



SECTION ELEVEN
EDUCATION, TRAINING AND COOPERATION
WITH OTHER AGENCIES



BLUE RIDGE LUMBER INC.
A SUBSIDIARY OF WEST FRASER MILLS LTD.

DFMP

DETAILED FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

TEXT REPORT

11 Education, Training and Cooperation with Other Agencies

Blue Ridge Lumber is very pro-active in supporting various education and training programs for the surrounding community schools, provincial post secondary forestry facilities, open houses and local stakeholder groups, contractors and their employees and the owners of private timber.

The Company's focus for local support of education has been the presentations of sustainable forestry practices by various woods staff at the local grade schools. Some of the woods staff has also been involved with the Junior Forest Warden Program that educates pre-teens to sustainable forestry practices. Over the past few years, the Company has also supported various forestry tours of the FMA area by the local area's Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture Society's.

Blue Ridge Lumber has provided classroom lectures and tours of harvesting, silviculture operations and manufacturing facilities to both forestry programs from the University of Alberta (U of A) and the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT). The Company annually supports the U of A Forest Industry Lecture Series. This Lecture series brings forest industry leaders to the U of A to make presentation to the students and faculties members on various forest research and innovative programs. Blue Ridge Lumber also supports the NAIT Forestry Program by assisting the first year forestry program at the Kidney Lake Fall Camp, which is located within our FMA area. Blue Ridge Lumber assists the NAIT Forestry Program by providing seedlings for planting, and areas for spacing and cleaning, and for regeneration surveys. The Company's accumulative contribution to the NAIT Foundation is in excess of \$100,000.

The Company has also supported the Alberta Vocational College Forestry Crew Worker program and the Grande Prairie College practicum program by offering students a variety of work experiences.

To enhance the public awareness of sustainable forestry, Blue Ridge Lumber annually sets up open houses during the spring at Fort Assiniboine, Swan Hills, Fox Creek, Carrot Creek and Whitecourt. At each open house the Company reviews with the public the Annual Operation Plans, which outlines the yearly harvesting and silviculture activities. The Company has also made various presentations to the local stakeholder groups with regards sustainable forestry issues in the Blue Ridge Lumber operating areas.

To increase the public awareness of sustainable forestry, Blue Ridge Lumber was instrumental in helping to establish the *Huestis Demonstration Forest*, and has made a significant contribution to the *Whitecourt Forest Interpretive Center*. Both of these facilities have done an excellent job in assisting the public understanding of the practices of sustainable forestry.

Before commencement of work at Blue Ridge Lumber, all woods staff, contractors and their employees will receive or show proof that they have been trained in Workplace Hazardous

Material Information System (WHMIS). Each contractor will have some pertinent employees who have a current certification in Transportation of Dangerous Goods (TDG) and Standard / Advanced First Aid. Contractors must also provide proof that they have some applicable employees who have received specific training in Fire Suppression and Weed Awareness.

Blue Ridge Lumber has a very extensive in-house annual training program for all staff, harvesting and silviculture contractors and their workers. The contractors receive training in the Company's practices and procedures, which are continuously being reviewed and refined. By doing this, the Company can ensure that the environmental risks are being minimized. All training commences with an introduction to ForestCare, ISO 14001 Environmental Management Systems Awareness Training and some Sustainable Forestry Management principles. These practices and procedures may include the Provincial Ground Rules, Stream Crossing Guidelines, Soil Conservation Strategies, historical & unique values, understorey protection, spill prevention measures, spill remediation practices, fueling procedures, storage of hazardous waste, non-hazardous and hazardous waste management and insect & disease. Applicable contractors are also trained in the various ISO 14001 Environmental Operating and Field Procedures (i.e., road construction, watercourse identification & classification, watercourse installation procedures, etc.). All contractors and their employees will receive training and receive an updated copy of the BRL Emergency Response Procedures (ERP) handbook. This handbook contains emergency procedures for personal injury, fire, H2S & hydrocarbons, emergency spills, powerline contact and transportation hazards. The Company refines some of the ERP procedures by completing annual yearly drills. The contractors receive a standard health & safety manual, which the contractors and their employees follow.

Log haulers attend regular safety meetings where they have received a ForestCare orientation and training in the Personal Injury section of the ERP Manual. Truckers also receive orientation on Health & Safety Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) with regards AFPA Safe Log Transport Handbook, Log Haul Regulations & Blue Ridge Lumber Hauling Contract Safety and Log Delivery & Truck Offloading Portal Yard Crane SOP.

The owners of private land receives the following information from Blue Ridge Lumber; responsible environmental practices, woodlot pamphlets, insect & disease information, safe logging practices, promoting leadership in sustainable management, weed awareness and tree information.