



## Maintain 3% of the net productive area as structure within cutblocks

Another strategy developed to ensure habitat types are maintained is the maintenance of structure at the stand level. A detailed description of where structure is to be maintained is given in strategy 3.1.3 of Section 7 while a monitoring procedure is described in Appendix 6. In order to ensure the PFMS accounted for this 3%, a method had to be devised that would model this structure. The Planning Team decided an acceptable method to do this would be to assume that 3% area would correlate to 3% merchantable volume.

The numbers presented in this PFMS have to be reduced to account for this 3%.

## Location of Recreational Sites

There are two recreational sites located within the FMA (Map 5-19 on page 47) that the Planning Team felt required special management considerations (detailed in Appendix 15). The strategy developed requires that no harvest activities occur within a distance of 50-meters of these sites for at least 20-years. The PFMS achieves this strategy without causing a negative impact on any other goals within the FMA.

## Mitigation of impacts on Scenic Values

The Planning Team identified four areas that have scenic value within the FMA: the Athabasca/Lesser Slave River corridors, the Highway 2 corridor, the area surrounding the recreational sites, and the off-highway vehicle trails. Management strategies (Appendix 15) have been designed to mitigate the impacts of forest management activities on the scenic values. These management strategies have been considered and implemented in the development of the spatial harvest sequence without impacting any other goals of management.

## Mitigation of impacts on Registered Trappers

Throughout the planning process there was discussion surrounding how to mitigate the impacts of harvesting on Registered Trappers. There was concern that through the implementation of the single-pass harvesting strategy, the entire 10-year harvest sequence could possibly be concentrated on one trapline, and thus a single trapper would be impacted through the loss of fur bearer habitat. The map on the next page shows the location of the 20-year spatial harvest sequence within each trapline.

Through discussion with the Slave Lake Local of the Alberta Trappers Association, it was learned that the age at which a stand begins to act as furbearer habitat is 40 years. The Planning Team tried to set a threshold stating the maximum percent decrease in stands greater than 40 years old that would be allowed in any trapline over time. However, due to lack of information the Planning Team could not determine an acceptable threshold percentage. It was decided to track the impacts of the PFMS on each trapline. With this information in hand, the Planning Team felt they would be in a better position to decide if a threshold had to be set or not.

The table below summarizes the amount of area over 40 years old by trapline presently and in 20 years from now. The map on page 160 shows the spatial distribution of the PFMS overlaid on the trapline boundaries.

