

P14 FMP Communication Plan

P14 2009-2018 Forest Management Plan

December 15, 2009

1. Introduction

This communication plan was developed in association with the P14 2009 – 2018 Forest Management Plan, and is intended to satisfy Alberta Sustainable Resource Development's (SRD) requirement for meaningful and effective public participation in forest management planning.

This communication plan focuses on the following elements:

- 1 – Develop and maintain a stakeholder registry;
- 2 – Solicit involvement of stakeholders;
- 3 – Involve stakeholders;
- 4 – Capture of communication initiatives, feedback and responses; and
- 5 – Report on communication initiatives, feedback and responses.

2. Stakeholder Registry

In an effort to ensure that individuals or organizations that are interested in the forest management activities on, or around, the P14 FMU are informed and given the opportunity to participate in the forest management planning process, a general stakeholder registry will be developed and maintained.

2.1 Development

The initial development of the registry will be a collaborative effort between SRD and the P14 forestry operators. Initially, the registry will include First Nations, trappers, other forest tenure holders, government representatives from fish and wildlife and forestry. This registry will increase over time as other interested individuals or organizations express interest in their inclusion (ie. recreationalists, nearby landowners, oil and gas producers, etc.).

The initial registry listing will be completed by the end of the second quarter in 2010.

2.2 Application

The stakeholder registry will be used to efficiently provide communications and to notify individuals of planning initiatives that they may further information about and/or to participate in. Depending on what planning initiative will be undertaken, and the applicability to specific registry individuals or organizations, they may or may not be contacted.

2.3 Maintenance

SRD will be responsible for maintaining the registry on an ongoing basis. SRD will provide the forestry operators with the registry upon its initial assembly, and when updates arise.

3. Solicit Involvement of Stakeholders

Depending on the nature of the forest management activity that is under consideration, solicitation for stakeholder input will be undertaken through direct contact (phone, mail or email) and/or local media outlets (newspaper or radio).

The development and maintenance of the stakeholder registry (as described above) will provide for efficient direct contact of stakeholders as their contact information will be readily available.

The use of local media options will be used on a limited basis as the size of the landbase and known uses and interests do not often warrant this approach.

4. Involvement of Stakeholders

The minimum level that is required to be presented to stakeholders, for the purposes of forest management planning, is in large part defined in the Operating Ground Rules (OGR). Although new OGRs are scheduled to be developed for the P14 FMU (as part of the Forest Management Plan process), below is a summary of information that is to be communicated to stakeholders at the various planning phases.

4.1 FMP Revisions (including Compartment Assessments (CA))

Although it is unlikely, situations may arise during the 10-year FMP timeframe that require revisions to the FMP (including elements such as the SHS). The nature of these situations could range from significant natural disturbance events or newly identified risks, significant policy changes, corporate mergers or acquisitions, etc.

The degree of stakeholder involvement and level of information communicated to the stakeholders for potential FMP revisions will be defined by SRD.

4.2 General Development Plan (GDP)

The GDP requires First Nation consultation as per Alberta's First Nations Consultation Guidelines on Land Management and Resource Development, May 15, 2005.

In addition, SRD, other forest operators, and potentially other known resources users, will be consulted to assess if the proposed harvest and access operations present issues or concerns. Documentation of such issues or concerns and their resolution will be included with the GDP documentation submitted for approval.

4.3 Final Harvest Plan (FHP)

The following communication initiatives will be undertaken, when completing FHPs, and described within the submission document:

- Efforts to integrate operations with other users;

- Trappers with traplines affected by proposed operations are notified and provided information and an opportunity to provide feedback.
- When relevant as defined by SRD, recreational users, or other interest groups will be contacted and provided information when proposed operations may create issues or concerns.

4.4 Annual Operating Plan (AOP)

The AOP requires a declaration or list of resource user notifications and date of notification (trapper, grazing, public, etc.).

5. Capture of Communication Initiatives, Issues and Responses

In an effort to effectively document: 1) communication initiative efforts undertaken; 2) issues raised by stakeholders; and 3) the response to issues, a formal and consistent mechanism for capturing these elements is required.

A mechanism for capturing these initiatives, issues and responses will be developed and implemented by the end of the first quarter in 2010.

6. Reporting on Communication Initiatives, Issues and Responses

On an ongoing basis, communication initiatives, issues identified by stakeholders, and the responses to any issues, will be reported within the plan components (ie. GDP, FHP, AOP, etc), as defined within the OGRs or other government directives.

In addition to the ongoing reporting, the Stewardship Report will contain a summary of the significant communication initiatives, issues identified by stakeholders, and the responses to any issues.

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