

1.0 INTRODUCTION

On July 23, 1997, Vanderwell Contractors (1971) Ltd. signed a Forest Management Agreement (FMA 9700036) with the Government of Alberta. This agreement, with a commencement date of August 1, 1997 required the Company to develop a Preliminary Forest Management Plan (PFMP) prior to August 1, 1998 and a Detailed Forest Management Plan (DFMP) prior to August 1, 2002.

Vanderwell developed a Terms of Reference and PFMP in 1998, and were working towards the development of the DFMP when the May 2001 Chisholm Fire burned roughly 75% of FMA 9700036. Due to the fire, Vanderwell applied for an extension to the submission date for the DFMP. An extension was granted until July 1, 2004.

In the spring of 2003 a Planning Team was created in order to develop a DFMP for the Vanderwell FMA. This Planning Team, consisting of industry, government and public members has worked diligently in order to create a DFMP that when implemented will ensure the forest meets the needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations.

The Interim Planning Manual (ver. April 1998) was the guiding document for the development of this DFMP. Some strategies presented in this document deviate from the 1998 planning manual in an attempt to incorporate current forest policy initiatives.

2.0 VANDERWELL CONTRACTORS (1971) LTD. – THE COMPANY

Vanderwell Contractors (1971) Ltd. operates a modern sawmill/planer mill complex located 20 km. East of Slave Lake. The three-line sawmill produces approximately 150 million board feet annually. The large log line feeds the head saw and the small log line feeds two Hewsaws. A hewsaw is a curvilinear saw that maximizes lumber recovery by sawing with the center of the log. The Company utilizes the trees to a 9 cm. (3.5 in.) top diameter and pieces down to 2.15 m (8 ft.) in length.

The mill facility will utilize 650,000 m³ to produce approximately 150 million board feet annually. The wood is delivered in both tree length and cut-to-length form to the mill site in the Mitsue Industrial Park. The tree length wood is off-loaded and stored under a gantry crane that is capable of storing 460,000 m³. The cut-to-length is off-loaded in the mill yard and stored separately.

Vanderwell Contractors (1971) Ltd. produces lumber products in 2x6, 2x4, 2x3 and 1x4's random lengths to a minimum of 8 feet. All rough lumber is kiln dried, planed, graded and wrapped for shipment.

As part of Vanderwell's commitment to full utilization, chips are captured from slabs, edgings and unmerchantable logs and sold to pulp mills. Shavings produced in the planer mill are bagged and used in the livestock/agriculture industry. Other waste material such as sawdust and un-used shavings are separated, dried and manufactured into crumbled wood pellets that are used as livestock bedding and as fuel for pellet burning wood stoves. Bark is sold to companies that use it to generate electricity.

At the sawmill/planer mill complex, Vanderwell Contractors (1971) Ltd. employs approximately 205 full time employees. In addition, approximately 225 person years are contracted in the forest harvesting, reforestation, construction and transportation fields.

3.0 CURRENT FIBRE SUPPLY AND MILL REQUIREMENTS

Vanderwell Contractors (1971) Ltd. operates 7 quotas and 1 FMA area that over the next five years will supply the mill with approximately 345,000 m³ (53%) of conifer and 6,000 m³ (1%) of deciduous timber annually. Through long-term agreements Vanderwell expects to source an additional 119,000 m³ (18%) of conifer on an annual basis, with an additional 52,000 m³ (8%) annually coming from non-allocated timber sources (Table 1).

The remaining 130,000 (20%) volume required to attain 650 000 cubic meters is currently being attained through the harvest of under produced volume from the 1996-2001 quadrant.

The deciduous timber within the FMA will be either traded/sold for coniferous timber or sawed into deciduous sawlogs when markets and economics warrant.

TABLE 3.1: VANDERWELL MILL SOURCE OF FIBRE

Coniferous

Allocation (Quota/FMA)	Tenure Holder	AAC	% of Annual Supply
FMA 9700063	VCL	7,879	1.6
CTQ S200005	VCL	49,197	7.6
CTQ S170002	VCL	94,998	14.6
CTQ S170004	VCL	71,831	11.1
CTQ S180002	VCL	27,290	4.2
CTQS220001	VCL	32,641	5.0
CTQ L010005	VCL	33,396	5.1
CTQ L020020	VCL	28,596	4.4
TOTAL ALLOCATED		345,828	53.2
LONG TERM AGREEMENTS			
FMA 8900026	ANC	77,000	11.8
FMA 8600024	TOLKO	17,000	2.6
FMA 9100029	AL-PAC	20,000	3.1
Vanderwell Private Land		5,000	0.8
TOTAL LONG TERM AGR.		119,000	18.3
NON ALLOCATED			
Industrial Salvage		20,000	3.1
Private Woodlot Purchase		5,000	0.8
Misc CTP/MTU		15,000	2.3
TOTAL NON-ALLOCATED		40,000	6.2
TOTAL PRODUCTION		504,828	77.7

Deciduous

ALLOCATION	Tenure Holder	AAC	% of Annual Supply
FMA 9700063	VCL	5,920	0.9
Vanderwell Private Land	VCL	10,000	1.5
TOTAL PRODUCTION		15,920	2.4

LEGEND:

- VCL - Vanderwell Contractors (1971) Ltd.
- ANC - Alberta Newsprint Company
- TOLKO - TOLKO Industries
- ALPAC - Alberta Pacific Industries Inc.

4.0 PLAN DEVELOPMENT

History

Vanderwell developed a Terms of Reference and Preliminary Forest Management Plan in 1998, and were working towards the development of the DFMP when the May 2001 Chisholm Fire burned roughly 75% of FMA 9700036. Due to the fire, Vanderwell applied for an extension to the submission date for the DFMP. An extension was granted until July 1, 2004.

In the spring of 2003 a Planning Team was created in order to develop a DFMP for the Vanderwell FMA.

Forest Management Philosophy and Approach

The Planning Team committed to creating a plan that adhered to sustainable forest management (SFM) principles. In order to achieve SFM an open, consultative process where all stakeholders have a say in how the FMA will be managed was sought and achieved by the Planning Team.

The Planning Team accepted the following vision statement as a guide in the development of this Detailed Forest Management Plan.

‘To maintain and enhance, for the long term, the extent and health of forest ecosystems in Alberta for the sake of all living things locally, provincially, nationally and globally, while providing environmental, economic, recreational, social and cultural benefits for present and future generations.’

The following guiding principles, as per the Alberta Forest Conservation Strategy and detailed in the Terms of Reference document, provided direction to the Planning Team during the development of the DFMP.

- **Ecological Sustainability:**
The forest will be appreciated as ecosystems and our activities managed in ways that conserve ecological integrity, biological diversity, long-term forest productivity and the forest land-base. There will be a range of management options across the forest.
- **Economic Sustainability:**
Human activities will be managed in ways that will provide sustained and enhanced economic and other benefits well into the future.
- **Precautionary Principle:**
Caution will be exercised when the consequences of actions in the forest are uncertain. Where there is a threat of serious or irreversible damage to any forest

ecosystem, lack of full scientific certainty will not be used as a reason for failing to implement appropriate ecological measures to avert the threatened damage.

- **Adaptive Management**
Vanderwell will employ the adaptive management approach in managing the FMA. This approach will be based on the best-available scientific information, ongoing research, and routine monitoring of all activities carried out in the forest to continuously improve our management techniques as we learn from experience and adapt to evolving conditions and demands.
- **Accountability:**
Companies, as forest users and as consumers of forest products, have a duty to minimize the adverse effects of their actions upon the forest. Vanderwell will be accountable and responsible for all actions and decisions which affect the forest.
- **Decision-making:**
Vanderwell will promote an open and consultative process in the development of the DFMP. This will allow all the planning team to have the opportunity to contribute in meaningful ways to decisions that are important to them.

In order to achieve the vision presented above, the Planning Team utilized the criteria and elements of Sustainable Forest Management defined by the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers as a template in the development of the goals, objectives and strategies. In this DFMP, the CCFM SFM criteria have been adopted verbatim. The elements have been revised to provide meaningful application at the FMA level. This is consistent with the Canadian Standards Association Z9809-02 document outlining how Sustainable Forest Management should be achieved in Canada at the local level.

The 6 criteria and 22 elements of Sustainable Forest Management are shown in the diagram below.

FIGURE 4.1: CANADIAN COUNCIL OF FOREST MINISTERS CRITERIA AND ELEMENTS.

Conservation of Biological Diversity	Ecosystem Condition and Function	Soil and Water Conservation	Global Ecological Cycles	Multiple Benefits to Society	Society's Responsibility
Ecosystem Diversity	Disturbance and Stress	Physical Environmental Factors	Global Carbon Budget	Productive Capacity	Aboriginal and Treaty Rights
Species Diversity	Ecosystem Resilience	Policy and Protection forest factors	Forest Land Conversion	Competitiveness	Participation by Aboriginal
Genetic Diversity	Extant Biomass		Carbon Dioxide Conservation	Contribution to Economy	Sustainability of Forest Communities
			Policy Factors	Non-timber Values	Fair and Effective Decision
			Hydrological cycles		Informed decision making

The goals, objectives and strategies presented as part of the Preferred Forest Management Strategy were established with local stakeholder involvement to address the applicable CCFM criteria and elements. The goals, objectives and strategies are specific to the Vanderwell FMA, and were designed by the Vanderwell DFMP Planning Team.

Planning Team

The Planning Team consisted of individuals from a wide range of backgrounds, who represented different interests and have different views on how the FMA should be managed. The table below shows those who sat on the planning team and the organization they represented.

TABLE 4.1: PLANNING TEAM MEMBERSHIP

Name	Organization
Lorne Carson	Vanderwell Contractors (1971) Ltd.
Darrel Mackay	Vanderwell Contractors (1971) Ltd.
Con Dermott	Vanderwell Contractors (1971) Ltd.
Aaron Lehman	Public
Leanne Osokin	Public
Doug Horner	Slave Lake Local of Alberta Trappers Association
Mark Heckbert	Fish and Wildlife Division.
Dave DeRosa	Fish and Wildlife Division.
Mark Feser	Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
Brad Epp	Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
Greg Greidanus	Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
Rob Stronach	Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
John Peters	Silvacom Ltd.
Orval Hayes	North Central Timber Association
Doug Lowe	Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Glen Volk	Cavell Energy Corporation