

# Forest Management Plan

## Forest Planning Overview

Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc.

(March, 2016)

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## Who is Al-Pac?

Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc. (Al-Pac) is North America's largest single-line producer of high-quality kraft pulp.



*The Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc. millsite located 50 kilometres north of Boyle, Alberta.*

Al-Pac uses best available technology and advanced processes to produce 650,000 air-dried metric tonnes of elemental chlorine-free bleached kraft pulp a year.

Through the company's Forest Management Agreement (FMA) area the Alberta Government grants Al-Pac stewardship of 6.4 million hectares of forest land to sustainably harvest, establish, and grow timber. That timber, along with deciduous timber purchased from private land and coniferous sawmill chips, provides fibre to the mill. The fibre is transformed into pulp, which Al-Pac's customers turn into paper products that range from photo paper to tissue paper.

In addition to producing pulp, Al-Pac produces renewable energy, from forest biomass and steam recycling, to power the company's millsite. Any surplus energy is added to the Alberta power grid. The company also produces bio-methanol, a by-product of the pulping process. The bio-methanol is used as a pulp whitening agent within the mill and any surplus is sold commercially to be used in the manufacturing of a variety of products.

The company has third-party certification through the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) demonstrating that Al-Pac operates in a socially and environmentally responsible manner.

For additional information regarding Al-Pac visit [www.alpac.ca](http://www.alpac.ca)

### **Al-Pac's FMA Area**

Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc. (Al-Pac) operates within a Forest Management Agreement (FMA) area to sustainably harvest deciduous (leafy, hardwood) and coniferous (cone bearing, softwood) trees. An FMA is an area-based tenure agreement between a forest company and the Government of Alberta that gives a forestry company the right to establish, grow and harvest timber. The FMA provides Al-Pac with a secure fibre supply.

This agreement is reviewed and negotiated every 20 years, or earlier at the company's request. In return, Al-Pac assumes primary responsibility and accountability for forest management planning and public consultation, and seeks to maintain healthy forest ecosystems on the FMA area. The company is responsible for managing the timber resource to provide a sustainable supply of wood, while considering wood consumed by other forest companies, the energy (oil and gas) industry and natural disturbances, such as forest fires. Al-Pac's current FMA was signed in 2011.

The FMA area encompasses 6.4 million hectares of boreal mixedwood forest in northeast Alberta. About 2 million hectares of the FMA area are considered harvestable productive forest, while over 4 million hectares are comprised of wetlands (bogs, fens and muskeg), non-commercial black spruce stands, and non-harvestable forest areas (river valleys, slopes, protected areas and riparian buffers) as well as areas affected by wildfire. Parks, forestry and environmental reserves also exist within the FMA area but are not included in the total number of harvestable hectares.

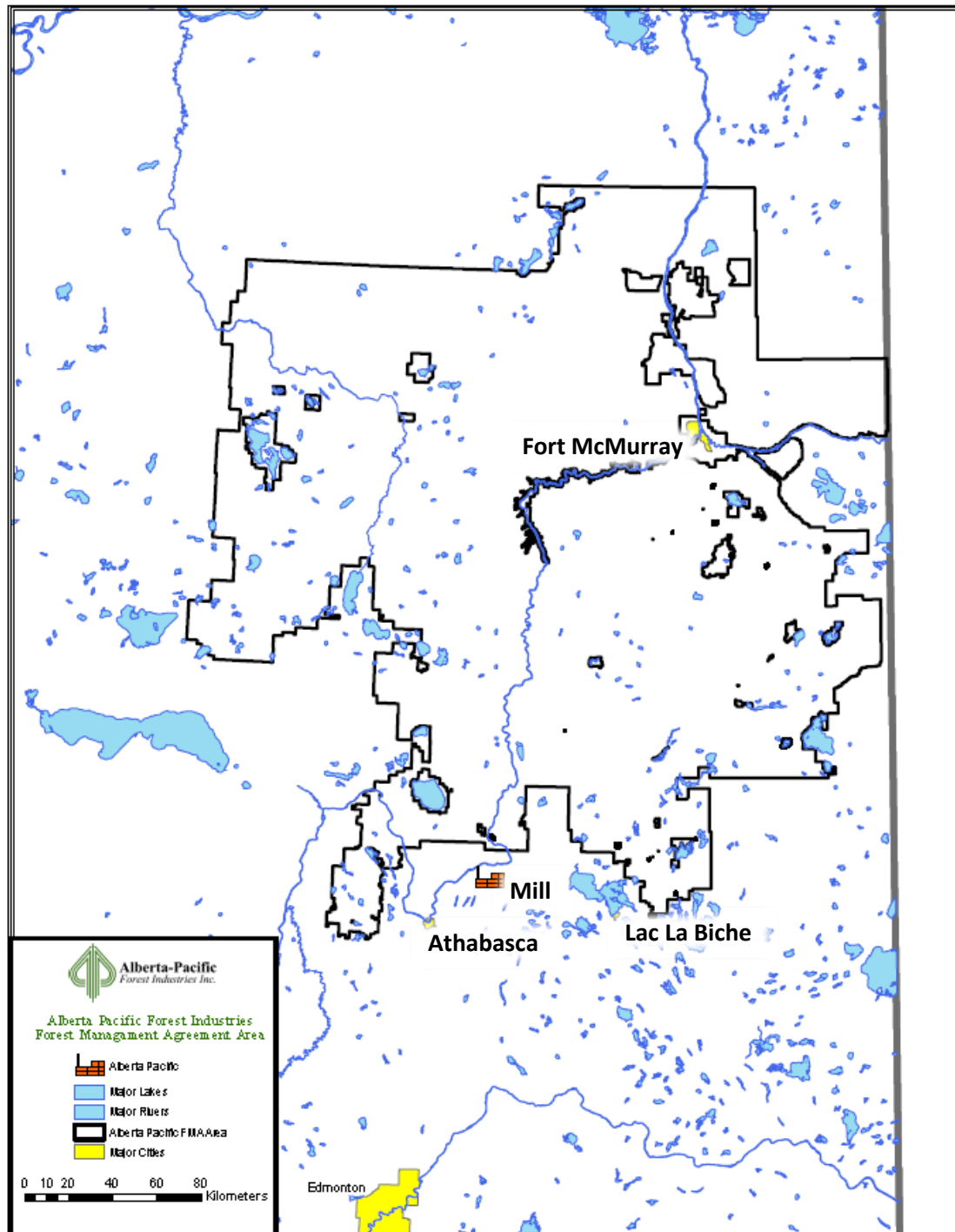
Al-Pac's FMA area is located in one of the busiest regions in Alberta in terms of industrial resource activity. Forest management in the FMA area is integrated with many other users of the landscape and resources. These include Aboriginal people, energy and transportation sectors, as well as, hunting, fishing, trapping and recreational users.

Al-Pac primarily utilizes deciduous trees, trembling aspen and balsam poplar, from the FMA area. Quota holders and other forest companies that operate in the FMA area utilize conifer species such as white spruce and jack pine. Those forest companies often provide their conifer chips to Al-Pac for production of softwood pulp.

From 1993 to 2011, Al-Pac and other forest companies harvested about 250,000 hectares, equivalent to about six per cent of the commercially productive forest or two per cent of the total FMA area. Forestry companies are required to return all harvested areas to new forest through silvicultural treatments.

In addition to its own harvesting, Al-Pac is responsible for developing the Forest Management Plan (FMP) for the FMA area. This includes the research necessary to support forest management objectives, the timber supply analysis, inventories and planning, as well as public involvement and consultation. All forest companies must comply with the laws, policies and regulations of the Province of Alberta and the terms of the FMP.

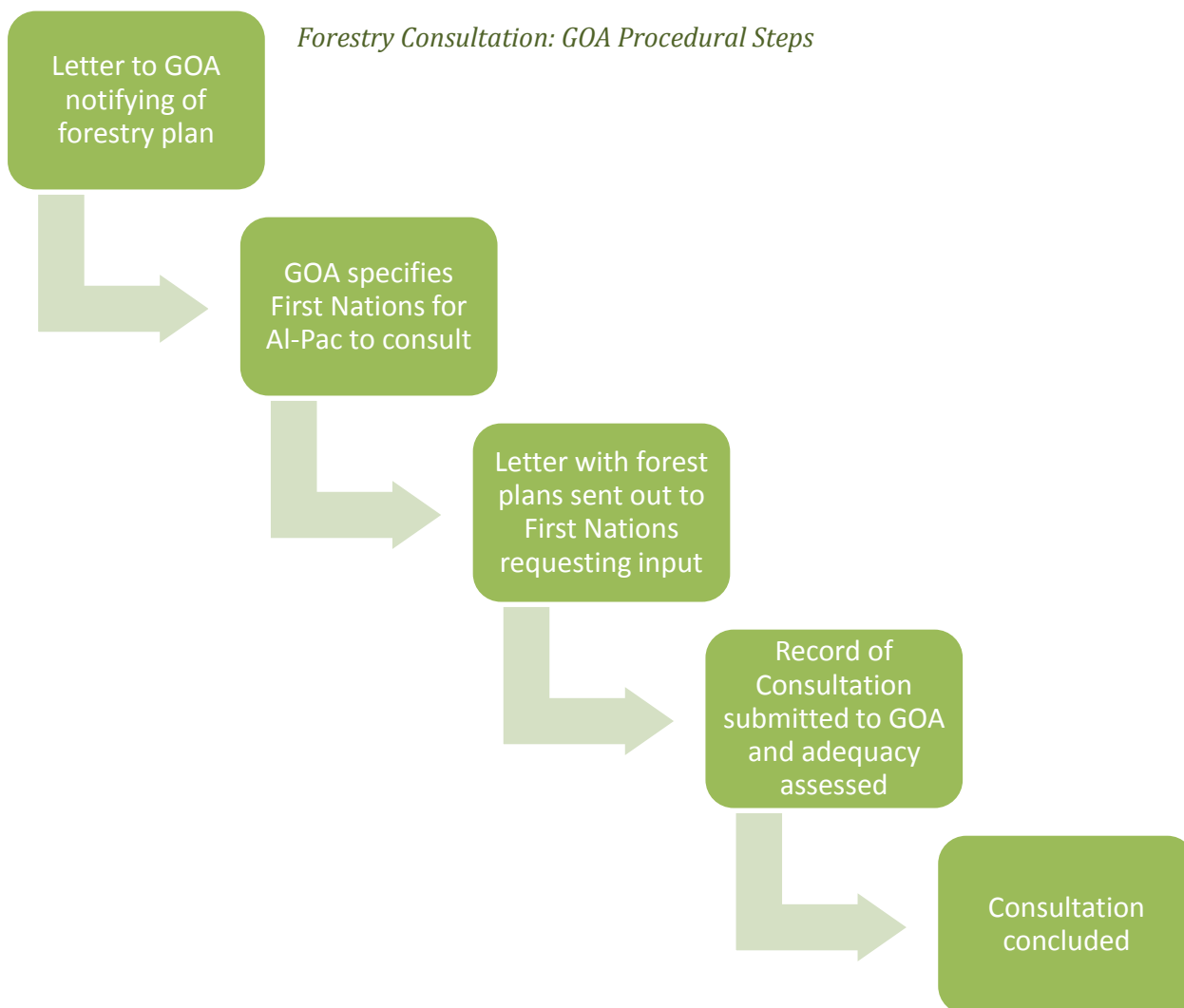
### Al-Pac's FMA Area



## Why do we consult?

Al-Pac is legally obligated by the Government of Alberta (GOA) to consult with First Nations on its forest management plans. The word 'consult' is a key legal term that refers to the GOA requirements found in the Province's 2014 *Guidelines on Consultation with First Nations on Land and Natural Resource Management* and 2013 *Policy on Consultation with First Nations on Land and Natural Resource Management*. The Guidelines put aggressive timelines on their process, and require Forest Management Agreement holders (such as Al-Pac) to consult on higher level forest plans, as well as roads. Consultation in a legal sense must address impacts of proposed development on closely defined traditional uses of Crown land.

To date, Al-Pac's forest plans have been deemed adequate and approved through the government consultation process. Still, Al-Pac has a deeper commitment to Aboriginal communities within the company's Forest Management Agreement (FMA) area.





### Aboriginal Affairs Program

Al-Pac is committed to operating in a manner that respects Aboriginal interests in the FMA area, and this commitment is embodied in the company's Aboriginal Affairs Program – dedicated to building and maintaining effective working relationships with Aboriginal communities. In place since the start of the company in 1992, Al-Pac's Aboriginal Affairs team's objective is to facilitate Aboriginal involvement in all aspects of Al-Pac's business. The focus includes economic development, human resource development, education, consultation and relationship building.

At Al-Pac, Aboriginal engagement is an ongoing long-term commitment. Al-Pac engagement initiatives include:

- Landscape Advisory Group
- Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement
- Community Engagement Strategy
- Aboriginal community information sessions
- Annual performance reviews with community leadership
- Trapper notification
- Community liaison offices and economic development officers
- Community presence (i.e., trade shows, Treaty Days, cultural camps)

These initiatives allow Al-Pac to:

1. develop a relationship with Aboriginal communities
2. understand how the company is potentially impacting the land and communities
3. avoid disturbing culturally significant sites
4. facilitate input into the company's forest management plans
5. identify community investment opportunities

Relationship building makes business sense for Al-Pac. Therefore, Al-Pac will continue its commitment to involve Aboriginal communities as part of the forest planning process through open and transparent dialogue.

There are an estimated 24,000 Aboriginal people residing within Al-Pac's FMA area with an additional 16,000 living adjacent. Consequently, Al-Pac recognizes the importance of consultation and engagement with the First Nations and Metis communities in which those people live. Al-Pac's corporate commitment is to engage with Aboriginal communities for a number of reasons: to be good neighbours, to make better plans, and to maintain certifications.



### Quota Holders

Although Al-Pac holds a Forest Management Agreement (FMA) granted by the Alberta government to grow and harvest timber in a specific area of the province's forest land base, it is not the only forest company with active timber harvest operations within this boundary. In fact, in addition to Al-Pac, there are 8 other forest companies that hold a provincial license to harvest timber within Al-Pac's FMA area. These other companies are referred to as "Quota Holders".

You are likely asking yourself, "Why are these companies called Quota Holders, and what relationship do they have with Al-Pac?" If so, you are asking two very good questions.

When the province grants an FMA license, it does so with the intention that the area within that FMA boundary will be managed for both sustainability and multiple uses. This includes all industrial activities that may be licensed within that area. Because Al-Pac primarily harvests deciduous timber, such as aspen and poplar trees, the Alberta government grants licenses that allow other companies to harvest coniferous timber, such as pine and spruce trees, within Al-Pac's FMA boundary. These licences are called Timber Quotas, and those that hold them are called Quota Holders.

Timber Quotas are granted for a period of 20 years, and are regulated by the Alberta government. As such, Quota Holders must meet forest management planning and timber harvest operation requirements laid out by the province throughout the duration of their tenure. The amount of timber that may be harvested annually by any one Quota Holder varies from 1,000m<sup>3</sup> to 1,000,000m<sup>3</sup>. This amount is determined with sustainability in mind as Timber Quotas are calculated based on how much timber in total, including both deciduous and coniferous trees, should be harvested from an FMA area in a given year.

While Al-Pac does not oversee the timber harvest operations of the Quota Holders active within Al-Pac's FMA area, in order to ensure the forest within the FMA area remains healthy and sustainable, the company must consider the amount of timber harvested by Quota Holders within its forest management planning process. This consideration is an important component of Al-Pac's Forest Management Plan, as well as its Spatial Harvest Sequence and Timber Supply Analysis.

In addition to good forest management planning practices, Al-Pac also works with Quota Holders at an operational level to minimize the environmental footprint on the forest land base through integrated land management. This is perhaps most evident in the area of road development and access to timber harvest operations.

Al-Pac's relationship with Quota Holders is further facilitated by the on-going membership of some of these companies in Al-Pac's Landscape Advisory Group. Their participation as part of this group helps to ensure that Al-Pac's forest management planning process honours the values of the many stakeholders that have a vested interest in maintaining a healthy forest.

### **Is forestry the only industrial activity on the landscape?**

No. There are other types of industrial activities within AI-Pac's FMA area. These include oil and gas activity, such as, wellsites, pipelines, steam assisted gravity drainage (SAGD) facilities and mineable oil sands. As well, there are many road, power line and other secondary developments that support the oil and gas activity.

AI-Pac works with these industrial users to minimize the footprint on the forest landscape through Integrated Land Management (ILM). When an oil and gas development is planned AI-Pac will integrate the harvest of the development area into its forest management planning. Often in this situation AI-Pac is working as a contractor for the oil and gas company. By harvesting areas where trees are to be removed for the oil and gas development regardless, it enables AI-Pac to avoid harvest in other areas.

ConocoPhillips and AI-Pac have worked together on the ConocoPhillips Surmont project, located in the northeast portion of the AI-Pac's FMA area, for more than 10 years. The two companies have integrated their efforts to minimize their footprints from planning through to road building, sequencing harvest and finally reclamation. To date it is estimated that this has decreased the industrial footprint by 30 per cent on their project area. For instance, more than 250,000 trees have been planted to reclaim approximately 130 ha of forest.

Additionally, road development into those areas can also be shared further resulting in a reduced industrial footprint.

AI-Pac has a vested interest in the sustainability of a forest. Consequently, at the conclusion of industrial activity in an area, AI-Pac is available to provide clean-up and reclamation services to oil and gas activities.

### **Sustainable Forest Management**

The Canadian Forest Service (CFS) defines Sustainable Forest Management as...

*"Management that maintains and enhances the long-term health of forest ecosystems for the benefit of all living things while providing environmental, economic, social and cultural opportunities for present and future generations."*

Note that according to this definition, sustainable forest management involves a lot more than growing trees after harvest.

Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc. (AI-Pac) embraces the CFS definition and believes an important principle of sustainability in forest management is the adoption of active adaptive management (AAM). AAM is most simply a continuous evaluation of the potential effects of forest management practices on the forest ecosystems. This evaluation involves researching, testing, adjusting and applying changes to

forest practices as new information is gathered; essentially continuous learning and applying the very best of what is learned.

AI-Pac practices sustainable forest management through:

### ***Economic, Social and Cultural Sustainability***

- Contributing to the economy.
  - Hiring local individuals and contractors as much as possible.
  - Purchasing more than \$100 million in Alberta goods and services annually, mainly in the nearby region.
  - Investing millions of dollars in scientific research and development.
- Supporting communities.
  - Partnering with First Nation communities to create employment, economic development and educational opportunities.
- Supporting education through training and scholarship opportunities.
- Utilizing consultation and community engagement to assist with the development of forest management practices.
- Maintaining certifications that demonstrate AI-Pac's social and environmental values. These certifications include Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Progressive Aboriginal Relations (PAR) Gold level certification.

### ***Environmental Sustainability***

- Maintaining biological diversity.
- Protecting the habitat of species-at-risk.
- Maintaining the distribution of coniferous, deciduous and mixedwood stands.
- Reforestation.
- Avoiding impacts on groundwater and surface water resources.
- Designing harvest patterns to approximate natural disturbances.
- Working with other industrial users within the forests of northeast Alberta to minimize the combined industrial footprint on the landscape through Integrated Land Management.

Economic, social, cultural and environmental sustainability involves a balance that can be difficult to determine because many costs and benefits cannot be measured in dollars and cents. Furthermore, there may be conflicts and trade-offs among economic, environmental and social objectives that need to be weighed and judged together as well as individually. If there are negative effects, are they temporary or permanent? Are there alternative approaches or ways to reduce impacts?

### Recognizing Forest Values

Within the forest in which Al-Pac operates there are areas that have been identified as having high environmental, social or cultural importance which may require special management. Many areas and values are already protected in some way, whether in river valleys or around lakes, or in Operational Ground Rule buffers and deletions from harvest.

This concept of High Conservation Values (HCVs) within the forest is part of Al-Pac's responsible forest management. Within Al-Pac's FMA area High Conservation Values exist in the areas of:

- Species diversity
- Landscape level ecosystems
- Rare or threatened ecosystems and habitats
- Community needs
- Cultural values

Al-Pac recognizes and supports these values in a number of ways, including:

- protection areas and conservation areas
- special planning and operating practices within woodland caribou habitat
- protection of large wetland areas
- forest planning at a landscape level
- special consideration for old growth forest during forest planning
- consultation and community engagement



*Areas of high environmental, social or cultural values often exist around water features.*

## Coarse Filter Approach

Al-Pac makes use of a coarse-filter or ecosystem management approach to its forest planning.

The coarse filter approach is a landscape level concept which assumes that:

- Forest planning should be consistent with conditions under which species and ecosystems have evolved.
- The more closely that managed disturbances (forest harvesting), emulate natural disturbances (fire) the lower the risk of losing natural biodiversity

This umbrella style approach focuses on managing ecosystem processes and attributes rather than managing individual components. In doing so the natural habitats and most stand level elements (including stand structure, wildlife trees, and coarse woody debris) are maintained.

In a watershed, valuable stream habitat is protected in riparian management areas through no harvest buffers. Not only does this protect water quality and fish, but it helps the other animals and plants that live there too.

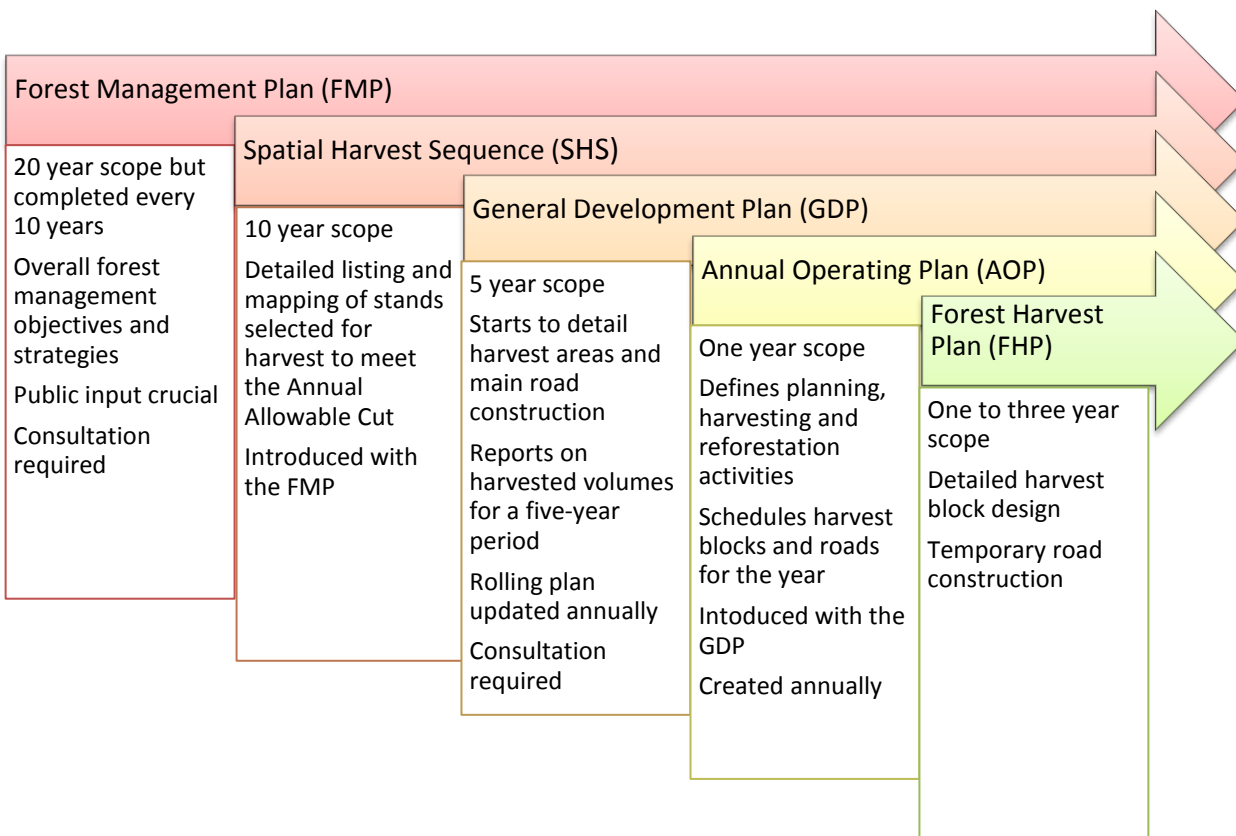
Ideally, with a coarse-filter approach stand level practices should reflect the naturally occurring patterns of disturbance found on the landscape.

Large irregular cutblocks with scattered patches of forest left standing can mirror wildfires.

Much of Al-Pac's research has focused on monitoring and improving the coarse-filter approach. One tool that is useful in verifying the effectiveness of coarse-filter forest management in the FMA area is ecological benchmarks (large, representative portions of land where there is no harvest or industrial development). Such benchmarks can be used to compare processes in undisturbed forests with those in similar forests that are under management so that differences can be studied and addressed. Al-Pac assisted the Government of Alberta (GOA) in establishing two large benchmarks within Al-Pac's FMA area.

## The Planning Process

Maintaining a sustainable forest that has many users while securing economic, social and environmental benefits requires a lot of input and planning. The process starts with knowing what that forest looks like now and determining what the forest should look like into the future. That first step is completed as part of the Forest Management Plan. The FMP paints the big picture many years in advance. As the planning process continues a variety of other plans are created that gradually include more detailed information. The final step in the planning process is the Forest Harvest Plans. These plans are so detailed they can specify where the ribbons go within a harvest block and the location of a specific raptor nest. Having public input early in the process is crucial in ensuring that the following, more detailed plans honor the overall values of the people, communities, companies and other stakeholders that have a vested interest in a healthy forest.



## **The Forest Management Plan**

The Forest Management Plan (FMP) is the first step in Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc.'s (Al-Pac's) forest management planning process. This important document considers how to maintain a sustainable forest over the long term. The FMP outlines strategies regarding where, when and how Al-Pac will manage the forest landbase on which it operates, and includes information about timber harvest operations, reforestation, environmental footprint and community engagement. Once completed, the FMP becomes the guide to forest stewardship on the Forest Management Agreement (FMA) area for a period of 10 years, providing the base from which Al-Pac's more detailed planning documents are developed.

As a forest management guide, the FMP is centred on Al-Pac's commitment to preserve key forest values. These values represent a picture of what a sustainable forest looks like from environmental, community and economic points of view. More specifically, this picture considers what factors contribute to such things as the health of wildlife habitat, soil, water and plants; forest structure and what size, age and types of trees should be present on the landbase for the forest to thrive; how communities and people use the forest to live and work; and, how to facilitate cooperation with other industries active in Al-Pac's area of operation.

From this picture, the FMP identifies a number of objectives Al-Pac must meet throughout the course of its more detailed forest management planning and timber harvest operations activities. These objectives then inform specific strategies intended to meet the company's goal to maintain a sustainable forest, and include such things as how much timber Al-Pac should harvest within a given year, how roads will be built to access timber harvest areas, how the company will assess and monitor the impact of its activities on wildlife, soil and water, and how Al-Pac will engage communities to participate in its planning process.

The development of the FMP is a collaborative effort; it is prepared by Al-Pac according to guidelines set out by the Alberta government, and includes input from other forest companies, Aboriginal communities, Al-Pac's Landscape Advisory Group and the public. With the help of these partners and stakeholders, Al-Pac ensures the FMP honors the overall values of the people, communities, companies and other stakeholders that have a vested interest in a healthy forest.

## **What we have learned...**

As part of GOA approval process; Al-Pac is required to evaluate its forest stewardship performance. As such, at the end of the 10 year life cycle of the FMP, Al-Pac conducts a review of the company's efforts to meet its forest management commitments. This review asks one question: did Al-Pac do what it said it would with respect to its forest stewardship responsibilities? This review not only serves as an opportunity for Al-Pac to assess itself and learn from its efforts, but it also helps to direct what will be considered in the development of future FMPs.



The review of Al-Pac's current FMP was completed in 2013, and considered the company's efforts to maintain key forest values related to such things as community engagement, Aboriginal relations, research and innovation, and environmental footprint. The results of this review identified both successes and opportunities for improvement. For example, the review of Al-Pac's current FMP determined that its efforts to defer timber harvest activities in ecological benchmark sites totaling 350,000 hectares of forest, as well as its support of caribou and cumulative environmental effects monitoring programs, contributed significantly to the company's goals with respect to environmental sustainability. Al-Pac's review also confirmed not only the importance of continued research around forest ecosystems, but also that the outcomes of this research should result in the development of improved forest management practices.

The full results of the review of Al-Pac's current FMP can be found in Al-Pac's Forest Stewardship Technical Report (Reporting Period 2006-2010). The summary of this lengthy report, titled The Forest Stewardship Report Overview, may also be found on Al-Pac's website ([www.alpac.ca](http://www.alpac.ca)). As a companion to these documents, Al-Pac also published a FMP review results brochure that is available to the public and will be included in the company's efforts to engage people and communities in the development of the next FMP.

Just as the development of the FMP is a collaborative effort, so is its review. The review report is prepared by Al-Pac according to guidelines set out by the Alberta government, and includes input from other forest companies, Al-Pac's Landscape Advisory Group and other stakeholders. With the help of these partners, Al-Pac ensures its forest management planning efforts honour the overall values of the people, communities, companies and other stakeholders that have a vested interest in a healthy forest.

### **Values and Objectives of the Forest Management Plan (FMP)**

The FMP is developed based on values and objectives centered around:

- Conservation of biological diversity
- Ecosystem productivity
- Soil and water
- Multiple benefits to society
- Accepting society's responsibility for sustainable development

To meet these values and objectives Al-Pac must also develop indicators and targets that are, essentially, measurable strategies. Often you will see this concept described as a collection of **VOITs** (Values, Objectives, Indicators, Targets).

### **The Timber Supply and the Spatial Harvest Sequence**

Ensuring forest sustainability over the long term is a complex process, and incorporating that process into Al-Pac's forest management planning is equally as challenging. It requires Al-Pac to figure out not only where to harvest timber within its area of operations and under what conditions, but also just how much timber should the company harvest and when should it be done? Fortunately, there are a number of tools and map products available that help Al-Pac to answer these important questions.



One of these tools is called the **Timber Supply Analysis (TSA)**. Although it sounds complicated, the TSA is essentially a computer program that produces a Forest Management Agreement (FMA) area map that allows Al-Pac to link the forest stewardship strategies outlined in the Forest Management Plan with the tactical aspects of timber harvest operations. This map is the **Spatial Harvest Sequence (SHS)** – a 10-year view of potential areas to harvest timber. In other words, the TSA allows Al-Pac to input data with respect to a number of key forest values that contribute to forest sustainability, such as riparian management, ecosystem management and old forest growth. This data is then used within a computer model that provides a map of where and how much timber could be harvested annually from what locations. This model not only helps Al-Pac to see if it has a sustainable supply of timber to meet its business needs, but also that the company's timber harvest operations are conducted in a way that preserves the health of the forest for the long term.

The TSA and SHS help Al-Pac to forecast this picture of sustainable forest management planning and timber harvest operations 200 years into the future. The forecast considers how the forest grows over time. This involves a **Growth and Yield** program that continuously monitors what is happening to the trees within the forest.

Because conditions change, timber supply maps generated through the SHS are produced in 10-year increments. This first 10-year timber supply plan becomes the basis on which Al-Pac's more detailed timber harvest plans are developed (i.e. General Development Plan)



Like all aspects of Al-Pac's forest management planning, the timber supply is a collaborative effort; it is prepared by Al-Pac according to guidelines set out by the Alberta government, and includes input from communities and stakeholders with a vested interest in the maintenance of a healthy forest.

### **Alberta Land Use Framework regional plans and Al-Pac's Forest Management Plan**

The Government of Alberta (GOA) has developed the Land-Use Framework (LUF) to manage growth in Alberta in a manner that balances the province's growing economy with Albertans' social and environmental goals. The LUF establishes seven new land-use regions and calls for the development of a regional plan for each.

Al-Pac's Forest Management Agreement (FMA) area exists within three of the regions identified within the LUF; the Lower Athabasca, Upper Athabasca, and Lower Peace. Of those regions, only the Lower Athabasca has a regional plan that has been developed. The regional plans for the Upper Athabasca and Lower Peace are still in development.

The Lower Athabasca Regional Plan (LARP) is the first of seven regional plans committed to under Alberta's Land-use Framework. LARP considers the cumulative effects of all activities on air, water and biodiversity. It establishes new environmental frameworks with limits to protect air and surface water quality and increases the total conserved land within the region to more than two million hectares; three times the size of Banff National Park.

As Al-Pac develops its next Forest Management Plan (FMP) over the next few years the company needs to ensure that the objectives of the FMP flow out of the overriding landscape objectives identified within the LARP. Al-Pac also has to recognize that there is more regional plan development that will take place within the company's FMA area. Therefore, the FMP must be developed with that in mind and will be considered a "living document" that will continue to be consulted upon until finalized.

### **Forest Management Plan (FMP) Consultation Milestones and Timelines**

The Forest Management Plan (FMP) sets the agenda for the company's forest management over a 10 year period. Consequently, the development of the plan can span a number of years. Therefore, Al-Pac is consulting in stages or milestones on the FMP. Consultation began more than a year prior to the planned submission date.

#### **1. 2014 Consultation – Late Winter/Early Spring**

The first round of consultation introduced the FMP. While not all of the detailed information was available at this time, the consultation provided Al-Pac and First Nation communities with an opportunity to discuss what a FMP is, the intent and values of the FMP, consultation timelines, as well as helped to identify initial concerns or questions.

#### **2. 2014 Consultation – Fall**

Al-Pac sent an update to communities in the fall of 2014 introducing to the First Nation communities any additional detail on the FMP that was available, and providing an opportunity for feedback and questions.

### 3. 2015 Consultation – Late Winter/Early Spring

Al-Pac provided communities with the most current information on the FMP development, and offered an opportunity for feedback and questions. Information was provided regarding the:

- **Terms of Reference**
- **Landscape Assessment** describing the current condition of Al-Pac's FMA area including forest structure, disturbances and land use activities.
- **Values and Objectives** to be incorporated in the new FMP.
- **Netdown** providing a snapshot of the forest and human activities on the FMA area today.
- **Growth and Yield** assessing how the forest is growing.

### 4. 2016 Consultation

In the late winter/early spring of 2016 communities will be provided the first five chapters of the FMP in draft form and a description of the information still to come. The first five chapters are:

- Corporate Overview (Chapter 1-2)
- Landscape Overview (Chapter 3)
- 2006 FMP Review (Chapter 4)
- Values, Objectives, Indicators and Targets (VOITs) (Chapter 5)

Components still being worked on and to have more information presented at a later date include the:

- Growth & Yield
- Landbase Netdown
- Timber Supply Analysis
- Spatial Harvest Sequence
- Preferred Forest Management Strategy
- Research Strategy
- Monitoring Program

Given the large scope of the FMP and the complexity of incorporating influences on the FMA area's forest landscape that are external to Al-Pac's forest operations, Al-Pac has to be prepared to be adaptable with the development of the FMP and the timelines involved. The FMP is still ongoing and consultation will continue as more information becomes available.

Prior to submission of the completed FMP to the Government of Alberta for approval, Al-Pac will provide the FMP product to the communities. Al-Pac will also relay a progress report on how feedback captured during the FMP consultation was incorporated into the forest management planning.

Throughout the consultation Al-Pac will follow the Alberta government's procedural aspects for consultation with First Nations.

## **We want your input...**

Your input as early as possible into Al-Pac's forest planning process will result in the best opportunities to incorporate that input into the company's forest operations. Please advise Al-Pac if there are any concerns or questions your community has regarding the information the company has provided. Al-Pac is especially interested in specific traditional sites or specific impacts on treaty rights that the company needs to be aware of when planning our forest operations.

Please contact:

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### About the Landscape Advisory Group (LAG)

The Landscape Advisory Group (LAG) has provided input to Al-Pac forest management planning. The LAG was established in 2007 as a forum that brings together forest companies, Aboriginal people, government officials and land users (hunting and fishing, trapping, conservation and naturalist interests, and public members) to discuss needs, interests and issues affecting the forest landscape and provide advice to address them.

Al-Pac's LAG is made up of a group of 25 to 30 individuals representing various communities and organizations that have a distinct interest in the management of the Forest Management Agreement (FMA) area's forest land base. The group meets quarterly with the assistance of a professional facilitator, who records and distributes regular meeting minutes.

The LAG serves as Al-Pac's most consistent and involved venue for stakeholder engagement. Its mandate includes reviewing the practices and forest management plans of the forest companies, paying particular attention to the philosophies that inform the development of those practices and plans. The intent is to facilitate agreement amongst the LAG members and the forest companies. Additionally, selected LAG members have provided valuable input as audit observers during Al-Pac's annual FSC audit. The LAG has also been involved in the preparation and review of Al-Pac's 2000 DFMP, the development of Al-Pac's 1998 and 2008 Operating Ground Rules (OGRs), the 2006 FMP, and the 2011 Stewardship Report.

Since 2006, the group has had more than 25 formal meetings and 14 field trips. The location and purpose of these field trips are based on needs identified by the LAG, and have focused on the following topics:

- Silviculture in the FMA area
- Boreal plain hydrology
- Biodiversity monitoring
- Post-fire forest ecology
- The Calling Lake FireSmart program
- Al-Pac's mill water treatment processes
- Jack pine mistletoe sanitation program
- Wildfire forest regeneration
- Energy sector land use
- Al-Pac's Poplar Farms program
- Surface Mineable Area – Aerial Tour
- Sawmill Infrastructure
- Calling Lake Neo-Tropical Migratory Bird Research Site

If you are interested in becoming a member of LAG please contact:

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