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Forest Harvest Plan

PU071244



**ALBERTA
PACIFIC**
FOREST INDUSTRIES INC

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Report

1.0 Introduction

Alberta – Pacific Forest Industries Inc. (Alberta–Pacific) has prepared a Forest Harvest Plan (FHP) for the harvest of stands within Planning Unit 071244.

The Planning Unit is located within Forest Management Unit (FMU) S23 on the west side of the Athabasca River. Primary access to the plan is located off of the “Otter Creek Road” and township road 720A within the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River No. 124

Copies of this Forest Harvest Plan are available on the Alberta–Pacific website, at www.alpac.ca.

2.0 General Planning Unit Information /Design Considerations

This FHP has been validated by a Registered Forestry Professional from Alberta-Pacific.

This FHP includes maps and reports that clearly show and document the planned harvest area boundaries, roads and water crossings within the Planning Unit.

This plan is being submitted for appraisal, for a 5-year FHP approval under the 2021-2022 Alberta-Pacific Annual Operating Plan (AOP).

2.1 Operating Ground Rules

This Planning Unit is designed in accordance with the Northeast Alberta Operating Ground Rules (OGRs). Alberta–Pacific is requesting certain deviations from the OGRs, due to field verified factors. These requests, along with corresponding information are listed under the section “OGR Deviations”.

3.0 Maps

Individual block maps have been included in the submission package, outlining the information pertinent to these blocks. A Planning Unit overview map and a Spatial Harvest Sequence (SHS) Planning Unit map have been included in the submission package. These maps can be viewed in the *Appendices* of this document.

4.0 Block Information

A *Block Summary Table* has been included below outlining the expected volumes of the harvest area.

4.1 Utilization

Deciduous and coniferous stands will adhere to the 15/10 utilization standard

4.2 Field verification

Field verification was conducted to assess the timber quality, potential sensitive and historical sites, operability of the harvest area, and classification of water courses within the Planning Unit boundary. Where applicable, the findings of the layout team have been noted in the corresponding section of this report.

4.3 Understory Assessment

White Spruce understory within deciduous landbase will be protected utilizing high effort understory protection in stands identified as greater than 600 stems/ha by the Alberta Vegetation Inventory (AVI), as well as any potential areas found to have understory present that is not identified by the AVI.

There are no Blocks requiring high-effort understory protection methods in the planning unit. Any deciduous blocks found to have understory amounting to between 400 stems/ha and 600 stems/ha will be protected utilizing the avoidance method.

Block Summary Table

(Values rounded to whole numbers)

Table 1: Block Summary Table

This table provides a brief description of the proposed harvest blocks within the Planning Unit.

Deciduous Blocks						
<i>Source ID</i>	Opening Number	Harvest Season (Frozen/ Non-Frozen)	Area (ha)	Deciduous Volume (m³)	Incidental Conifer Volume (m³)	Total Volume (m³)
FC07124427521	4240712752	Non-Frozen	52	12,486	1,632	14,118
FC07124428751	4240712875	Non-Frozen	19	4,479	688	5,167
FC07124428951	4240712895	Non-Frozen	77	17,190	3,066	20,255
FC07124429861	4240712986	Non-Frozen	101	23,263	3,501	26,764
FC07124430081	4240713008	Non-Frozen	46	14,016	703	14,719
FC07124431321	4240713132	Non-Frozen	70	16,542	2,207	18,750
FC07124431971	4240713197	Non-Frozen	62	15,102	1,819	16,920
FC07124432511	4240713251	Non-Frozen	49	11,392	2,899	14,292
FC07124433251	4240713325	Frozen	7	1,647	361	2,008
FC07124433461	4240713346	Non-Frozen	47	11,527	2,140	13,668
FC07124433801	4240713380	Frozen	54	13,058	1,992	15,050
FC07125425971	4250712597	Non-Frozen	15	4,065	466	4,531
FC07125435531	4250713553	Non-Frozen	16	4,408	251	4,659
FC07125435651	4250713565	Frozen	26	8,144	367	8,511
FC07125436141	4250713614	Non-Frozen	76	20,620	747	21,367
FC07125436401	4250713640	Non-Frozen	35	9,255	610	9,865
FC07225402821	4250720282	Non-Frozen	77	25,561	1,062	26,623
Totals				212,754	24,512	237,266

4.4 Structure Retention

For Alberta-Pacific and Commercial Timber Permits, an average of 5% representative of all harvested area at the FMU level by stewardship reporting period will be retained. A harvest area may have zero structure but the FMU average shall be 5%. Non merchantable structure is not to be tracked as part of the 5%. Structure retention will be left in the following methods:

- Laid out patches
- Individual trees
- Small clumps left at the operators' discretion

4.5 Debris Management

The Planning Unit is situated within Alberta's Fire Control Zone number 45 as identified by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AAF).

Debris management of the Planning Unit will be accomplished in a manner consistent with Section 7.3 of the OGRs.

4.6 Camp Location

The companies have identified a camp location for logging operations within this Planning Unit. The campsite will be reclaimed as indicated in Section 11.3.4.4 of the Northeast Alberta Timber Harvesting Planning and Operating Ground Rules (OGRs).

SourceID	Opening Number	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
FC07225402821	4250720282	55.19811	-113.733
FC07125435651	4250713565	55.19809	-113.736

5.0 Watercourse Protection

During the potential watercourses were identified during preliminary planning using wet areas mapping, LiDAR data, aerial imagery, as well as the available AVI data.

Where harvest blocks are in proximity to any potential watercourses, the field layout team conducted field assessments utilizing the methodology and classification standards outlined in Section 6.0 of the OGRs. Any confirmed watercourses have been buffered in accordance with the OGRs Section 6.0.

Any deviations from the OGRs in relation to the watercourse buffers are noted in this report; please refer to the *OGR Deviations* section of the report for further information.

Watercourse Crossing Summary Table

Table 2: Watercourse Crossing Summary

A list of road crossings over field verified watercourses within the Planning Unit.

<i>Road ID</i>	<i>Crossing ID (Road Crossing Number)</i>	<i>Watercourse Classification</i>
RC07124428751	2874	Transitional
RC07124428751	2884	Ephemeral
RC07124428951	2704	Transitional
RC07124428951	2731	Transitional
RC07124429861	2926	Ephemeral
RC07124429861	2936	Ephemeral
RC07124429861	2937	Intermittent
RC07124429861	2967	Ephemeral
RC07124429861	2977	Ephemeral
RC07124429861	2985	Ephemeral
RC07124430081	3039	Ephemeral
RC07124430081	3069	Ephemeral
RC07124431321	3097	Transitional
RC07124431321	3193	Transitional
RC07124431971	3222	Beaver Pond
RC07124432511	2948	Ephemeral
RC07124432511	2949	Intermittent
RC07124432511	3252	Ephemeral
RC07124432511	3292	Ephemeral
RC07124433251	3286	Intermittent
RC07124433251	3296	Small Permanent

Road ID	Crossing ID (Road Crossing Number)	Watercourse Classification
RC07124433461	3317	Ephemeral
RC07124433461	3324	Ephemeral
RC07124433461	3328	Ephemeral
RC07125435531	3562	Transitional
RC07125435531	3571	Transitional
RC07125435531	3581	Transitional
RC07125435651	3563	Ephemeral
RC07125435651	3567	Ephemeral
RC07125436141	2519	Ephemeral
RC07125436141	3600	Ephemeral
RC07125436141	3616	Ephemeral
RC07125436141	3617	Ephemeral
RC07125436141	3633	Ephemeral
RC07125436401	3640	Ephemeral
RC07125436401	3651	Ephemeral
RC07225402821	0262	Ephemeral
RC07225402821	3589	Ephemeral

6.0 Road Information

Overview maps have been attached showing roads in accordance with Section 3.4.7. of the OGRs; all spatial data requirements have also been included with this submission.

Roads will be constructed, maintained, and reclaimed in a manner consistent with Section 11.3 of the OGRs.

When new access is necessary, reclamation processes will adhere to Section 11.3.4, Section 11.3.4.3 and Section 11.3.4.4 of the OGRs. To enable for silviculture activities, all-terrain vehicle (ATV) access may be left throughout the harvest area.

Road Attributes Table

(Values rounded to whole numbers)

Table 3: Road Attributes

Summary of the proposed in-block roads of the Planning Unit.

Road ID	Road Classification	Haul Season	Length, m
DLO180079	Temp	Non-Frozen	1,249
RC07124427521a	Temp	Non-Frozen	928
RC07124428751a	Temp	Non-Frozen	737
RC07124428951a	Temp	Non-Frozen	3,281
RC07124429861a	Temp	Non-Frozen	3,612
RC07124430081a	Temp	Non-Frozen	2,661
RC07124431321a	Temp	Non-Frozen	2,499
RC07124431971a	Temp	Non-Frozen	1,380
RC07124432511a	Temp	Non-Frozen	1,872
RC07124433251a	Temp	Frozen	262
RC07124433461a	Temp	Non-Frozen	1,385
RC07124433801a	Temp	Frozen	2,203
RC07125425971a	Temp	Non-Frozen	371
RC07125435531a	Temp	Non-Frozen	384
RC07125435651a	Temp	Non-Frozen	2,794
RC07125436141a	Temp	Non-Frozen	2,511
RC07125436401a	Temp	Non-Frozen	1,574
RC07225402821a	Temp	Non-Frozen	2,401

7.0 Land Use Information

A search of the Geographic Land Information Management and Planning System (GLIMPS) and Digital Integrated Dispositions (DIDs) yielded active dispositions within the FHP. Any necessary agreements with the disposition holder will be in place prior to the commencement of harvest operations. None of the dispositions within the FHP will restrict harvest operations in the FHP.

Land Use Summary Table

Table 4: Land Use Summary Table
Active dispositions in the Planning Unit

Disposition Number	Disposition Holder	Disposition Type
PLA910799	RIFE RESOURCES LTD	PLA
PLA010870	CANADIAN NATURAL RESOURCES LIMITED	PLA
LOC890721	RIFE RESOURCES LTD.	LOC
LOC890861	CANADIAN NATURAL RESOURCES LIMITED	LOC
LOC972938	CANADIAN NATURAL RESOURCES LIMITED	LOC
DLO180079	N.P.A. LTD.	DLO

The FHP design incorporates pipeline crossings, for temporary roads. The agreements will be in place prior to the construction of these crossings.

8.0 Integration with Other Forest Users

8.1 Integration with Other Harvest Operators

This FHP is not an integrated between the FMA and a CTL holder.

8.2 Registered Fur Management Areas (RFMAs)

Notification letter were sent to RFMAs within the FHP who will be affected by operations. Any requests from the RFMA holders have been considered, and, where possible, the harvest design has been planned to accommodate the request.

Trapper Areas Table

Table 5: Trapper Areas Table

RFMA ID	Notification Method
1465	Letter

8.3 Wildlife Management Unit(s) (WMU)

Planning Unit is located within WMU 510 . The Guides and Outfitters operating within this unit have been sent notification, via registered mail, on the FHP design, as well as a timeline for the commencement of harvest operations. Any requests from Guides and Outfitters have been considered, and, where possible, the harvest design has been planned to accommodate the request. A table with the active Guides and Outfitters in the WMU is included below.

Guide and Outfitters Table

Table 6: Guide and Outfitters

OG ID	Date	Contact Method
Williams	July 2021	Registered Mail
Mercier	July 2021	Registered Mail
Lock N Load Outfitting Ltd.	July 2021	Registered Mail
Wayne Zaft Hunting Adventures Ltd.	July 2021	Registered Mail
Willis Outfitters	July 2021	Registered Mail
Northern Wilderness Outfitters	July 2021	Registered Mail
North River Outfitting Ltd.	July 2021	Registered Mail
Alberta Goose Outfitters	July 2021	Registered Mail
Kirschner	July 2021	Registered Mail
Ridgerunner Hunt Co. Ltd.	July 2021	Registered Mail
Esau	July 2021	Registered Mail
North Alberta Outfitters Inc.	July 2021	Registered Mail
McKinnon & Co. Outfitters Inc.	July 2021	Registered Mail
LJ Guiding o/a Elite Outfitters	July 2021	Registered Mail
Fraser Brothers Outfitting	July 2021	Registered Mail
Moose Creek Outfitters Ltd.	July 2021	Registered Mail

8.4 Indigenous Groups

During the General Development Plan (GDP) process, Alberta – Pacific conducts consultations with indigenous groups every year. There have not been any issues identified prior to FHP submission.

8.5 Other Forest Users

There are no forest user groups operating within the Planning Unit area.

8.6 Forest Aesthetics

As outlined in Section 5.5. of the OGRs, Alberta – Pacific follows the objective to mitigate the impact of timber operations on the visual quality of the forest landscape.

Due to proximity to the Athabasca River Valley, retention has been strategically located in Blocks bordering the river valley breakline to mitigate the visual impact of timber harvesting.

9.0 Species and Areas of Concern

9.1 Woodland Caribou

Planning Unit 071244 is not located within Woodland Caribou Range.

9.2 Key Wildlife and Biodiversity Zone (KWBZ)

Planning Unit 071244 is partially within a Key Wildlife and Biodiversity Zone; all operations within the KWBZ will be consistent with Section 7.7.4. of the OGRs.

9.3 Other Species

All known sensitive wildlife sites have been buffered in accordance with Section 7.7.5 of the OGRs.

9.4 Sensitive Sites

A review of the block design and landscape of the FHP was completed by professional archaeologists. Any sites identified as being of high historical significance (historical resource sites) have been removed from the harvest design.

Upon completion of cutblock and road layout, a second review of the harvest blocks, and temporary roads is completed to identify potential conflicts, and to determine if any further changes are required to the Planning Unit.

There were no signs of rare plants, including signs of terrestrial lichen found within the Planning Unit.

If any sites are identified post submission, Alberta – Pacific will take the appropriate action to protect these sites.

9.5 Forest Health

During the field verification, a team evaluated the current state of the forest health in the FHP area, as outlined in Section 10.1 of the OGRs.

If any sites are identified post submission, Alberta – Pacific will take the appropriate action to protect these sites as per Section 10.1.2 of the OGRs.

10.0 SHS Information / Variance Summary

Variances from the Spatial Harvest Sequence (SHS) within the Planning Unit boundary are shown in Appendix 3 - *Spatial Harvest Sequence Summary Table*.

11.0 OGR Deviations

Table 7: Road Percent Deviations Table

Road deviations which contain blocks that are greater than 7 hectares, with potentially more than 5% road disturbance.

Source ID	Opening Number	Block Area (ha)	Harvest Season (Frozen/ Non-Frozen)	Road Percentage	Road Percentage Reason
FC07124428951	4240712895	77	Non-Frozen	6.0	Narrow/irregular shape
FC07124429861	4240712986	101	Non-Frozen	5.1	Access to other blocks
FC07124430081	4240713008	46	Non-Frozen	5.8	Access to other blocks
FC07124431321	4240713132	70	Non-Frozen	5.1	Access to other blocks
FC07124431971	4240713197	62	Non-Frozen	5.3	Narrow/irregular shape
FC07124432511	4240713251	49	Non-Frozen	5.1	Narrow/irregular shape
FC07124433251	4240713325	7	Frozen	7.6	Narrow/irregular shape
FC07125425971	4250712597	15	Non-Frozen	5.2	Narrow/irregular shape
FC07125435531	4250713553	16	Non-Frozen	5.1	Narrow/irregular shape
FC07125436141	4250713614	76	Non-Frozen	5.7	Access to other blocks
FC07225402821	4250720282	77	Non-Frozen	5.3	Narrow/irregular shape

12.0 Validation by Registered Forest Practitioner

This plan is being prepared and submitted on behalf of Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc.

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