

Detailed Forest Management Plan Approval Decision



Blue Ridge Lumber Inc.
A Subsidiary of West Fraser Mills Ltd.
Whitecourt, Alberta

**Forest Management Agreement
#7500020**

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Date: October 25, 2004
Effective: May 1, 2004

Approved by: *Original Signed by,*
D. (Doug) A. Sklar, RPF
Executive Director
Forest Management Branch
Public Lands and Forests Division

Executive Summary

This Approval Decision documents the conditions imposed by the Executive Director regarding the Blue Ridge Lumber Inc. Detailed Forest Management Plan submitted for Sustainable Resource Development (SRD) approval on June 1, 2004.

SRD commends Blue Ridge Lumber for developing a DFMP that meets the requirements of The Interim Forest Management Planning Manual, Guidelines to Plan Development, April 1998 and the Supplemental Guidelines – Timber Supply Analysis – Documentation of Results.

The company's message is consistent throughout the document. The Plan incorporates improved knowledge of the landbase and resources in assessing sustainable harvest levels.

The Detailed Forest Management Plan for Blue Ridge Lumber submitted June 1, 2004 is approved subject to the Approval Conditions and establishes the Annual Allowable Cuts presented in this Approval Decision.

Approval Condition 1 – Coniferous Understorey Management

- i. All future inventory updates shall adhere to the standards approved by SRD.*
- ii. Prior to commencing any further understorey inventories, BRL must develop a strategy acceptable to the department to enable the transition of current understorey inventory data to the new standard.*
- iii. Understorey protection practises acceptable to SRD shall be included in the operating ground rules.*
- iv. Prior to initiating any understorey protection harvests outlined in Figure 3-1 of the TSA, BRL shall develop a monitoring program acceptable to SRD to verify the assumptions used in this strategy.*

Approval Condition 2 – Secondary Volume Monitoring and Replacement

- i. By May 1, 2005, BRL shall implement a monitoring process acceptable to SRD designed to ensure primary and secondary harvest level volumes are not exceeded.*
- ii. By May 1, 2005, after meaningful consultation with embedded deciduous operators, BRL shall implement a program acceptable to SRD that ensures adequate replacement of secondary volumes of deciduous and coniferous timber.*

Approval Condition 3 – Structure Retention

- i. Blue Ridge Lumber shall develop detailed stand structure retention protocols, including targets that describe how the merchantable and non-merchantable components of harvested stands will be utilized to retain stand structure within harvest areas. The protocols shall be included in the operating ground rules that shall be completed and approved within 6 months of the date of this approval decision.*
- ii. Blue Ridge Lumber shall design a cost effective and practical field assessment program for structure retention monitoring and reporting. Merchantable volume shall be chargeable as AAC production and shall be reconciled every 5 years at the end of each cut control period. The program must meet the approval of the Senior Manager, Forest Planning Section by May 1, 2005. Failure to meet this deadline or to annually report these statistics shall result in a reduction of the FMA AAC by 3% effective May 1, 2004.*

Approval Condition 4 – Silviculture Treatments

- i. *By January 1, 2005, after consultation with embedded operators, BRL shall submit a description of silviculture strategies acceptable to the Senior Manager, Harvest and Renewal Section, FMB.*

Approval Condition 5 – Trends in Future Forest Projections

- i. *Blue Ridge Lumber shall include an analysis of the NRV and establish targets for future forest conditions in the 2015 DFMP developed for the FMA.*

Approval Condition 6 – Aboriginal Consultation

- i. *The company shall keep complete and accurate written records of their consultations with First Nations; i.e., comments received, and how concerns identified have been addressed and incorporated into forest management planning. This information shall be reported in BRL's stewardship report and shall also be incorporated into the next plan.*
- ii. *When Alberta's policy for First Nation's consultation is complete, BRL shall work with SRD in identifying necessary action plans, and if required, sections within the Plan that shall be amended.*

Approval Condition 7 – Spatial Harvest Sequence

- i. *The harvest sequence presented in the June 1, 2004 DFMP is approved subject to (ii) below.*
- ii. *By September 1, 2005, Blue Ridge Lumber, in consultation with the embedded operators, must revise the 20-year spatial harvest sequence making it feasible to implement.*
- iii. *Blue Ridge Lumber will test the sensitivity of the harvest level to the SHS revisions and report the results to the department prior to September 1, 2005.*
- iv. *Blue Ridge Lumber and the embedded operators must follow the mapped 10-year harvest sequence as revised and presented in the updated September 1, 2005 Plan.*
- v. *To address operational planning concerns, Blue Ridge Lumber and the embedded timber disposition holders are authorized to modify the September 1, 2005 spatial harvest sequence (SHS) by deleting no more than 20% of the total sequenced area in each compartment, within each decade, while harvesting no more than 100% of the total area within the SHS by compartment, by decade.*
- vi. *Preference should be given to selecting stands from the second 10 years of the SHS (years 11 to 20) when replacing deleted stands (from (v) above). Where this is not feasible, replacements may be made from any other stands identified in the approved net land base of the Plan.*
- vii. *Where Blue Ridge Lumber or the embedded operators exceed the variance described in (ii), the Forest Area Manager, may require the completion of a compartment assessment and the Senior Manager, Forest Planning Section may recommend the adjustment of the approved AAC to reflect the impact of the variances.*
- viii. *The department requires an analysis of variance from the SHS be submitted annually.*
- ix. *The department will generally not request a modification of the September 1, 2005 harvest sequence for the first 10 years of the planning period unless required by a change in legislation or a policy approved by the Minister.*

Approval Condition 8 – VOITs, Monitoring and Stewardship Reporting

- i. *By September 1, 2005, BRL adopt VOITs acceptable to the Senior Manager, Forest Planning Section, FMB, in the format outlined in Annex 5 of the Planning Standard. The VOITs must specifically address the issues raised in Approval Conditions 5 and 8 in this decision, and incorporate meaningful targets for the objectives in Section 4.3 of the Plan.*
- ii. *By September 1, 2005, BRL shall adopt a monitoring and stewardship reporting system acceptable to the Senior Manager, Forest Planning Section, FMB.*

Approval Condition 9 – Road Corridor Development Plan

- i. *Blue Ridge Lumber shall develop a road corridor plan for the FMA acceptable to the Forest Area Manager, Woodlands Area by May 1, 2005.*

Approval Condition 10 – Industrial Salvage Timber

- i. *BRL's approach to industrial salvage chargeability (Section 6.7, i.e., only the purchased volume is considered production) is **not approved**.*
- ii. *All timber depleted (salvage timber) by non-forestry operations shall be counted as production for cut control purposes.*
- iii. *The volumes used shall be those stated in timber damage assessment tables.*
- iv. *The volumes shall be charged to each timber disposition proportional to the allocation of the AAC by covergroup (C, CD, DC, D) and Volume Supply Area.*
- v. *BRL shall ensure that all operators are made aware of any non-forestry operations on the FMA.*
- vi. *BRL shall implement a reporting system acceptable to the Senior Manager, Timber Production, Auditing and Revenue Section, by May 1, 2005.*

Approval Condition 11 – Detailed Forest Management Plans

- i. *By September 1, 2005 BRL will update the June 1, 2004 version of the Plan with the work completed to meet the Approval Decision conditions.*
 - a. *The complete and updated version shall be submitted to the department by September 1, 2005.*
 - b. *The department will specify numbers of copies, distribution and format(s).*
- ii. *The target approval date for the next complete DFMP is September 1, 2015.*
- iii. *The September 1, 2015 DFMP, and all future DFMPs will meet the standards established in the Alberta Forest Management Planning Standard.*

Approval Condition 12 – Technical Issues

- i. *By May 1, 2005, the technical matters identified by SRD must be corrected to the satisfaction of the Senior Manager, Forest Planning Section, FMB.*

Authorization

The Detailed Forest Management Plan for the Blue Ridge Lumber FMA area submitted June 1, 2004 is approved subject to the Approval Conditions being met, and the Annual Allowable Cuts presented in this Approval Decision.

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1. Introduction

The approval of forest management plans is the mandate of the Executive Director of the Forest Management Branch (FMB), Public Lands and Forests Division (PLFD) of the Department of Sustainable Resource Development (SRD). This Approval Decision documents the rationale, and conditions of approval for the Blue Ridge Lumber Inc. (BRL) Detailed Forest Management Plan (Plan/DFMP) dated June 1, 2004. This approval provides direction for the successful and efficient implementation of the Plan.

BRL Registered Professional Foresters have validated (signed and sealed) the Plan. It has also been reviewed by government professional staff (see Table 1). Professional validation implies the Plan is accurate as well as practical and feasible and has been prepared with due diligence. I commend BRL and those people who have contributed to the Plan for their efforts to address the complex, intractable, and persistent issues in forest management.

The conditions in this Approval Decision are consistent with the terms of the Forest Management Agreement and failure by Blue Ridge Lumber to fulfill the direction provided in this Approval Decision shall place the company in default of its Forest Management Agreement.

2. Government of Alberta Participants: Detailed Forest Management Plan Appraisal

The following Government of Alberta staff participated in the appraisal of the Blue Ridge Lumber Detailed Forest Management Plan. Comments and recommendations from staff are addressed in this approval decision. I extend my thanks to staff for their personal and professional commitment to the task.

Table 1

<u>SRD Reviewer</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Registration</u>	<u>DFMP Component</u>
Wayne Johnson, RPF	Senior Forester, Woodlands Forest Area	CAPF #235	All sections
John Augustyn, RPF	Forester, Woodlands Forest Area	CAPF #516	All sections
Hugh Wollis	Wildlife Biologist		Biodiversity and Habitat
John Stadt, P. Bio	Forest Ecology Specialist, Forest Planning Section	ASPB	Biodiversity and Habitat
Greg Greidanus, RPF	Growth and Yield Forester, Forest Biometrics Unit	CAPF #671	Growth & Yield
Grant Klappstein	Biometrics Forester, Forest Biometrics Unit		Growth & Yield
Dave Morgan, RPF	Manager, Forest Biometrics Unit	CAPF #270	Growth & Yield
*Daryl Price, RPF	Senior Manager, Resource Analysis Section	CAPF #081	Growth & Yield, Net Landbase, Timber Supply Analysis

*Karl Peck, RPFT	Resource Analyst, Resource Analysis Section	CAPFT #R960020	Net Landbase, Timber Supply Analysis
*Robert Stokes, RPF	Senior Manager, Forest Planning Section	CAPF #500	All sections
*Stephen Wills, RPF	Forest Management Planning Forester, Forest Planning Section	CAPF #628	All sections

* Review Team Core Members

CAPF – College of Alberta Professional Foresters

CAPFT – College of Alberta Professional Forest Technologists

ASPB – Alberta Society of Professional Biologists

3. Forest Management Plan Area

The area under consideration is the Forest Management Agreement (FMA) area of Blue Ridge Lumber Inc. FMA #7500020 was allocated to the company through Order-in-Council 505/95, dated July 13, 1995. The original FMA was amended twice in 1999 through Order-in-Council 26/99, and 100/99. The former FMU W2 was added to the original FMA area in the latter amendment. The effective period of the FMA is September 1, 1995 to August 31, 2015. The FMA area is within Forest Management Unit (FMU) W14, created by the amalgamation of former FMUs W2, W3 and W4. FMU W2, and FMUs W3 and W4 are designated as two separate volume supply areas within FMU W14.

The FMA is located in the west central part of the province, and spans portions of three natural sub-regions including the Central Mixedwood, the Upper Foothills and the Lower Foothills. The Landscape Assessment component of the DFMP describes the planning area in greater detail.

4. Plan Background and Process for the Next Plan

Blue Ridge Lumber’s FMA requires a DFMP be submitted by September 1, 1999. Blue Ridge Lumber submitted a DFMP on August 27, 1999. However, given the issues that arose from the 1998 Virginia Hills Fire and concerns identified in initial reviews of the Plan, further work was deemed necessary prior to the approval of the Plan.

The first issue was establishing an annual allowable cut (AAC) that addressed the impacts of the 1998 Virginia Hills fire. On August 29, 2001, SRD approved a post-fire timber supply analysis (TSA) and AAC for the original FMA area (former FMUs W3 and W4) incorporating the impacts of the Virginia Hills fire. This post-fire AAC is replaced by the AAC approved herein (see Appendix 1).

After a prolonged series of meetings to deal with other concerns, the Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Lands and Forest Division, issued specific direction for completion of the Plan and set a deadline of March 31, 2004. At the request of BRL, this date was subsequently extended to June 1, 2004.

These unavoidable delays have resulted in the Plan being approved less than one year before the due date (September 1, 2005) of the next Plan, (BRL Forest Management Agreement Section 10(5)).

The department does not see the preparation of a new plan as an efficient use of time and resources. Consequently, section 17 of this document presents the requirements for the next plan.

5. Public Involvement

BRL Forest Management Agreement Sections 10(2) and 10(3) require that BRL conduct an acceptable public involvement process. Sections 2.6 and 2.7 in the Plan describe BRL's work in this regard. To solicit feedback and facilitate public awareness of its forest management activities, BRL conducted open houses, ad hoc meetings, and public education presentations. BRL also met with the Regional Forest Advisory Committee (RFAC) and the Swan Hills Forest Communication Group to discuss its forest management plans and operations.

BRL's continued efforts to execute meaningful public involvement is expected throughout the Plan implementation.

6. Approval Scope

This Approval Decision relates to the Blue Ridge Lumber DFMP submitted June 1, 2004. All coniferous and deciduous timber operators within the FMA area shall conduct their activities in accordance with the DFMP and the approval conditions.

Blue Ridge Lumber shall meet the requirements (dates and content) of the Approval Conditions unless the Executive Director, Forest Management Branch, agrees to alternate requirements in writing.

In the event of an inconsistency between the Plan and existing, new or revised legislation or regulation, the legislation or regulation shall apply.

Discussions to resolve and finalize the timber harvest planning and operating ground rules (OGR) can commence immediately. It is anticipated that since much of the discussion on the OGRs has been completed in the context of the Woodlands/Yellowhead regional OGRs, the resolution of the BRL OGRs will be expeditious.

7. Approval Conditions

a. Coniferous Understorey Management

The development of management strategies for coniferous understoreies is a significant component of the Plan. Efforts to improve understorey inventories (Section 1.3.7 and 1.3.8 of the TSA) and the development of a transition strategy (Figure 3-1 of the TSA) are important.

BRL's proposal for an understorey mapping standard occurred concurrently with the department's release of a draft standard. This standard will be finalized in the near future and will be used in future inventory updates. In addition, during the late stages of the Plan's development, the department released a revised draft Forest Management Planning Standard (referred to as the "...forest management planning manual..." in Section 10(6) of the Forest Management Agreement) that also addresses coniferous understorey issues. Although there is similarity between BRL's proposal in the Plan and SRD's standards, there remain key details to be resolved. For example, Section 6.4 of the Plan does not appear to address the issue of what constitutes an acceptable understorey tree whereas this issue is addressed in the Forest Management Planning Standard.

BRL's commitments (Section 14.3) to complete the inventory and implement the growth and yield program provide the department assurance that information will be available to continue refining the proposals in the Plan. Rapid monitoring and feedback on the strategies outlined in Figure 3-1 is required. In the near future, the OGRs shall be updated to implement understorey protection strategies acceptable to SRD.

Approval Condition 1 – Coniferous Understorey Management

- i. All future inventory updates shall adhere to the standards approved by SRD.
- ii. Prior to commencing any further understorey inventories, BRL must develop a strategy acceptable to the department to enable the transition of current understorey inventory data to the new standard.
- iii. Understorey protection practises acceptable to SRD shall be included in the operating ground rules.
- iv. Prior to initiating any understorey protection harvests outlined in Figure 3-1 of the TSA, BRL shall develop a monitoring program acceptable to SRD to verify the assumptions used in this strategy.

8. Secondary Volume Monitoring and Replacement

Secondary Volume Monitoring

The coniferous and deciduous AACs include both primary and secondary (incidental) volume. It is necessary to provide assurance the primary volumes are not being exceeded (overcut). The simplest tactic to provide this assurance is to treat the primary and secondary volumes as separate AACs for cut control purposes. However, logistical problems in harvest planning and log hauling/scaling make this difficult. A convenient alternative is to control the amount of area of each yield strata harvested, which is accomplished by adherence to the spatial harvest sequence. A pragmatic mechanism to provide production control is required.

Secondary Deciduous Volume Replacement

Equally important is the replacement of secondary volumes. Replacement of secondary deciduous volumes is accomplished by adherence to provincial reforestation standards that maintain minimum deciduous stocking levels in mixedwood stands.

In the future, it would be reasonable for BRL to consider adopting minimum deciduous stocking requirements in pure coniferous stands or increase the deciduous stocking level in mixedwood stands. Currently, the Plan's transition assumptions assume replacement of deciduous volume in pure coniferous stands although this is not a provincial reforestation standard requirement.

Secondary Coniferous Volume Replacement

Section 6.5 of the Plan includes a proposal to reforest 1 ha of pure deciduous landbase for each 200 m³ of coniferous timber harvested from pure deciduous stands. This is a reasonable starting point, however, coniferous understories encountered in deciduous stands will be protected and deciduous operators often plant coniferous seedlings where deciduous regeneration is not adequate. Both of these actions maintain coniferous growing stock on the landscape. Consequently, it is desirable to have the area proposed in Section 6.5 reduced to account for the coniferous timber that will be growing in deciduous stands. Also, the replacement area (ha) will be based on the secondary coniferous volume from pure deciduous stands that are not part of the landbase that transitions from deciduous (D(C)) to mixedwood (MXD) following harvest.

Approval Condition 2 – Secondary Volume Monitoring and Replacement

- i. By May 1, 2005, BRL shall implement a monitoring process acceptable to SRD designed to ensure primary and secondary harvest level volumes are not exceeded.
- ii. By May 1, 2005, after meaningful consultation with embedded deciduous operators, BRL shall implement a program acceptable to SRD that ensures adequate replacement of secondary volumes of deciduous and coniferous timber.

9. Structure Retention within Cutblocks

The Plan does not propose strategies for structure retention within harvest areas. Structure retention is currently viewed as essential to the maintenance of biodiversity in harvested areas. The dilemma faced by forest managers is there is no clear indication of how much structure retention is adequate. As much as possible, the objective should be met by careful management of the non-merchantable components of harvested areas with an optimum amount of merchantable timber being retained. Various strategies are being employed in the province and I anticipate that future monitoring will provide useful feedback.

Approval Condition 3 – Structure Retention

- i. Blue Ridge Lumber shall develop detailed stand structure retention protocols, including targets that describe how the merchantable and non-merchantable components of harvested stands will be utilized to retain stand structure within harvest areas. The protocols shall be included in the operating ground rules that shall be completed and approved within 6 months of the date of this approval decision.
- ii. Blue Ridge Lumber shall design a cost effective and practical field assessment program for structure retention monitoring and reporting. Merchantable volume shall be chargeable as AAC production and shall be reconciled every 5 years at the end of each cut control period. The program must meet the approval of the Senior Manager, Forest Planning Section by May 1, 2005. Failure to meet this deadline or to annually report these statistics shall result in a reduction of the FMA AAC by 3% effective May 1, 2004.

10. Silviculture Strategy

It is important to define the silvicultural practices that will be used to establish managed stands that produce the expected future yield. Forest Management Plans are expected to present the strategies most likely to ensure projected timber yields from regenerated stands are achieved. The department relies on the knowledge and expertise of forestry professionals in selecting appropriate silviculture practices.

The *Silviculture Strategy Summary* (Table 4, Page 85) must present a reasonable summary of the silvicultural tactics to be used to regenerate the future forest. For example, the information for “Normal Planting” presents ranges of 0 to 1500, and 0 to 1800 stems/ha. Reforestation rates (stems/ha) of “0” for all conditions are not credible. As well, the Plan lacks any description of how the transitions adopted in Section 3.2.2 of the TSA are to be achieved.

Approval Condition 4 – Silviculture Treatments

- i. By January 1, 2005, after consultation with embedded operators, BRL shall submit a description of silviculture strategies acceptable to the Senior Manager, Harvest and Renewal Section, FMB.

11. Significance of Trends in Future Forest Projections

Blue Ridge Lumber plans to implement ecosystem management by pursuing an adaptive management approach (page 5). The Plan contains goals and objectives to this end (Section 4), and reporting requirements (Section 13) to monitor progress. Section 4 of the TSA provides projections of several key forest cover attributes (e.g., age class, patch size, interior forest) to illustrate the future forest condition.

Maintaining future forest conditions within a determined natural range of variability (NRV) supports an ecosystem management approach. I appreciate that a broadly accepted practical definition of NRV does not exist, but many companies are making attempts at a workable definition for their landbases. Unfortunately, this Plan does not define the NRV for the FMA and without baseline, benchmark or objective targets, there is no basis for accepting or rejecting the future forest cover predictions. This is a widespread shortcoming in forest management, however it is an issue that BRL would be prudent to address in the 2015 plan for this FMA.

Approval Condition 5 – Trends in Future Forest Projections

- i. Blue Ridge Lumber shall include an analysis of the NRV and establish targets for future forest conditions in the 2015 DFMP developed for the FMA.

12. Aboriginal Consultation

The Government of Alberta is currently developing policy outlining Alberta's role in consultation with First Nations. Future government policy regarding Alberta's role may require amendments to the strategy articulated in the Plan. Therefore the following applies:

Approval Condition 6 – Aboriginal Consultation

- i. The company shall keep complete and accurate written records of their consultations with First Nations; i.e., comments received, and how concerns identified have been addressed and incorporated into forest management planning. This information shall be reported in BRL's stewardship report and shall also be incorporated into the next plan.

- ii. When Alberta's policy for First Nation's consultation is complete, BRL shall work with SRD in identifying necessary action plans, and if required, sections within the Plan that shall be amended.

13. Spatial Harvest Sequence

The spatial (mapped) harvest sequence (SHS) is the most important output as it implements the strategies the companies must follow to achieve the predicted future forest condition. The future forest condition, while dependent on many factors, is strongly influenced by harvest patterns, intensity and schedules. It presents spatially and temporally how the integration of environmental, economic, and social values will be achieved on the FMA. Adherence to the planned harvest sequence is imperative to achieving the predicted future forest.

Issues raised by all operators requires the Preferred Forest Management Strategy 20-Year Harvest Sequence to be amended. Sufficient timber is scheduled for this year's operations. Future years' sequences require detailed work and field verification to refine the harvest sequence to accommodate operator interests. The following requirements apply:

Approval Condition 7 – Spatial Harvest Sequence

- i. The harvest sequence presented in the June 1, 2004 DFMP is approved subject to (ii) below.
- ii. By September 1, 2005, Blue Ridge Lumber, in consultation with the embedded operators, must revise the 20-year spatial harvest sequence making it feasible to implement.
- iii. Blue Ridge Lumber will test the sensitivity of the harvest level to the SHS revisions and report the results to the department prior to September 1, 2005.
- iv. Blue Ridge Lumber and the embedded operators must follow the mapped 20-year harvest sequence as revised and presented in the updated September 1, 2005 Plan.
- v. To address operational planning concerns, Blue Ridge Lumber and the embedded timber disposition holders are authorized to modify the September 1, 2005 spatial harvest sequence (SHS) by deleting no more than 20% of the total sequenced area in each compartment, within each decade, while harvesting no more than 100% of the total area within the SHS by compartment, by decade.
- vi. Preference should be given to selecting stands from the second 10 years of the SHS (years 11 to 20) when replacing deleted stands (from (v) above). Where this is not

feasible, replacements may be made from any other stands identified in the approved net land base of the Plan.

- vii. Where Blue Ridge Lumber or the embedded operators exceed the variance described in (v), the Forest Area Manager, may require the completion of a compartment assessment and the Senior Manager, Forest Planning Section may recommend the adjustment of the approved AAC to reflect the impact of the variances.
- viii. The department requires an analysis of variance from the SHS be submitted annually.
- ix. The department will generally not request a modification of the September 1, 2005 harvest sequence for the first 10 years of the planning period unless required by a change in legislation or a policy approved by the Minister.

14. VOITs, Monitoring and Stewardship Reporting

Section 13 of the Plan contains a description of the reporting requirements that result from commitments in the Plan. Some of the requirements are not current (e.g., item 2.3.1 page 273, commits to submissions in 1999) and others are too minimal to be meaningful (e.g., item 2.2.2 page 273, treating harvest areas within 2 years is a mandatory legal obligation and does not convey a meaningful commitment to meeting reforestation objectives of the Plan). Many items contain actions (e.g., to submit, to report, to participate) but lack any objective targets.

Approval Condition 8 – VOITs, Monitoring and Stewardship Reporting

- i. By September 1, 2005, BRL adopt VOITs acceptable to the Senior Manager, Forest Planning Section, FMB, in the format outlined in Annex 5 of the Planning Standard. The VOITs must specifically address the issues raised in Approval Conditions 5 and 8 in this decision, and incorporate meaningful targets for the objectives in Section 4.3 of the Plan.
- ii. By September 1, 2005, BRL shall adopt a monitoring and stewardship reporting system acceptable to the Senior Manager, Forest Planning Section, FMB.

15. Road Corridor Development Plan

Access management is a critical component of sustainable forest management and key to implementation of the SHS. In developing a long-term strategy for road corridors on the FMA it is anticipated that other industries will utilize this information in developing their plans.

Although Blue Ridge Lumber's FMA area has been impacted by past road development it is important that future forest planning is used to minimize further landscape fragmentation where possible.

Approval Condition 9 – Road Corridor Development Plan

- i. Blue Ridge Lumber shall develop a road corridor plan for the FMA acceptable to the Forest Area Manager, Woodlands Area by May 1, 2005.

16. Industrial Salvage

Accounting for timber volume drain resulting from non-forestry industrial operations is critical to ensure the approved AACs are not exceeded. .

The operators are expected to work out the logistics required to ensure each gets their fair share of timber salvage.

Approval Condition 10 – Industrial Salvage Timber

- i. BRL's approach to industrial salvage chargeability (Section 6.7, i.e., only the purchased volume is considered production) is **not approved**.
- ii. All timber depleted (salvage timber) by non-forestry operations shall be counted as production for cut control purposes.
- iii. The volumes used shall be those stated in timber damage assessment tables.
- iv. The volumes shall be charged to each timber disposition proportional to the allocation of the AAC by covergroup (C, CD, DC, D) and Volume Supply Area.
- v. BRL shall ensure that all operators are made aware of any non-forestry operations on the FMA.
- vi. BRL shall implement a reporting system acceptable to the Senior Manager, Timber Production, Auditing and Revenue Section, by May 1, 2005.

17. Detailed Forest Management Plans

The FMA required a Plan be submitted by September 1, 1999, but due to a variety of circumstances BRL submitted the Plan on June 1, 2004. The FMA scheduled date for the next Plan is September 1, 2005.

It is not pragmatic to assume a complete plan could be prepared in this short timeframe. Rather, it is prudent to structure the implementation of the June 1, 2004 Plan in manner that achieves the unstated intent of FMA, i.e., maintaining current and pertinent forest management plans.

The FMA does not set the target date for the next DFMP but FMPs are expected to be prepared every 10 years. The June 1, 2004 DFMP requires some revision to align with the conditions of this Approval Decision. Updating the June 1, 2004 DFMP to address the Approval Conditions builds a strong link to the philosophy and requirements of the Alberta Forest Management Planning Standard. Once accomplished, the September 1, 2005 version will meet the needs of the department, stakeholders and the public for the next decade. Therefore, it is consistent to establish the approval target date for the next DFMP at September 1, 2015.

This direction replaces any previous agreements or correspondence on this matter.

Approval Condition 11 – Detailed Forest Management Plans

- i. By September 1, 2005 BRL will update the June 1, 2004 version of the Plan with the work completed to meet the Approval Decision conditions.
 - a. The complete and updated version shall be submitted to the department by September 1, 2005.
 - b. The department will specify numbers of copies, distribution and format(s).
- ii. The target approval date for the next complete DFMP is September 1, 2015.
- iii. The September 1, 2015 DFMP, and all future DFMPs will meet the standards established in the Alberta Forest Management Planning Standard.

18. Technical Issues

There are a number of technical matters in the Plan described under separate cover. These issues must be corrected.

Approval Condition 12 – Technical Issues

- i. By May 1, 2005, the technical matters identified by SRD must be corrected to the satisfaction of the Senior Manager, Forest Planning Section, FMB.

19. Authorization

The Detailed Forest Management Plan for the Blue Ridge Lumber FMA area submitted June 1, 2004 is approved subject to the Approval Conditions being met, and the Annual Allowable Cuts presented in this Approval Decision.

Table 1 - Blue Ridge Lumber Forest Management Agreement Area Historical Allocations and Annual Allowable Cuts

FMU W14								
FMU AAC - Coniferous and Deciduous								
Historical Allocation								
Company Name	Disposition Number	FMU	Landbase Management Type	Deciduous AAC (%)	Deciduous AAC (m ³ /yr)	Coniferous AAC (%)	Coniferous AAC (m ³ /yr)	Utilization
Blue Ridge Lumber	FMA7500020	W14 (coniferous in VSA 1 & VSA 2, Deciduous in merchantable coniferous stands VSA 2)	AAC calculated on divided landbase for former W2 and single landbase for former W3/W4 FMUs		96,049 ¹	N/A	647,493 ¹	15/10
ANC Timber	DTAW020001	W14 (VSA 1)	AAC calculated on divided landbase	n/a	51,000			13/7
ANC Timber	DTAW020002	W14 (VSA 1)	AAC calculated on divided landbase	n/a	34,564			13/7
Millar Western Forest Products	DTAW910001	W14 (VSA 2)	Single	n/a	74,600			15/10
Millar Western Forest Products	DTAW910002	W14 (VSA 2)	Single	n/a	70,000			15/10
Millar Western Forest Products	Deciduous Timber Allocation –Conditional Reservation	W14 (VSA 1)	AAC calculated on divided landbase	n/a	15,897			15/10
Mostowich Lumber	CTQW020022	W14 (VSA 1)	AAC calculated on divided landbase			9.55%	65,922	15/11
Local Use/Community Timber Opportunity	n/a	W14 (VSA 2)	AAC calculated on divided landbase	n/a	1,719 ¹	0.50%	3,585 ¹	15/10
Totals					343,829		717,000	

¹ The local use/community timber opportunity is 0.5% of the total FMU AAC and is taken from and charged to the Blue Ridge Lumber deciduous and coniferous AACs.

Table 2 - Approved Allocations 15/10 Utilization

Company Name	Disposition Number	FMU	Stand Type/ Source	Landbase Management Type	Effective Date of AAC	Deciduous AAC (%)	Deciduous AAC (m ³ /yr)	Coniferous AAC (%)	Coniferous AAC (m ³ /yr)
Blue Ridge Lumber	FMA7500020	W14	Coniferous (C; MXD; D(C); incidental C) Deciduous (VSA 2 (MXD, D(C), C)	Single	01-May-04	n/a	116,283 ²	n/a	723,341 ²
ANC Timber	DTAW020001	W14 (VSA 1)	All Stands; Aspen volume only (VSA 1)	Single	01-May-04	n/a	48,650		
ANC Timber	DTAW020002	W14 (VSA 1)	All Stands; Aspen volume only (VSA 1)	Single	01-May-04	n/a	32,975		
Millar Western Forest Products	DTAW910001	W14 (VSA 2)	Pure Deciduous Stands (VSA 2)	Single	01-May-04	n/a	74,600		
Millar Western Forest Products	DTAW910002	W14 (VSA 2)	Pure Deciduous Stands (VSA 2)	Single	01-May-04	n/a	70,000		
Mostowich Lumber	CTQW020022	W14(VSA 1)	C; MXD; D(C); incidental C	Single	01-May-04	n/a		8.6	68,430
Millar Western Forest Products	Deciduous Timber Allocation –Conditional Reservation (Balsam Poplar)	W14 (VSA 1)	All Stands; Balsam Poplar volume only (VSA 1)	Single	01-May-04	100% of allowable cut in VSA 1 Balsam Poplar	23,594		
Local Use/Community Timber Opportunity	n/a	W14	Coniferous (C; MXD; D(C); incidental C) Deciduous (VSA 2 (MXD, D(C), C)	Single	01-May-04	0.5	1,948 ²	0.5	3,979 ²
Unallocated	n/a	W14	Unallocated Birch (VSA 1)	Single	01-May-04	-	5,426	-	-
Unallocated	n/a	W14	Unallocated Aspen (VSA 1)	Single	01-May-04	-	15,528	-	-

² The local use/community timber opportunity is 0.5% of the total FMU AAC and is taken from and charged to the Blue Ridge Lumber deciduous and coniferous AACs.

Unallocated	n/a	W14	Unallocated Pure D (VSA 2)	Single	01-May-04	-	678	-	-
Totals (Approved AACs)							389,682		795,750

Table 3 - Utilization									
		Utilization used in FMU AAC Calculations			Operational Utilization				
Company	Disposition Number	Top Diameter (cm)	Butt Diameter (cm)	Stump Height (cm)	Top Diameter (cm)	Butt Diameter (cm)	Stump Height (cm)	Deciduous AAC (m³) based on Operational Utilization	Coniferous AAC (m³) based on Operational Utilization
ANC Timber	DTAW020001	10	15	30	7	13	30	51,000	
ANC Timber	DTAW020002	10	15	30	7	13	30	34,564	
Mostowich Lumber	CTQW020022	10	15	30	11	15	30		65,922

Table 4 - Quadrant and Periodic Allowable Cuts

Company Name	Disposition Number	FMU	Quadrant Date	Approved Quadrant Coniferous Reconciliation Volume (m ³)	Approved Quadrant Deciduous Reconciliation Volume (m ³)	Coniferous Quadrant Allowable Cut (m ³)	Deciduous Quadrant Allowable Cut (m ³)	Comments
Blue Ridge Lumber	FMA7500020	W14	Sept. 1/00-Aug. 31/05	731,503 (36,575 over 20 years)	n/a	3,526,805	507,567	* Assuming 3.6658 years (Sept 1, 2000 to April 30, 2004) at previous AAC (648,378 m ³) and 1.3370 years (May 1, 2004 to Aug 31, 2005) at new AAC (723,340 m ³), plus 5 years of coniferous reconciliation volume (36,575m ³ /yr)
ANC Timber	DTAW020001	W14	May 1/04 - Apr. 30/09	n/a	Not Determined	n/a	243,250**	** Assuming a change to 15/10 utilization from 13/7 effective May 1, 2004. Subject to production audit results
ANC Timber	DTAW020002	W14	May 1/04 - Apr. 30/09	n/a	Not Determined	n/a	164,875**	** Assuming a change to 15/10 utilization from 13/7 effective May 1, 2004. Subject to production audit results
Millar Western Forest Products	DTAW910001	W14	May1/02 -Apr. 30/07	n/a	Not Determined	n/a	373,000	
Millar Western Forest Products	DTAW910002	W14	May 1/03 - Apr. 30/08	n/a	Not Determined	n/a	350,000	
Mostowich Lumber	CTQW020022	W14	May 1/01 - Apr. 30/06	91,272 (34,227 taken 2001 - 2006 quadrant, 57,045 taken 2006-2011 quadrant)	n/a	368,853***	n/a	*** Assuming a change to 15/10 utilization effective May 1, 2004. 3 years at old AAC and 2 years at new AAC