

SECTION THIRTEEN
LOOKING AHEAD TO THE NEXT DFMP

DFMP

DETAILED FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

TEXT REPORT



BLUE RIDGE LUMBER INC.
A SUBSIDIARY OF WEST FRASER MILLS LTD.

13 Looking Ahead to the Next DFMP

13.1 Challenges and Opportunities

Since the commencement of the Whitecourt FMA in 1975, Blue Ridge Lumber has made significant efforts to improve forest management practices. Noteworthy improvements have been made in mechanical harvesting practices, understory protection, hauling, road construction and reclamation, environmental practices, stream crossings, planting, spacing and cleaning, vegetation management, and forest inventory.

The continuing improvement in lumber recovery, mill efficiencies, and lumber output has also helped to guarantee the Company's future in a competitive market place, and to ensure the future of employees, independent contractors and the economic and social stability of the surrounding communities.

Blue Ridge Lumber will continue to make improvement to ensure that the forest resources are being properly maintained to meet the long-term needs of the Company, while sustaining the social, environmental and economic needs of the surrounding communities.

Protection against fire, insect and disease, and prompt adequate reforestation are main components of the FMA and main objectives of this Detailed Forest Management Plan. Overstocking of lodgepole pine regeneration, and heavy competition from grass, brush and aspen, severely restricts the growth of conifer regeneration on some of the best growing sites. Blue Ridge Lumber is facing an increasing demand for softwood timber supply on a shrinking land base. There are land use pressures, which decrease the annual allowable cut, and increase delivered wood costs. Large oil and gas reserves within the FMA area, agriculture development in the Goose Lake area, and the recreation pressures created by our close proximity to Edmonton, all place increasing demands for further land use withdrawals from the FMA area.

Despite some of the challenges mentioned above, opportunities exist in the future to increase forest management and to improve timber production on the better sites close to the sawmill to offset potential losses to the land base and to at least maintain the current annual allowable cut. Blue Ridge Lumber is continually investigating opportunities for enhanced forest management. Some examples are manual spacing, cleaning, commercial thinning, chemical vegetation management control, fertilizing, and genetic tree improvement.

13.2 Next Detailed Forest Management Plan

The next DFMP is due September 1, 2015. The intent of the next DFMP is to build upon and improve the harvesting operations and timber supply analysis of this DFMP.

The following are the major management planning issues and projects that Blue Ridge Lumber will continue to work on and collaborate with SRD for the next DFMP submission.

- Forest Certification
- Increased protection of the FMA area from fire, insects and disease
- Increased protection of the FMA area from land use pressures that withdraw land from the productive forest land base
- Access Management
- Complete an overstorey and conifer understorey inventory
- Develop an Enhanced Forest Management Plan and Alternative Regeneration Standards for the FMA area
- Continue to participate in the Foothills Pine Growth and Yield Association
- Continue to implement the BRL Growth and Yield Program
- Continue discussions with Alexander First Nations
- Watershed Riparian Management
- Improve Data Base Information Systems
- Improve Operating Ground Rules
- Continue to participate in the Whitecourt Fire Management District Landscape Assessment Project
- To participate as a Coniferous Timber Quota Holder in the development of the Weyerhaeuser Detailed Forest Management Plan in the W-6 Management Unit
- Continue with the BRL public involvement program and Woodlands Annual Open Houses
- Continue to Support Research and Development
- Continue with the use of FRIP funding (FRIAA) to improve forest management and research