

APPENDIX #5

LITTLE SMOKY CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

ALBERTA NEWSPRINT COMPANY

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

**LITTLE SMOKY RIVER
CORRIDOR**

JULY 25, 1996



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Alberta Newsprint Company would like to express sincere thanks to the following individuals and groups for providing valuable input into the development of the Management Strategy for the Little Smoky River corridor:

Ivan Ellingson, - Municipal District #16

Daryl D'Amico - Blue Ridge Lumber (1981) Ltd.

Bernie Hornby - Town of Fox Creek

Arnie Mostowich - Mostowich Lumber Ltd.

Daryl Smith - Boreal Forest Steering Committee

Ed Kulscar - Alberta Forest Products Association

George VanderBurg - Town of Whitecourt

Roger Light - Alberta Forest, Lands and Wildlife

Morris Lerohl - Fox Creek Fish and Game Association

Kelly Drolet - Trapper

Pete Horyn - Chevron Canada

Jerome Wigg - Amoco Canada

Howard Holan - Pan East Petroleum

Tony Sikora - Alberta Forest, Lands and Wildlife

Claire Foulds - Alberta Department of Energy

Williard Strebchuk - Town of Whitecourt

Edward Rynsburger - Mostowich Lumber Ltd.

Harold Bellwood - Alberta Snowmobilers Association

Cal Carlson - Town of Fox Creek

Rene Sawatsky - Town of Fox Creek

Johnathan Russell - Millar Western

Ken and Linda Arndt - Trapper

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</u>	I
<u>TABLE OF CONTENTS</u>	II
INTRODUCTION	1
USING THE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY	1
ABOUT THE LITTLE SMOKY RIVER CORRIDOR	2
STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT	4
<u>IMPLEMENTING THE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY</u>	5
<u>MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES FOR THE LITTLE SMOKY RIVER CORRIDOR</u>	9
TIMBER	9
REFORESTATION	10
RECREATION AND TOURISM	10
ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY	10
FISHERIES	11
OIL AND GAS	11
ACCESS	12
WATER	12
WILDLIFE	13
TRAPPERS	13
<u>KEY STRATEGIES</u>	13
<u>FOLLOW-UP</u>	16
<u>REFERENCES</u>	17
<u>APPENDICES</u>	18

APPENDIX I	ANC'S MISSION STATEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY	19
APPENDIX II	MAPS	20
APPENDIX III	INVITED STAKEHOLDERS	21
APPENDIX IV	NOTES FROM MEETING OF STAKEHOLDERS, MAY 25, 1996	22

ALBERTA NEWSPRINT COMPANY

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

FOR THE LITTLE SMOKY RIVER CORRIDOR

INTRODUCTION

Alberta Newsprint Company (ANC) is committed to sustained yield forest management and integrated resource management in the Little Smoky River corridor. This Management Strategy identifies the area's resource values and objectives.

The Little Smoky River area supports a variety of resource values ranging from timber to caribou, wildland recreation, sport fisheries, and oil and gas reserves. Many changes have occurred in the fairly recent past, pointing to a need for ANC and stakeholders to develop a comprehensive planning approach for key areas within Alberta, including the Little Smoky River corridor.

These changes include:

- Increased consumption of extractable resources.
- More pressure on the land base for non-consumptive uses, e.g. camping, hiking, ATVs.
- Increased desire by the public to be involved in land-use decisions.
- Increased awareness of the needs of certain fish and wildlife species.
- Provincial government reorganization.

It has become apparent that potentially conflicting values must be addressed in ANC's current Forest Management Plan. The Fox Creek Knight Integrated Resource Plan has been unsuccessful in coming to a conclusion on addressing many issues associated with the Little Smoky River area. As a result ANC has committed to bring stakeholders together in an attempt to develop a strategy for integrated land use. This Management Strategy becomes an integral part of Alberta Newsprint's Forest Management Plan.

USING THE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

This Management Strategy will be a useful and functional management tool for specialists; it is a primary reference document that ANC will use when planning short-, mid-, and long-term forest

management activities in the Little Smoky River corridor. At the same time the Plan is accessible to the non-specialist. ANC will keep stakeholders informed and involved in implementation. ANC will also strongly encourage adherence to the principals of this strategy by all land users within the Little Smoky Corridor.

ABOUT THE LITTLE SMOKY RIVER CORRIDOR

General Description

The Little Smoky River corridor falls within ANC's FMA. Oriented roughly east-west, the corridor is about 80 km west of Whitecourt, with the most easterly end of the corridor being about 25 km south-southwest of the town of Fox Creek. The corridor is about 70 km in length, while the river within the corridor is much longer due to its meandering character. In some places, e.g. the northeast end, the corridor is as narrow as 3 km, and in others it is as wide as 24 km.



Although the corridor is not defined by formal boundaries, it covers approximately 134 000 ha of land within ANC's Little Smoky and Foothills Forest Management Units (FMUs). Millar Western Industries Ltd., Mostowich Lumber Ltd., and Blue Ridge Lumber (1981) Ltd. also have timber quotas within this area. Weyerhaeuser Canada and Canadian Forest Products Ltd. have FMAs immediately adjacent to the Little Smoky area described by this plan.

Landforms

The topography of the area is characterized by broad rolling upland with the Little Smoky River valley bisecting it. A number of tributaries also have well defined valleys.

The western portion of the area is comprised of more rugged foothills terrain with a small area of subalpine. Much of the area along the Little Smoky River is flat muskeg.

As shown in Appendix II the Little Smoky area is divided into three ecological regions as defined by the Natural Regions Map of Alberta (Strong and Leggat 1992). These three regions are; Upper Foothills, Lower Foothills and Subalpine.

Soils

The majority of the area is covered by the Little Smoky Plateau, Berland Plateau, and Mayberne Plateau (Knapik and Lindsay 1983).

Knapik and Lindsay describe the plateaus as generally being broken into three landscape types:

PLATEAU TOPS AND BENCHES - The most common soils on the plateaus are Brunisolic and Podzolic Gray Luvisols developed on till. Where tills are discontinuous or absent, the soils are developed on gravel or soft bedrock. Well-drained Brunisolic and Podzolic Gray Luvisols on gravel and

poorly drained peaty Gleysols on gravel are common. Organic soils on fens and bogs are also very common on the plateaus.

STEEP SLOPING ESCARPMENTS - The steeply sloping escarpments are made up of Brunisols, Luvisols, and Regosols on colluvium and glacial till.

VALLEYS - The valleys most commonly have soils developed on glaciofluvial and organic materials. Brunisolic Gray Luvisols on sands and Brunisols and Podzolic Gray Luvisols on gravel are also found. Poorly drained Gleysols are also common as are large areas of organic soils on bogs. Regosolic and Gleysolic soils are found on active flood plains of creeks and rivers.

Vegetation

Vegetation can be generally associated with the three main ecoregions.

LOWER FOOTHILLS - The lower foothills are dominated by closed canopied deciduous and coniferous mixedwood forest. Aspen, Balsam Poplar, White Birch, White and Black Spruce, Balsam Fir, and Lodgepole Pine are the common tree species.

UPPER FOOTHILLS - Lodgepole Pine, White and Black Spruce dominate the upper foothills.

SUBALPINE - This ecoregion is dominated by Lodgepole Pine, with Engelmann Spruce and Subalpine Fir as climax species.

Climate

Climate plays a major role in influencing the overall distribution of vegetation in the Little Smoky River area.

In general, the climate is characterized by relatively short, cool summers and long cold winters. Winter usually lasts from mid November to late March, with frequent freeze-thaw periods ranging from one day to two weeks. Frost is a possibility during any month of the year.

Mean annual precipitation ranges from 50 to 750 mm, of which 60% falls as rain (Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife 1988).

Water

The primary drainage from the area is the Little Smoky River. Several large streams drain into the Little Smoky, as do many large muskeg areas.

Fisheries

The most common fish species found in the



Little Smoky area are: Arctic Grayling, Rainbow Trout, Bull Trout, and Mountain Whitefish (Bishop et al. 1979).

Wildlife

An estimated 250 wildlife species are in the area.

Key large mammal species include: Moose, Elk, Grizzly Bear, Black Bear, White Tailed Deer, and Mule Deer. A small herd of Woodland Caribou is resident year round in the area. Woodland caribou are presently classified as endangered in Alberta, with a concern that populations are in decline.

Small fur-bearing mammals include: Pine Martin, Fisher, Wolverine, Weasel, Red Squirrel, Woodchuck, Rabbit, Lynx, Coyote, Wolf, Mink, Muskrat, Beaver, and Otter (Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife 1988).

Upland game birds are Ruffed Grouse, Spruce Grouse, and a few Sharp-Tailed Grouse. Waterfowl populations are low due to limited habitat (Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife 1988).

STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

Stakeholder involvement is important if land use plans are to be successful. As a result ANC has developed an ongoing process to receive input from stakeholders.

In late May 1996 ANC invited stakeholders to discuss the issues surrounding resource values in the Little Smoky River corridor. With an emphasis on local issues and people, representatives from a cross-section of groups throughout the region met to bring forth their concerns about land use in the Little Smoky area, and to express their ideas for dealing with the issues.

In response to the concerns and ideas put forth by stakeholders, ANC is committed to implementing a Management Strategy for the Little Smoky River corridor, and to continued consultation with stakeholders.

Who are the Stakeholders?

Stakeholders included representatives from a variety of interest groups—see Appendix V for a detailed list:

- Local governments.
- Forest products companies.
- Alberta Forest Products Association.
- Alberta Land and Forest Service.
- Boreal Forest Steering Committee.
- Tourism interest groups.

- Heritage interest groups.
- Outdoor recreation interest groups.
- Trappers.
- Oil and gas companies.

STAKEHOLDERS' ISSUES

The issues from such a diverse group of stakeholders cover a broad range. The key issues are summarized below in no particular order while detailed notes of the first stakeholder meeting appear in Appendix VI. It is evident that protection of the environment was the key concern. This was followed closely by a concern for protection of jobs and a concern about potential reduction of AACs to forest product companies.

MAJOR ISSUES

- FORMAL RECOGNITION OF THE LITTLE SMOKY RIVER CORRIDOR
- JOBS AND THE REGIONAL ECONOMY
- RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANNING
- IMPACT ON AAC OF ACCOMMODATING MULTIPLE LAND USES
- SUSTAINABILITY OF THE FOREST
- ACCESS
- PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT
- PROTECTING INTERESTS OF THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY
- EDUCATION
- TRAPPER COMPENSATION
- RECREATIONAL USES
- PUBLIC INPUT INTO PLANNING

IMPLEMENTING THE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Alberta Newsprint Company is fully committed to the contents of this Management Strategy. ANC strongly encourages all other users of the Little Smoky River area to abide by the intent and specific

direction provided by this document. ANC is committed to circulating it to a wide variety of users, including industrial, non-industrial, and government, to help encourage them to follow its direction.

In order to demonstrate that commitment and develop some measurable criteria to assess progress with this strategy the following points indicate, by stakeholder issue category, how each issue has been addressed and what specific actions are planned in the near future with respect to that issue. Following these points management objectives are listed for each of the various resources found within the Little Smoky area. These objectives were also considered in the development of the action items.

1. FORMAL RECOGNITION OF THE LITTLE SMOKY CORRIDOR

Several stakeholders felt a need to somehow recognize the Little Smoky area as unique to ensure that it would be managed in a way that protected that uniqueness. In recognition of this concern stakeholders will:

- Follow this strategy document that recognizes the Little Smoky Corridor (Management Strategy For The Little Smoky River Corridor).
- Utilize special land use controls to protect various values within the key zones (Appendix II).
- No harvesting will occur in areas identified in Appendix II.

2. JOBS AND THE REGIONAL ECONOMY

Maintenance of jobs and the protection of the economic value of the area to the regional economy were vital to many stakeholders. To that end the Strategy will:

- Not reduce AACs as determined using sustainable forest management principles in ANC's Forest Management Plan.
- Honor all existing commitments.

3. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANNING

A need for an integrated land use management plan was voiced by the stakeholders. This plan should cover all the various land uses within the area and integrate local input. As a result ANC will:

- Develop a Management Strategy for the Little Smoky River Corridor after consulting with local stakeholders.
- Proceed with a scientifically based ecosystem management inventory and model to be completed by the fall of 1997.

4. IMPACT ON AAC OF ACCOMODATING MULTIPLE LAND USES

There were many concerns expressed that AACs would decrease as a result of accommodating multiple land uses. The Strategy will:

- Not decrease AACs as a result of accommodating other land uses.

- Identify areas where no harvesting will occur without negatively affecting AACs.
- Implement harvesting systems that will accommodate other values without reducing AACs.

5. SUSTAINABILITY OF THE FOREST

Ecologically based sustained yield forest management is essential to stakeholders. ANC is committed to that approach and as a result will:

- Develop a habitat supply model for Woodland Caribou in cooperation with other forest products companies and the Alberta government to assist in the development of harvest plans within key Caribou areas.
- Continue to fund research looking at habitat and spawning requirements of key fish species in the Little Smoky River and its tributaries.
- Develop a scientifically based ecosystem management model for the Little Smoky River Corridor by September 1, 1997.
- Practice uneven aged management in the Valley Bottom area.
- Develop a commercial thinning trial in 1997 to explore the feasibility of alternative harvesting systems for the protection of Caribou habitat.
- Ensure harvesting practices promote fuel modification and/or breaks to help prevent and reduce the risk of extensive wild fires, or insect and disease epidemics.

6. ACCESS

Access was expressed as an issue both in terms of having too much and having too little. It was felt that too much access development may compromise the wilderness values of the area, while too little might not allow for the use and extraction of resources. To create a balance the Strategy will:

- Follow a road construction plan that shows where all permanent road construction will occur within the Little Smoky Area (Appendix II).
- Remove creek crossing structures from roads not in use to restrict access by other users.
- Restrict access on roads during critical time periods (eg. Calving periods for Elk).
- Allow the use of snowmobiles and summer ATVs within the Valley Bottom on designated routes to be determined by stakeholders by spring 1997.
- Promote the use existing roads for resource extraction.

7. PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

Environmental protection was a priority for virtually all stakeholders. Specific concerns ranged from wildlife conservation to maintenance of biodiversity to protection of water and fisheries. As a result ANC is committed to:

- Develop a scientifically based ecosystem management model for the Little Smoky River Corridor by September 1, 1997.
- Continue working with the Alberta Government, through the Forestry, Wildlife Integrated Technical Committee (FWITC), on issues related to the affects of their operations on wildlife needs.
- Continue to fund research looking at habitat and spawning requirements of key fish species in the Little Smoky River and its tributaries.
- Develop a habitat supply model for Woodland Caribou in cooperation with other forest products companies and the Alberta government to assist in the development of harvest plans within key Caribou areas.
- Conduct an audit of forest operations by October 1, 1997.

8. PROTECTING THE INTERESTS OF THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY

Concerns were expressed regarding the protection of the interests of the oil and gas industry. The Strategy will:

- Honor all existing commitments.

9. EDUCATION

Many felt that there is a need to communicate issues and proposed solutions to those issues to the public. ANC will therefore:

- Continue with open houses in Fox Creek and Whitecourt annually to provide opportunity to discuss issues relative to their operations including the management of the Little Smoky area.
- Share the results of ongoing research programs with the public.

10. TRAPPER COMPENSATION

Trappers would like to be compensated for losses in land area and losses of trap sets. ANC will:

- Continue to participate, through the Alberta Forest Products Association, in the Trappers Compensation task force.
- Continue to review intended activities with trappers well in advance and implement solutions that avoid conflicts before they occur.

11. RECREATIONAL USES

Stakeholders felt that specific sites that are currently being used should be identified and protected where possible. Potential recreation sites should also be identified. The Strategy will:

- Recognize and protect known recreation use sites (Appendix II).
- Develop a recreation use map for the Little Smoky corridor by spring 1997. This map will require public input to identify areas of interest and potential for development.

12. PUBLIC INPUT INTO PLANNING

A desire to have input into ANC's planning process was expressed by stakeholders. As a result ANC will:

- Continue to seek public input through annual open houses in Fox Creek and Whitecourt.
- Review other ways and means of effectively gathering public input into planning.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES FOR THE LITTLE SMOKY RIVER CORRIDOR

The following are a set of objectives for managing resource values in the Little Smoky River corridor. Many of these objectives are already in place within ANC's long-standing commitments to sustained yield forest management and integrated resource management within their Detailed Forest Management Plan, while others have been added in response to stakeholders' concerns. These objectives are intended to provide a framework for developing specific management strategies and activities.

TIMBER

ANC's timber management practices in the Little Smoky River corridor will:

- Follow sustained yield forest management practices.
- Follow current regulatory requirements.
- Follow current FMA provisions and requirements, including the FMA Ground Rules.
- Be in accordance with ANC's mission statement and environmental policy—see Appendix III and Appendix IV.
- Allow ANC to continue being a reliable and low-cost producer of high-quality newsprint, and thereby continue providing secure employment and continue contributing to the stability of the community.

- Protect and maintain a secure and productive land base by practicing and encouraging integrated resource management.
- Ensure an even supply of wood flows to their mill as well as other customer mills.

REFORESTATION

Prompt and successful reforestation is the basis of ANC's sustained yield strategy. ANC's reforestation objectives for the Little Smoky River corridor are to:

- Regenerate all cutovers to free-to-grow status.
- Complete all necessary initial reforestation treatments within two years of completing harvesting.
- Initiate innovative reforestation practices.
- Develop reforestation prescriptions based on ecological principles.

RECREATION AND TOURISM

ANC recognizes that the Little Smoky River corridor contains important recreation and tourism values. To preserve these values, ANC will:

- Identify potential areas for recreation uses through discussion with various users.
- Protect and/or enhance identified recreation sites.
- Place particular emphasis on these values in the Little Smoky River Valley Bottom (Appendix II) and surrounding lakes area.
- Protect visually sensitive areas along main travel routes.
- Defer harvesting, or use alternative harvesting techniques, in or near significant recreation sites.
- Restrict or re-schedule harvesting to avoid or minimize any disruption of seasonal activities at or near significant recreation sites.
- Protect or enhance existing trail networks where known.

ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY

Protection of the environment is fundamental to all of ANC's activities within the Little Smoky area as well as within all other areas of the FMA. To that end ANC is committed to:

- Monitoring the environmental impacts of operations, procedures and products.
- Conducting periodic audits of all operations with respect to environmental affects.
- Conducting research into the affects of operations.

- Exploring innovative alternatives to continually improve environmental performance.
- Follow the principles of the Alberta Forest Conservation Strategy.



FISHERIES

Fish are abundant in the Little Smoky River, as well as in the tributaries and surrounding lakes. To protect the fish populations in the area, ANC will:

- Not cause a negative affect to fish populations as a direct result of harvesting operations.
- Continue researching fisheries habitats.
- Identify and evaluate potentially sensitive watercourses prior to commencing harvesting activities.
- Identify special operating conditions necessary for the protection of fisheries.
- Allow unimpeded passage of fish in streams, and avoid disturbing spawning beds.

OIL AND GAS

The oil and gas industry is very active in the FMA. ANC's efforts to work with the oil and gas industry, and to co-ordinate activities whenever possible, are concentrated and on-going. In the Little Smoky River corridor, ANC will continue to work closely with the oil and gas companies, and will:

- Keep the net land base permanently cleared for oil and gas activities to less than 2%.
- Co-ordinate joint access.

- Co-ordinate salvage of merchantable timber.
- Encourage prompt reforestation of areas that were developed for oil and gas extraction but are no longer required .
- Support the honoring of all existing commitments made to oil and gas companies.

ACCESS

Gaining access to the Little Smoky River corridor is an important issue for all parties. While access should be equal and fair for everybody, it should be remembered that access can impact other values and be contrary to other management objectives. Therefore, in providing access to the Little Smoky River corridor, ANC will:

- Use existing access whenever possible.
- Adhere to the current access plan (Appendix II).
- Recognize that access development can significantly affect wild land values.
- Control access, both in terms of timing and actual closures. Preference will be given to using passive control techniques as opposed to active ones.
- Minimize the life expectancy of roads.
- Maintain existing roads in a safe and environmentally sound condition.
- Aggressively reclaim and reforest roads that are no longer needed.
- Encourage other companies and industries to develop roads according to the current access plan (Appendix II).

WATER

Protecting water resources is a high priority for ANC during all phases of forest management activities. As in other parts of the FMA, in the Little Smoky River corridor ANC will:

- Maintain clear water downstream of any forest management activity for which it is directly responsible.
- Give special consideration to water courses during planning, construction, maintenance, and reclamation of all roads.
- Undertake detailed watershed assessments on all compartments prior to developing harvesting strategies.
- Harvest highly sensitive areas only during winter when the ground is frozen.

WILDLIFE

Many species of wildlife are present in the Little Smoky River corridor. Because Woodland Caribou are present in the Little Smoke area particular emphasis will be placed on that species. To protect this wildlife and their habitat, ANC will:

- Follow the direction of the West Central Alberta Caribou Standing Committee.
- Continue participating in the Forestry Wildlife Integrated Technical Committee.
- Continue researching the impacts of harvesting on wildlife, with emphasis on caribou.
- Recognize that access management can have a significant impact on wildlife populations and dynamics.
- Use a natural disturbance approach in harvest planning to attempt to mimic historic natural disturbance patterns on the landscape.

TRAPPERS

A number of trappers are active in the FMA. To integrate harvesting and trapping activities in the Little Smoky River corridor, ANC will hold regular discussions with trappers, and protect or enhance trappers' known access routes.

KEY STRATEGIES

To capture stakeholders' needs, ANC has identified and mapped various Resource Management Areas. It is important to recognize that many resource values are not easily described on a map. Sound judgment and interpretation of intent and priorities are required if this Management Strategy is to be successful.

Large areas within ANC's FMA are not included as productive forest land (Appendix II). This means that these areas are not scheduled for timber harvesting. These areas are, however, to remain within the FMA to facilitate ANC's management responsibilities with respect to other resource values, e.g. caribou.

Five types of Resource Management Areas have been identified. For each area a management emphasis and a set of management guidelines have been established.

Valley Bottom

The Riparian Corridor area is the valley bottom immediately associated with the Little Smoky River. The maps in Appendix II show that the land is flat with large areas of organic soils and riparian type vegetation. This area is seen as warranting the highest level of protection from industrial activity including logging, access development, geophysical, oil and gas extraction, and heavy recreation use.

Management Emphases:

- Fisheries protection
- Wildland recreation

Management Guidelines:

- Road construction will be minimized and be of a temporary nature (life expectancy less than two years)
- Roads will be closed when not in use by ANC.
- Large areas of forest will not be harvested.
- Uneven aged management will be used in areas where it is appropriate. I.e. white spruce/fir complexes

Caribou

Woodland caribou are classified as an endangered species pursuant to the *Alberta Wildlife Act* (Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife). A committee has been struck to develop management plans for activities within the caribou ranges in west central Alberta. The West Central Alberta Caribou Standing Committee has established a geographic boundary (Appendix II) within which caribou habitat protection will be emphasized.

Management Emphasis:

- Protection of Woodland Caribou habitat

Management Guidelines:

- Industrial activity can occur on caribou range provided the integrity and supply of habitat is maintained to permit use of the area by caribou over time.
- Operating guidelines, as produced by the West Central Alberta Caribou Standing Committee, will be followed. These guidelines will be reviewed periodically by the Committee and may be revised based on operating experience, new research information, and/or efficacy in conserving caribou populations and habitat.
- Primary concerns in the caribou management area are access development, predation pressure, and habitat alteration. Sensory disturbance is a secondary concern.
- Natural disturbance patterns will be used in the design and selection of harvest systems.

Access Corridors

Access development is recognized as having potentially significant impacts on the landscape in the Little Smoky River corridor. It is also recognized that permanent and temporary access is needed for the extraction of timber, and oil and gas, and for the use of certain types of recreation values. To this end, ANC has identified access corridors (Appendix II). Anyone requiring access to the area should first consult this Management Strategy, especially before embarking on new access development. Harvesting activities along the corridors will be conducted with consideration for the visual impacts to people traveling along the corridors.

Management Emphasis:

- Access development for resource extraction and use

Management Guidelines:

- Follow the long term access management plan.
- Minimize the number of watercourse crossings.
- Utilize existing access as much as possible.
- Reclaim roads that are no longer required.
- Minimize visual disturbance by using such techniques as small cutblocks, roadside vegetation protection, understory protection, etc.
- Utilize access corridors for utility corridors (eg pipelines, transmission lines) wherever possible.

Viewshed Zones

The Little Smoky River is a major recreation travel corridor for fishermen, campers, and canoers. Areas visible from the river as well as from major roads have been identified (Appendix II). These areas will be harvested in a way that minimizes any potential negative visual impacts. Forest Landscape Management Guidelines for Alberta will be used in the development of harvesting plans in these zones.

Management Emphasis:

- Minimizing the negative visual effects of industrial activities.

Management Guidelines:

- Cutblocks will generally be kept small.
- Natural contours and land features will be used to reduce the visual impact of cut blocks.
- *Forest Landscape Management Guidelines for Alberta* (Albert Forestry, Lands and Wildlife) will be followed.

Recreation

Several areas within the Little Smoky River corridor have been recognized as either having existing recreation developments or potential for future recreation use (Appendix II). These areas will not be harvested, and known access routes into these areas will be managed to minimize negative visual effects and to maintain public safety.

Management Emphasis:

- Maintain or enhance the potential for recreation use with emphasis on primitive, wildland recreation type uses.

Management Guidelines:

- No logging will occur.
- Visual protection along access routes will be a priority.

FOLLOW-UP

To be effective, any successful strategy requires monitoring, review, and modification. ANC intends to continually review this strategy through its ongoing use and through the reaction of stakeholders. This strategy will be formally reassessed by June of 1999 with opportunity for detailed public input at that time. This date coincides with ANC's requirement to submit a revised Forest Management Plan for the FMA.

It is also expected that research results will lead to improved understanding of various resource values, which may in turn lead to a need for revising the strategy.

REFERENCES

Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife, Land Information and Services Division. 1988. *Integrated Resource Inventory of Fox Creek-Knight Study Area*. Edmonton.

Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife. *Alberta Wildlife Act*.

Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife. *Forest Landscape Management Guidelines for Alberta*.

Knapik, L. J.; J. D. Lindsay. 1983. *Reconnaissance Soil Survey of the Iosegun Lake Area, Alberta*. Alberta Research Council, Natural Resources Division.

Strong, W. L.; and K. R. Leggat. 1992. *Ecoregions of Alberta*. Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX I ANC'S MISSION STATEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

ALBERTA NEWSPRINT COMPANY will consistently provide its customers with the best newsprint and service by working together as a efficient, safe, and publicly responsible team.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

ALBERTA NEWSPRINT COMPANY believes that environmental excellence is an essential element of long-term business success.

TO achieve environmental excellence a philosophy of continuous improvement is applied to all of our processes and forestry operations. It is the responsibility of the Company and every individual in it to work openly and consistently towards this goal.

ALBERTA NEWSPRINT COMPANY is committed to the following to achieve its goal:

- COMPLY with or exceed all government regulations.
- TRAIN all personnel in the philosophy and techniques of continuous improvement.
 - REVIEW all procedures on a regular basis.
 - MONITOR the environmental impacts of operations, procedures, and products.
 - CONDUCT periodic audits of performance.
- TRAIN employees and contractors in current operating, environmental, and forestry procedures, and keep these procedures current.

APPENDIX II MAPS

The following maps are included:

- areas visible from points along the Little Smoky River and major roads
- resource management areas
- wildlife zones
- areas never to be harvested
- road development plan
- vegetation classes
- natural regions
- soils inventory and landform/parent material classes

APPENDIX III INVITED STAKEHOLDERS

ASSOCIATION	NAME
Municipal District #16	Ivan Ellingson
Blue Ridge Lumber	Daryl D'Amico
Town of Fox Creek	Bernie Hornby
Mostowich Lumber	Arnie Mostowich
Primitive Area Steering Committee	Daryl Smith
Millar Western	Jonathan Russell
Alberta Forest Products Association	Ed Kulscar
Weyerhaeuser	Kim Wilkinson
Canfor	Dan Gilmore
Town of Whitecourt	George VanderBurg
Alberta Forest Service and Tourism Foundation	Roger Light
Fox Creek Fish and Game Assoc.	Pat Ward
Fox Creek Historical Association	Linda Horyn
Alberta Snowmobilers' Association	Harold Bellwood
Trapline #1945	Kelly Drolet
Trapline #1789	William Kelley
Trapline #2372	Ken Arndt
Trapline #2026	Wade Berry
Trapline #2001	Glen Kalmbach
Chevron Canada	Pete Horyn
Amoco Canada	Jerome Wigg
Pan East Petroleum	Howard Holan
Town Councilor, Grande Cache	Gordon Frentz

APPENDIX IV NOTES FROM MEETING OF STAKEHOLDERS, MAY 25, 1996

ARRANGED BY ISSUE

At ANC's first meeting of stakeholders, participants formed discussion groups and identified issues and concerns related to resource values in the Little Smoky River corridor. The following set of notes is a transcription of stakeholders' verbal input at the first meeting, and as such summarizes all ideas put forward. It is arranged by topic, but these are not prioritized or weighted.

1. FORMAL RECOGNITION OF THE LITTLE SMOKY RIVER CORRIDOR

ISSUE	EXPECTED OUTCOME	WHY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designation of the area. Boundary that identifies corridor as different from remainder of FMA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination of users. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure a compromise of all users.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear designation within area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to know which areas are operable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preservation of these areas would not decrease the AAC. • Environmentally significant areas that are not in the timber supply land base. These should stay in FMA. • Discussion on how land base can be withdrawn from the FMA, and targets for Special Places 2000 by subregion to be 1-3% of area. • Want quality. E.g. winter only okay. • Reduce roads, grade, and ditches, in general. • When open, control 4x4 access (including trails), and a roadless area of 400 km². Approx. 3 townships.

2. JOBS AND THE REGIONAL ECONOMY

ISSUE	EXPECTED OUTCOME	WHY
-------	------------------	-----

- Jobs and local economic benefits.
- Maintain economic health of people, communities, companies in region.
- Maintain job opportunities in Fox Creek.
- Maintain timber, oil and gas rights - commitments to dispositions.
- Ensure harvesting plans and operations give special consideration to fish and wildlife.
- Want jobs and payroll.
- Wildlife preserves along roads and leases, and maybe even in new cutblocks.
- Maintenance of regional economic health.
- Maintain the commitments.
- Survival of community, unlike community in Cape Breton.
- Standard of living, community well being.
- Regional prosperity, corporate/social responsibility.
- Long-term viability of the community.
- Maintain jobs and economics for communities.

3. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANNING

ISSUE	EXPECTED OUTCOME	WHY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need an integrated management plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Want consensus. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional integrity and obligation. • Customers need satisfaction. • Legal requirements.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal from ANC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Places 2000 a reality. Oil and gas must be considered. Access must be considered and may be controlled. All aspects of wildlife. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For MD Council to make good decisions. • Consensus of majority evident in proposal.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a landscape model. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Model to re-assess environmental, social, and economic values. • Some values other than timber may have more weight.

4. EFFECT ON AAC OF ACCOMMODATING MULTIPLE LAND USES

ISSUE	EXPECTED OUTCOME	WHY
• Effect on AAC.	• Preservation area with little or no AAC effect.	• Company survival - job loss. • The feeling these are resolvable.
• Maintenance of fibre supply.	• No decrease in AAC	• Mill viability. • Community stability.
• No reduction in Little Smoky AAC.	• Observations in Little Smoky acceptable to public opinion to maintain the fibre supply.	• Keep community stable.
• Sustainable fibre supply from area for communities/ companies in region.	• Maintain existing fibre supply.	• Community stability. • Economic activity. • Future growth and value added. • Company viability.
• Maintain the current AAC levels.		• Maintain jobs and economics for local communities and province.

5. SUSTAINABILITY OF THE FOREST

ISSUE	EXPECTED OUTCOME	WHY
• Sustainability of the forest - third-party monitoring of cut/reforest.		• Forest available to future generations

6. ACCESS

ISSUE	EXPECTED OUTCOME	WHY
-------	------------------	-----

- Access.
 - Increase potential for recreation - wildlife integrity kept.
 - Increase diversity of economy in long-term - future.
 - Not necessarily contiguous.
 - Long-term Road Plan Class III and better quality roads for whole FMA. Corridor level only, not exact location.
 - Passive access control better than direct (e.g. gates vs. a muskeg stretch).
 - Use existing access over new parallel access.

- Cost and regulation of access. Not prohibitive to growth.
 - “Reasonable” regulation and known prior to start of venture (know the rules and don’t change).

- Access management.
 - Control of public on highway vehicles as present and future road development (oil and gas, and logging) within area.

- Cost and planning orderly.

- Already damage to bogs and stream crossings from 4x4 traffic accessing area from main road. (i.e. gates, Ministerial Orders.)

7. PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

ISSUE	EXPECTED OUTCOME	WHY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecosystem-based development. • ALL development: oil and gas, timber, recreation, etc. • Believes impacts of doing things etc. can be a lot less. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet sustainability objectives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieve - biodiversity increase? Maintain? E.g. caribou may need to decrease; ruff grouse could maybe increase. • Intention must be clearly stated. Identify and maintain the special characteristics.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect wildlife and maintain wildlife habitat. • Healthy ecosystem from ecologically based management. • Same as #1 - protect wildlife. • Same as #1. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain use of wildlife/fish - sight and hunt. • Ecological management to sustain values/resources. • IRP info - look at it. Make sense of it. • Utilize science from government. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present/future use i/c next generation. • Science Foundation to sustaining natural and social processes. • Good stuff with good application. • Caribou. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • -- | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal disturbance. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2- and 4-legged prey. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the environmental values (aesthetics, watershed, fishing, wildlife, and recreation.) • Caribou management. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show us a plan. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain environment for present and future generations (social and economic value.) • Corporate responsibility as land-base managers. (Access management, Habitat Protection Models). • Co-operations to take active role in government. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative harvesting systems - focus. | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present methods may not meet environmental concerns for some of the area. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fisheries, water quality, sedimentation. | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect the fisheries levels in the river. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at alternate ways of cutting certain areas. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect aesthetics along rivers, protect environmental values. |

8. PROTECTING INTERESTS OF THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY

ISSUE	EXPECTED OUTCOME	WHY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to explore. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-use plan does not alter, develop/produce the hydrocarbon reserves in the area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good business sense.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued oil and gas exploration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to have the ability to put in roads and seismic lines. 	

9. EDUCATION

ISSUE	EXPECTED OUTCOME	WHY
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• People know the issues/solutions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deal with real problem.

10. TRAPPER COMPENSATION

ISSUE	EXPECTED OUTCOME	WHY
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trapline compensation for disturbance, displacement, loss of area, negative effects.		

11. RECREATIONAL USES

ISSUE	EXPECTED OUTCOME	WHY
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify high-use areas.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inventory the high-use areas, to be able to plan and harvest, either to avoid those areas or enhance them.

12. PUBLIC INPUT INTO PLANNING

ISSUE	EXPECTED OUTCOME	WHY
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Direct input into plans and designs - specifically as it affects wildlife (cut plans, assess management, habitat enhancement).		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ANC stalling efforts to burn off meadows along Horse Creek and Berland.