

Sustainable Forest Management

2015 Facts & Statistics

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Forest Management Plans

The Alberta government practices and promotes sustainable forest management (Figure 1). Forested public land is managed to maintain and enhance the long-term health and productivity of forest ecosystems. The *Forests Act* is the authority for Alberta's forest management program and identifies sustainable forest management as a key outcome. This ensures ecological, economic and social benefits to Alberta's present and future generations. Forest Management Plans are approved for forest lands before forest operations are scheduled and conducted.

The department is responsible for managing timber on forested public land within the Green Area. This land, as well as some adjacent areas in the White Area, is administered using administrative units, called Forest Management Units (FMUs). A forest tenure system is used to allocate timber harvesting rights in the FMUs to companies and individuals.

There are three forest tenure types: 1. Forest Management Agreement (FMA), 2. Timber Quota, and 3. Timber Permit. The forest tenure specifies details, such as the term of the agreement, tree species, the location, and the responsibilities for reforestation and forest management planning.

FMA holders prepare Forest Management Plans for the FMU areas the company has rights to operate. The Alberta government prepares Forest Management Plans for non-FMA FMUs.

Forest Management Plans are prepared every ten years using a collaborative planning process that involves the public, First Nations, the forest industry, other resource users and various provincial government agencies.

Figure 1. Sustainable management of Alberta forests



Forest Management Plans document how the forests are proposed to be managed over a 200 year planning horizon. This includes details of where, when and how trees will be regenerated following harvesting, as well as forested areas excluded from harvesting. The plans also evaluate forest biodiversity information, and the history and risk of natural disturbance (*e.g.*, wildfire, and insect or disease outbreaks).

Key to planning is assessing the current forest condition and then forecasting the changes that occur as the plan is implemented to achieve the desired future forest condition. This work enables comparisons at various points in time of planned outcomes against actual outcomes and forms the basis for the continual improvement process of plan, do, check and adjust.

Statistics

Tables 1 and 2 summarize the status of approved Forest Management Plans in Alberta for the timber year ending April 30, 2012. These tables show either the FMA or FMU where timber

harvesting was scheduled, the effective date of the current Forest Management Plan and the scheduled submission date of the next plan.

Table 1. Effective dates and scheduled submission dates of Forest Management Plans prepared by Forest Management Agreement holders in Alberta as of April 30, 2015

Forest Management Agreement holders	Land-use Framework Planning Region	Green Area (%) ²	Effective date of the approved plan	Scheduled submission date of next plan
Alpac Forest Products Incorporated (Boyle)	Lower Athabasca	58	1-May-2005	1-May-2015
	Lower Peace	38		
	Upper Athabasca	4		
ANC Timber Ltd. (Whitecourt)	Upper Athabasca	12	1-May-2012	30-Apr-2021
	Upper Peace	88		
Blue Ridge Lumber Inc. (Whitecourt)	Upper Athabasca	49	1-May-2004	1-May-2018
	Upper Peace	51		
Canadian Forest Products Ltd. (Grande Prairie)	Upper Peace	100	1-May-2015	1 May-2025
Daishowa-Marubeni International Ltd. -East (Peace River)	Lower Peace	100	25-Apr-2014	1-May-2020
Daishowa-Marubeni International Ltd. -West (Peace River)	Lower Peace	34	16-May-2013	1-May-2020
	Upper Peace	66		
West Fraser Mills and Tolko Industries Ltd. (High Prairie)	Lower Peace	23	1 May 2004	28 Feb 2018
	Upper Athabasca	46		
	Upper Peace	31		
Manning Diversified Forest Products Ltd. (Manning)	Lower Peace	56	1-May-2012	1-May-2022
	Upper Peace	44		
Millar Western Forest Products Ltd. (Whitecourt)	Upper Athabasca	85	1-May-2007	14-May-2017
	Upper Peace	15		
West Fraser Mills Ltd. (Slave Lake)	Upper Athabasca	98	1-May-2009	28 Feb 2018
	Upper Peace	2		
Spray Lake Sawmills (1980) Ltd. (Cochrane)	North Saskatchewan	7	1-May-2007	1-Sep-2018
	Red Deer	1		
	South Saskatchewan	92		
West Fraser Mills Ltd. (Edson)	North Saskatchewan	18	1-May-2009	30-Apr-2017
	Upper Athabasca	82		
Sundre Forest Products Inc. (Sundre)	North Saskatchewan	97	1-May-2011	30-Apr-2015
	Red Deer	1		
	South Saskatchewan	2		
Tolko Industries Ltd. (High Prairie)	Lower Peace	61	1-May-2010	28-Feb-2018
	Upper Athabasca	20		
	Upper Peace	19		
Tolko Industries Ltd., Footner Forest Products Ltd. and La Crete Sawmills Ltd. (High Level)	Lower Peace	100	1-May-2003	1-Sep-2016
Tolko Industries Ltd., Vanderwell Contractors (1971) Ltd. and West Fraser Mills Ltd. (Slave Lake)	Lower Peace	22	1-May-2009	28-Feb-2018
	Upper Athabasca	78		
Vanderwell Contractors (1971) Ltd. (Slave Lake)	Upper Athabasca	100	1-May-2005	28-Feb-2018
West Fraser Mills Ltd. (Hinton)	Upper Athabasca	99	1-May-2010	31-Oct-2014
	Upper Peace	<1		
Weyerhaeuser Company Limited (Grande Prairie)	Upper Peace	100	1-May-2011	30-Apr-2019
Weyerhaeuser Company Limited –Pembina Timberland (Edmonton)	North Saskatchewan	50	1-May-2007	1-Apr-2016
	Upper Athabasca	50		

Statistics cont'd

Table 2. Effective dates and scheduled submission dates of Forest Management Plans prepared by the department for non-FMA Forest Management Units on Alberta public land as of April 30, 2015

Forest Management Unit	Land-use Framework Planning Region	Effective date of the approved plan	Scheduled submission date of next plan ¹
A9	Lower Athabasca	1-Jan-1998	
A10	Lower Athabasca	1-Jan-1998	
C5	South Saskatchewan	10-Oct-2010	30-Apr-2016
E8	Upper Peace	1-May-2007	1-Apr-2017
F11	Lower Peace	2-Jun-2005	1-Sep-2011
F14	Lower Peace	1-Jan-1998	1-Sep-2011
F23	Lower Peace	14-Mar-2005	TBD
G12	Upper Peace	1-Jan-1998	1-Nov-2013
G14	Upper Peace	1-Jan-1998	
PO1	Upper Peace	1-Jan-1998	6-Sep-2013
PO3	Upper Peace	1-Jan-1998	6-Sep-2013
P14	Lower Peace	1-May-2010 ²	1-May-2020
R11	North Saskatchewan	1-May-2007	TBD
S10	Lower Peace	1-Jan-1998	TBD
S16	Upper Athabasca	1-Jan-1998	28-Feb-2018

¹Non-FMA Forest Management Units with marginal commercial timber supplies do not have plans scheduled at this time.

²Timber supply analysis only. ³Date under review.

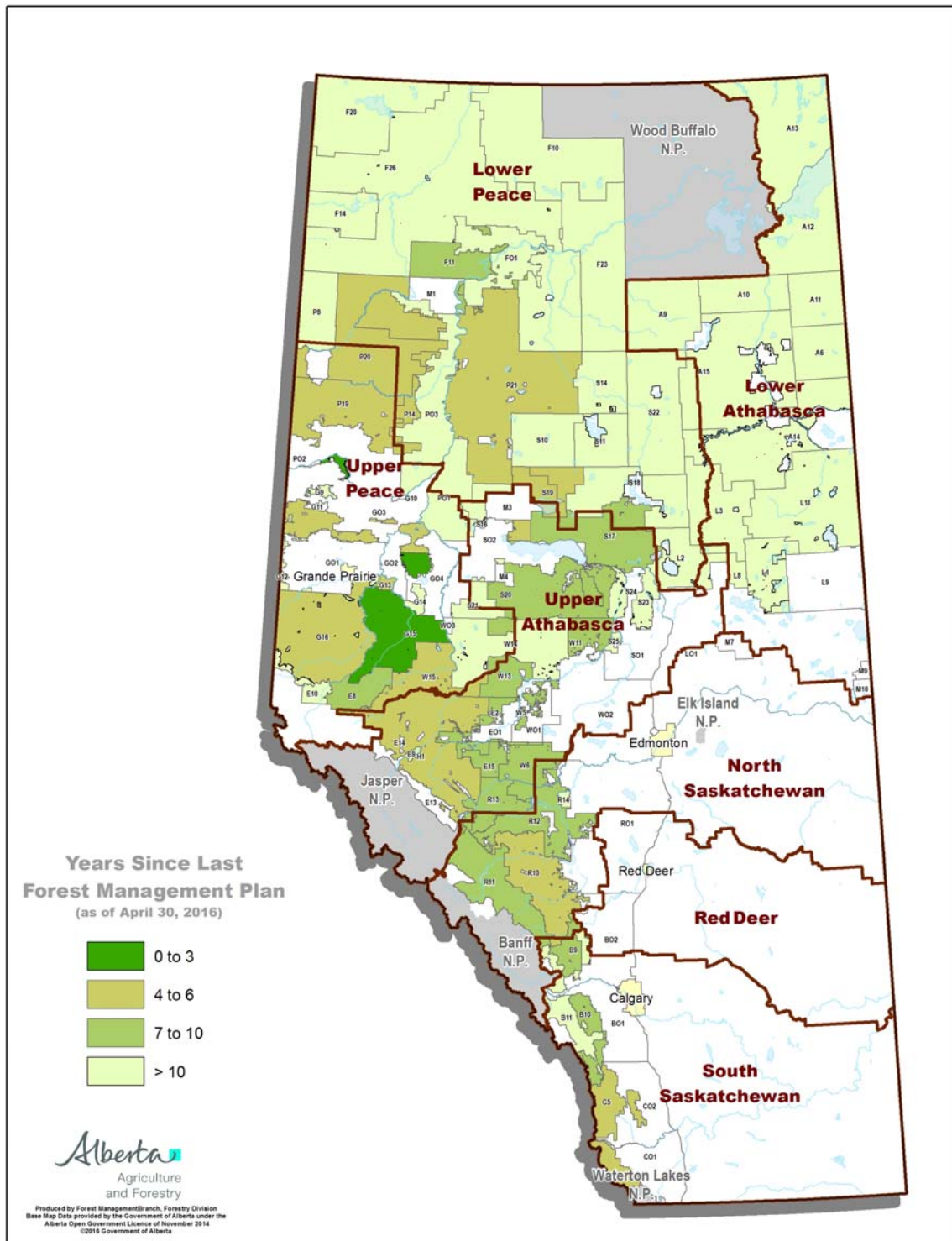
Figure 2 is a map documenting the age of approved Forest Management Plans in Alberta. Plans are scheduled for update every 10 years. Updates may be more frequent where significant forest changes occur, e.g. wildfire, disease or insect outbreaks, such as mountain pine beetle.

Plans remain in effect until they are replaced by an updated and approved plan.

The data presented includes FMAs and FMUs with active timber harvesting as of April 30, 2015.

Statistics cont'd

Figure 2. Forest Management Units by Forest Management Plan Age as of April 30, 2015



Statistics cont'd

Figure 3 identifies a total of 22.22 per cent of Alberta's total FMU area with approved Forest Management Plans less than seven years old.

The data presented only includes FMAs and FMUs with active timber harvesting as of April 30, 2015.

Figure 3. Percentage of Forest Management Unit (FMU) Area by Forest Management Plan Age as of April 30, 2015

