

Current Facts & Statistics

Fall 2011 ISBN No. 978-1-4601-0242-8 (On-line Edition) Pub No. I/611
Environment and Sustainable Resource Development

General Boundary Information

Since 1948, Alberta has been divided into two main areas, the Green Area (58%) and White Area (42%). The White Area (settled portion) consists of the populated central, southern and Peace River areas of the province. The Green Area (forested portion) includes most of northern Alberta as well as the mountain and foothills areas along the province's western boundary. In the Green Area, public lands are managed for timber production, watershed, fish and wildlife, recreation, energy development, and other uses. Agricultural use is limited to grazing where it is compatible with other uses.

The majority (75%) of the White Area land is privately owned with the remaining being public land. Public lands in the White Area are managed for various uses including agriculture, recreation, soil and water conservation, and fish and wildlife habitat. Some parts of the province have large tracts of public land while other parts have very few scattered parcels. Forested public land in the White Area may also be managed for timber on a sustainable basis.

The Green and White Areas exclude federal lands, such as Indian Reserves, National Parks and Department of National Defence holdings. Figure 1 is a map of the Green Area and White Area.

Figure 1. Alberta's Green Area and White Area.



Forest Management Units and Forest Management Agreements

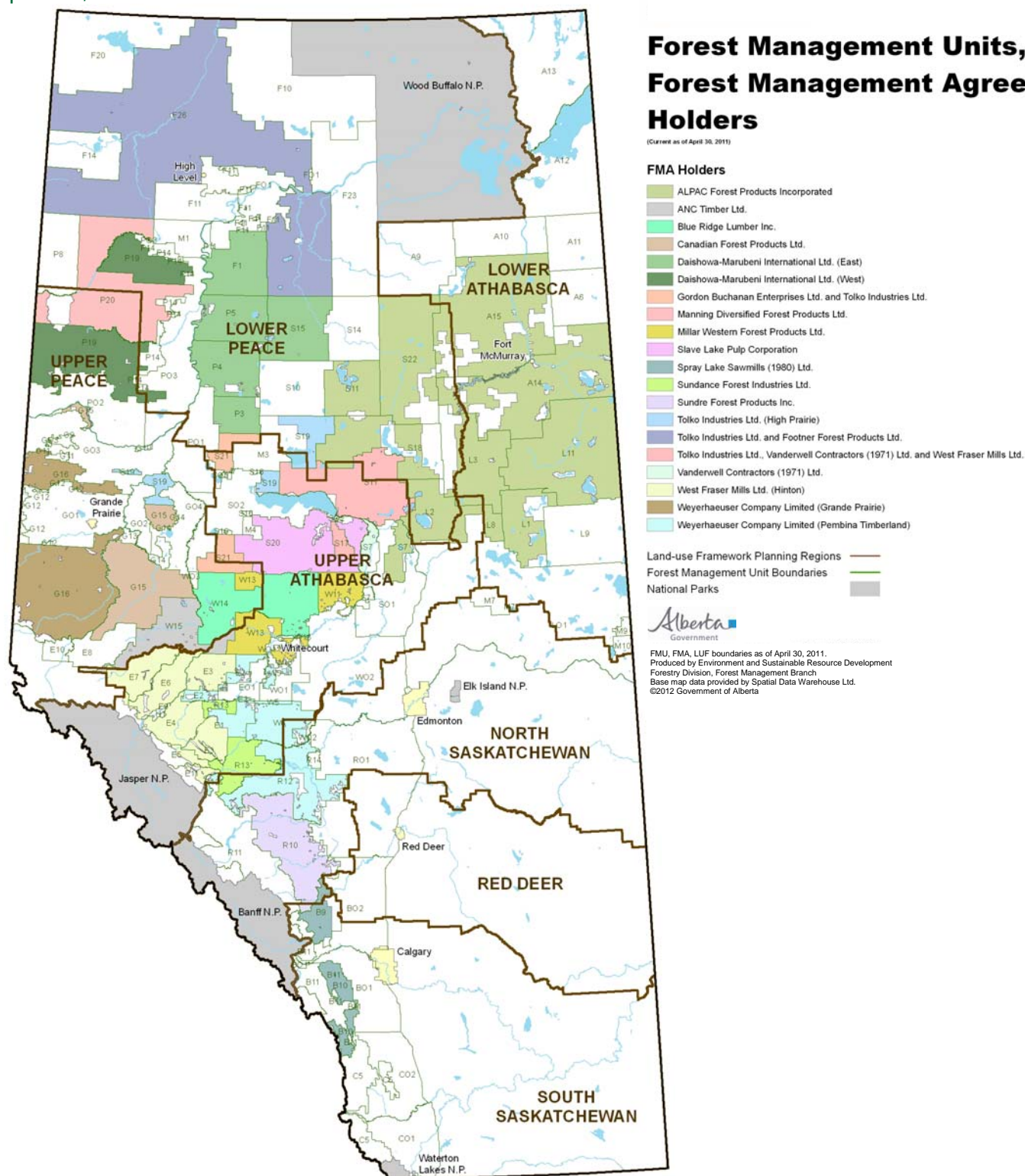
In Alberta, the Green Area public lands and some adjacent areas in the White Area are sub-divided into Forest Management Units. A Forest Management Unit (FMU) is an area of forested public land designated under the authority of the *Forests Act* as an administrative unit to manage timber.

The Alberta government uses a forest tenure system to allocate the right to harvest Crown timber in the FMUs to companies and individuals.

There are three forest tenure types in Alberta: Forest Management Agreement (FMA), Timber Quota and Timber Permit. Depending on the forest tenure type, the Alberta government issues timber to a forest tenure holder by a specific timber disposition, such as a FMA, Timber Licence or Timber Permit. FMAs consist of one or more FMUs. Figure 2 shows a map of FMUs and FMA holders.

Forest Management Units and Forest Management Agreements cont'd

Figure 2. Alberta's Forest Management Units and Forest Management Agreement holders as of April 30, 2011.



Land-use Framework Planning Regions

On December 3, 2008, the Alberta government released the Land-use Framework. The framework is a comprehensive strategy to help manage public and private lands and natural resources to achieve Alberta's long-term economic, environmental and social goals. The framework provides a blueprint for land-use management and decision-making that addresses Alberta's growth pressures. The Land-use Framework establishes seven planning regions based on watersheds, municipal boundaries and the natural regions. Figure 3 shows the Land-use Framework Planning Regions.

Figure 3. Alberta's Land-use Framework Planning Regions.



Current Statistics

As shown in Table 1 and Figure 4, FMUs within FMAs included about 23.2 million hectares or 65.76 per cent of the Green Area between May 1, 2010 and April 30, 2011. FMA holders are responsible for creating Forest Management Plans (FMPs) for their defined forest area. These plans must be approved by the Minister.

In addition to reviewing and approving lands under FMA Forest Management Plans, the department performed forest management planning on 12.48 per cent or 4.4 million hectares of non-FMA FMUs with timber dispositions during the same period.

Current Statistics cont'd

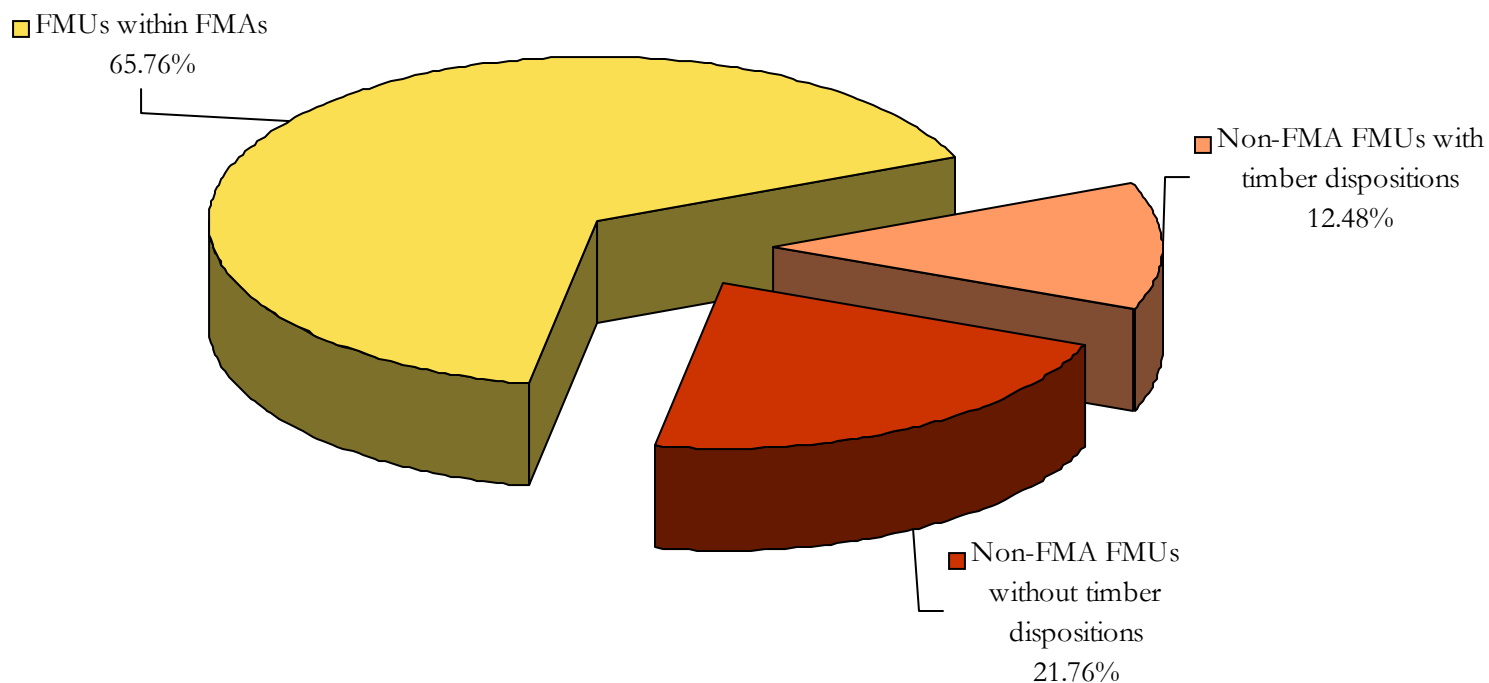
Table 1. Total Green Area by administrative area in Alberta, 2010/11.

Administrative area in Green Area	Total area (ha) ¹
FMUs within FMAs ²	23,155,511
Non-FMA FMUs with timber dispositions	4,393,999
Non-FMA FMUs without timber dispositions	7,660,703
Provincial Green Area Total	35,210,213

¹The areas have been rounded to the next nearest hectare. Only a proportion of these areas are available for timber harvest and included in the AAC.

²This may include non-FMA portions of FMUs identified in the FMA Forest Management Plan defined forest area.

Figure 4. Proportion of total Green Area by administrative area in Alberta, 2010/11.



Current Statistics cont'd

Figure 5 shows the proportion of the Green Area in each Land-use Framework Planning Region. The Lower Peace and Lower Athabasca regions have the majority (64.43%) of the total Green Area.

Table 2 shows how the FMAs in the province are divided by Land-use Framework Planning Regions.

Figure 5. Proportion of Green Area in Alberta by Land-use Framework Planning Region, 2010/11.

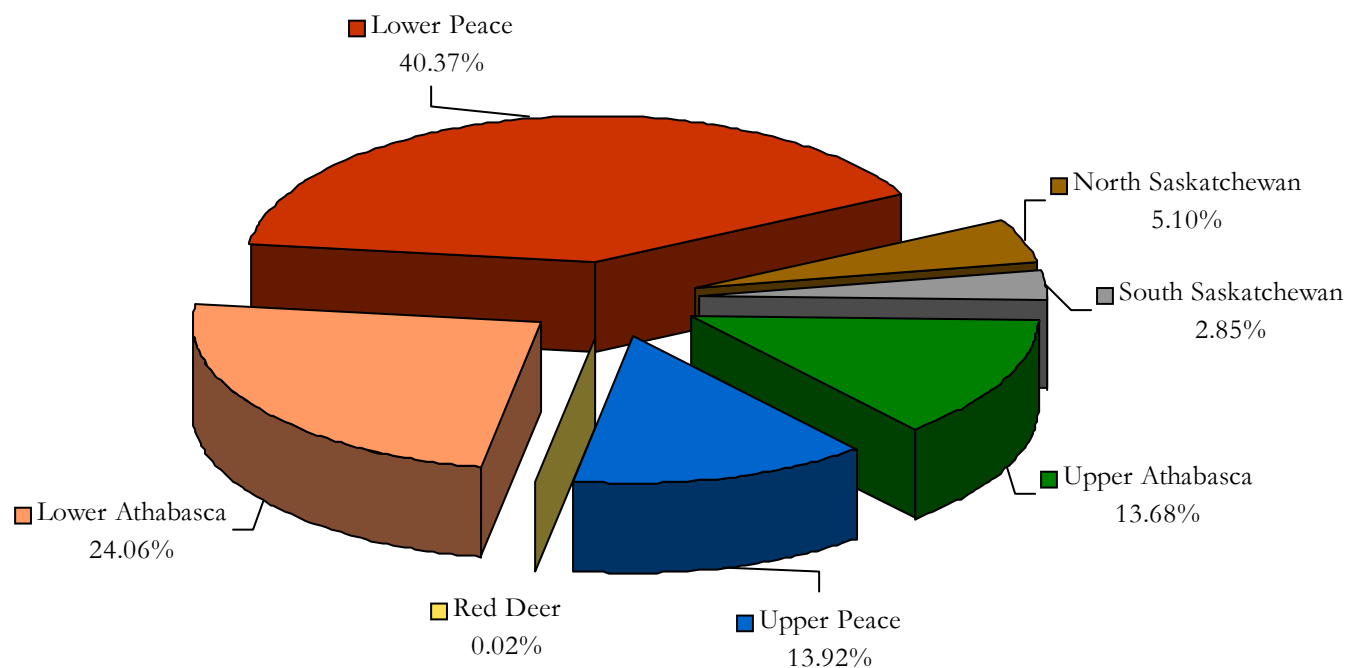


Table 2. Percentage of each Forest Management Agreement's total Green Area in each Land-use Framework Planning Region in Alberta, 2010/11.

Forest Management Agreement (FMA) holder	FMA number	Land-use Framework (LUF) Planning Region	Percentage of area ¹
ALPAC Forest Products Incorporated & Crestbrook Forest Industries Ltd. & MC Forest Investment Incorporated & Kanzaki Paper Canada Inc. (Boyle)	FMA9100029	Lower Athabasca	61.17%
		Lower Peace	34.51%
		Upper Athabasca	4.32%
ANC Timber Ltd. (Whitecourt)	FMA8900026	Upper Athabasca	11.65%
		Upper Peace	88.35%
Blue Ridge Lumber Inc. (Whitecourt)	FMA7500020	Upper Athabasca	49.22%
		Upper Peace	50.78%
Canadian Forest Products Ltd. (Grande Prairie)	FMA9900037	Upper Peace	100.00%
Daishowa-Marubeni International Ltd. - East (Peace River)	FMA0900044	Lower Peace	100.00%
Daishowa-Marubeni International Ltd. - West (Peace River)	FMA0900045	Lower Peace	33.50%
		Upper Peace	66.50%
Gordon Buchanan Enterprises Ltd. and Tolko Industries Ltd. (High Prairie)	FMA0200039	Lower Peace	23.28%
		Upper Athabasca	45.24%
		Upper Peace	31.48%
Manning Diversified Forest Products Ltd. (Manning)	FMA0200041	Lower Peace	56.32%
		Upper Peace	43.68%
Millar Western Forest Products Ltd. (Whitecourt)	FMA9700034	Upper Athabasca	84.72%
		Upper Peace	15.28%
Slave Lake Pulp Corporation (Slave Lake)	FMA9000028	Upper Athabasca	98.40%
		Upper Peace	1.60%
Spray Lake Sawmills (1980) Ltd. (Cochrane)	FMA0100038	North Saskatchewan	7.15%
		Red Deer	0.65%
		South Saskatchewan	92.20%
Sundance Forest Industries Ltd. (Edson)	FMA9700032	North Saskatchewan	18.11%
		Upper Athabasca	81.89%
Sundre Forest Products Inc. (Sundre)	FMA9200030	North Saskatchewan	97.26%
		Red Deer	0.91%
		South Saskatchewan	1.83%
Tolko Industries Ltd. (High Prairie)	FMA9700033	Lower Peace	60.55%
		Upper Athabasca	20.15%
		Upper Peace	19.30%
Tolko Industries Ltd. and Footner Forest Products Ltd. (High Level)	FMA0200040	Lower Peace	100.00%
Tolko Industries Ltd., Vanderwell Contractors (1971) Ltd. and Alberta Plywood Ltd. (Slave Lake)	FMA0600043	Lower Peace	22.39%
		Upper Athabasca	77.61%
Vanderwell Contractors (1971) Ltd. (Slave Lake)	FMA9700036	Upper Athabasca	100.00%
West Fraser Mills Ltd. (Hinton)	FMA8800025	Upper Athabasca	99.55%
		Upper Peace	0.45%
Weyerhaeuser Company Limited (Grande Prairie)	FMA6900016	Upper Peace	100.00%
Weyerhaeuser Company Limited - Pembina Timberland (Edmonton)	FMA0900046	North Saskatchewan	49.74%
		Upper Athabasca	50.26%

¹The percentages include non-FMA portions of FMUs identified in the FMA Forest Management Plan defined forest area.