

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this document is to outline how Slave Lake Pulp's Detailed Forest Management Plan will be developed and implemented.

Alberta Energy Company Ltd. and MoDo Canada Inc. formed Slave Lake Pulp on December 12th, 1989 to construct and operate a Bleached Chemi Thermal Mechanical pulp (BCTMP) mill designed to produce 110,000 Air Dried Metric Tonnes (ADMT) of high quality pulp per year. Since that time, significant developments, including the acquisition of the company by West Fraser Timber in 1995 and the subsequent acquisition of Zeidler Forest Industries in 1999 have taken place. In addition to the acquisitions, the 1998 fire season, the 1999 fire season, inclusion of the east portion of the S1 forest management unit into the FMA, the development and use of the Interim Forest Management Planning Manual and an increase in pulp production to 195,000 ADMT have occurred. Slave Lake Pulp is operating under an approved detailed forest management plan that is due for renewal on November 15th, 2000.

This plan is being developed in accordance with the Interim Forest Management Planning Guidelines – Version: April 1998 and represents a significant paradigm shift from sustained timber management to sustained forest management. This management approach involves the inclusion of spatial sequencing and a single landbase concept. The plan is intended to be a 'live' plan with inherent flexibility to accommodate anticipated change through a process of **adaptive management**.

This integrated plan is being developed with input from many stakeholders, including representatives from other timber operators, Lands and Forest Service (LFS), Natural Resource Services (NRS), trappers and the general public. This input is obtained through a number of different initiatives including, the detailed forest management plan interdisciplinary planning team, the fish and wildlife technical integration committee, the Slave Lake forest public advisory committee, a continuous open house process and includes presentations to community leaders and schools.

We recognize that we do not have all the answers to the questions regarding forest management, but what we do know is that, we can develop objectives and make predictable projections based on the best available science, existing data, expert opinion and local knowledge. We intend to use this approach and to monitor our results and make the necessary adjustments to the plan, as new information becomes available. A clear understanding of forest dynamics, inclusive of natural disturbance patterns and natural successional patterns are fundamental to this plan.



2. INTRODUCTION

The Terms of Reference is the plan to do the plan; *“it describes how the Forest Management Plan will be developed, what products will be produced, by whom, when and why¹”*. *“It contains a schedule for the development, review and approval of the Forest Management Plan by the LFS¹”*. This Detailed Forest Management Plan (DFMP) will be developed and implemented in accordance with the Interim Forest Management Planning Manual - Guidelines to Plan Development– Version: April 1998. This plan is due for submission by November 15, 2000.

The DFMP is intended to be a “living” document that has inherent flexibility and can be adapted, as new information becomes available. Through this process of adaptive management, the plan can be modified as new information is collected and analyzed.

Slave Lake Pulp (SLP) with input and review from the Detailed Forest Management Planning Committee has developed the Terms of Reference, presented here.

¹ *Interim Forest Management Planning Manual – Guidelines to Plan Development – Version: April 1998*



3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Company

Alberta Energy Company Ltd. and MoDo Canada Inc. formed SLP on December 12, 1989 to construct and operate a Bleached Chemi Thermal Mechanical pulp mill designed to produce high quality pulp. The mill was initially designed to produce 110,000 Air-Dried Metric Tonnes (ADMT) of pulp, but subsequent upgrades to the facility have increased production to 195,000 ADMT.

In August 1995, West Fraser Timber Ltd. acquired the forestry assets of Alberta Energy Ltd., which included Slave Lake Pulp and a sawmill and Medium Density Fibre plant in Blue Ridge. In the fall of 1999 West Fraser Timber Ltd. acquired the assets of Zeidler Forest Industries Ltd. and created a new company called Alberta Plywood Limited (APL). Subsequently, woodlands staff from Slave Lake Pulp and APL were amalgamated. The woodlands staff of APL manages both the SLP Forest management Area (FMA) and APL's coniferous quotas.

3.2 The Forest Management Agreement

On November 15, 1990, SLP entered into a Forest Management Agreement with the province of Alberta. As part of this agreement, Slave Lake Pulp agreed to build a BCTMP mill in return for access to a secure deciduous timber supply. Included in the agreement was the S1 reserve to allow for expansion of the pulp mill. SLP was required to produce a Preliminary Forest Management Plan by the end of the first year following the signing of the Forest Management Agreement document; a Detailed Forest Management Plan within three years and finally a revised DFMP by November 15, 2000. The intent of this document is to describe the process and timelines that will be followed in the development and submission of this revised DFMP.

Under the Forest Management Agreement, the primary use of the FMA is for the purpose of growing and harvesting timber on a sustained yield basis

7. (1) *Subject to the terms and conditions of this agreement the minister grants the company the rights, during the term of this Agreement, to establish, grow and harvest timber on the FMA on a perpetual sustained yield basis, ...².*

and to ensure forest sustainability the company intends to follow sound forestry principles:

9. *On the forest management area the company shall:*
- (a) *follow sound forest management practices with the purpose of achieving and maintaining a perpetual sustained yield of timber from the productive forest land, while not diminishing the productivity of the land³*

^{2&3} *Slave Lake Pulp Forest Management Agreement November 7, 1990*



3.3 Significant Events Since the Last DFMP

Slave Lake Pulp is currently operating under an approved Detailed Forest Management Plan, which will be used as the basis for the development of the new plan. Subsequent to the submission of the last DFMP, the following significant events have taken place:

1. 1998 fires – In 1998 three major fires burned within the FMA, almost exclusively in the S6 Forest Management Unit (FMU), including the Mitsu Lake fire (50,000 ha), the Agnes Lake fire (33,000 ha), and the Roche Lake fire (5,000 ha.). In addition, the Virginia hills fire burnt a portion of the S1 FMU.
2. 1999 fire – Jessie Lake fire
3. Amendment of the FMA boundary to include the east portion of the S1 FMU – Order in Council approved July 28th, 1999.
4. Amendment of the FMA document pertaining to Appendix D. – July 28th 1999 Order in Council approved. Pertinent changes to Appendix D of the 1999 Order in Council includes:
 - Timber types will be designated using Alberta Vegetation Inventory (AVI) instead of Phase III;
 - % crown cover section deleted;
 - All C, CD and DC stands will be managed primarily for coniferous production and the DFMP will make provisions for the sustainability of deciduous timber from those stands;
 - All D stands will be managed primarily for deciduous production and the DFMP will make provisions for the sustainability of coniferous timber from those stands;
 - Clauses relating to rights to harvest deciduous timber from deciduous stands containing a coniferous understorey is removed;
 - The DFMP will provide for the maintenance of mixedwood stand structures;
 - Definition of coniferous understorey removed;
 - Sections relating to the removal of deciduous timber by coniferous quota holders deleted;
 - Clause included to state that no coniferous operator has any rights to deciduous timber;
 - Clause included to state that integration of deciduous harvesting is necessary;
 - Clause included to state that the harvest of deciduous timber is subject to an approved plan;
 - Clause included to state that coniferous timber harvested from deciduous stands will be apportioned to coniferous quota holders within the FMU
 - Clause to clarify that all deciduous timber produced on the FMA is FMA chargeable.
5. Acquisition of Zeidler Forest Industries Ltd.- November 3rd 1999.
6. Interim Forest Management Planning Manual - Guidelines to Plan Development – Version: April 1998. This planning manual contains a specified procedure for plan development and approval and is geared towards sustainable forest management as opposed to sustainable fibre management.
7. Utilization of white birch. In the past, Slave Lake Pulp had not committed to the utilization of white birch, because it was not considered a desirable species for pulp production; however, recent technological developments have enabled white birch to be effectively utilized.

⁴ *Slave Lake Pulp Forest Management Agreement November 7, 1990*



3.4 Other Timber operators in the FMA

Slave Lake Pulp manages a deciduous FMA that contains many overlapping conifer timber allocations. The company recognizes the rights and responsibilities of the conifer quota holders and will make all reasonable efforts to involve them in all stages of integrated planning and operations.

Coniferous allocation within the FMA as determined from 1986 and 1991 forest inventories and adjusted for 1998 fires.

FMU	Organization	Quota Certificate No.	% of conifer AAC	Conifer AAC (m3/yr)	Utilization Standards
S6	Vanderwell Contractors Ltd.	CTQS060011	59.36	35,463	15/11
	Spruceland Millworks Inc.	CTQS060009	35.16	21,005	15/11
	Local Misc. Timber Users		5.48	3,274	15/11
S2	Millar Western Forest Products	CTQS020034	71.55	174,224	15/11
	Alberta Plywood Ltd.	CTQS020008 & CTQS020005	22.95	55,884	15/11
	Local Misc. Timber Users		5.50	13,393	15/11
S1	Millar Western Forest Products	CTQS010036	12.99	37,104	15/11
	Buchanan Lumber Ltd.	CTQS010038	41.27	117,873	15/11
	Alberta Plywood Ltd.	CTQS010037	45.73	130,612	15/11

In addition, business arrangements are in progress to transfer Spruceland Millworks Inc. coniferous assets and liabilities, in the S6 FMU, to Alberta Plywood Ltd; and to transfer a portion of APL's S1 FMU coniferous quota to Buchanan Lumber.

Deciduous allocation within the FMA as determined from 1986 and 1991 forest inventories and adjusted for 1998 fires.

FMU	Organization	% of deciduous AAC	Deciduous AAC (M3/yr)	Utilization Standards
S6, S2,S1S	Slave Lake Pulp	100	239,358	15/10
S1- expansion	Slave Lake Pulp	100	135,052	15/10
		Total	369,043	

Note: To date, most of the deciduous timber has been obtained, as incidental volumes, from coniferous operations.



4. MANAGEMENT PHILOSOPHY AND APPROACH TO PLANNING AND OPERATIONS

4.1 West Fraser Corporate Environmental Policy

West Fraser Timber is committed to responsible stewardship of the environment. As part of this philosophy, we are committed to participation at the national, provincial, regional and local community levels. West Fraser Timber recognizes that our forestry operations in Alberta are on public lands, that there are many users, values and products from the forest, including water, wildlife, aesthetics and recreation.

West Fraser Timber also recognizes and embraces change. We understand that the forest is a dynamic system that constantly changes, that societal values change, and that our approach to forest management must be adaptive and change over time. To accommodate this change, Slave Lake Pulp has adopted the basic principles of adaptive management and an open and consultative process to planning and operations.

West Fraser Environmental Policy⁵

West Fraser Timber Co. Ltd. is committed to responsible stewardship of the environment. A philosophy of continuous improvement has been adopted to reduce or eliminate the impact of our operations on the environment. This is achieved by forest practices and manufacturing procedures that achieve the most efficient use of resources, thereby reducing or eliminating emissions and waste.

Environmental stewardship is both a corporate and individual responsibility. West Fraser provides training to employees to ensure that they are aware of this policy and possess the skills necessary to achieve the Company's expected levels of environmental performance. Each employee is expected to follow established practices and procedures for environmental stewardship.

West Fraser is a results-oriented company that is committed to the following:

- Compliance with all applicable environmental laws and regulations.*
- An ongoing assessment and prioritization of the environmental issues associated with its activities, processes, products and services.*
- The conduct of periodic environmental audits.*
- An ongoing review of practices and procedures to achieve environmental objectives.*

West Fraser believes that long-term business success is linked to environmental excellence. The Company therefore communicates its performance to employees, customers, and other stakeholders.

West Fraser will regularly review this policy to ensure that it reflects the Company's ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship.



4.2 Slave Lake Pulp's Environmental Policy:



Environmental Policy Statement

Slave Lake Pulp will operate its facilities in an environmentally responsible way and will conduct all facets of its business to ensure that the environment is protected. This includes employees' actions, as well as those of contractors and suppliers.

Slave Lake Pulp is committed to follow the Principles of Sustainable Forestry Practices in accordance with all applicable Provincial and Federal Environmental Laws and Regulations. All activities will be treated as an opportunity to minimize waste, and to achieve an efficient use of raw materials and energy.

Slave Lake Pulp demands excellence in continual improvement in all it's key activities:

- **Practices:** Operating and maintenance procedures and training.
- **Process Change:** Integration with new environmental protection technology with respect to significant process changes.
- **Monitoring:** Effective identification of potential environmental impacts from operating.
- **Education:** Individual and collective employee commitment and understanding to minimize environmental effects of activities necessary to their jobs.
- **Communication:** To provide timely and accurate information on our environmental performance to our Board of Directors, shareholders, employees, customers and other interested parties.
- **Objectives and Targets:** Setting and reviewing environmental objectives and targets.

Slave Lake Pulp will not only meet or exceed all government regulations, but also strive for continual improvement for all these environmental laws and regulations. Slave Lake Pulp will conduct regular audits of it's environmental management system.

Peter A. Rippon – Mill Manager

Date



4.3 Forest Management Principles and Approach to Forest Management

Slave Lake Pulp is operating under an approved DFMP with well-defined objectives. As part of this planning process, SLP intends to build on past experience and accepted submissions. The existing DFMP will be reevaluated and adjusted as necessary, with the intent to build on the existing approved DFMP. As part of this process, SLP intends to work closely with the forest service and the other stakeholders in an evolution from sustained yield timber management to sustained forest management. SLP anticipates that this evolution in forest management will promote the long term goal of managing the timber resource in a manner that supports multiple use of the forest, while sustaining forest health and providing the opportunity for integrating other environmental, economic and societal objectives. SLP believes that a balanced approach with the flexibility to accommodate change is necessary for a successful plan.

A primary goal of this DFMP, consistent with SLP's Forest Management Agreement, is to provide the opportunity for the optimization of timber production on the FMA, while at the same time recognizing other forest resource values.

A single landbase approach will be used in this plan. Under this approach, the forest will be managed to produce a sustainable supply of both coniferous and deciduous timber. A management strategy, based on the stratification of the forest into pine, black spruce, white spruce, deciduous and mixedwood forest types will be perused in this plan.

Spatial sequencing is a requirement for this DFMP. As part of the Timber Supply Analysis, multiple runs will be evaluated using spatial sequencing.

Timber Supply Analysis runs will be considered on a Forest Management Unit basis as opposed to a Forest Management Area basis. This is consistent with existing quota certificates, which are based on Forest Management Units.

To ensure that we are successful in planning and implementing the DFMP, SLP is committed to the following principles:

Adaptive management principle.

Recognize that the forest is a dynamic system that is in a constant state of change; that public values change; that constant research provides new knowledge and that the DFMP needs to be a dynamic process that recognizes, quantifies, analyses and addresses change.

- SLP is committed to the support of ongoing research and operational trials, with the intent to apply the knowledge gained.
- SLP is committed to monitoring their timber harvesting activities on the Forest management Area, analysis of the results and feedback into planning and operations. Appropriate changes will be implemented as part of the adaptive management process.
- SLP is committed to implementing the DFMP through General Development Plans (GDP) and Annual Operating Plans (AOP) to ensure that activities are consistent with the DFMP.

Sound forest management principle.

SLP is committed to following sound forest management principles that are biologically, socially, economically and operationally feasible. To ensure that the desired objectives are satisfied, SLP intends to rely on the most up to date information for decision making purposes; however, SLP recognizes that even with the most up to date information, some questions may not be answered. To address these, SLP intends to rely on a common sense principle, that is based on combining scientific information with expert opinion and local expertise.

Open and consultative process in the development of the Detailed Forest Management Plan.

Consistent with the Interim Forest Management Planning Manual – Version 1998, SLP is committed to development of this plan in an open and consultative manner, and will make a reasonable effort to involve all stakeholders, including Government agencies, other resource users and the general public.

An open and extensive ongoing public input process will be used to get meaningful public input. SLP has established a process whereby the public, in the vicinity of SLP's Forest Management Area, are provided, on an ongoing basis, with the opportunity to have input to the DFMP process.



Multiple use principle

SLP recognizes that the forest has many other uses other than for timber. The use of the forest by other commercial forest resource users including other forest companies, oil and gas operators, recreation users, trappers and grazing disposition holders, are accommodated in this plan. Other values of the forest, including water quality and quantity, are also recognized.

8 (1) It is recognized by the minister that the company's use of the forest management area for growing and harvesting is the primary use thereof and that it is to protected therein, but keeping the policy of providing for multiple use of the same public land...⁴

SLP will use a combination of approaches including:

- Solicit input from other stakeholders in the development and implementation of this plan.
- Use a single DFMP that is developed for all forest industry stakeholders in the FMA.
- Make a reasonable attempt to balance biological, social and economic factors.

Landscape Approach

Both landscape level and stand level coarse filter and fine filter approaches will be considered in this plan. In cooperation with other interested stakeholders, SLP intends to develop a management approach that will maintain an acceptable range of landscape diversity (such as stand sizes, species composition, stand structure and stand age), over time, at the landscape level. The fine filter approach targets selected species for management.

SLP intends to use simple explainable management practices that are biologically appropriate to the silviculture of the species being considered, and will allow for the inclusion of natural disturbance and forest dynamics.

Range of management intensities

A management approach that adopts the concept of using a range of management intensities will be used in this plan. Management options to be considered include, enhanced forest management, multiple use, special management areas and protected areas.

Enhanced Forest Management (EFM)

- Some areas within the FMA will be managed intensively for timber production. This does not preclude the opportunity for other uses within the EFM area. This DFMP will make provisions for the inclusion of EFM during the term of this plan, and will include things such as tree improvement programs and crop planning.

Multiple use

- Some areas within the FMA will be designated as areas for multiple use forest management, and will serve multiple use purposes, including wildlife, biodiversity, water, timber supply and recreation.



Special management areas

- Areas such as, inoperable slopes, mineral licks, riparian areas, and other sensitive areas will be considered for special management. SLP intends to work closely with the government and the other stakeholders, through the FWTIC, to ensure that sensitive areas are managed appropriately.

Protected areas

- There are several protected areas within, and adjacent to, SLP's FMA boundary, including the Grizzly Ridge Special Places 2000 site and Goose Mountain Ecological Reserve. SLP worked closely with the local communities and the government in ensuring that the Grizzly Ridge Special Places 2000 site was protected because of its ecological significance. These protected areas will serve as benchmark areas.

4.4 The Detailed Forest Management Plan

The Detailed Forest Management Plan shall describe the methods the company will follow in managing timber on a sustained yield basis for a period of two rotations, and determine an Annual Allowable Cut (AAC).

The forest management plan consists of⁵:

- *Resource Management Philosophy*
- *Resource Management Goals (Biological, economic, social)*
- *Forest Management Objectives, evaluation of resource management strategies and selection of the preferred forest management strategy;*
- *The implementation strategy (How the plan will be delivered operationally);*
- *Performance monitoring (what is monitored and tracked annually and periodically and what is reported in the stewardship report).*

The detailed forest management plan shall:

- Describe the current use and condition of the forest management area;
- Describe sound forest management philosophies and objectives that include things such as timber supply, wildlife, water and public use;
- Describe the implementation, monitoring and feedback mechanism strategies for ensuring that the plan is followed through;
- Include the yield projections and assumptions used to determine the net land base for the determination of the annual allowable cut;
- Describe the harvesting schedule for the first rotation;
- Include a 20 year road development plan;
- Include a long-term forest protection plan
- Define the operating year;
- Define the cut control periods;
- Outline the plan for inventory updates;
- Develop operating units in the S1 Forest management unit

⁵ *Interim Forest Management Planning Manual – Guidelines to Plan Development – Version: April 1998*



Furthermore the plan shall:

- Initiate the Growth and Yield Program to include the S1 expansion area;
- Initiate the development of a schedule and an action plan for the development of a new set of ground rules for the FMA;
- Initiate an FMA based Fish and Wildlife Gap analysis project
- Initiate an FMA based soils inventory
- Initiate an FMA based natural disturbance study

4.5 Forest Management Plan Implementation

SLP will implement the DFMP through the General Development Plan (GDP), the Annual Operating Plan (AOP) and individual Harvest Plans. This will be a continuous process that allows for the incorporation of new developments in forest planning and operations. This process involves defining objectives, developing implementation strategies, implementing the plan and monitoring the outcomes of our actions to quantify the results. Based on the outcomes, the plan could be amended to incorporate the new information.



5. FOREST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND VALUES

For successful forest management plan development and implementation, forest resource management issues must be identified, evaluated, and where necessary, incorporated into the detailed forest management plan. To date the following issues have been identified and will be addressed as part of the DFMP process:

5.1 Slave Lake Pulp issues:

- Tenure system – Roles, rights and responsibilities of stakeholders.
- Landbase erosion.

5.2 Vanderwell Contractors Ltd. issues:

1998 Detailed Forest Management Plan document

- Not enough integration of quota holders in the plan;
- Supplemental Reforestation Plan – Should be done cooperatively with the quota holders;
- Concern about losing coniferous landbase that currently has a deciduous overstorey. Suggest to revise yields to match the reforestation strategies;
- Quota holders should manage incidental coniferous replacement;
- Include the option to exceed the coniferous regeneration standards, with an associated impact on the coniferous AAC;
- Two pass harvesting system may be limiting. Wants the opportunity for more options;
- Pre-1991 coniferous cutblocks – updates show more deciduous due to deciduous suckering. Need to go back to the 1986 phase 3 calls to determine landbase;
- Concern about coniferous understorey protection. VCL wants the option to harvest in deciduous stands, containing coniferous understorey, that is considered as coniferous landbase until VCL feels comfortable with SLP's operations.

1998 FMA Inventory Report.

- Concern that coniferous cutovers are not well represented in the inventory report;
- Not comfortable with stratum volume estimates;
- Wants to revisit yield curve assignments. Figure 7-2;
- Regeneration strategies – needs redoing;
- Incidental coniferous replacement – needs more information;
- Not comfortable with DC yield curves.

2000 Detailed Forest Management Plan

- Primarily interested in coniferous AAC;
- Coniferous understorey identification, protection and monitoring – coniferous understoreys may provide the opportunities for filling the age class imbalance as a result of the major 1998 forest fires. How to capture white spruce understoreys, what are the yield curve assignments and how to model?



- Green areas within the Agnes Lake and Mitsue Lake fires – Possibility of identifying them and replacing them in the inventory;
- Unmerchantable and unsalvaged areas that are reforesting to deciduous - opportunity for trade both present and future;
- AVI reinventory – Slave Lake Pulp is not doing what they said they were going to do;
- Pre-1991 cutovers – Vanderwells wants to do exploratory work on the opportunities for balancing the land-base;
- Interested in mixedwood management opportunities;
- Incidental coniferous – concerned that it is not sustainable;
- Thinning – interested in commercial thinning opportunities;
- Crop plans – interested in exploring the potential opportunities.

5.3 Buchanan Lumber's issues:

2000 Detailed Forest Management Plan

- Primarily interested in coniferous AAC. Not necessarily interested in all aspects of the forest management plan;
- Frost Hills IRP - Lands originally designated as farmlands but wants to explore the opportunity of putting it back into the green zone;
- An AAC conifer calculation on the entire S1 FMU or just the East Side that is within SLP's FMA? Would prefer to see the calculations done on the entire FMU;
- Spatial analysis - Should also be done on the entire S1;
- FMU Coniferous plots - Are there enough? Where?
- Deciduous allocation in the S1 FMU – SLP has only the east side. How is the west side being allocated?
- Landbase netdown – Wants to have opportunity in low density or other marginal coniferous stands on an as encountered basis;
- Coniferous understories – Location, amount and condition;
- Post 1991 cutblocks – all blocks occurring in the mixedwood forest should be put back on regenerated mixedwood curves;
- Pre 1991 cutblocks – go with the AVI call unless we have data to support otherwise. Suggests aerial surveys to designate blocks. Incidental conifer is not currently sustainable – does not have a problem with making incidental conifer quota chargeable;
- Forest dynamics – the forests have grown and how do we deal with increase in coniferous AAC?

5.4 Millar Western Forest Products Ltd. issues:

1998 Detailed Forest Management Plan document

- Primarily interested in timber supply and to the other issues where they impact the coniferous timber supply;
- Enhanced Forest Management, including crop planning, is a priority for MWFP;



- Coniferous understories – Basically what constitutes a coniferous understory, how is the interpretation conducted, how is the coniferous understory information incorporated in the TSA?
- Inoperable areas – wants to have the opportunity to operate in those areas deemed as inoperable where it is operationally feasible. Recognition that timber harvesting technology is changing.
- Fish and Wildlife buffers – Wants to have the options for managed buffers;
- Merchantability test deletions – wants the opportunity to operate in stands deemed as unmerchantable on an as encountered basis;
- Landbase designation – MWFP recommends a single landbase management approach;
- Volume sampling – MWFP requests access to all data collected as well as inclusion in decision making regarding the design and implementation strategy for any new volume sampling program;
- Yield curve development – MWFP requests involvement in yield curve development;
- Conifer understory yield curve assignments – Wants clarification on what constitutes a coniferous understory? Suggests that SLP should be consistent with Blue Ridge Lumber in the assignment of coniferous understories i.e. 100 stems/ha. Also, recommends that a coniferous understory interpretation be included;
- Regeneration strategies – MWFP is not in agreement with SLP's regenerated yield curve assumptions;
- Simulation control – MWFP requests involvement in the development of any new simulation control.

2000 Detailed Forest Management Plan:

- Recognition that the 1998 DFMP was signed subject to the understanding that some assumptions were contentious in nature and will be addressed in the 2000 DFMP;
- Mixedwood management – definition and discussion are necessary;
- Requests that MWFP be involved in the development in FMA ground rules;
- Growth and Yield program – what is SLP's position on a coniferous growth and yield program?
- Incidental coniferous reforestation – What is SLP's position on the maintenance of incidental conifer on the FMA?
- MWFP recommends that cutovers be designed in a manner that better mimic natural disturbance patterns;
- What is SLP's history on identification and protection of coniferous understories? Is there a process in place?
- Does SLP protect all coniferous understories or only those identified with the AVI?
- Coniferous understory yield curve assignments – Wants clarification on what constitutes a coniferous understory? Suggests that SLP should be consistent with Blue Ridge Lumber in the assignment of coniferous understories i.e. 100 stems/ha. Also, recommends that a coniferous understory interpretation be included;
- MWFP requests that the principles of Enhanced Forest Management be fully incorporated in this DFMP.



5.5 NRS – Fisheries issues:

- Plan must show how harvesting operations will be conducted in a manner that minimizes the impacts on the watershed. Suggest to incorporate some of the ideas from the Oregon Plan⁶;
- **Thoughts on fisheries priorities on a landscape level:**
 - Performance audit for roads and crossings;
 - Minimize the number of roads and crossings;
 - Quantify crossings on a watershed basis;
 - Detailed watershed plans that maintain biodiversity over time;
 - Maintain water yields over time;
 - Riparian and water source buffers – variable buffer widths with a minimum, use management guidelines similar to the 1999 Oregon Plan;
 - Cumulative effects – set limits for linear disturbance, number of crossings and percent vegetation removal on a watershed basis;
 - Water quality and water quantity;
 - Inoperable areas;
 - Sensitive soils;
 - Soil erosion

5.6 NRS - Wildlife issues:

- Wildlife habitat;
- Wildlife protection;
- Access;
- Wildlife species management;
- Mineral licks;
- Trappers;
- Riparian areas.

5.7 Public issues:

1. Sustainable forest development
2. Allocation of the forest resource
3. Special Places 2000
4. Multiple use of the forest
5. Ecological diversity
6. Reforestation
7. Logging trucks on the road
8. Herbicides
9. Harvesting methods
10. Public input into forest planning
11. Relationship between forestry and oil and gas

⁶ The Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds – July 10, 2000



5.8 Transboundary issues:

- Transboundary issues such as integrated management opportunities with other FMA holders will be addressed in the Detailed Forest Management Plan.

5.9 Trapper issues:

- Notification and involvement in harvest planning.
- Trapper compensation

5.10 S6 MTU issues:

- Wood supply shortfall due to the 1998 fires

5.11 Other issues:

- Biodiversity;
- Forest Health;
- Forest Protection;
- Identification and protection of heritage sites;
- Klondike Trail.

6. LEGISLATION, POLICIES AND OTHER INITIATIVES INFLUENCING PLAN DEVELOPMENT

The development of this plan is influenced by both legislative and other documents. Legislative documents consist of acts and regulations; whereas, other documents includes Government policy and other initiatives.

Legislative influences:

- The Forest Act
- Timber Management Regulation
- Slave Lake Pulp's Forest Management Agreement
- Coniferous Quota Certificates
- Forest and Prairie Protection Act (Part I and II) and Regulations
- Federal Navigable Waters Protection Act
- Federal Fisheries Act
- Historical Resources Act of Alberta
- The Water Act

Other influences:

- Canadian Biodiversity Strategy
- Canada Forest Accord
- National Forest Strategy 1998-2003: Sustainable Forests, A Canadian Commitment.
- Criteria and Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management in Canada – Technical report 1997. Canadian Council of Forest Ministers
- Alberta's Commitment to Sustainable Resource and Environmental Management
- Forest Management In Alberta: Response to the Report of the Expert Review Panel
- Alberta Forest Legacy: Implementation Framework for Sustainable Forest Management
- Special Places 2000: Alberta's Natural Heritage
- Interim Forest Management Planning Manual - April 1998
- Alberta Timber Harvest Planning and Operating Ground Rules
- Forest Care
- West Fraser Timber Corporate Environmental policy.
- Slave Lake Pulp Environment policy.



7. DATA REQUIREMENTS FOR PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Slave Lake Pulp is currently operating under the authority of an approved Detailed Forest Management Plan that was developed using forest inventory data collected in 1991-1995. Inventory information used in the existing plan included AVI v2.1 air photo-interpretation, GIS map production and volume sampling (cruise plot) data. Net landbase determination, for AAC estimation, was undertaken using 1:20,000 Provincial base data (administrative boundaries, hydrological features, access and landuse disturbances, contours etc.) and the AVI forest cover types. Temporary operational deletions and merchantability tests were performed in consultation with quota holders and the Land and Forest Service. Empirical yield curves were derived from a compilation of the volume sampling data and strata areas (by age class).

Slave Lake Pulp intends to build on and strengthen the existing “approved” forest inventory. Significant events, including the 1998 fires in Mitsue, Agnes Lake etc., timber harvesting since 1991, as well as amendments to the FMA boundary to accommodate FMU S1 and the Special Places 2000 withdrawal, will be incorporated in this DFMP. SLP has recently completed a new AVI-based inventory in FMU S1 and has updated the FMA GIS library to reflect the presence of new cutblocks and fire boundaries. To improve strata estimates and FMA yield curves; additional volume sampling has also been conducted in FMU S1. Supplementary information that will be incorporated in development of the DFMP will include:

- Digital elevation model (D.E.M.) data for determining watershed and operability constraints;
- Provincial “Natural Region” stratification for landscape management and yield curve construction;
- Updated silvicultural data, from regeneration surveys and monitoring plots, for yield curve assignments and mixedwood management decisions.
- Preliminary findings from SLP’s Fish and Wildlife Gap analysis project
- Preliminary findings from soils mapping project



8. THE PLANNING PROCESS OUTLINE INDICATING THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXTERNAL PARTICIPATION AND REVIEW

Slave Lake Pulp is committed to external participation and review that is open, transparent and consultative. The intent of this process is to provide a forum for education, two-way communication and shared decision-making. This process is in alignment with the Interim Planning Manual.

To facilitate this process, SLP has created an Interdisciplinary Forest Management Plan Advisory Committee (IFMPAC) consisting of representation from all quota holders within the FMA; the Lands and Forest Service at the forest area, regional and provincial levels; NRS representation from the regional wildlife and regional fisheries biologist; local timber use representation; trapper representation; and the chairperson from the Slave Lake Forest Public Advisory Committee (SLFPAC). The IFMPAC is a results oriented committee that meets once a month to make decisions on the DFMP. Committee members are expected to actively participate in DFMP discussions, provide meaningful input in a timely manner and provide resources where appropriate. Committee members are also expected to signoff at various stages in the plan development. SLP recognizes that even though the government sits on the planning committee, plan components must still be submitted to the Department for a formal review and approval process.

In addition to the interdisciplinary Forest Management Planning team, input into the plan is obtained through the Fish and Wildlife Integrated Technical Committee (FWITC). The intent of this committee is to provide input into and review of the detailed forest management plan. This committee comprises of representatives from Natural Resources Services NRS), the Lands and Forest Service (LFS) and representatives from SLP.

Meaningful public involvement is a requirement of this Detailed Forest Management Plan. Slave Lake Pulp is committed to actively soliciting and incorporating public input into our forest management plan and operations on an ongoing basis.

Slave lake Pulp's strategy for public involvement into this plan is primarily through the following:

1. The Slave Lake Forest Public Advisory Committee (SLFPAC)
2. Open houses
3. Meetings and presentations to community leaders and the general community
4. School presentations and tours

Opportunity for public participation is primarily through the Slave Lake Forest Public Advisory Committee (SLFPAC). This committee was formed in January 1997 and consists of a cross section of interests including local community public members, small loggers association, trappers association, the Lands and Forest Service, the Whitefish native band and local forest industry. The SLFPAC was established to:



- a) *Provide organized and regular public input into Slave Lake Pulp's, Vanderwells Contractors (1971) Ltd., Weyerhaeuser and Zeidler Forest Industries Ltd. (the forest companies) forest planning and operations.*
- b) *Identify community concerns and issues for consideration in forest resource management plans*
- c) *Obtain constructive, regional input, advice and recommendations to ensure all local interests are actively involved in forest resource management planning⁷*

SLP is committed to a continuous public involvement process that includes the SLFPAC. SLP's first presentation on the DFMP to the SLFPAC was on February 16, 2000 and continued on a monthly basis through to June 2000. Through this process the public is made aware of the reason for the DFMP, the process to be followed, and updates and opportunity for input at the various stages in plan development. Issues that are brought forward by the SLFPAC are being evaluated and, where appropriate, incorporated into the DFMP.

Through open houses, SLP intends to present all of its plans, including the DFMP, the General Development Plan (GDP), Annual Operating Plans (AOPs), Silviculture plans, forest protection plans, and general information on the company. This will be done for both SLP and Alberta Plywood Ltd. A visitor registry will be present at all events to document attendance. The company representatives will interview responsive visitors recording names, addresses, contact numbers and comments and/or concerns regarding our plans or operations. This process is expected to provide valuable input into plans. Issues, concerns, comments will be evaluated and, where appropriate, incorporated into planning and operations. Open houses will be held in local communities. Open houses will be conducted, at least once a year, in key areas such as Slave Lake, Kinuso, and Swan Hills. We also intend to visit local first nation communities. Our first open house was held on May 3rd, 2000 in Kinuso and the second open house on May 12th, 2000 at the Sawridge Mall in the town of Slave Lake and the third open house in Swan Hills on May 26th, 2000. School presentations and school tours offer another avenue of communicating our plans and getting community input.

SLP intend to present the DFMP to local community leaders in Slave Lake, Swan Hills and Kinuso. Our first meeting with the MD officers in Slave Lake was on March 8, 2000.

Public issues that arise out of our public input process will be addressed primarily by discussion of the issue(s) with the person(s) or organization that raises the issue(s), in the relevant forum, in an attempt to come to resolution at that stage.

⁷ *Slave Lake Forest Public Advisory Committee – terms of reference*



9. PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND STEWARDSHIP REPORTING

SLP is committed to developing and implementing a performance and stewardship reporting system that will provide valuable feedback to the DFMP. The DFMP will be implemented through the GDPs and AOPs. SLP is also committed to seek out and use new information that will improve sustainable forest resource management. We intend to use this information in our adaptive management approach to forest management. Performance monitoring will be done on an annual basis and stewardship reporting on a 5-year basis.

Currents monitoring and reporting systems include:

- Forest Care
- PSPs and Growth and Yield
- Forest Inventory update
- Regeneration monitoring
- Pre-harvest and post site treatment assessments
- Insect and disease surveys.
- Research and development
- Inventory updates including, continuous forest inventory updates, annual cutblock updates and land use updates
- In addition, SLP is considering reconciling scale volumes to AVI projected volumes.

SLP is committed to the development of a format for performance monitoring and stewardship reporting. Plan performance will be measured according to criteria established in the DFMP, which may include AAC assumptions, resource management strategies and associated resource management objectives and ground rules.



10. PLANNING TEAMS

10.1 Detailed Forest Management Plan interdisciplinary planning team members:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>General Responsibilities</i>
Jonathan Russell	Millar Western Forest Products	Management Forester	Forest management plan and TSA review
Keith Branting	Buchanan Lumber Ltd.	Woodlands Manager	Forest management plan and TSA review
Darrel MacKay	Vanderwells Contractors Ltd.	Woodlands Manager	Forest management plan and TSA review
Darren Platt	Vanderwells Contractors Ltd.	Forest Planner	Forest management plan and TSA review
Patti Campsall	LFS – Marten Hills District.	Area Forester	Forest management plan and TSA review and approval
Jason Cottingham	LFS – High Prairie District	Area Forester	Forest management plan and TSA review
Nadine Pedersen	Forest Management Division	Provincial Timber Supply Analyst	Timber Supply analysis input and review and approval.
Teresa Stokes	Forest Management Division	Provincial Forest Planner	Forest Management Plans review
David Schupac	MTU S6 FMU	President	Forest management plan review
David Schupac	Alberta Trappers Assoc. – Slave Lake	Member	Forest management plan review
Mark Heckbert	NRS – Wildlife	Wildlife Biologist	Review of wildlife philosophy, goals and objectives. Input into FWTIC
David Derosa	NRS – Fisheries	Fisheries Biologist	Review of fisheries philosophy, goals and objectives. Input into FWTIC
Lorne Larson	Slave Lake Forest Public Advisory Committee	Chair	Forest management plan review
Bob Morton	Silvacom	President/CEO	Preparation and submission of TSA
Andy Robertson	Alberta Plywood Ltd.	GIS Manager	Forest management plan and TSA review
Terry Kristoff	Alberta Plywood Ltd.	Management Forester	Forest management plan and TSA review
Bert Larocque	Alberta Plywood Ltd.	Operations Manager	Forest management plan and TSA review
Gordon Sanders	Alberta Plywood Ltd.	Woodlands Manager	Forest management plan and TSA review
Permanand Sieusahai	Alberta Plywood Ltd.	Planning Forester	Responsible for Forest Management Planning and TSA

10.2 Slave Lake Forest Public Advisory Committee

<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>General Responsibilities</i>
Aaron Lehman	Public	Public member	Public member
Dave Schupac	Small Loggers Association – S6	Public member	Represents S6 MTU and trappers
Lorne Larson	SLFPAC	Chair	Chair
Mary Kupsch	MD	Councilor	MD representative
Gerald Tostowaryk	Gift Lake Metis	Public member	Represents Gift Lake
Steve Lane	Public	Public member	Public member
Edie Spragrud	Public	Public member	Public member
Terry Jessiman	Forestry consultant	Public member	Forestry Consultant
MJ Kristoff	SLFPAC facilitator	Facilitator	Meeting Facilitation
Patti Campsall	LFS – Slave Lake	Forester	LFS representative
Henri Seloudre	LFS – Slave Lake	Forester	LFS representative
Ian Whitby	Weyerhaeuser Canada Ltd.	Forest Planner	Weyerhaeuser representative
Darrel MacKay	Vanderwells Contractors Ltd.	Woodlands Manager	Vanderwells representative
Permanand Sieusahai	Alberta Plywood Ltd.	Forester	SLP/APL representative

10.3 Fish and Wildlife Integrated Technical Committee

<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>General Responsibilities</i>
Dave Derosa	NRS	Fisheries Biologist	NRS Fisheries representative
Mark Heckbert	NRS	Wildlife Biologist	NRS Wildlife representative
Nadine Pederson	LFS – Provincial	Provincial Timber Supply analyst	LFS representative – provincial
Patti Campsall	LFS – Marten Hills District	District Forester	LFS representative – forest area
Teresa Stokes	LFS – Provincial	Planning Forester	LFS representative – provincial
Henri Seloudre	LFS – Marten Hills District	District Forester	LFS representative – Forest area
Jason Cottingham	LFS – High Prairie District	District Forester	LFS representative – High Prairie district
Johnathan Russell	Millar Western Forest Products	Management Forester	Quota holders representative
Terry Kristoff	Alberta Plywood Ltd.	Management Forester	SLP/APL representative
Gordon Sanders	Alberta Plywood Ltd.	Woodlands Manager	SLP/APL representative
Permanand Sieusahai	Alberta Plywood Ltd.	Planning Forester	SLP/APL representative

11. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The deadline for submission of this plan is November 15th, 2000. In recognition of this short time frame, it is necessary to undertake a number of tasks concurrently and to submit sections and obtain approval in a timely manner. We hope to achieve the goal of submitting the plan by November 15th by working closely with the Lands and Forest Service, Natural Resource Services, other timber operators and other stakeholders.

The following table outlines the schedule of events.

