



**Hinton Wood Products**

*A division of West Fraser Mills Ltd.*

# Aboriginal Consultation Plan

for the  
2014 Detailed Forest Management Plan

Submitted: January 31, 2013

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## 1.0 Background

Hinton Wood Products (HWP) is preparing a Detailed Forest Management Plan (DFMP) for submission to Alberta by September 30, 2014. This Aboriginal Consultation Plan describes HWP's understanding of the Company's requirements for Aboriginal consultation and outlines a consultation procedure that HWP will be following during the preparation and submission of our 2014 DFMP.

Alberta has a requirement to consult on any land management and resource development that might adversely impact First Nations' Rights and Traditional Uses; however, portions of these consultation requirements can be delegated to development proponents such as HWP. With respect to a DFMP, Alberta requires HWP to carry out more extensive consultation than other lower order plans (e.g. the GDP) and specifically suggests that proponents include First Nations input early in the plan development.

Alberta has also been clear to proponents that the duty to consult is specific to how HWP's activities have the potential to adversely impact First Nation's Rights and Traditional Uses. As part of this Aboriginal Consultation Plan, HWP will be specifically asking potentially impacted First Nations for feedback on how HWP's proposed activities may impact the following:

- **First Nation Rights** – These Rights include Treaty Rights to hunt, fish, and trap for food (not for commercial purposes).
- **First Nation Traditional Uses** – These Traditional Uses include uses of public lands such as burial grounds, gathering sites, and historic or ceremonial locations. They do not include past uses of public lands that have disappeared through re-interment, vegetation succession, or permanent abandonment of use.

It will be HWP's goal to eliminate or mitigate all adverse impacts to Rights and Traditional Uses; however, we recognize that it is not always possible to eliminate or satisfactorily mitigate all adverse impacts. If this happens, it will be HWP's goal to minimize impacts as much as possible and to ensure that specific concerns about adverse impacts to Rights and Traditional Uses are considered with our goals of resource development. Towards this goal, HWP will try to ensure:

- The adverse impact is limited as much as possible.
- The adverse impact will not impose undue hardship.
- The adverse impact will not deny the Rights-holders their preferred means of exercising a Right.
- That there has been documented, meaningful consultation with the affected First Nations and those records are provided to Alberta as part of the consultation and DFMP approval process.

The intended outcome of HWP's Aboriginal Consultation Plan is to adequately answer the following questions:

- Will HWP's activity affect the First Nation's Rights to hunt, fish, and trap for food, and if so, where?
- Will HWP's activity affect the First Nation's Traditional Uses, and if so, where?

In summary, HWP has developed this Aboriginal Consultation Plan to ensure First Nations have been given an opportunity to provide input into the development of the 2014 DFMP and to provide feedback on how the activities in HWP's DFMP may adversely impact their Rights and Traditional Uses. The following sections outline in detail, HWP's Aboriginal Consultation Plan for the 2014 DFMP.

## 2.0 **Required First Nation Consultation**

It is Alberta's responsibility to provide to the proponent (HWP) the names and contact information of the First Nations that HWP must consult with during the preparation and submission of a DFMP. In a letter from Alberta dated April 2, 2012, and signed by Brent Schleppe (Area Manager), Alberta requires HWP to consult our 2014 DFMP with the First Nations outlined in Table 1 below:

**Table 1 - Aboriginal communities Alberta has directed HWP to consult with**

Aboriginal Community	Status	Band Location
Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation	First Nation	Lac Saint Anne
Aseniwuche Winewak Nation	Non-Status*	Grande Cache
O'Chiese First Nation	First Nation	NW of Rocky Mountain House
Ermineskin Tribe	First Nation	Hobbema

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

Table 2 below summarizes the current contact information for each of the Aboriginal communities HWP is consulting with – this contact information may change during the course of this consultation plan; however, HWP will always use the approved contact information as per the official Consultation Contacts on the Aboriginal Relations website (<http://www.aboriginal.alberta.ca/576.cfm>), which will be checked prior to each contact as they are subject to change.

**Table 2 – Contact information for First Nations HWP will consult with**

Aboriginal Community	Contact Person	Address	Email	Phone
Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation	Bridget Bull	Box 337, Glenevis, AB, T0E 0X0	<a href="mailto:bridget.b@ansn.ca">bridget.b@ansn.ca</a> ; <a href="mailto:bridget.bull@yahoo.com">bridget.bull@yahoo.com</a>	780-967-3573 (Ext. 245)
Aseniwuche Winewak Nation	Jaymie Kugler	Box 1808, Grande Cache, AB, T0E 0Y0	<a href="mailto:jaymie@aseniwuche.com">jaymie@aseniwuche.com</a>	780-827-5510
O'Chiese First Nation	Andrew Scott	Box 2127, Rocky Mountain House, AB, T4T 1B6	<a href="mailto:andrewscott@ochiesebc.ca">andrewscott@ochiesebc.ca</a>	403-989-2297
Ermineskin Tribe	Carol Wildcat	PO Box 219 Hobbema, AB T0C 1N0	<a href="mailto:carol@ermineskin.ca">carol@ermineskin.ca</a>	780-585-3741

## 3.0 **HWP's Aboriginal Consultation Plan**

Because the DFMP is a complex document that is prepared over a number of years, Aboriginal consultation, by necessity, will be more involved and time consuming than the consultation required for other lower order plans such as the GDP. During DFMP preparation (i.e. before final submission to Alberta) the First Nations outlined in Table 1 will be consulted four times. DFMP Aboriginal consultation will be broken down into the following four components:

1. **2012 Aboriginal Consultation** – This is the initial notification of the start of a DFMP planning process and will take place in 2012, three years before the planned submission date of the DFMP. The intent of this consultation is to provide a general overview of the DFMP process including information about VOITs.
2. **2013 Aboriginal Consultation** – The finalized Terms of Reference will be included in this consultation package, as well as further opportunity for the development of VOITs (Value, Objective, Indicator, and Targets); especially any VOITs that may relate to Aboriginal issues.
3. **2014 Aboriginal Consultation (Spring)** – The focus in this consultation opportunity will be to provide feedback regarding the 20 Year Spatial Harvest Sequence – this will take place in the spring of 2014, three to six months before the planned submission date of the DFMP.
4. **2014 Aboriginal Consultation (Final)** – In addition, to the three components of consultation described above, HWP will also provide each of the four First Nations described in Table 1 a final copy (in digital form) of the DFMP before it is submitted to Alberta for approval. This will be their last consultation opportunity.

The following sections provide detailed information regarding HWP's consultation procedures for the four above noted consultation components:

### **3.1 2012 Aboriginal Consultation**

During this stage of the DFMP consultation process, at a minimum the Company will write a letter to each First Nation outlined in Table 1. In this letter, and accompanying attachments, HWP will describe in plain language the following:

- What a DFMP is (e.g. landbase determination, AAC calculation, Spatial Harvest Sequence, etc.).
  - What stage in the process the DFMP is at.
  - The location of the FMA – including a map(s) at an appropriate scale.
  - What a VOIT is, how they are incorporated into the DFMP, and which ones are directly related to Aboriginal engagement.
  - How the DFMP may impact Aboriginal interests (if known).
  - An explanation of how each community can provide feedback and an invitation for a further face-to-face meeting, if so desired.
  - Each Aboriginal community will have 21 days to respond with a request for further information and/or a face-to-face meeting. The 21-day response period will include at least 15 Alberta Government business days and may be adjusted depending on the complexity of the project and other relevant factors.
- The above noted letter and its attachments will be sent via registered mail.
  - Within two weeks of the original referral package being sent, a reminder phone call or email will be made to each Aboriginal organization to ensure they have received the referral package and to solicit project specific concerns regarding impacts to Treaty Rights and Traditional Uses.
  - Within three weeks of the original referral package being sent, if required, a second reminder phone call or email will be made to each Aboriginal organization.

- If any of the Aboriginal communities request a follow-up meeting, then all of the following will be undertaken during at least one of the follow-up meetings:
  - Review the DFMP renewal process.
  - Review the VOIT process (i.e. how it works and how communities can provide input) and explain in detail any VOITs dealing with Aboriginal engagement.
  - Explain how feedback can be provided (and incorporated) into the DFMP and provide a reasonable timeframe for such feedback.
  - Consider Aboriginal feedback and identify possible methods to avoid or mitigate potential adverse impacts.
  - If there is interest, invite each community to sit on the Company's Forest Resources Advisory Group (FRAG).
  - Depending on the circumstances, additional meetings and correspondence may be required to address concerns and answer questions.

### **3.11 Documentation**

All forms of written and verbal Aboriginal communication, consultation, and mitigation will be documented by HWP. In 2012, Aboriginal consultation for the 2014 DFMP will be conducted in conjunction with the HWP's 2012/13 GDP.

After all 2012 DFMP related consultation has been completed; a summary of this consultation and the Record of Consultation log will be compiled and sent to Alberta for acknowledgement. This summary will include all interactions between First Nations and HWP and will include copies of minutes, emails, letters, and all file notes regarding phone calls, field trips, or other verbal interactions. If Alberta feels there are any shortcomings in HWP's Aboriginal consultation or consultation documentation, it should be brought to HWP's attention at this time.

This same Record of Consultation log for 2012 consultation will also be sent to the Aboriginal communities outlined in Table 1. As part of this summary, HWP will explain where in the DFMP development process HWP is currently at and what further opportunities for Aboriginal consultation there will be moving forward. First Nations will have 5 Alberta Government business days from time of receipt to review the Record of Consultation log for errors and omissions

### **3.12 Available Resources**

HWP personnel, if requested, will travel to the First Nation's band office to further discuss the DFMP and any associated questions or issues. HWP retains the right to refuse to pay consultation fees or any sort of associated assessment fee. If field trips are necessary to investigate potential impacts to Rights and Tradition Uses, then HWP will pay costs associated with these field trips (e.g. travel, meals, etc.).

### **3.2 2013 Aboriginal Consultation**

During this 2013 stage of the DFMP consultation process, at a minimum the Company will write a letter to each First Nation outlined in Table 1. In this letter, and accompanying attachments, HWP will describe in plain language the following:

- What a DFMP is (e.g. landbase determination, AAC calculation, Spatial Harvest Sequence, etc.).
  - What stage in the process the DFMP is at.
  - The location of the FMA – including a map(s) at an appropriate scale.
  - What a VOIT is, how they are incorporated into the DFMP, and which ones are directly related to Aboriginal engagement.
  - The Terms of Reference – a copy of the approved ToR will be provided.
  - A brief summary of HWP's proposed Riparian Management Strategy, noting the differences between the current riparian management policy and HWP's newly proposed strategy.
  - How the DFMP may impact Aboriginal interests (if known) and clearly pointing out that the Company is looking for (in writing) the Aboriginal group's specific concerns with the project (DFMP) and that these concerns clearly identify the potential adverse impacts on their Rights and Traditional Uses.
  - A summary of the input HWP has received from the First Nation to date and how this input has been considered and incorporated into the plan thus far (i.e. mitigation efforts).
  - An explanation of how each community can provide feedback and an invitation for a further face-to-face meeting, if so desired.
  - Each Aboriginal community will have 21 days to respond with a request for further information and/or a face-to-face meeting. The 21-day response period will include at least 15 Alberta Government business days and may be adjusted depending on the complexity of the project and other relevant factors.
- The above noted letter and its attachments will be sent via registered mail or hand delivered.
  - Within two weeks of the original referral package being sent, a reminder phone call or email will be made to each Aboriginal organization to ensure they have received the referral package and to solicit project specific concerns regarding impacts to Treaty Rights and Traditional Uses.
  - Within three weeks of the original referral package being sent, if required, a second reminder phone call or email will be made to each Aboriginal organization.
  - If any of the Aboriginal communities request a follow-up meeting, then all of the following should be undertaken during at least one of the follow-up meetings:
    - Review the DFMP renewal process.
    - Review the approved DFMP Terms of Reference
    - Review the VOIT table (i.e. what it is, how it works, why it is used, etc.), provide a copy of the table (if requested), and explain in detail all VOITs dealing with Aboriginal consultation.
    - Explain how feedback can be provided (and incorporated) into the DFMP and provide a reasonable timeframe for such feedback.
    - Consider Aboriginal feedback and identify possible methods to avoid or mitigate potential adverse impacts.
    - If there is interest, invite each community to sit on the Company's Forest Resources Advisory Group (FRAG).

- Depending on the circumstances, additional meetings and correspondence may be required to address concerns and answer questions.

### **3.21 Documentation**

In 2013, Aboriginal consultation for the 2014 DFMP may be conducted at the same time as consultation for HWP's 2013/14 GDP, but will be sent out under a separate cover letter and a separate consultation referral package.

After all 2013 DFMP related consultation has been completed; a summary of this consultation and the Record of Consultation log will be compiled and sent to Alberta for acknowledgement. This summary will include all interactions between First Nations and HWP and will include copies of minutes, emails, letters, and all file notes regarding phone calls, field trips, or other verbal interactions, including how HWP has attempted to eliminate or mitigate any infringement or impacts to Rights and Traditional Uses. If Alberta feels there are any shortcomings in HWP's Aboriginal consultation or consultation documentation, it should be brought to HWP's attention at this time.

This same Record of Consultation log for 2013 consultation will also be sent to the Aboriginal communities outlined in Table 1. As part of this summary, HWP will explain where in the DFMP development process HWP is currently at and what further opportunities for Aboriginal consultation there will be moving forward. First Nations will have five Alberta Government business days from time of receipt to review the Record of Consultation log for errors and omissions

### **3.22 Available Resources**

HWP personnel, if requested, will travel to the First Nation's band office to further discuss the DFMP and any associated questions or issues. HWP retains the right to refuse to pay consultation fees or any sort of associated assessment fee. If field trips are necessary to investigate potential impacts to Rights and Tradition Uses, then HWP will pay costs associated with these field trips (e.g. travel, meals, etc.).

### **3.3 2014 Aboriginal Consultation (Spring)**

During this 2014 stage of the DFMP consultation process (3-6 months before the Sept 30, 2014 submission date), at a minimum the Company will write a letter to each First Nation outlined in Table 1. In this letter, and accompanying attachments, HWP will describe in plain language the following:

- What a DFMP is (e.g. landbase determination, AAC calculation, Spatial Harvest Sequence, etc.).
- What stage in the process the DFMP is at.
- The location of the FMA – including a map(s) at an appropriate scale.
- What a VOIT is, how they are incorporated into the DFMP, and which ones are directly related to Aboriginal engagement. A copy of the VOIT table will be offered and supplied if requested
- A copy of the draft 10 Year Spatial Harvest Sequence, including an explanation of what it is and how accurate it may be.



- A brief summary of HWP's proposed Riparian Management Strategy, noting the differences between the current riparian management policy and HWP's newly proposed strategy.
  - How the DFMP may impact Aboriginal interests (if known) and clearly pointing out that the Company is looking for (in writing) the Aboriginal group's specific concerns with the project (DFMP) and that these concerns clearly identify the potential adverse impacts on their Rights and Traditional Uses.
  - A summary of the input HWP has received from the First Nation to date and how this input has been considered and incorporated into the plan thus far (i.e. mitigation efforts).
  - An explanation of how each community can provide feedback and an invitation for a further face-to-face meeting, if so desired.
  - Each Aboriginal community will have 21 days to respond with a request for further information and/or a face-to-face meeting. The 21-day response period will include at least 15 Alberta Government business days and may be adjusted depending on the complexity of the project and other relevant factors.
- The above noted letter and its attachments will be sent via registered mail or hand delivered.
  - Within two weeks of the original referral package being sent, a reminder phone call or email will be made to each Aboriginal organization to ensure they have received the referral package and to solicit project specific concerns regarding impacts to Treaty Rights and Traditional Uses.
  - Within three weeks of the original referral package being sent, if required, a second reminder phone call or email will be made to each Aboriginal organization.
  - If any of the Aboriginal communities request a follow-up meeting, then all of the following will be undertaken during at least one of the follow-up meetings:
    - Review the DFMP renewal process.
    - Review the VOIT table (i.e. what it is, how it works, why it is used, etc.), provide a copy of the table (if requested), and explain in detail all VOITs dealing with Aboriginal engagement.
    - Review the 20 Year Spatial Harvest Sequence explaining how it is developed, what factors influence it, and how accurate it is.
    - Explain how feedback can be provided (and incorporated) into the DFMP and provide a reasonable timeframe for such feedback.
    - Consider Aboriginal feedback and identify possible methods to avoid or mitigate potential adverse impacts.
    - If there is interest, invite each community to sit on the Company's Forest Resources Advisory Group (FRAG).
    - Depending on the circumstances, additional meetings and correspondence may be required to address concerns and answer questions.

### **3.31 Documentation**

In 2014, Aboriginal consultation for the 2014 DFMP may be conducted at the same time as consultation for HWP's 2014/15 GDP, but will be sent out under a separate cover letter and a separate consultation referral package.

After all spring 2014 DFMP related consultation has been completed; a summary of this consultation and the Record of Consultation log will be compiled and sent to Alberta for acknowledgement. This summary will include all interactions between First Nations and HWP and will include copies of minutes, emails, letters, and all file notes regarding phone calls, field trips, or other verbal interactions, including a detailed account of the First Nation's concerns regarding impacts to Rights and Traditional Uses and how HWP has attempted to eliminate or mitigate any infringement or impacts to Rights and Traditional Uses. If Alberta feels there are any shortcomings in HWP's Aboriginal consultation or consultation documentation, it should be brought to HWP's attention at this time.

This same Record of Consultation log for spring 2014 consultation will also be sent to the Aboriginal communities outlined in Table 1. As part of this summary, HWP will explain where in the DFMP development process HWP is currently at and what further opportunities for Aboriginal consultation there will be moving forward. First Nations will have five Alberta Government business days from time of receipt to review the Record of Consultation log for errors and omissions

### **3.32 Available Resources**

HWP personnel, if requested, will travel to the First Nation's band office to further discuss the DFMP and any associated questions or issues. HWP retains the right to refuse to pay consultation fees or any sort of associated assessment fee. If field trips are necessary to investigate potential impacts to Rights and Traditional Uses, then HWP will pay costs associated with these field trips (e.g. travel, meals, etc.).

### **3.4 2014 Aboriginal Consultation (Final)**

In addition to the three main stages of consultation described previously (2012 to spring 2014), HWP will also provide each of the First Nations described in Table 1 a final digital copy of the DFMP before it is submitted to Alberta for approval. HWP will also provide a paper copy in a large scale format of the Spatial Harvest Sequence. This will be their last consultation opportunity. Along with the final copy of the DFMP, a covering letter will be sent that will describe in plain language the following:

- This is the final opportunity for Aboriginal input into the development of HWP's 2014 DFMP
- A final digital copy of the 2014 DFMP being submitted by HWP to Alberta is attached.
- A paper copy in a large scale format of the Spatial Harvest Sequence is attached.
- How the DFMP may impact Aboriginal interests (if known) and clearly pointing out that the Company is looking for (in writing) the Aboriginal group's specific concerns with the project (DFMP) and that these concerns clearly identify the potential adverse impacts on their rights and traditional uses.
- A summary of the input HWP has received from the First Nation to date and how this input has been considered and incorporated into the plan thus far (i.e. mitigation efforts).
- An explanation of how each community can provide feedback and an invitation for a further face-to-face meeting, if so desired.
- Each Aboriginal community will have 21 days to respond with a request for further information and/or a face-to-face meeting. The 21-day response period will include at least

15 Alberta Government business days and may be adjusted depending on the complexity of the project and other relevant factors.

- The above noted letter and its attachments will be sent via registered mail or hand delivered.
- Within one week of the original referral package being sent, a reminder phone call or email will be made to each Aboriginal organization to ensure they have received the referral package and to solicit project specific concerns regarding impacts to Treaty Rights and Traditional Uses.
- Within two weeks of the original referral package being sent, if required, a second reminder phone call or email will be made to each Aboriginal organization.
- Any other maps that First Nations representatives would like in a printed format, we will provide.
- If any of the Aboriginal communities request a follow-up meeting, then all the following should be undertaken during at least one of the follow-up meetings:
  - Review the DFMP renewal process.
  - Review the final DFMP submission explaining the following main features of the final 2014 DFMP including:
    - Landbase determination
    - The Annual Allowable Cut determination
    - The 20 Year Spatial Harvest Sequence
    - The VOIT table
    - Strategies for major non-timber values such as caribou, grizzly bear, and other species at risk.
  - Consider Aboriginal feedback and identify possible methods to avoid or mitigate potential adverse impacts.
  - Depending on the circumstances, additional meetings and correspondence may be required to address concerns and answer questions.
  - Reiterate that HWP is looking for (in writing) the First Nation's specific concerns with the project (DFMP) and that these concerns clearly identify the potential adverse impacts on their Rights and Traditional Uses.

### **3.41 Documentation**

In 2014, final Aboriginal consultation for the 2014 DFMP will be conducted approximately 6-8 weeks before the submission date (currently September 30, 2014) of the DFMP to Alberta.

After this last round of consultation has been completed; a summary of the Aboriginal consultation from 2012 to 2014 and the Record of Consultation (ROC) log will be compiled and sent to Alberta for approval (i.e. consultation is judged as adequate). This summary will include all interactions between First Nations and HWP over this time period and will include copies of minutes, emails, letters, and all file notes regarding phone calls, field trips, or other verbal

interactions, including how HWP has attempted to eliminate or mitigate any infringement or impacts to Rights and Traditional Uses.

This same Record of Consultation log for 2012 to 2014 consultation will also be sent to the Aboriginal communities outlined in Table 1. As part of this summary, HWP will explain that the DFMP consultation process is complete and note that further DFMP related consultation will only take place if the DFMP is amended or when the process to develop the next DFMP begins. This summary will also acknowledge that HWP will continue to consult our GDP annually. First Nations will have 5 Alberta Government business days from time of receipt of the ROC to review the ROC log for errors and omissions.

### **3.42 Available Resources**

HWP personnel, if requested, will travel to the First Nation's band office to further discuss the DFMP and any associated questions or issues. HWP retains the right to refuse to pay consultation fees or any sort of associated assessment fee. If field trips are necessary to investigate potential impacts to Rights and Tradition Uses, then HWP will pay costs associated with these field trips (e.g. travel, meals, etc.).

## **4.0 Voluntary Aboriginal Consultation**

In addition to the mandatory First Nation consultation previously noted in Table 1, HWP may also voluntarily consult with the non-status Aboriginal communities described in Table 3 below. HWP may undertake this voluntary consultation because the Company recognizes these communities live in and around the FMA and undertake some traditional use activities (e.g. hunting, ceremonies, cultural sites, etc.) on or adjacent to the FMA.

**Table 3 - Aboriginal communities HWP may voluntarily consult with**

<b>Aboriginal Community</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Community Location</b>
Foothills Ojibway	Non-Status	Hinton and area
Nakcowinewak Nation	Non-Status	Hinton
Mountain Cree	Non-Status*	Small Boys Camp

\* Some members of the Mountain Cree are members of the Ermineskin First Nation.

If HWP carries out voluntary consultation with the Aboriginal communities outlined in Table 3, all or some of the following consultative opportunities will be provided:

### **4.1 2014 Voluntary Aboriginal Consultation**

In the spring of 2014, approximately 3-6 months before final submission (Sept 30, 2014) of HWP's DFMP, the Company will send a letter, and accompanying attachments, in which HWP will describe in plain language the following:

- What a DFMP is (e.g. landbase determination, AAC calculation, Spatial Harvest Sequence, etc.).
- What stage in the process the DFMP is at.
- The location of the FMA – including a map(s) at an appropriate scale.

- What a VOIT is, how they are incorporated into the DFMP, and which ones are directly related to Aboriginal engagement. A copy of the VOIT table will be offered and supplied if requested
  - A copy of the draft 20 Year Spatial Harvest Sequence, including an explanation of what it is and how accurate it may be.
  - Clear direction that the Company is looking (in writing) for the Aboriginal community's specific concerns with the project (DFMP) and that these concerns clearly identify the potential adverse impacts on their traditional uses.
  - An explanation of how each community can provide feedback and an invitation for a further face-to-face meeting, if so desired.
  - Each Aboriginal community will have 21 days to respond with a request for further information and/or a face-to-face meeting. The 21-day response period will include at least 15 Alberta Government business days and may be adjusted depending on the complexity of the project and other relevant factors.
- The above noted letter and its attachments will be sent via regular mail or hand delivered.
  - Within two weeks of the original referral package being sent, if required, a reminder phone call or email will be made to each Aboriginal organization to ensure they have received the referral package.
  - If any of the Aboriginal communities request a follow-up meeting, then the following may be undertaken during at least one of the follow-up meetings:
    - Review the DFMP renewal process.
    - Review the VOIT table (i.e. what it is, how it works, why it is used, etc.), provide a copy of the table (if requested), and explain in detail all VOITs dealing with Aboriginal consultation.
    - Review the 20 Year Spatial Harvest Sequence explaining how it is developed, what factors influence it, and how accurate it is.
    - Explain how feedback can be provided (and incorporated) into the DFMP and provide a reasonable timeframe for such feedback.
    - Consider feedback and identify possible methods to avoid or mitigate potential adverse impacts.
    - Depending on the circumstances, additional meetings and correspondence may be required to address concerns and answer questions.
  - A digital copy of the final approved DFMP will be offered to the each of the Aboriginal communities described in Table 3.

#### **4.11 Documentation**

In 2014, this voluntary Aboriginal consultation for the 2014 DFMP may be conducted at the same time as consultation for HWP's 2014/15 GDP, but will be sent out under a separate cover letter and a separate consultation referral package.

HWP will document and record all spring 2014 DFMP related voluntary consultation. This will include all interactions between the non-status Aboriginal communities and HWP and will

include copies of minutes, emails, letters, and all file notes regarding phone calls, field trips, or other verbal interactions, and include how HWP has attempted to eliminate or mitigate any infringement or impacts to traditional uses. Unless specifically requested by Alberta, a summary of this consultation will not be created and forwarded to Alberta for acknowledgement or approval.

#### **4.12 Available Resources**

HWP personnel, if requested, will travel to the Aboriginal community's office to further discuss the DFMP and any associated questions or issues. HWP retains the right to refuse to pay consultation fees or any sort of associated assessment fee. If field trips are necessary to investigate potential impacts to Rights and Tradition Uses, then HWP will pay costs associated with these field trips (e.g. travel, meals, etc.).

February 11, 2013

Hinton Wood Products  
756 Switzer Drive  
Hinton, AB T7V 0A2

RE: First Nation Consultation Plan for Hinton Wood Products' 2014 DFMP

Dear Aaron Jones:

The Department has reviewed your First Nations consultation plan of October 15, 2012 for the proposed Hinton Wood Products' 2014 Forest Management Plan and it is hereby approved. The delegated procedural aspects for consultation are as set out in the approved plan.

Pursuant to Alberta's *First Nations Consultation Guidelines on Land Management and Resource Development* (referred to as the *Guidelines*), Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD) will remain responsible for all substantive aspects of consultation, and any procedural aspects not delegated to Hinton Wood Products. The responsibilities of ESRD include:

- Determining which First Nations to consult with;
- Providing advice and making information available to Hinton Wood Products regarding potential adverse impacts to Rights and Traditional Uses;
- Ensuring potentially affected First Nations receive early and adequate notification regarding the Hinton Wood Products' 2014 Forest Management Plan;
- Reviewing and approving Hinton Wood Products' 2014 Forest Management Plan consultation plan;
- Overseeing the consultation process by evaluating periodic updates of progress; and
- Making a final decision on consultation completeness and adequacy.

All consultation activities with First Nations must be carried out in the manner described by the *Guidelines* and proceed according to the approved consultation plan.

Hinton Wood Products shall update the Area program manager at the end of each milestone listed in the consultation plan where consultation will occur. Each update shall list all consultation activities (successful and unsuccessful) for the Hinton Wood Products' 2014 Forest Management Plan.

ESRD recommends that you share your consultation plan with the First Nations that you have been directed to consult. ESRD may require Hinton Wood Products to undertake further consultation based on new or additional information at any time during development of the Hinton Wood Products' 2014 Forest Management Plan or during the regulatory approval process.

Please contact me if you have any questions concerning the procedures outlined in this letter.

Sincerely,



Brent Schleppe  
Foothills Area Manager

cc: Kevin Vanderhaeghe, Acting Forestry Program Manager – Foothills Area