



## **Spray Lake Sawmills**

Public Participation Program

For Renewal of the 2020

Forest Management Plan

March 2018 (updated from March 2, 2015)

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## 1. Introduction

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Spray Lake Sawmills (1980) Ltd's (SLS) Forest Management Agreement (FMA) area is located in the southern east slopes of Alberta. It is the southern most FMA in the Province, covering approximately 2800 sq km in a long narrow band from Sundre to the southern end of Kananaskis Country (Appendix A).

This places it between Calgary, the Provinces largest urban centre, and a heavily used parks system to the west. The FMA is dissected by the Trans-Canada Highway and has a number of smaller towns dotting its eastern edge. The area has a long-standing history of timber harvesting, ranching, recreation and oil and gas activity. Combined, these characteristics provide the FMA with a high profile and a corresponding need for a meaningful public involvement process.

On December 1, 2017 the FMP was extended to be completed from September 1, 2018 to on or before September 30, 2020. This Public Participation Program (dated march 2018) is an updated version to replace the 2018 FMP Public Participation Program approved on March 2, 2015.

## 2. Background

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Sections 10 (4) and (5) of the Forest Management Agreement outline the requirement for Spray Lake Sawmills (1980) Ltd to conduct public reviews of their proposed Forest Management Plan prior to submission to the Crown. The Agreement does not specify the process or structure for these reviews.

The Alberta Forest Management Planning Standard requires companies to have a public participation program that addresses the standards specified in CSA Z809-02 Section 5.0. CSA Z809-02 Section 5.0 provides a more detailed listing of public participation requirements and has left it up to the individual organizations to define how to address the requirements.

The Provincial Planning Standard defines meaningful consultation as requiring consultation in good faith, with honest communication and an open exchange of relevant information before decisions are made. This document provides an outline for such a process; one that will provide an opportunity for input for anyone who has an interest through one of several mechanisms.

## 3. Objectives

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SLS's public involvement policy is to carefully consider feedback and then respond to stakeholders by addressing their concerns. Changes to a plan or operation as a result of public input are recorded by SLS and communicated to the stakeholder.

The public participation program coincides with the five year timeline for development of the Forest Management Plan (FMP). The FMP covers the combined area of the FMA and B9 Quota, referred to as the defined forest area (DFA), (Appendix A). SLS is committed to conducting presentations and providing opportunities for interested parties to review and provide input to the proposed forest management plan at key milestones identified in figure 2. The FMP must conform to higher order planning documents, such as the 2014-2024 South Saskatchewan Regional Plan, which is required by the

Alberta Land Stewardship Act, and the various other integrated resource management plans or sub-regional plans that cover the FMP planning area. The FMP must also abide by provincial and federal legislation, the terms of the Forest Management Agreement and the current Alberta Forest Management Planning Standard.

In order for any landscape management strategy to be successful it must contain a blend of social, economic and environmental values. It must be open, transparent and accessible and must promote dialogue rather than a one-way input of comments.

Program participants are not expected to be technical experts but to bring insight to the table on a broad spectrum of societal values and how they may be integrated with natural elements of the landscape. Not all recommendations will necessarily be accepted but they will be given thoughtful consideration.

In our experience, there is good value in using a combination of communication tools during the course of the program. As personality types vary, so do preferred methods of communication. A broad range of input opportunities will likely provide a more complete range of public opinion.

#### **4. Proposed Structure**

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In general, the consultation process begins with the PAC providing feedback to SLS's proposed information packages. The PAC also provides feedback on proposed open house (general content) or workshop (issue based) consultation opportunities. The focus is to provide the most useful information to the public that fosters understanding and facilitates meaningful participation.

Next, various public notices are placed and the interested parties on SLS's contact list (outlined below) are emailed and provided access to the information packages. As more publics become known, their contact information is added to the interested parties contact list.

The interested parties contact list is categorized accordingly:

- Public at large
- First Nations (under separate consultation plan)
- Embedded Quota Holders (under the DFMP ToR)
- Stakeholders (includes ENGO's, adjacent landowners and motorized and non-motorized recreation)
- Government (e.g. municipalities);
- Industry (includes oil and gas and the Forest Industry)
- Trappers (having FMA trapping dispositions)
- Ranchers (having FMA grazing dispositions)
- Public Advisory Committee (PAC)

The consultation mechanisms and proposed structure for the Public Participation Program have been summarized in Figure 1.

Figure 1



#### 4-1: Public Advisory Committee (PAC)

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A public advisory committee works closely with Spray Lake Sawmills at a broad overview level. PAC meetings are typically held quarterly. Summary minutes are prepared following each meeting. Once the Committee has approved the minutes they are posted on the Company's website.

Spray Lake Sawmills provides the meeting space and administrative support as may be required to conduct PAC business. Spray Lake Sawmills also provides information to the PAC and outside expertise as may be required to have a well-informed discussion.

The committee represents a cross section of backgrounds and interests including:

- Environmental organizations
- Motorized recreation
- Non-motorized recreation
- Ranching
- Oil and Gas
- Community members

- Landowners
- Municipalities (City of Calgary)
- Municipal Districts (Bighorn, Bragg Creek/Rockyview)
- First Nations (Siksika)
- Harvest Contractor

The committee will provide review and feedback on a range of FMP development activities, including but not limited to:

- defining FMP objectives
- public participation activities
- helping develop a plan to monitor performance and effectiveness of the Public Participation Program
- overall plan development

As per the Public Advisory Committee (PAC) terms of reference, the PAC is expected to monitor and represent interests of their respective sectors and may act as a point of contact for other members of the public, although it is not their mandated responsibility to provide an on-going liaison with their respective constituencies.

PAC members are to monitor the stakeholders they represent in order to help identify issues, criteria and options that need to be considered by the planning team. The PAC is also asked to provide opinion to help resolve resource use conflicts. The intent is to work closely with the PAC and to address interested party concerns early in the process.

The Public Advisory Committee will remain intact as a standing committee for the duration of the FMP development. Once the FMP is approved, the terms of reference will be revised and a new mandate will be established for the Committee.

#### 4-2: Dispute Resolution

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Spray Lake Sawmills works openly and directly with interested parties to try and reach broad consensus before disputes arise. Initiating dispute resolution requires that the interested party has previously consulted with SLS on the matter, and that SLS has had a reasonable amount of time to address the concern. Initiating dispute resolution is only a last resort, when consultation efforts by both SLS and the interested party have been exhausted.

Dispute resolution includes the following steps:

- 1) A written request is submitted to SLS requesting dispute resolution as the interested party has previously consulted with SLS regarding the dispute and reached an impasse.

- 2) Engage in an open, meaningful conversation at the field and or internal and external policy levels. Define the issue(s), explore values, indicators and management objectives, review any pertinent conditions within the tenure and develop strategies to find common ground.
- 3) If step 2 is unsuccessful, the interested party will provide a written narrative supporting grounds to continue with dispute resolution.
- 4) Within 30 days of receipt of the written narrative, SLS will complete a written assessment in response to the interested party. If the evidence provided in the written narrative supports a corrective action, a corrective action plan will be developed with PAC input. The corrective action plan will be provided to the interested party within 30 days of the PAC review. If the written assessment finds corrective action is not warranted, the interested party will be provided the assessment along with notification that dispute resolution is closed.
- 5) Any dispute resolution records including SLS responses will be maintained as part of the public consultation record.

#### 4-3: Website

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The Spray Lake Sawmills website has an FMP page where users can:

- learn about the FMP development process
- learn about upcoming public participation opportunities
- read the Public Participation Program document
- view approved Public Advisory Committee meeting minutes
- sign up for the email subscription list
- provide plan input

The website also provides informational videos covering: forest management planning, FMA planning, the FMA planning hierarchy, and an FMA overview. The website also has written information covering SLS's public involvement process, the Public Advisory Committee (PAC), the latest PAC meeting minutes, the PAC members, and the PAC terms of reference. Other relevant website content includes but is not limited to: the Forest Management Agreement, the current Detailed Forest Management Plan, the planning hierarchy, the forest management life cycle, forest planning considerations, planning for mixed use and the Mountain Pine Beetle.

#### 4-4: Informational Sessions

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Informational sessions include either open houses or workshops. FMP renewal, Value and Objective workshops have been conducted for milestone 1. Additional milestone 1 workshops will also be held.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The exact timing will be dependent on the milestone progress made by the planning development team and the location and content of the sessions will be determined through discussion with the PAC.

Open houses will also be held for milestones 2 and 3<sup>2</sup>. As the planning development team completes milestones, informational sessions will be held to provide opportunities for all interested parties including the general public to review developments, ask questions and provide input for further consideration.

Workshops will generally be used as a tool to help work through key issues which may have a broad or divergent range of public view points. It is anticipated that workshop participation will generally occur via invitation to people or groups with an anticipated interest. Comment sheets will be provided at both open houses and workshops. See the Public Participation Timeline, figure 2 for details.

4-5: Questionnaires and Surveys

Questionnaires or surveys will be used to solicit feedback, help document public views on specific issues and or to monitor the performance of the Public Participation Program.

4-6: Media Plan

The company publishes newspaper ads in communities along the FMA to communicate with the public at large. The Company’s Facebook page and website are also used to post FMP content for the public at large and for interested parties. Both newspaper ads and Facebook posts will be used at plan milestone onsets by inviting the public at large to:

- learn about the FMP renewal process
- access informational packages available on the company SLS website
- email subscribe to the SLS website to stay updated on FMP developments
- learn about an upcoming FMP open house or workshop
- provide FMP feedback

The company website and Facebook page will also be used in between milestone onsets to provide FMP updates.

**Public Participation Timeline**

The timeline for delivery of key FMP milestones and corresponding public participation opportunities are indicated in Figure 2.

Figure 2

Milestone	Audience	Consultation Type	Key Elements/Content	Consultation Activity/Outcome	Consultation Start	Consultation End
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Milestone	Audience	Consultation Type	Key Elements/Content	Consultation Activity/Outcome	Consultation Start	Consultation End
1. FMP Renewal Value and Objective Information Package <sup>2</sup>	Public at large	Newspaper Ad entitled 'Forest Management plan development' (12 cm x 16 cm); Ads were published in four newspapers along the length of the FMA for two weeks.	The ad stated: SLS is initiating the FMP renewal process; written description of the area; first step is to identify goals values and objectives; invitation to visit FMP specific website and participate in process. Website content provides FMP renewal value and objective information package.	Notified Public at large of FMA renewal and invited them to participate in the process.	Apr 2- 2015	Jun 2-2015
1. FMP Renewal Value and Objective Information Package	All Interested Parties	Informational email with website link to FMP Value and Objective Information package.	The email stated: SLS is initiating FMP renewal process; written description of the area; first step is to identify goals values and objectives; invitation to visit FMP specific website and participate in process. The website content provides FMP renewal value and objective information package.	Notified interested parties of the FMP renewal process and invited them to participate. SLS provided a response to input received.	Apr 2- 2015	Jun 2-2015
1. FMP Renewal Value and Objective Information Package	Interested Parties	Three workshops completed (Water Valley, Turner Valley and the Ghost Valley)	Facilitated workshops covering the FMP renewal process and values and objectives. A PowerPoint presentation covered the forest management planning standard, the forest industry, the location of the FMA, the current FMP and the development of the new FMP, who is SLS, planning hierarchy, current VOITS and the first step with renewal FMP is to establish new values and objectives, invited public to participate and how to participate.	Participants provided FMP renewal value and objective input and SLS provided a response to input received.	Apr 7- 2015	Jun 7-2015
1. FMP Renewal Update Value & Objective Information Package	All Interested Parties	Email notification and link to FMP/values & objectives Information package.	Provide updated FMP renewal Value & Objective Information Package (to reflect 2020 extension and that process is ongoing) mention upcoming fall VOIT workshop opportunity.	Notify interested parties of the FMP renewal process and invite them to participate. SLS to provide a response to input received.	Jul- 2018	Aug-2018

<sup>2</sup> The FMP Value and Objective Information Package includes the FMP renewal project description and map.

Milestone	Audience	Consultation Type	Key Elements/Content	Consultation Activity/Outcome	Consultation Start	Consultation End
1. FMP Renewal Update Value & Objective Information Package	Public at large	Newspaper notification entitled 'Forest Management plan development' (12cm x 16 cm); Publish in four newspapers along the length of the FMA for two weeks. The ad will also be posted Facebook.	The ad will state: SLS is initiating the FMP renewal process; written description of the area; first step is to identify goals values and objectives; invitation to visit FMP specific website and participate in process. Website content provides FMP renewal value and objective information package.	Notify interested parties of the FMP renewal process and invite them to participate. SLS to provide a response to input received.	Jul- 2018	Aug-2018
1. FMP Renewal Value & Objective Information Package	Interested Parties	Workshops	Review FMP planning process and share VOITS derived from PDT	Receive input on PDT VOIT approach and provide response to input received.	Nov- 2018 <sup>2</sup>	Dec-2018
1. FMP Renewal Information Package Update	All interested Parties	Email notification with link and Facebook post	FMP progress report Information package.	Notify interested parties process is ongoing and request input. SLS to provide a response to input received.	May- 2019 <sup>2</sup>	Jun-2020
1. FMP Renewal Information Package Update	All interested Parties	Email notification with link and Facebook post	FMP progress report Information package.	Notify interested parties process is ongoing and request input. SLS to provide a response to input received.	Nov-2019 <sup>2</sup>	Dec-2020
2. Preliminary Spatial Harvest Sequence /Timber Supply	All interested Parties	Open House	Review SHS and linkage with VOITs. Map outlining a 20 year SHS accompanying explanation/text with linkage back to the VOIT's	Identification of any area specific concerns opportunities for avoidance or mitigation identified. SLS to provide a response to input received.	Mar-2020 <sup>2</sup>	May-2020

Milestone	Audience	Consultation Type	Key Elements/Content	Consultation Activity/Outcome	Consultation Start	Consultation End
2. Preliminary Spatial Harvest Sequence /Timber Supply	All interested Parties	Website Open House (Place milestone 2 information package on the company website).	SHS and linkage with VOITs. Map outlining a 20 year SHS accompanying explanation/text with linkage back to the VOIT's made publicly available.	Identification of any area specific concerns opportunities for avoidance or mitigation identified. SLS to provide a response to input received.	Mar-2020 <sup>2</sup>	May-2020
3. Final Draft Plan	All Interested Parties	Open House	Outline of preferred forest management strategy  Modelling of other resource values  Linkage/coordination with SSRP/NSRP	Final review & identification of potential impacts. Final review of opportunities for avoidance or mitigation. SLS to provide a response to input received.	Jun-2020 <sup>2</sup>	Aug-2020
3. Final Draft Plan	All Interested Parties	Website Open House (Place milestone 3 information package on the company website).	Outline of preferred forest management strategy  Modelling of other resource values  Linkage/coordination with SSRP/NSRP  made publicly available.	Final review & identification of potential impacts. Final review of opportunities for avoidance or mitigation. SLS to provide a response to input received.	Jun-2020	Aug-2020

#### 4-7: Documentation/Reporting

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SLS records public consultation activities throughout the process including its responses to any input received. A company public communications database is used to record and track activities and to assist follow-up communication from SLS representatives. Changes to the FMP as a result of public input are recorded by SLS and communicated to the stakeholder. Documented public consultation activities will form part of the publicly available Forest Management Plan.

In recognition of the Provinces privacy legislation, details of the source and contact information will not be disclosed.

Appendix A

MAP 1 - Spray Lake Sawmills Defined Forest Area (DFA)

