



# Public Advisory Committee

Maintenance of Habitat for Identified High  
Value Species

June 6, 2006

NAIT - High Level, AB



## **Detailed Forest Management Plan**

**“A long-term plan used to outline higher level management objectives, sustainability and timber production assumptions for a Forest Management Agreement (FMA) area”**

Plan Development  
Team



Public Participation  
Group

- ∞ FMA Planners
- ∞ AB Forest Planner
- ∞ Forest Area Planner
- ∞ AB Fish & Wildlife
- ∞ AB TSA & G&Y Foresters
- ∞ Embedded Operators
- ∞ AB Operations Forester
- ∞ PAC Member(s)?



# Value

A DFA-Specific  
Characteristic considered  
to be important

# Objective

A Broad statement  
describing a desired  
future state or condition  
for a Value



# Indicator

A Variable that  
measures the state or  
condition of a value

# Target

A specific statement  
describing a desired future  
state or condition of  
an indicator

## Conservation of Species Diversity (Planning Manual, Annex 4, May 2006)

CCFM Criterion	CSA SFM Element	Value	Objective	Indicator	Target	Means to Target	Legal / Policy Requirements
1. Conservation of Biological Diversity.	1.2. Species Diversity Conserve species diversity by ensuring that habitats for the native species found in the DFA are maintained throughout time.	1.2.1. Variable populations of identified plant and animal species.	1.2.1.1. Maintain habitat for identified high value species (i.e. economically valuable, socially valuable, species at risk, species of management concern)	Area of suitable habitat within the DFA or subunit <b>OR</b> Specific population parameter(s) (e.g. trends, distribution, absolute size, recruitment) for the DFA or subunit.	Maintain above X hectares <b>OR</b> Maintained or increased	Based on sound science, ecological considerations, wildlife zones, Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) list, provincially listed species, BSOD, ANHIC, Recovery plans, Fish and Wildlife Division priorities, public consultation, etc.	Recovery plans for species at risk, Federal Species at Risk Act.

- Planning Standard also outlines specifics on the means to achieve the objective and target, monitoring and measurement, reporting, and acceptable variances.

## So where do we start in order to assess the status of important wildlife habitat on the DFA?

- ∞ Review required Values, Objectives, Indicators, and Targets (VOIT's) as defined by Alberta
- ∞ Evaluate *current* VOIT's as well as other strategies outlined in the companies:
  - Detailed Forest Management Plan (2003)
  - Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Plan
- ∞ Identify additional VOIT's or revise current management strategies/VOIT's where deemed appropriate.

## So where do we start in order to assess the status of important wildlife habitat on the DFA?

- ∞ Review required Values, Objectives, Indicators, and Targets (VOIT's) as defined by Alberta
- ∞ Evaluate *current* VOIT's as well as other strategies outlined in the companies:
  - Detailed Forest Management Plan (2003)
  - Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Plan
- ∞ Identify additional VOIT's or revise current management strategies/VOIT's where deemed appropriate.



# Original Government Requirements

---

- Ω **Migratory Birds Act**
- Ω **Alberta Wildlife Act**
- Ω **Alberta Timber Harvest Planning and Operational Ground Rules**
- Ω **Ungulate Winter Range and Caribou Protection Area.**

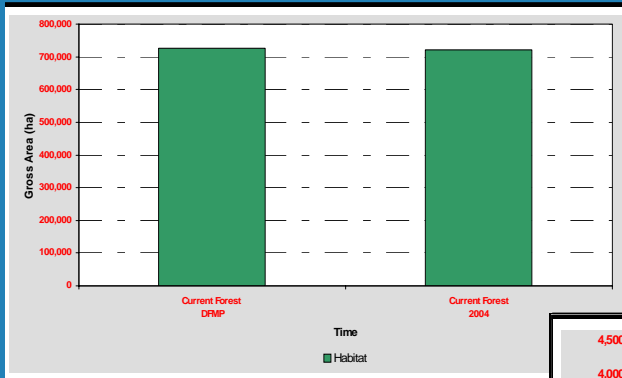


## So where do we start in order to assess the status of important wildlife habitat on the DFA?

- ∞ Review required Values, Objectives, Indicators, and Targets (VOIT's) as defined by Alberta
- ∞ Evaluate *current* VOIT's as well as other strategies outlined in the companies:
  - Detailed Forest Management Plan (2003)
  - Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Plan
- ∞ Identify additional VOIT's or revise current management strategies/VOIT's where deemed appropriate.

# Habitat Criteria (DFMP, 2003)

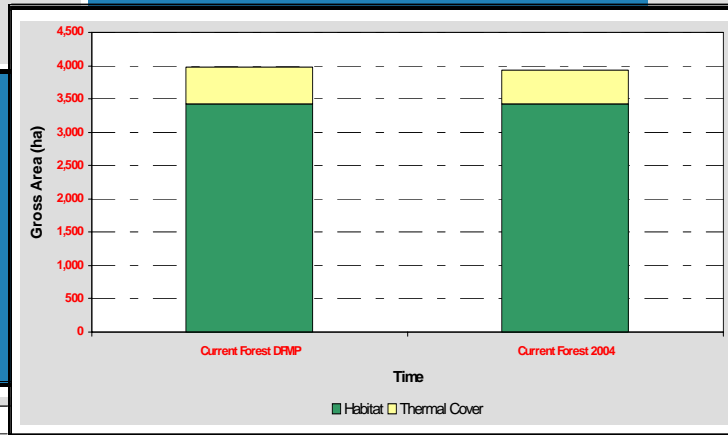
PILEATED WOODPECKER HABITAT SUMMARY



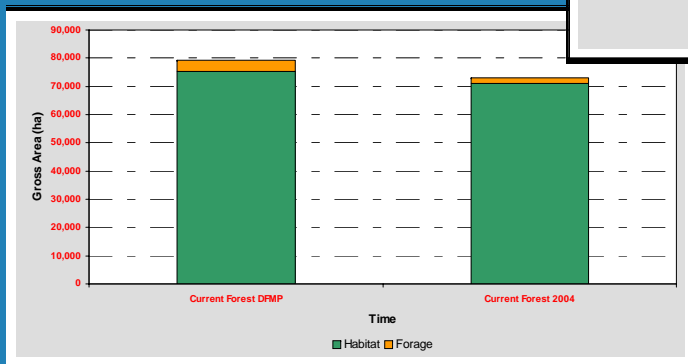
MOOSE HABITAT SUMMARY



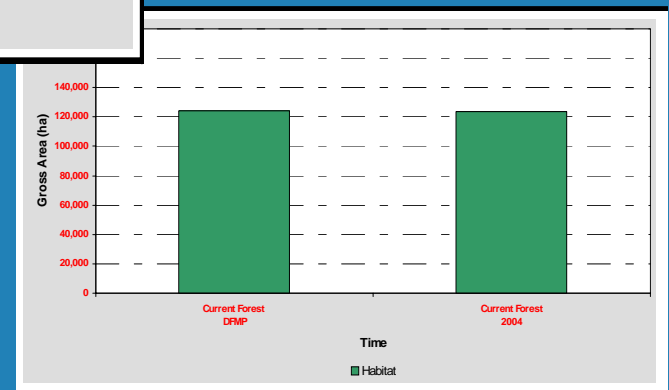
WOOD BISON HABITAT SUMMARY\*



AMERICAN MARTEN HABITAT SUMMARY



WOODLAND CARIBOU HABITAT SUMMARY



# INDICATOR (DFMP, 2003)

SPECIES	HABITAT CRITERIA
American Marten ( <i>Martes americana</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canopy closure of C or D density</li> <li>• Canopy composition of Sb, Sw, Fb greater than 50%</li> <li>• Tree height greater than 15m</li> <li>• Stand age greater than 90 years</li> </ul> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deciduous overstory with an understory meeting the same specifications as above</li> <li>• <b>Forage criteria:</b> cutblocks greater than or equal to 30 years and less than or equal to 90 years old adjacent to stands meeting the above habitat criteria</li> </ul>
Moose ( <i>Alces alces</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canopy closure of B, C or D density</li> <li>• Leading species of Sw, Sb, Pj or Pl</li> <li>• Tree height greater than 10m</li> </ul> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deciduous overstory with an understory meeting the same specifications as above</li> </ul> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mixedwood stand with a C or D density and a tree height greater than 10m</li> <li>• <b>Forage criteria:</b> cutblocks less than 20 years</li> </ul>
Woodland Caribou ( <i>Rangifer tarandus</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canopy closure of C or D density</li> <li>• Leading species of Sw, Sb, Pj, or Pl</li> <li>• Tree height greater than 10m</li> <li>• Stand age greater than or equal to 100 years</li> </ul> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fair site Sb leading</li> </ul> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lt leading</li> </ul>
Wood Bison ( <i>Bison bison</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Naturally non-forested mesic sites</li> <li>• <b>Thermal cover criteria:</b> C or D density mixedwood stands greater than or equal to 10m adjacent to naturally non-forested mesic sites</li> </ul>
Pileated Woodpecker ( <i>Dryocopus pileatus</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canopy closure of C or D density</li> <li>• Canopy composition of Aw or Pb greater than 50%</li> <li>• Stand age greater than 40 years</li> </ul>

## V.O.I.T's (SFM Plan)

- ∞ **Value:** Manage the DFA to maintain wildlife habitat and species diversity.
- ∞ **Objective:** Incorporate the needs of wildlife into operational planning to minimize the effects of operations on wildlife populations.
- ∞ **Indicator:** Habitat availability (ha) for representative and unique species.

## V.O.I.T's (SFM Plan) CONTINUED

- ∞ **TARGET: Complete analysis on habitat availability for selected species on the DFA.**
- ∞ **TARGET: Involve the public in identifying additional species to be included in future analysis.**

# What have we done?

## Means to Target

Based on sound science, ecological considerations, wildlife zones, Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) list, provincially listed species, BSOD, ANHIC, Recovery plans, Fish and Wildlife Division priorities, public consultation, etc..

- ∞ Created Woodlands Manual and Operational Booklet for operations.
- ∞ Field Manual for Wildlife Species at Risk
  - Northern Leopard Frog, Peregrine Falcon, Trumpeter Swan, Whooping Crane, Wood Bison, and Woodland Caribou
- ∞ Obtain local data for animal and plant species of interest from the Alberta Natural Heritage Information Center
- ∞ Created Species at Risk Layer to incorporate species into all operational Plans (Blue Heron)
- ∞ Add observed ATLAS of birds added to SARA Layer. This data was received from the Federation of Alberta Naturalists (Includes waterfowl and warbler)

# What is next?

- ∞ Review required Values, Objectives, Indicators, and Targets (VOIT's) as defined by Alberta
- ∞ Evaluate *current* VOIT's as well as other strategies outlined in the companies:
  - Detailed Forest Management Plan (2003)
  - Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Plan
- ∞ Identify additional VOIT's or revise current management strategies/VOIT's where deemed appropriate.



# What is next?

- ⌚ Are we meeting our objectives and are we showing signs of continual improvement?
- ⌚ Are there more species out there that are locally important?
- ⌚ What is the critical habitat for these species and what is the critical habitat for the new species protected under SARA? Do we want to further define the species Critical Habitat?