

Current Facts & Statistics

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Environment and Sustainable Resource Development

Area Available For Timber Harvest

The Alberta government is responsible for managing forested public land within the Green Area. As part of that responsibility, the department assesses the rate of forest growth, and reviews and approves Annual Allowable Cuts (AACs). An AAC is the annual amount of timber that can be harvested on a sustainable basis within a defined forest area. The approved AAC reflects the forested land available for timber harvest and the forest management strategies applied to that land.

Only a portion of the total area in the Green Area contributes to the approved AAC of timber. The following are excluded (Figure 1) from the total area when determining the area available for harvest:

- areas designated for uses that prohibit timber harvesting (e.g. provincial parks, natural areas, ecological reserves, and areas for recreation and wildlife);
- river and stream buffers, lake buffers and road right-of-ways specified in the standards, such as the Operating Ground Rules;
- areas currently considered inoperable, isolated or not economical.

Figure 2 is a simplified example to show how the total Green Area is divided to determine the area available for timber harvest, which would then be included in the AAC.

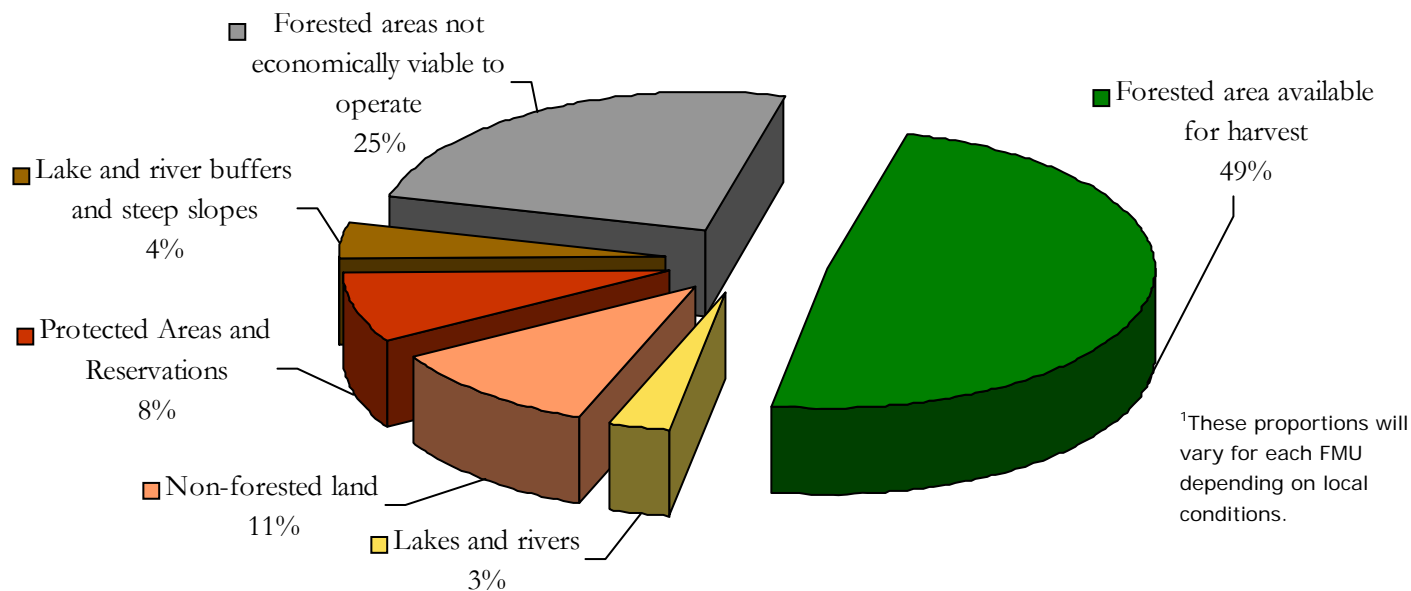
The Alberta government uses a forest tenure system to allocate the right to harvest Crown timber to companies and individuals. Based on the forest tenure type, timber is issued to a forest tenure holder by a specific timber disposition, which can include a Forest Management Agreement (FMA), Timber Licence or Timber Permit. Under the authority of the *Forests Act*, the forested public land is divided into administrative units, called Forest Management Units (FMUs), to manage timber.

A FMU may have one or more timber dispositions and some have no timber dispositions. FMAs consist of one or more FMUs. FMA holders are responsible for creating Forest Management Plans (FMPs) for their defined forest area. These plans must be approved by the Minister.

Figure 1. Examples of areas excluded from the area available for harvest.



Figure 2. An example of the relative proportion of total Green Area being divided to determine the area available for harvest.¹



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Table 1 and Figure 3 show that 13 million hectares (37.11%) of the total Green Area was available for timber harvest and was included in the AAC from May 1, 2010 to April 30, 2011.

Table 1 and Figure 4 show the area not available for harvest for each of the administrative areas in 2010/11. FMUs within FMAs included approximately 11.9 million hectares (53.60%) of the area not available for timber harvest in the Green Area in 2010/11. The non-FMA FMUs without timber dispositions had 7.7 million hectares (34.60%) of the area not available for

harvest in 2010/11. The non-FMA FMUs with timber dispositions had 2.6 million hectares (11.80%) of the area not available for harvest.

As shown in Table 1 and Figure 5, FMA holders administered the largest area available for harvest at 11.3 million hectares (86.37%). Non-FMA FMUs with timber dispositions had approximately 1.8 million hectares (13.63%) of area available for harvest. No area was available for harvest for the non-FMA FMUs without timber dispositions in 2010/11.

Table 1. Total Green Area available for timber harvest by administrative area, 2010/11.

Administrative area	Area not available for timber harvest (ha) ¹	Area available for timber harvest and included in the AAC (ha) ¹	Total area (ha) ¹
FMUs within FMAs ^{2,3}	11,868,715	11,286,796	23,155,511
Non-FMA FMUs with timber dispositions	2,612,672	1,781,327	4,393,999
Non-FMA FMUs without timber	7,660,703	0	7,660,703
Provincial Total	22,142,090	13,068,123	35,210,213

¹The areas have been rounded to the next nearest hectare. ²This may include non-FMA portions of FMUs identified in the FMA Forest Management Plan defined forest area.

Current Statistics cont'd

Figure 3. Proportion of total Green Area available for timber harvest, 2010/11.

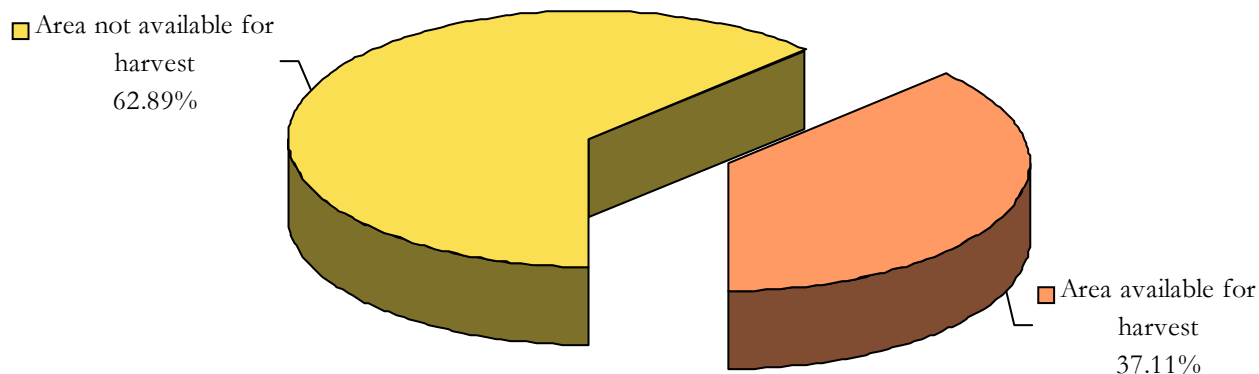


Figure 4. Proportion of Green Area not available for timber harvest by administrative area, 2010/11.

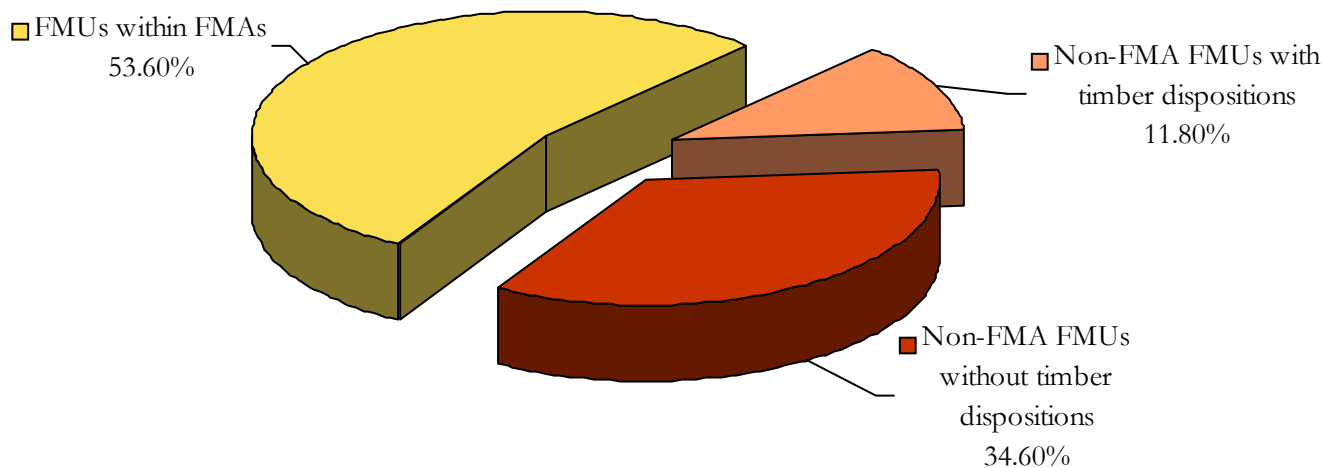
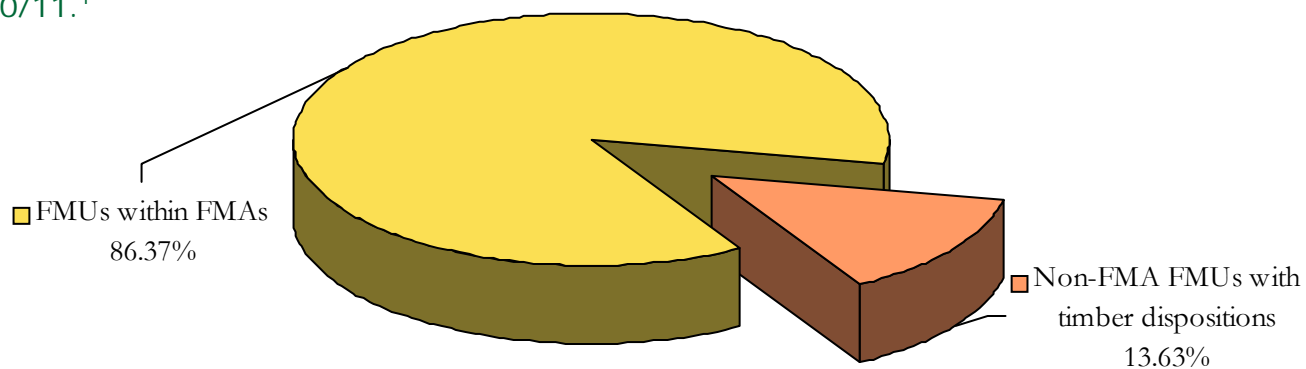


Figure 5. Proportion of Green Area available for timber harvest by administrative area, 2010/11.¹



¹Excludes non-FMA FMUs without timber dispositions.

Current Statistics cont'd

Table 2 shows a detailed breakdown of the percentage of total area that is available for harvest and included in the AAC for each FMA. The percentage varies from 9 per cent in the

Vanderwell Contractors (1971) Ltd. FMA (due to wildfire events) to 75 per cent in the ANC Timber Ltd. and Weyerhaeuser Company Limited Grande Prairie FMAs.

Table 2. Total area and area available for harvest by Forest Management Agreement holders in Alberta's Green Area, 2010/11.

Forest Management Agreement (FMA) holder	FMA number	Total area (ha) ¹	Area available for harvest (ha) and included in the AAC ¹	Percentage of area available for harvest and included in the AAC
ALPAC Forest Products Incorporated & Crestbrook Forest Industries Ltd., & MC Forest Investment Incorporated & Kanzaki Paper Canada Inc. (Boyle)	FMA9100029	6,953,816	2,049,494	29%
ANC Timber Ltd. (Whitecourt)	FMA8900026	379,054	282,683	75%
Blue Ridge Lumber Inc. (Whitecourt)	FMA7500020	668,140	463,484	69%
Canadian Forest Products Ltd. (Grande Prairie)	FMA9900037	660,354	486,730	74%
Daishowa-Marubeni International Ltd.-East (Peace River)	FMA0900044	1,755,352	875,094	50%
Daishowa-Marubeni International Ltd.-West (Peace River)	FMA0900045	969,725	516,618	53%
Gordon Buchanan Enterprises Ltd. and Tolko Industries Ltd. (High Prairie)	FMA0200039	247,777	168,229	68%
Manning Diversified Forest Products Ltd. (Manning)	FMA0200041	1,004,131	402,633	40%
Millar Western Forest Products Ltd. (Whitecourt)	FMA9700034	478,016	293,784	61%
Slave Lake Pulp Corporation (Slave Lake)	FMA9000028	658,351	438,593	67%
Spray Lake Sawmills (1980) Ltd. (Cochrane)	FMA0100038	337,213	222,759	66%
Sundance Forest Industries Ltd. (Edson)	FMA9700032	268,089	174,656	65%
Sundre Forest Products Inc. (Sundre)	FMA9200030	587,327	380,485	65%
Tolko Industries Ltd. (High Prairie)	FMA9700033	415,106	205,523	50%
Tolko Industries Ltd. and Footner Forest Products Ltd. (High Level)	FMA0200040	3,574,553	1,779,504	50%
Tolko Industries Ltd., Vanderwell Contractors (1971) Ltd. and Alberta Plywood Ltd. (Slave Lake)	FMA0600043	725,074	417,410	58%
Vanderwell Contractors (1971) Ltd. (Slave Lake)	FMA9700036	55,961	5,099	9%
West Fraser Mills Ltd. (Hinton)	FMA8800025	1,160,887	650,163	56%
Weyerhaeuser Company Limited (Grande Prairie)	FMA6900016	1,178,389	885,434	75%
Weyerhaeuser Company Limited—Pembina Timberland (Edmonton)	FMA0900046	1,078,216	588,421	55%
FMA Total		23,155,511	11,286,796	49%

¹ This may include non-FMA portions of FMUs identified in the FMA Forest Management Plan defined forest area. The areas have been rounded to the next nearest hectare, which may affect the total.

Future Outlook

The area available for timber harvest and included in the AAC tends to change with each updated Forest Management Plan. There are many reasons why changes may occur including:

- new harvesting technology;
- the creation of new protected areas;
- updates to forest inventory;
- updates to river, stream and slope information;
- economic factors;
- catastrophic natural disturbances (e.g. wildfire and mountain pine beetle events).