

APPENDIX 2 MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE COMMUNICATION LOG

1 COMMUNICATION PLAN

The Mountain Pine Beetle Communication Plan is separated into several stages

- Statement of objectives
- Development of key messages
- Assignment of responsibilities
- Implementation

1.1 Objectives:

- To present the forest management activities as part of a long-term coordinated plan whose goal is to reduce the potential threat of a MPB infestation.
- To provide timely, coordinated communications to help stakeholders prepare for potential impacts from forest management activities.
- To ensure staff and stakeholders are able to obtain the latest and most accurate information on forest management activities.

Between September 2008 and May 2009, Slave Lake Pulp Corporation and Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, jointly communicated the goals and implications of the Plan to the stakeholders. This included providing a link to the provincial forest health web site.

1.2 Stakeholder Involvement

The Stakeholders consist of:

- Quota Operators – Coniferous and Deciduous
- Commercial Timber Permit Program Operators
- First Nations
- Slave Lake Pulp Corporation Staff
- Sustainable Resource Development Staff

1.3 Key Messages

The consistent message throughout the communication initiative is that the risk to the pine forest in the SLP FMA from MPB will be reduced by the implementation of the Plan.

Key messages were developed to summarize background information, government directives and company response to the threat of an MPB spread into the FMU. These messages are as follows;

- **Alberta's pine¹ forests are threatened by an infestation of Mountain Pine Beetle.**

Currently, there is a major mountain pine beetle infestation in British Columbia and outbreaks along Alberta's Eastern Slopes. The S20 FMU is currently at the leading

¹ Refers to Mountain Pine Beetle Susceptible stands as defined by Alberta Sustainable Resources.

edge of the MPB infestation in the province and has a significant proportion of its productive forest in susceptible pine stands.

- **Alberta has developed an action plan, which will reduce the risk to the pine forests of Alberta.**

In response to the MPB threat, the Alberta Government has developed a Mountain Pine Beetle Action Plan which will guide forest companies in the preparation of future forest plans. Stands have been ranked based on the pine susceptibility, climate suitability and the proximity of current MPB infestations. The government target is to reduce these high ranking stands by 75% over 20 years.

- **Slave Lake Pulp is currently operating under an approved Detailed Forest Management Plan**

SLP and embedded quota holders have prepared this plan in response to the Government of Alberta's directive to reduce the amount of Mountain Pine Beetle susceptible stands within the S20 FMU. This plan should be considered an amendment to the already approved DFMP.

- **Pine on the Slave Lake Pulp Corporation FMA is at risk.**

Mature pine provides prime habitat for the MPB. A large portion of SLP's FMA consists of mature and over mature Pine. Slave Lake Pulp Corporation along with ASRD and other forest companies are working together to reduce this risk.

- **Other resource values will be protected.**

SLP remains committed to its current audited environmental standards which meet or exceed provincial regulations and ground rules. As well, Grizzly Bear habitat, Old Growth requirements and the impacts to water yield have been specifically evaluated in this plan amendment.

As operations are implemented, the effectiveness and long-term impacts of the plan will be monitored by the Alberta Government and Slave Lake Pulp Corporation.

1.4 Responsibilities

Communication of the Provincial Mountain Pine Beetle Action Plan and Interpretative Bulletin is a provincial responsibility. The responsibility to develop an amended Forest Management Plan which meets the intent of the Provincial Mountain Pine Beetle Action Plan is the responsibility of Slave Lake Pulp Corporation, which would include the other timber operators within the FMU.

The SLP FMA has historically engaged substantial stakeholder input on its forest management practices. SLP and ASRD staff have worked together to complete the introduction phase and will continue to work together to deliver the implementation phase and to respond to further communication opportunities if they arise.

1.5 Communication Roll-Out

Table 1 tracks the communications activities associated with the Project Introduction. An important part of the communication plan relates to SLP's public advisory group (SLFPAC). The Slave Lake Forest Public Advisory Committee (SLFPAC) is one cornerstone of Slave Lake Pulp's public involvement process. This committee is a

regional advisory group providing input into a variety of forestry issues arising from the operations of the area's four major wood product facilities.

Briefings to the other identified interest groups are also identified Table 1 The briefings have been an effective and timely way to communicate both the MPB Plan and the SLP Plan.

Table 1 Communication and Input Tracking

Target	Materials Used	Who	Comments	Actions	Date
SLFPAC Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ASRD Interpretive Bulletin - ASRD MPB Strategy and Action Plan - Plan background and key messages - DFMP Amendment power point presentation - Planned Harvest Schedule Map 	<p>SRD Staff</p> <p>SLP Staff</p>	SLPAC Members given the opportunity to comment and provide advise.	No Concerns Expressed	January, 2009
Swan Hills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ASRD Interpretive Bulletin - ASRD MPB Strategy and Action Plan - Plan background and key messages - Planned Harvest Schedule Map 	SLP Staff	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>General Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Harvest intensity around town -Recreation trails -Firewood <p>All questions were responded to.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Units 16 and 18 blocked out of SHS - Incorporating recreational trails into plans (received trail shapefiles from Swan Hills) - Co-ordinating delivery of firewood 	April, 2009
SRD Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review SLP Plans 	SLP Staff	Complete		September, 2008 - June, 2009
<p>First Nations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Driftpile Cree Nation -Sucker Creek First Nation -Swan River First Nation -Sawridge First Nation -Kapawe'no First Nation -East Praire Metis Settlement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ASRD Interpretive Bulletin - ASRD MPB Strategy and Action Plan - Plan background and key messages - Planned Harvest Schedule Map, Grizzly Bear Habitat Map, Trapper Disposition Map, MPB Ranking Map, Watershed Analysis Map 	<p>SRD Staff</p> <p>SLP Staff</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>General Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Economic concerns -Water quality/sedimentation -Fire -Silviculture/reclamation -Wildlife -Trapping <p>All questions were responded to.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access management for traplines - Economic opportunities - Follow-up information - Education sessions 	Meetings with First Nations from February to May, 2009
Quota Holders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review SLP Plans - Risk Analysis - Harvest Level Options 	SLP Staff	Complete		September, 2008 - June, 2009

Table 2 Designated Spokespersons

SLP Staff	SRD staff
<p>Gordon Sanders Woodlands Manager Phone 780 805 3705 Gordon.sanders@westfraser.com</p>	<p>Henri Soulodre Senior Resource Management Advisor Phone: 780 849 7403 Email: Henri.soulodre@gov.ab.ca</p>
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