

## 5.0 LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

### 5.1 Introduction

To describe the current condition of the Vanderwell Contractors (1971) Ltd. (Vanderwell) Forest Management Agreement (FMA) area, a landscape assessment has been done. This landscape assessment can then be used to evaluate the affects of future activities on the biological, economic and social aspects of the FMA area.

To complete this landscape assessment the following resources were used:

- ◆ Inventory derived from a medium scale (1:20,000) “leaf on” black & white panchromatic photography acquired in 1991 in accordance with Alberta Vegetation Inventory version 2.1 specifications;
- ◆ Mitsue fire boundary from January 30, 2003;
- ◆ 1998 Chisholm fire boundary;
- ◆ 2001 Chisholm fire boundary from January 31, 2003;
- ◆ Disposition updates were acquired from LSAS on December 10, 2002;
- ◆ Anthropogenic non-forested updates acquired from Vanderwell’s landuse updates as of May 31, 2000;
- ◆ Registered Fur Management Areas;
- ◆ Cutblock update boundaries were acquired to reflect harvesting activities as of April 8, 2003.

### 5.2 General Description of FMA Area

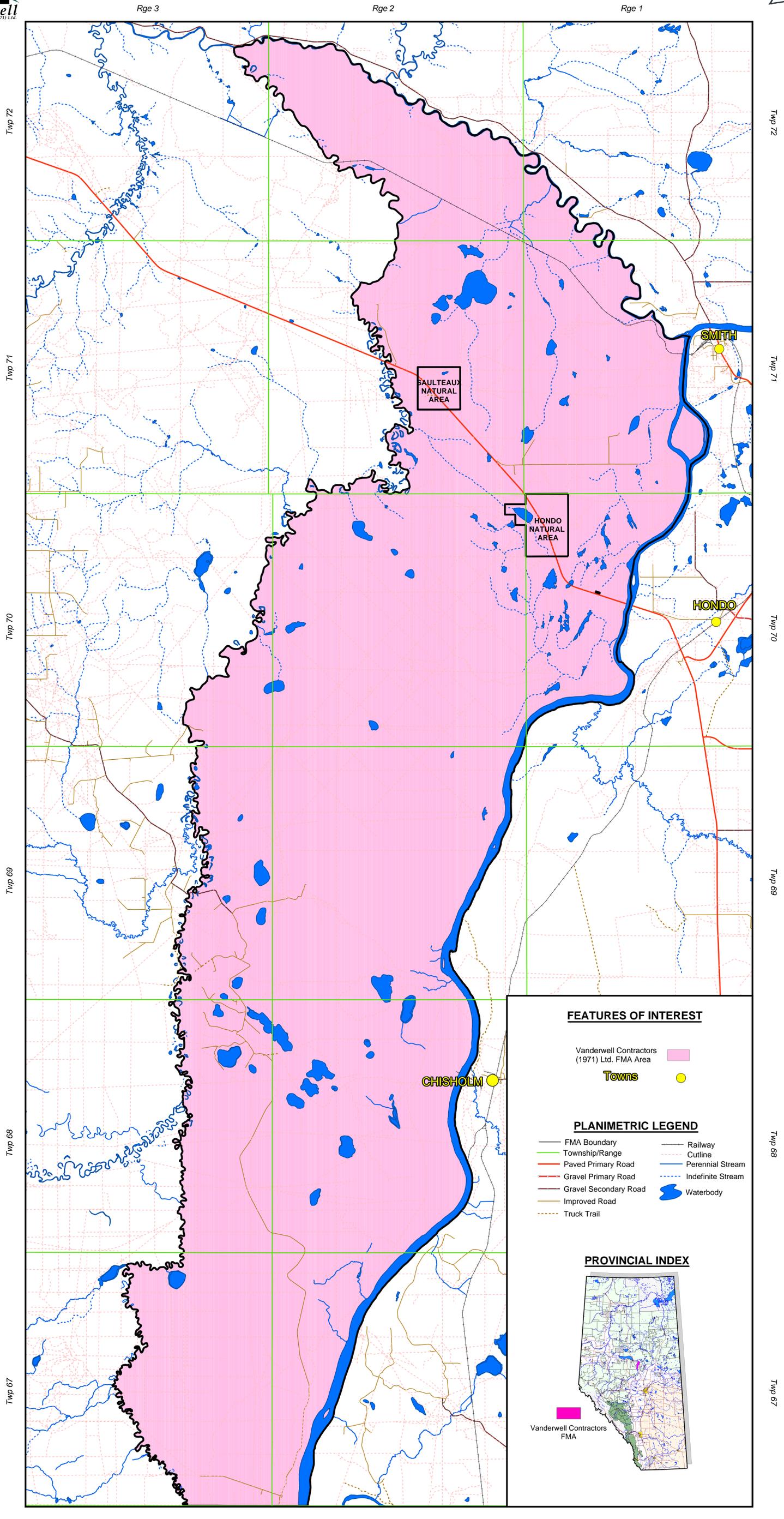
#### 5.2.1 General Area Description

The Vanderwell FMA is composed of the Forest Management Unit (FMU) S7V. This area is between the Athabasca River on the East and the Sauleaux River on the West. The Northern boundary is the Lesser Slave River and the Southern boundary is between the 17<sup>th</sup> and the 18<sup>th</sup> Baseline. It is bordered on the West by FMU S20S in the Slave Lake Pulp FMA. The Tolko Industries Ltd. Slave Lake FMA (FMU S17W) borders S7V on the North. Both FMU S7 and white zone areas border the Vanderwell FMA on the East. The Gross area of the FMA is 58,535 ha. Both the Sauleaux and Hondo Natural areas are found in the northern half of the FMA accounting for a combined area of 705 ha. These natural areas and their landscape attributes will be included in this assessment. Map 5-1 displays the FMA boundaries.

The towns of Smith, Hondo and Chisholm are the closest settlements. Each is found on the east side of the Vanderwell FMA, along the Athabasca River.



# VANDERWELL CONTRACTORS (1971) LTD. FMA AREA



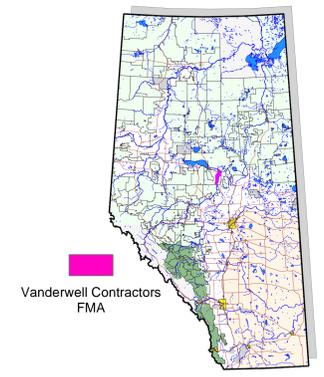
### FEATURES OF INTEREST

- Vanderwell Contractors (1971) Ltd. FMA Area
- Towns

### PLANIMETRIC LEGEND

- FMA Boundary
- Township/Range
- Paved Primary Road
- Gravel Primary Road
- Gravel Secondary Road
- Improved Road
- Truck Trail
- Railway
- Cutline
- Perennial Stream
- Indefinite Stream
- Waterbody

### PROVINCIAL INDEX



### 5.2.2 Natural Sub-Region Description

Vanderwell's entire FMA falls within the Central Mixedwood natural sub-region. A description of this natural sub-region can be found in Table 5-1. Map 5-2 displays the natural sub-region distribution.

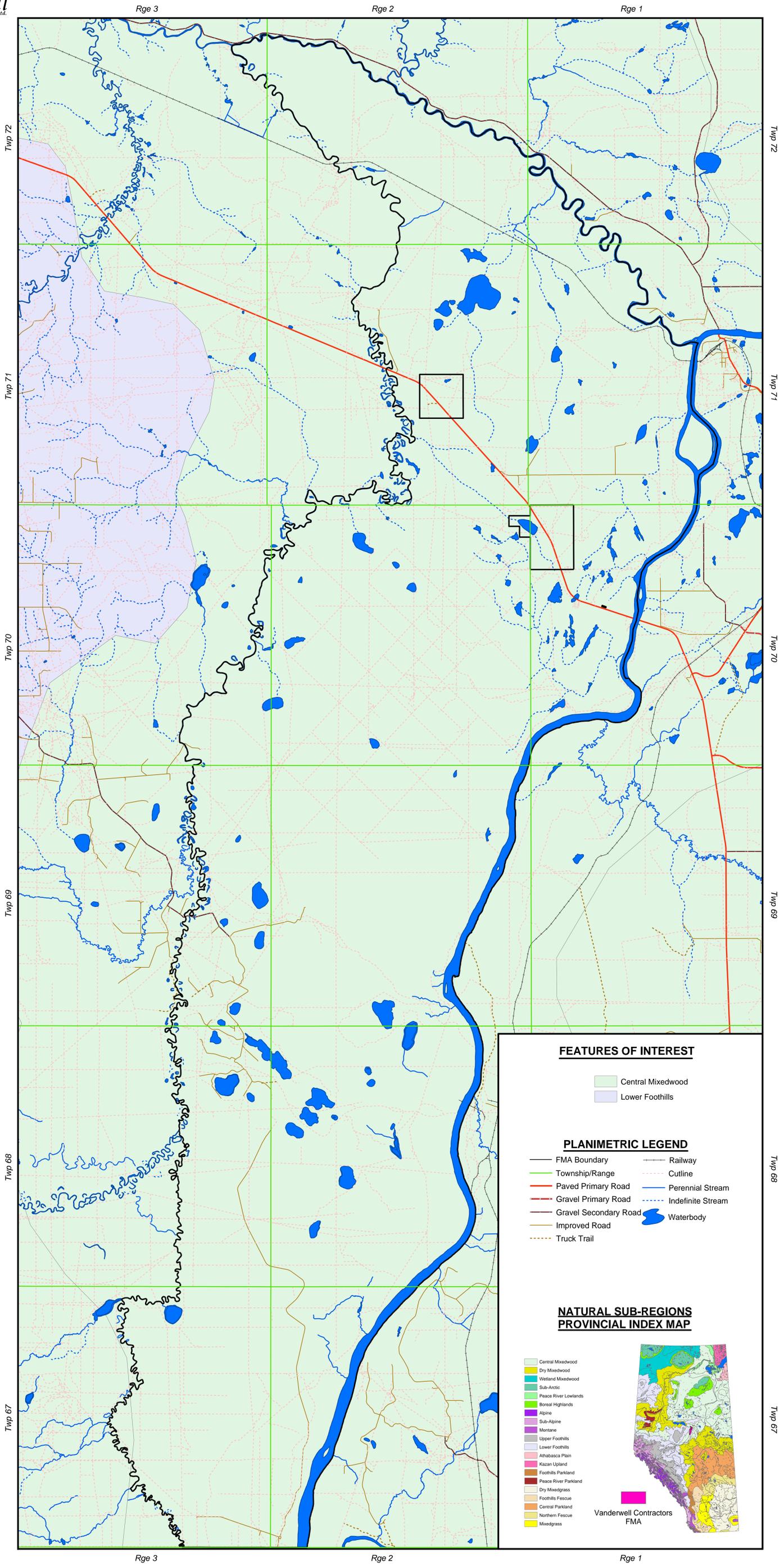
**TABLE 5-1: CENTRAL MIXEDWOOD NATURAL SUB-REGION DESCRIPTION**

	<u>Parent Material</u>	<u>Soil Types /Drainage</u>	<u>Climate</u>	<u>Vegetation</u>	<u>Unique Characteristics</u>
<b>CENTRAL MIXEDWOOD</b>	Morainal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gray Luvisol</li> <li>- Eutric Brunisol</li> <li>- Well Drained</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sub-humid, continental</li> <li>- Cool short summers</li> <li>- Long, cold winters</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Aspen and balsam poplar</li> <li>- White spruce &amp;/or balsam fir</li> <li>successionally replace deciduous species</li> </ul>	<p>Frequent fires seldom permit conifers to succeed and pure deciduous stands dominate the sub-region.</p> <p><b>BOREAL FOREST NATURAL REGION</b></p>



# NATURAL SUB-REGIONS

## Within the Vanderwell FMA



### FEATURES OF INTEREST

- Central Mixedwood
- Lower Foothills

### PLANIMETRIC LEGEND

- FMA Boundary
- Railway
- Township/Range
- Cutline
- Paved Primary Road
- Perennial Stream
- Gravel Primary Road
- Indefinite Stream
- Gravel Secondary Road
- Waterbody
- Improved Road
- Truck Trail

### NATURAL SUB-REGIONS PROVINCIAL INDEX MAP

