

McLean Creek Collaborative Planning Session
April 26th, 2017
Summary of Stakeholder Comments and SLS Response

Spray Lake Sawmills (SLS) hosted a collaborative planning session to discuss the planned timber harvest in the Jumpingpound Creek compartment. SLS reviewed the planning hierarchy and government submissions required prior to harvest operations. The group then discussed SLS and stakeholder values in the area, both specific and general.

Attendees:

- Allen Mottet – Spray Lake Sawmills
- Paul Hebrada – Spray Lake Sawmills
- Nick Pink – Alberta Wilderness Association

Subject: Habitat Management

Stakeholder asked for more information on how SLS plans and accommodates for key habitat within the harvest area, specifically how SLS operates within

- Bull Trout / WSCT / Hybrid Watersheds
- Grizzly Bear Zones (Core & Secondary)
- Whitebark/Limber Pine Areas
- Key Wildlife Biodiversity Zone
- Sheep & Goat Zones

SLS Response:

The complete description of risks, management strategies, and prescriptions can be found in the SLS operating ground rules (<http://www.spraylakesawmills.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/SprayLakeSawmills-CO5-OperatingGroundRules-May2012.pdf>). A brief description of strategies to maintain habitat for the specific topics discussed follows:

Bull Trout / WSCT / Hybrid Watersheds

SLS crossing structures on flowing watercourses are designed and installed to avoid in-stream work and streamflow restriction. This is done in all SLS operating areas to meet the crossing requirements for fish-bearing watercourses. This combined with the OGR buffer requirements on watercourses protect the fish habitat. GOA listed pure-strain WSCT streams are buffered to meet Class “A” watercourse protection requirements.

Grizzly Bear Zones (Core & Secondary)

Grizzly Bear is a species of special management concern in the OGR. Through timber harvest, creation of the desired future forest will meet objectives for habitat protection. One main objective is access control; SLS focuses on temporary (class & term) roads built on frozen ground. All staff and contractors are trained to look for bear dens and activity to determine if a buffer is required.

Whitebark/Limber Pine Areas

These endangered Pines are species of special management concern in the OGR. GOA written approval is required for unavoidable harvest.

Key Wildlife Biodiversity Zone

Ungulate range is of special management concern in the OGR. SLS focuses on temporary (class & term) roads built on frozen ground to minimize impact, December – January, with reclamation to follow ASAP. Objective to maximize visual screening/cover through increased retention, utilizing existing access, maintaining cover near roads and openings.

Sheep & Goat Zones

Current wildlife and habitat protection practices and OGR requirements are adequate to protect sheep/goat ranges overlapping with the SLS FMA.

Additional SLS comments

Supplemental to the OGR, SLS developed a series of resource management objectives designed to measure performance in meeting the stated goals identified in the DFMP. Some of the plan metrics include water quality, road access and reclamation, reforestation program, biodiversity and wildlife habitat supply, soil disturbance, and sustainable timber supply. SLS has consistently met or exceeded all of the stated plan objectives. Please see the SLS Stewardship Report, which summarizes the annual and five-year monitoring deliverables in reference to the planning objectives identified in the DFMP at <http://www.spraylakesawmills.com/woodlands/forest-management-planning/detailed-forest-management-plan/>

SLS would like to thank all those who participated in this year's collaborative planning sessions and all of our public consultation; your interest and comments are greatly appreciated.