
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Sundre Forest Products (SFP) has prepared a Mountain Pine Beetle Action Plan for Forest Management Unit R10, in response to the Government of Alberta's directive to reduce the amount of Mountain Pine Beetle susceptible stands. It is an amendment to the current approved 1996 plan

This report provides a statement of objectives, analyses completed and the effects on harvest levels and non-timber values to address the Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) Prevention Strategy that will be implemented by Sundre Forest Products and other operators within Forest Management Unit R10.

Integral to the Plan was the development of an effective communications strategy to inform identified stakeholders. The communications plan was completed in collaboration with Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (ASRD) Staff.

Methods of analysis include a revision to the land base, completion of three timber supply analysis scenarios as outlined in the Mountain Pine Beetle Action Plan for Alberta and the associated interpretive bulletin.

A Preferred Forest Management Scenario (PFMS) is also presented. This will be basis for future operations within the FMU, and the analysis of non-timber values (Grizzly Bear and water yield impacts).

Results of the land base revision show a decrease in the net land base of approximately 11.8% as compared to the 2002 approved land base. Based on the risk, as defined by the ASRD MPB ranking and the timber supply analysis, a theoretical FMU harvest level of 1.7MM m³ is required to reduce the amount of MPB susceptible stands to 25%.

The AAC to meet the objective exceeds combined mill capacities of Sundre Forest Products and other operators. Therefore, the land base that will be operated as part of this 20 year plan, is reduced to 33% of the gross land base, to ensure that the harvest priorities target the most susceptible and valuable timber. In addition, to meet the harvest priority objective, the timber utilization has been changed from the current Forest Management Plan assumption of 13/7 to 15/11. This results in a final FMU AAC of 1,367,158 m³. This is an increase of approximately 28% to the current approved FMU AAC. A spatial harvest sequence, that supports this harvest level, is provided as part of this scenario.

Results of the non-timber value analyses indicate that the maximum water yield increase that can be expected is approximately 5% from a specific watershed. In addition, the Grizzly Bear analysis indicates a minimal effect on habitat, mortality risk and safe harbour over a 20 year projection of harvest.

Results of the disaster scenario indicate a reduction of the FMU AAC to approximately 30% of the current sustainable level.

Sundre Forest Products is committed to continuous validation and monitoring of the implementation of this plan, to ensure that the assumptions have been met, and use the best information available, to ensure the Plan's objectives are achieved. Communication with stakeholders, regarding the plan implementation, will be on going.
