appropriate to accelerate the harvest of susceptible pine to increase the forest's resistance to attack. Coincidentally, the large area of old age-class structure pine is at significant risk of catastrophic fire.

Preliminary timber supply analysis indicates that a moderate level of harvest acceleration would result in a negligible impact on long term supply.

The companies which currently have tenure within the S20 Forest Management Unit are requesting that Sustainable Resource Development approve the following Terms of Reference for development of a Mountain Pine Beetle Plan.

The Terms of Reference have been jointly developed by all the embedded tenure holders and are in line with the interpretive bulletin "Planning Mountain Pine Beetle Response – Operations."

Yours truly,

Gordon Sanders RPF 92
Woodlands Manager, Slave Lake Pulp

George Duffy RPF 602
FMA Planning Forester, Slave Lake Pulp

Keith Branting
Woodlands Manager, Buchanan Lumber

Keith Branting
On behalf of - Lakeshore Timber Co.

Terry Kristoff RPF 292
Management Forester, Slave Lake Pulp

Ray Hilt RPFT 920005
Chief Forester, Millar Western Forest
Products

Kevin Kuhn RPF 851
Vanderwell Contractors (1971) Ltd.

Terms of Reference

Section 7 of the Interpretive Bulletin *Planning Mountain Pine Beetle Response Operations* states that it is Alberta's goal to alter the current age-class structure of susceptible pine forests thereby increasing their resistance to Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB). The initiative requires that Forest Management Plans (FMP) be amended to address the MPB issue. Further, the directive indicates two key targets:

- i. New or amended Pine Strategy FMPs must be completed by May 1, 2009.
- ii. The goal is to reduce the area of susceptible pine in the Rank 1 and Rank 2 categories to 25% of that projected in the currently approved FMP at a point twenty years into the future.

The operators within S20 FMU are currently working toward achieving the pine reduction strategy. While attempting to form an operational plan from the current ASRD susceptibility model and the resulting Rank 1 and Rank 2 identified stands, it was discovered that the model was selecting stands that contained very little pine. As a result an alternative system to prioritize stands for harvest was selected. The following priority ranking is a preliminary system that may be adjusted as the TSA is completed.

- Priority 1 \geq 70% pine
- Priority 2 40%-60% pine
- Priority 3 \leq 30% pine
- Priority 4 no pine

Although an alternative priority ranking system will be used to select stands within the TSA and resulting SHS, a summary of ASRD ranking system will be included in the final FMP amendment document. An additional comparison of baseline, Preferred Forest Management Strategy (PFMS) and ASRD's 75% reduction of Rank 1 and 2 strategy will be included.

The S20 FMU is currently at the leading edge of the MPB infestation in the province and has a significant proportion of its productive forest in susceptible pine Rank 1 and Rank 2 stands. It is the intent of the forest tenure holders within the S20 Forest Management Unit (FMU) to amend the currently approved FMP prior to May 1, 2009 to meet the objectives of the interpretive bulletin. The planning process will follow the guidelines of the interpretive bulletin in all respects. Specifically with regards to *Annex 1, standard 5.6i (a-e)* as follows:

- a. Creation of an acceptable Spatial Harvest Sequence (SHS) to all tenure holders with attention to any Level II stands within the FMU. Focus will be upon:
 - i. Allocation of harvest areas between operators
 - ii. Agreement on understorey protection guidelines
 - iii. Acceptable scheduling to meeting resource needs
 - iv. Evaluation of the SHS for watershed effects

- b. Development of an amended Road Corridor Development Plan
- c. Development of tactics to address requirements for species of special management concern which include Grizzly Bear and Woodland Caribou.
- d. Report on the effect of the SHS on age-class, opening size and cover type distribution.
- e. No fire threat analysis.

Net Land base

The currently approved Net land base will be used with the following adjustments.

- a. Depletions current to two years prior to submission.
- b. Reflect changes to lake buffer requirements.

Carry-over

If there is the potential for carry-over and utilization changes, supporting analysis will be completed and submitted with the plan amendment.

Stand Density Management

Stand Density Management (SDM) will not be included within the TSA of the amendment document.

Structure Retention

A structure retention strategy will be included in the amendment document.

Spatial Harvest Variance tracking

The current ASRD variance tracking system will be used to track variance from the resulting approved Spatial Harvest Sequence.

Seral Stages

Seral stages will be reported in the amendment document. Opportunities to retain representative seral stages across the planning period will be explored.

Operating Ground Rules

Operating Ground Rules will be submitted with the amendment document as requested by ASRD on September 24, 2008 subject to appropriate agreed upon timelines for completion of ground rule negotiations.

DFMP Amendment Timelines

The first meeting between tenure holders was held on September 4, 2008 to review preliminary work completed prior to the initiation of the MPB Plan. The plan will utilize the currently approved AVI inventory, yield curves, net land base and yield assumptions. It is our intent to submit the amended DFMP by January 31, 2009 and receive SRD approval prior to March 31, 2009.

The amended DFMP would cover a ten year period, therefore the next DFMP will have a scheduled submission date of January 31, 2019.

The temporary sample plot and permanent sample plot data that is currently be collected along with the inventory being completed for the end of 2009 will be carried forward to the 2019 plan.

DFMP Management Planning Team

Team Member		Organization	Responsibility
Gordon Sanders	Woodlands Manager	Slave Lake Pulp	Oversee
Terry Kristoff	Management Forester	Slave Lake Pulp	TSA, Oversee Development
George Duffy	FMA Forester	Slave Lake Pulp	Lead DFMP
To be determined	TSA Analyst		TSA and Analysis
Keith Branting	Woodlands Manager	Buchanan Lumber	Development of DFMP
Tony Sikora		Lakeshore Timber Co.	Development of DFMP
Ray Hilts	Planning Superintendent	Millar Western	Development of DFMP
Ken Anderson	Planning Supervisor	Millar Western	Development of DFMP
Kevin Kuhn	Woodlands Manager	Vanderwell Contractors	Development of DFMP
Robert Stokes	Manager Planning Section	SRD, Edmonton	Development of DFMP
Dale Thomas	Forest Health Officer	SRD, Slave Lake	Development of DFMP
Vicky Bosse	Lead, Forest Management Planning	SRD, Edmonton	Development of DFMP
Public Member (TBD)	Public	Swan Hills	Public review
Public Member (TBD)	Public	Lesser Slave Lake Region	Public review
Public Member (TBD)	Public	Trapper, MTU	Public review

Public Consultation

A public and aboriginal consultation plan will be prepared and reviewed by the Area Manager and Consultation and Aboriginal Relations Representative.

Public review of the amended DFMP will be conducted through the Swan Hill Forest Communications Group and the Slave Lake Forest Public Advisory Group. In addition, public members will be included in the Planning process as indicated in the above table.

Aboriginal Consultation will be conducted through means jointly developed by Alberta Sustainable Resource Development and the companies.

Dispute Resolution

In the interest of moving the DFMP along and not stalling the process, should consensus be deemed unattainable by the Planning Development Team a dispute resolution process may be necessary.

In the event consensus cannot be achieved on matters pertaining to the development of the Slave Lake Pulp DFMP the matter will be referred to the Senior Manager – Forest Planning Section (ASRD) and the Management Forester (Alberta Plywood). A written description will be developed by the plan development team and provided to the above people.

If these parties are unable to reach agreement the matter will be forwarded to the Executive Director, Forest Management Branch (ASRD) and the Woodlands Manager (Alberta Plywood).