

DFMP: Content

High Level Forests Public Advisory Group

January 21, 2014

Objective

- * Provide an overview of Detailed Forest Management Plan process & required content.
- * Identify where public input is required.

Outline

- * Planning Standard and alignment with CSA Z809:02
 - * Public process requirement
 - * FMP process and content standards
- * Plan components
 - * Landscape assessment
 - * Timber Supply Analysis and Growth & Yield
 - * Harvest Planning Standards
 - * Reforestation Strategies

Outline

- * Firesmart Management
- * Fire Assessment
- * Performance Standards
 - * Additional Indicators

Planning Standard

- * “The **Alberta Forest Management Planning Standard** (the standard) and its annexes, interpretive bulletins and updates comprise the standard for preparing and implementing Forest Management Plans (FMP) in Alberta.”
- * “The **standard’s focus** is to ensure a strong and direct connection between,
 - * the desired future forest condition and a spatially planned harvest sequence, and
 - * predictions of forest growth and yield and actual stand level performance.”

Planning Standard

- * “The public involvement process shall **describe how decisions will be made**. Alberta has sole decision-making authority and will strive to ensure that **issues raised in the public involvement process are addressed**. Alberta’s objective is for stakeholders and participants in the forest management process to reach a high degree of agreement.”

Planning Standard

- * “FMPs prepared by industry in Alberta **have limited scope** owing to the rights granted in FMAs which are the **rights to establish, grow and harvest and remove timber** subject to FMP approval by Alberta.
- * FMPs shall focus on how activities (i.e., establishing, growing and harvesting timber) of FMA holders and other timber operators on an FMA will be **managed in order to reduce the negative impacts on other resource users and resource values.**”

Planning Standard

- * “From time to time, Alberta prepares strategic land use plans (e.g., Integrated Resource Plans, Regional Sustainable Development Strategies) that address the integration of resource uses.”
 - * FMPs to honor existing strategic plans
 - * FMPs may be **required to be amended** for new strategic plans

Plan components and approvals

- * “As plan components are developed and agreement is reached by the Plan Development Team, **the PDT shall recommend those components receive agreement-in-principle**. Agreement-in-principle is **not final** approval, but rather Alberta’s notice to the Organization that what has been **prepared is acceptable to that point**.
- * **Final approval** of the FMP shall be through an Approval Decision that presents the **rationale** for approving the plan, *direction from Alberta to the Organization to complete additional post-approval work or modify proposed activities,* and the allocation of approved annual allowable cuts (AAC).”

Approvals

- * “Before the FMP is submitted, the Organization shall conduct a meaningful review of the complete FMP with the PPG followed by the PDT. The Organization shall submit the comments from the PPG and PDT and its response to the comments along with the FMP.
- * Alberta shall convene an Approval Review Committee, made up of senior Alberta staff to consider evaluations of the PPG and PDT, and provide recommendations for consideration and final approval.”

Plan Components

Landscape Assessment

- * Essentially captures the following:
 - * Administrative boundaries,
 - * Physical conditions (geology, soils, topography, etc)
 - * Forest landscape pattern and structure,
 - * Forest landscape disturbance and succession,
 - * Landscape Fire Assessment,
 - * Fire Regime Analysis,
 - * Land use

Timber Supply Analysis (TSA)

- * Timber supply analysis has four stages requiring Alberta's approval:
 1. Landbase description
 2. Yield projection
 3. Forecasting
 4. Harvest planning

TSA - Landbase

- * Vegetation Inventory
- * Landbase Description (net and passive)
 - * Parks, riparian buffers, inoperable areas, company defined subjective deletions, etc
- * Cutblocks reconciled

TSA - Yield Projection

- * Every strata (forest type) is assigned to a yield curve that projects volume/hectare over time.
- * Temporary sample plots used to create curves and volume vs age relationship
- * Assessed through longer term growth and yield program
- * On going regeneration surveys provide input

TSA - Forecasting

- * “Forecasting is the analysis of a range of realistic forest management scenarios, and **the selection of the preferred scenario representing the optimum result.** The **assumptions and output** of the preferred scenario dictate the forest management activities that shall be used in implementing the plan.”
- * **Outputs: Annual Allowable Cut and spatial harvest scenario.**

TSA - Harvest Scheduling

- * “The SHS is the most important output of the scenario forecasts as it implements the strategy the Organization(s) must follow to achieve the predicted future forest condition. The future forest condition, while dependent on many factors, is strongly influenced by harvest patterns, intensity and schedules Adherence to the planned harvest sequence is imperative to achieving the predicted future forest.”

Reforestation Strategies

- * “Reforestation of harvested areas is a critical first step in attaining the future forest condition selected through the forest management planning process. The reforestation phase of stand development (from harvest to about 20 years) represents the years in which significant silvicultural decisions and investments are made to create the forest types chosen as the desired future forest.”
- * **Required: Silviculture Strategy Matrix**

FireSmart Management

- * “FireSmart seeks to mitigate large, high intensity, high severity wildfires and incorporate natural disturbance emulation. Designing FireSmart by integrating fire, forest and land management planning activities is the cornerstone of protecting a multitude of values, achieving safety, meeting planning objectives and ultimately attaining sustainable forest management.”
- * FireSmart communities to be addressed in DFMP

Landscape Fire Assessment

- * Assesses landbase for value fire risk ratings
- * Alberta's priorities for the protection of values are as follows:
 1. Human Life
 2. Communities
 3. Watershed/Soil
 4. Natural Resources
 5. Infrastructure

Performance Standards

- * Planning Standard requires indicators and targets to be included within the plan
 - * Many overlap existing VOITs in SFMP
 - * Others are stand alone requirement
- * The following are the additional indicators...

Additional Indicators

- * Range of patch sizes
- * Area of old interior forest
- * Open all-weather road density
- * Area or occurrence of each uncommon plant community within the DFA
- * Area of unsalvaged burned forest
- * Area of unsalvaged blowdown

Additional Indicators

- * Sensitive sites by subunit and entire DFA
- * Number and area (ha) of in situ genetic conservation areas
- * Number of provenances and genetic lines in ex-situ gene banks and trials
- * Amount of change in forest landbase (inventory program)
- * Noxious weed program (eradication, minimize spread)
- * Forecast impact of timber harvesting on water yield

Additional Indicators

- * Percentage reduction in Fire Behaviour Potential area (ha) within the FireSmart Community Zone
- * Percentage reduction in Fire Behaviour Potential area (ha) across the DFA now and over the planning horizon

Next Steps

- * DFMP Terms of Reference signed off
- * First Nation packages sent
- * VOIT framework development with Silvacom and PAG
 - * SFMP and DFMP overlap
 - * DFMP specific (non-CSA required)
- * Regular updates on process, added to meeting agenda