

Spray Lake Sawmills 2020-2024 General Development Plan

Submitted April 9, 2020

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Attachments:

2020-24 General Development Plan Production Table
2020 General Development Plan Maps (1)
2020 Decked Bush Volume from previous season
Five Year Access Plan

Distribution

Applicable components of this General Development Plan (GDP) have been provided as per section 3.3.1 of the Spray Lake Sawmills Ltd. (1980) and FMU C05 Timber Harvest Planning and Operating Ground Rules to the following agencies for review:

Alberta Agriculture & Forestry (AAF), Calgary Forest Area.

Other applicable Alberta agencies are notified through AAF as a “one window” contact.

Consistent with direction received from the province on the Pre-Consultation Assessment copies of this document will be provided to:

- Blood Tribe
- Piikani Nation
- Siksika Nation
- Stoney (Bears paw, Chiniki, Wesley) Band
- Tsuut’ina Nation
- Treaty 6 Montana First Nation

Copies of the GDP will be made available for review at the SLS annual open houses, on the SLS web site and will also be made available for review at SLS office through scheduled appointments. Please note that due to audit protocols regarding document control, original copies of this document will not be available for public distribution but will be made available for review at the above listed sites/locations.

Highlights

The following is a summary of initiatives and notable highlights of the 2020-2024 GDP. Details on each of the points listed below can be found throughout the GDP document and tables.

- Felled inventory: SLS was not able to get all the 2019-20 seasons harvest volume hauled out of the bush to either the Cochrane Mill site or the satellite yard in Longview. Volume remaining in the bush is estimated at approx. 7,926 m³ in Atkinson Creek, 6,040 m³ in Burnt Timber Creek and 4,650 m³ in CTLC050019. All volumes are accurate to April 9, 2020.
- Longview Satellite Yard: It is estimated that there is 90,453 m³ of timber volume in the Longview satellite yard. It is anticipated that this volume will be transferred from Longview to Cochrane mill site during the spring and summer months of 2020. All volumes are accurate to April 9, 2020.
- OGR: AAF and SLS have conducted regular reviews of the OGR and use this as an opportunity to clarify wording and fine-tune them rather than a complete redevelopment. It is expected that these regular reviews will allow participants to plan revisions more systematically and to correct any inconsistencies or problems. It will also create the ability to regularly consider modifications that reflect the best and most current knowledge and tools available. Harvest operations approved under this plan will follow the current May 2020 version of the OGR.
- Timber Production & Revenue System (TPRS) Audits: SLS timber production numbers have been audited to April 30, 2019. Production numbers for the 2019-20 timber year have not been audited and may change following AAF audit to be scheduled later this season. The GDP Production Table does reflect the 2012-2016 quadrant period carry over volumes as per the 2018 TPRS audit summary.
- SLS requires continual access through the Wilkinson Summit area of secondary highway #940 to effectively operate on its' timber licenses issued by AAF. SLS has been trying to open this seasonally closed section of road (closed from December 1st to April 30th) by going through several government departments but have had no success to date.

Without permission to haul over the Wilkinson Summit, SLS would have to haul the wood approximately an extra 4-5 hours south and out the Maycroft road (Hwy 517) which is not preferred due to excessive cycle times that conflict with the *Alberta Log Haul Regulations and Hour of work legislation*. The second option would be to haul out the Indian Graves road (Hwy 532) which is not possible due to safety concerns with loaded logging trucks descending excessive and lengthy gradients and is also subject to a seasonal closure.

Historically, SLS has successfully obtained annual permission to use this route providing the gates remain locked between trucks. Previous annual approvals proved to be a very lengthy and costly process to SLS making planning and sequencing very difficult. SLS will be pursuing removal of the order in council which requires the road to have a seasonal closure or at a minimum development of a longer-term road use agreement for this seasonal closure. SLS will be requiring this route on an ongoing basis to coincide with our approved harvest

plans. Plans impacted by this seasonal closure this year include CTLC050008 for an approximate volume of 60,000m³.

- SLS has incorporated the outcomes and objectives of the South Saskatchewan Regional Land Use Plan into our harvest planning and operations.
- SLS will continue to work with AAF to address the options of tee pee poles and firewood to be extracted by SLS from currently planned harvest blocks for other stakeholders as per the February 27, 2011 proposal that was approved April 4, 2011.

Introduction

This GDP addresses the proposed and forecasted operations of Spray Lake Sawmills (1980) Ltd. (SLS) and Crowsnest Forest Products (CFP) for the period from May 1, 2020, to April 30, 2025. It contains broad information regarding the Companies' anticipated fibre supply, the proposed harvest levels necessary to meet that supply, and the access construction and maintenance activities necessary to support these harvesting plans. CFP relies on SLS to deliver key components of plan development, operations and reporting. Work completed or submitted by Spray Lake Sawmills on behalf of Crowsnest Forest Products is synonymous with information prepared by Crowsnest Forest Products.

Forest Management Agreements (FMA), Quotas (CTQ) and Licenses (CTL)

In 2001 upon the recommendation of the Honorable Minister of Sustainable Resource Development, the Lieutenant Governor in Council, pursuant to section 16 of the Forests Act, approval to enter a 20-year renewable FMA with SLS was issued as FMA0100038. The FMA was renewed in 2015. This FMA was a conversion of long-term quotas previously held by Spray Lake Sawmills. The quotas held by SLS/CFP in C5 are CTQC050008 and CTQC050009. Both quotas have been in place long term and prior to SLS's government approved acquisition of them they were held by Cowley Forest Products and Atlas Lumber. Details of the FMA can be found on the SLS web site (<http://www.spraylakesawmills.com/woodlands/forest-management-agreement>).

The Facilities

SLS is an Alberta based, family owned and operated company. Founded in 1943, SLS remains a family company with Mjolsness family involved in its operation. The company has evolved from a portable bush mill to a state-of-the-art, high technology mill with a wood supply that is primarily sourced from crown lands under an approved FMA and three CTQs. The mill is located within the Town of Cochrane and draws its wood supply from crown land along the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains; from the Crowsnest Pass area in the south to the Sundre area in the north.

As the company name suggests, lumber is the primary product. However, SLS has expanded its product base to include a broad mix of secondary and value-added opportunities including dimensional lumber, agricultural fence posts, treated wood products, livestock bedding, woodchips (for use in pulp and paper products), bark mulch and landscaping products.

SLS has achieved virtually 100% utilization of the timber delivered to the mill in Cochrane. We continue to pursue maximization of product value and fibre use through the continued application of technology for improved recovery and grade.

Applications of Operating Ground Rules (OGR)

This GDP is submitted in accordance with SLS's current FMA and CTQs, the requirements of SLS and C05 OGR, and area-specific standards developed with AAF-Southern Rockies Area.

The OGR highlight the current standards and guidelines for timber harvest planning and operations, road construction and reclamation, reforestation and the integration of other forest users and values. Watershed management objectives have been a primary focus and the OGR have a large section that addresses this through stream classifications and buffer requirements.

The OGR represent the standards and guidelines pertaining to the Forests Act, the Public Lands Act, the Water Resources Act and the Prairie and Forest Protection Act. Provincial Acts such as the Occupational Health and Safety Act and the Surface Rights Act as well as federal Acts including the Navigable Waters and Fisheries Acts, must also be recognized during planning and when conducting forest operations.

Many rules and regulations are incorporated into a harvesting plan. At the same time, forest management strategies must be flexible enough to allow the incorporation of new knowledge and technology. Adaptive Management is the application of new approaches to plans and operations and can allow us to improve our ability to meet specified planning objectives.

Please note that a higher level of detail addressing many of the OGR such as fish and wildlife, recreation, access management, rare eco-sections and eco-sites and possible species of special management have been included in the Forest Harvest Plan (FHP) submissions for each of the operating areas or dispositions. Note that the FMA Detailed Forest Management Plan (DFMP) and C5 FMP has already addressed many of these points and incorporated them into the associated Spatial Harvest Sequence (SHS).

Harvest Design

Development of the preliminary and the final harvest patterns relies on increasing levels of knowledge about the forest areas being planned. Detailed information is actively collected during field assessments and gathered from government agencies and stakeholders. See the Public Involvement Process sections below.

Sampling throughout the area provides specific information about the forest. Details about the tree species, how healthy or vigorous the forest is, what other vegetation types there are, slope and soil variability, watershed features, presence of tree diseases or insects and evidence of wildlife use are essential for planning a harvest design.

Social considerations and existing infrastructure are also noted. Plans must reflect current access routes, recreational activities, commercial enterprises, scenic or visual quality, and other resource values. Known user groups are contacted to promote integration of activities. Government agencies may supply additional perspectives pertinent to the design.

The most intense planning stage occurs once the preliminary design has been completed and once road and boundary marking commence. During this phase of planning the greatest percentage of the area is observed. The design may be refined to address site-specific conditions related to topography, timber condition, wildlife or other values based

on these observations. It is during this stage in the planning process that SLS encourages other stakeholders to provide issues or concerns so that they can be reviewed and be more readily incorporated into the harvest design if substantiated.

Harvest Method Selection

Timber harvesting is planned to be sustainable. All areas harvested must be reforested. The rate of harvesting is calculated so it will not exceed forest growth. SLS harvest systems focus on Sequence Patch Cutting but may include semi-uniform, strip shelter woods, and seed tree.

Silvicultural systems focus on both the harvest and reforestation components of forest operations. Both are carefully chosen with sustainability as the key consideration. Harvesting addresses all the steps from cutting the trees to moving the logs to roadside for loading and hauling. Selected systems must match the biological needs of the tree species planned for harvesting and the specific growing conditions of the harvest site. The amount of light, moisture, and frost exposure of the forest floor following harvest are key factors that can affect successful reforestation. The goal is to ensure each area harvested can be successfully regenerated so that new forests can grow.

Sequence Patch Cutting

Lodgepole pine is dominant in over 70% of the forests in the FMA. In pine-dominated stands, sequenced patch cutting is the preferred harvest method, allowing objectives to be met regarding a SHS and stand retention strategies. Lodgepole pine seedlings have a biological need for direct sunlight in order to survive and thrive. A disturbance that removes the forest canopy, such as patch cutting or fire, will promote lodgepole pine regeneration.

Spruce and fir species are more shade tolerant. Both will grow in either full sunlight or partial shade and harvest systems can be adapted to address this characteristic. Regardless of species, appropriate harvest systems must consider the other values to be protected as well as promoting rapid regeneration of the harvested area.

Environmental Stewardship

SLS began its pursuit of attaining third party forest certification in 1996. From 1996 through 2009, SLS was certified under the Alberta ForestCare certification program. SLS obtained international third-party forest certification in 2013 and continues to be forest certified by internationally recognized programs.

SLS has made the commitment, through its Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Chain of Custody program, that all of the public land wood sourced is:

- Not harvested from forest areas where traditional or civil rights are violated;
- Not harvested from forest areas having high conservation values which are threatened;
- Not harvested from genetically modified (GM) trees;
- Not illegally harvested;
- Not from natural forest that have been converted to plantations or non-forest use.

The move to the SFI certification program demonstrates SLS continued commitment to forest certification and sustainable forest management. The certification program also compliments SLS commitment to quality since it was founded in 1943, its belief that people are the foundation of its success and that the forest is our future.

First Nations Consultation

SLS's First Nation consultation of the GDP continues to follow "The Government of Alberta's Guidelines on Consultation with First Nations on Land and Natural Resource Management" dated July 28, 2014 and "The Government of Alberta's Proponent Guide to First Nations and Metis Settlements Consultation Procedures, June 6, 2016".

Historical Resources and Unique Features

Spray Lake Sawmills works to identify and protect unique resources within our planning areas. Historic features, sites with archaeological potential, rare plants or plant communities and other unusual natural attributes are considered during planning and operations.

The Listing of Historic Resources (Listing) identifies lands that contain or have a high potential to contain historic resources, including archaeological sites, paleontological sites, Aboriginal traditional use sites of a historic resource nature (burials, ceremonial sites, etc.), and/or historic structures.

Each land parcel in the Listing has been assigned a Historic Resource Value (HRV) ranging from 1 to 5. The highest level of protection (HRV 1) is afforded to lands that have been designated under the [Historical Resources Act](#) (HRA) as Provincial Historic Resources. An HRV of 1 is also used to identify World Heritage Sites and lands owned by Alberta Culture and Tourism for historic resource protection and promotion purposes.

HRVs are defined as follows:

- HRV 1: designated under the HRA as a Provincial Historic Resource
- HRV 2: designated under the HRA as a Registered Historic Resource
- HRV 3: contains a significant historic resource that will likely require avoidance
- HRV 4: contains a historic resource that may require avoidance
- HRV 5: high potential to contain a historic resource

OGR 5.6 Historical Resources, pursuant to the Forest Act, Timber Management Regulations requires:

- A process to identify and protect historical resources protected under the Historical Resources Act and;
- That historical resource records be confidential and not shared with the public.

In recognizing the valuable and non-renewable nature of historic resources, Section 37 of the HRA provides the framework for Historic Resources Impact Assessments (HRIA) and mitigation studies. As historic resources are often not visible, the potential for forestry activities to impact these resources may not be apparent.

Within the HRIA framework, Spray Lake Sawmills submits its proposed harvest and road building data for review by subject-area experts prior to commencement of operations.

The HRIA requires block and road specific locations, which are not determined or required in the GDP. If any potentially impacted historical resource sites are identified, the sites are documented, submitted for HRIA Approval, field reviewed, and protected as necessary.

Should any historic resources be encountered during harvest and/or road development activities, Historic Resources Management Branch will be contacted immediately.

Watershed Protection

Watershed protection and water quality maintenance are primary goals during both planning and operational stages. Watershed protection standards and guidelines have been defined for road construction and harvesting activities. They specify the requirements for establishing crossing structures, road locations, machine-free zones and stream buffers. Watercourses ranging from ephemeral draws with water flow only during periods of heavy runoff, to rivers and lakes, are classified for protection according to the provincial guidelines.

Site-specific assessments are completed before harvest plans are developed. The assessment information is used to plan access routes and boundary locations in order to minimize watershed disturbance. All operations are planned and conducted in compliance with provincial & federal regulations and OGR.

Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO)

Operations will proceed as per the requirements of the DFO's Alberta Operational Statements.

Wildlife

The foothill forests represent a range of habitat types supporting a variety of wildlife species. Monitoring our operations in relation to wildlife requirements will allow us to adapt future harvest designs to better incorporate habitat needs.

Each successional stage of forest development is important. Open areas and young forests represent early stages of forest growth. Both are necessary to sustain many species of wildlife. Harvest patterns can be planned to help maintain the full range of forest age classes across the landscape.

Human access into the forest is considered to have the greatest impact on wildlife. We strive to limit the number of access routes we develop and reclaim temporary roads as soon as possible following completion of operations.

Species at Risk

The potential effect of the Species at Risk Act (SARA) on management practices remains a concern. SLS will continue to monitor the development of regulations and applicable species recovery plans that could have implications for forest management plans and operations. SLS will follow applicable OGR and is bound by these in planning and conducting timber harvesting operations.

Forest Insects and Diseases

SLS monitors forest insects and diseases as a standard operating procedure. AAF is notified regarding infestations or forest conditions of concern. Operating plans will be tailored to address known situations. Plans may need to be adjusted to address new information or occurrences. SLS will continue to make themselves available for scheduled meetings with AAF to review latest updates on mountain pine beetle management activities and other forest health initiatives and commits to sharing relevant information with staff and contractors.

Regarding Spruce Budworm, although present, populations are very small and there is little risk of a serious outbreak in this portion of the province.

A strategy to address Dwarf Mistletoe is presented in the DFMP. The presence of Dwarf Mistletoe is a concern within both merchantable and un-merchantable stands. SLS will continue to assess mistletoe within current planning areas. Concerns relate to potential long-term volume losses in pine stands, infestations extending beyond sequenced stand boundaries, and issues related to the implementation of effective controls.

More details on forest insects and diseases that may impact SLS please visit our web site at: <http://www.spraylakesawmills.com/woodlands/forestry-101/insects-and-diseases>

Weed Control

The development of a weed management plan is in response to the AAF Forestry Directive 2001-06 (Weed Management in Forestry Operations). All company operations will implement specific guidelines contained in Forestry Directive 2001-06 wherever practical as outlined within this Weed Management Plan.

Education and Training of staff to increase awareness of weed concerns within the companies' sphere of interest

- Full time & seasonal staff and contractors will receive information regarding weed control and awareness. Training components may be included in contract start-up meetings and orientation. Items covered may include weed identification, biology, spread prevention, disposal and the Weed Control Act and Regulations.

Prevention, Inventory and Control of noxious and prohibited noxious weeds classified by the Alberta Weed Control Act and Regulation.

- The companies will implement where practical the recommended 'Good Standards of Practice for Prevention' outlined in Forestry Directive 2001-06. Prevention measures will focus on clean equipment, limited disturbance and clean seed usage.
- As SLS's area of interest consists of a large land base of approximately 700,000 ha, it is not feasible to inventory the entire area. In consultation with the AAF FMA and Quota Foresters, the Forest Health Officer, and SLS staff, the inventory will be concentrated on company access routes, with a primary focus of those held under DLO and on areas with current year activities. The Road Use and Reclamation plan contains a monitoring schedule of company dispositions to be completed. Monitoring will occur at various stages of the operating process. During pre-harvest and preliminary work stages (planning and layout), field staff

will note if weed species are encountered within planned harvest blocks or along proposed access routes. These comments will be forwarded to the AAF Forest Health Officer and documented for follow-up in the Road Use and Reclamation plan.

- Control measures are not included in this weed management plan. Cost effective and environmentally friendly control measures can be tailored for the weed problems within the companies' sphere of interest. Areas targeted for control will implement where practical the recommended 'Prioritizing Areas for Control Measures' outlined in Forestry Directive 2001-06 and will be based on weed classification, location, and size. Cooperative control opportunities will be pursued if practical in areas where weed infestations span multiple dispositions or border of responsibility. These areas will be targeted for control once cooperative efforts have been agreed upon so that effective control of weed populations can be achieved. Control of only part of a larger infestation is often a futile approach and a containment strategy to prevent further spread is more practical. Following training of full-time and seasonal staff, weeds that are controlled and need to be removed from a site will be properly disposed of to prevent further spread. Infestation size and priority for treatment may be determined in discussion with the Forest Health Officer, and/or the M.D. Weed Inspector or as designated by the Weed Control Guidelines when developed by the Province.

Activities & Initiatives that further the management of weed concerns within the companies' sphere of interest

- As of this submission date, no weed management action areas have been identified. SLS has worked with the MD of Ranchlands on weed Co-op spray programs under their direct supervision.
- The company has participated in MD coordinated Weed Management Co-ops whenever possible. SLS continues to collaborate with stakeholders through agreements on weed control and management.

Forest Protection

As per the OGR and the Forest Prairie Protection Act and associated regulations, SLS annually develops and submits a Fire Control Plan to AAF. SLS also continues to work with Forest Protection on "Fire Smart" initiatives. The SLS Emergency Response Plan (ERP) identifies the process and procedures used to dealing with Forest Protection emergencies. A list of emergency contacts has also been included within the SLS ERP.

Slash Disposal

SLS amended harvesting practices to recognize stump side processing since 1998. Stump side processing is a harvest practice that leaves treetops and limbs spread throughout the harvested area. Known as slash, this material has tremendous value for reforestation. Slash helps retain snow during the winter and modify soil surface temperatures during summer. Larger pieces can shelter new tree seedlings from damaging winds, frosts and large foraging mammals. The slash also helps to maintain higher soil moisture levels and with time, the decaying needles and branches become nutrient sources for the new growing forest.

In areas identified with a high volume of slash and debris it will be disposed of as per the Alberta Forest and Prairie Protection Act as well as the Forest Protection Debris Disposal Guidelines and the OGR.

Reforestation Program

Timber harvesting is planned to be sustainable. All areas harvested must be reforested. The rate of harvesting is calculated so it will not exceed forest growth. SLS harvest systems focus on Sequence Patch Cutting but may include semi-uniform, strip shelter woods, and seed tree.

Silviculture systems are the prescribed strategic approaches recommended for harvesting timber and completing subsequent reforestation processes. Selected systems are chosen to match the biological needs of the tree species being harvested and the specific growing conditions of the harvest site.

Prescriptions must consider seasons of operation, species being harvested, available harvest methods, site preparation tactics, species to reforest and regeneration method. Harvest methods address felling patterns and the process of getting the timber to the roadside for hauling. Receptive sites to establish seedlings are created through site preparation, also known as scarification. Planting or seeding may accomplish reforestation. SLS relies on mechanical systems as their primary means of harvesting and site preparation.

Reforested areas are surveyed at several stages in their development. The surveys provide information on the success of the tactics and the growth of the new trees. Spray Lake Sawmills reforests all the areas it harvests.

Lodgepole Pine is dominant in over 70% of the forests in the FMA. In pine-dominated stands, sequenced patch cutting is the preferred harvest method, allowing objectives to be met regarding a SHS and stand retention strategies. Lodgepole Pine seedlings have a biological need for direct sunlight in order to thrive. A disturbance that removes the forest canopy, such as patch cutting or fire, will promote Lodgepole Pine regeneration.

Spruce and fir species are more shade tolerant. Both will grow in either full sunlight or partial shade and harvest systems can be adapted to address this characteristic. Regardless of species, appropriate harvest systems must consider the other values to be protected as well as promoting rapid regeneration of the harvested area.

Silviculture activities will follow operations as closely as possible and roads will be rolled back upon completion of planting activities. Silvicultural approaches are selected to improve site conditions and promote reforestation success based on the biological needs of the tree species being harvested and the specific growing conditions of the site. The Reforestation Program is submitted under a different cover as outlined in 8.2.1 of the OGR.

Log Haul

Log hauling into the SLS mill site located in Cochrane, Alberta is primarily completed with hayrack and quad axle configurations and supplemented by seven axle and picker configurations. Trucks are permitted for legal weights. SLS assesses the merits of hauling winter weights on an annual basis if satisfactory conditions are available. SLS will also continue with the use of picker trucks to move smaller concentrations of volume and clean-up volumes. The proposed haul routes have been identified on the attached GDP map and labelled in the legend as transportation.

Annually, log haul notices are placed in the local papers at the commencement of the log haul season outlining log haul routes and providing public driving safety tips concerning the log haul.

Haul routes and road classes within the timber dispositions are identified in the Forest Harvest Plan (FHP) and Annual Operating Plan (AOP) submissions. Roads outside the license will be either covered under road use agreements, disposition, or permits obtained from either Alberta Transportation or the local Municipal Districts prior to the hauling of logs.

Hauling through gated areas will be required through closure periods as outlined in the 5 Year Access Plan Table section of this document. SLS will continue to work with Alberta Transportation and impacted stakeholders like previous seasons this access was required.

Satellite and Storage Yards

Log storage capacity at the Cochrane Sawmill site will not accommodate the needed volume under the approved AACs. To resolve this, the Longview satellite yard approx. 1km west of Longview on Hwy 541 has been established and will continue to be used into the future. The satellite yard has been identified on the attached map as per section 3.3.5 of the OGR.

The Longview satellite yard has been approved annually in a letter from AAF to utilize an “Enhanced Satellite Yard Sample Scaling” for recognized populations since the 2016-17 season. SLS will be requesting approval to continue with the enhanced satellite yard sample scaling for 2019-2020 season for the recognized populations. This request will be submitted in a separate letter to the AAF Timber Production, Auditing and Revenue Section, FBM.

This volume is planned for haul to the Cochrane Mill site during the spring break-up and summer seasons.

In previous years a temporary storage yard was developed and approved by AAF. This temporary storage yard that was approved by AAF is an old gravel pit located at W1/2 Sec 01, Twp 13, Rge 4, W5M. This location may be required as an option for additional log storage for subsequent years. If required, this will be requested from AAF under a

separate agreement as per the AAF Forest Management Branch “Offsite Timber Storage and Decked Timber at Harvest Site” Directive # 2006-01.

Oil and Gas

Oil and gas activities continue to erode the productive forest landbase. SLS supports Integrated Land Management and communicates regularly with the oil and gas sector regarding options to minimize their impacts on forest resources. Sharing of advance planning information, joint use of access corridors, and coordination of operations are a few approaches being promoted.

SLS is attempting to direct development proposals to alternate locations outside of cutblocks to minimize our investment losses and appreciate AAF’s support for this approach when considering development applications.

Access Management

The OGR provide the procedures approved by the Government of Alberta for planning and working within wildlife zones. Temporary roads authorized under approved FHP/AOP will be operated and reclaimed in accordance with the OGR. Access agreements required through seasonal gate closures will be obtained through Alberta Transportation authorities. SLS will work with Alberta to restrict motorized access and to decommission undesignated trails where they intersect with SLS activities.

The GDP Production Table identifies areas to be harvested over the next 5-year period. At this time no Class I, II and III road developments are planned for the 5-year planning horizon. Class IV roads required have been identified on the individual FHP’s submitted for each area.

Public Involvement Process

Communications Objective

SLS operates on Crown lands and people have the right to be involved in decisions affecting them. Interested and affected public have local knowledge and expertise that can improve how our operations are conducted.

Our promise to interested parties is to keep them informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations and provide feedback on how public input influenced decisions. 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 interested party.

To achieve our objective, Spray Lake Sawmills maintains communication programs in each of the following areas:

- Public Awareness (Public Education)
- Response to Information Requests
- Communications with Stakeholders & Government Agencies
- Open Houses
- Collaborative Planning Sessions

- Resource Management Workshops

Various tools are used to keep the public informed and to promote input. Spray Lake Sawmills encourages anyone with an interest in our operations to contact us.

Pre-layout Forest Harvest Plan Meetings

SLS meets annually with the Government of Alberta to review preliminary harvest designs in the FMA on a forest compartment basis using digital and/or paper mapping. This step provides government agencies the opportunity to present information to SLS for consideration, prior to any field work, to develop the FHP. If necessary, a field tour will be organized to address specific concerns on the ground.

Open Houses

SLS holds an annual open house in early May, in both the Crowsnest Pass and Cochrane locations. The public is welcome to view the Woodlands General Development Plan, Five Year Access Plan, FHP's and AOP's. Exact dates will be posted on the SLS web site and advertised in local newspapers. Participants are invited to provide input into the various stages of plan development. Knowledgeable staff is available to respond to comments or questions and record input.

As critical benchmarks are reached during planning processes, additional open houses may be held for stakeholders to review developments, ask questions and provide comments for further consideration.

Collaborative Planning Sessions

After carefully considering stakeholder comments, a stakeholder collaborative harvest planning approach for the FMA was initiated by the company. Collaborative planning sessions were held from 2013-2018. The sessions were reorganized in 2019 after several years of low interest/attendance due to participants wanting to discuss DFMP or OGR concerns rather than site-specific values. In May 2019 the session formed part of the annual open house in Cochrane and was much better attended than previous years. SLS will continue this format to encourage a broad range of stakeholder involvement. If more than one session is required annually or there is a high-interest FHP in development SLS will hold an additional collaborative planning session outside of the open house.

Collaborative planning sessions are held in conjunction with the annual open house in Cochrane. SLS facilitates interested parties to review preliminary harvest designs on a compartment basis using digital and/or paper mapping. This step provides stakeholders the opportunity to collaborate and share local knowledge with SLS, prior to any field work or harvest plan submission to the government. If necessary, a field tour with stakeholders will be organized to address specific concerns on the ground.

SLS follows-up with participants showing how the collaborative planning work was used to develop draft harvest design. Participant comments and SLS response are posted on the company website.

Company Website

The SLS website contains information about the company's background, mission and various departments' operations. It also provides opportunities to subscribe to upcoming news and events and to contact the company via email. Visit our website at www.spraylakesawmills.com.

Public Advisory Committees

SLS first established a Public Advisory Committee (PAC) in 1995 to assist SLS in the development of a harvest plan for the McLean Creek Area. An integral component of the FMA is the DFMP. A requirement of DFMP development was to have a meaningful public involvement process. SLS set-up a public advisory group in 2002 to help define DFMP objectives, guide and coordinate public involvement activities and critique plan development. This group's mandate ended with the approval of the DFMP in 2007.

A new PAC was established in 2015, to help define Forest Management Plan (FMP) objectives, guide and coordinate public involvement activities and critique plan development for the 2020 FMP renewal.

Based on these past successes, SLS has established two standing Public Advisory Committees. For the northern, FMA operations, a PAC was established with the mandate "to act as a review panel and sounding board for the company's monitoring program, provide feedback on development of the company's OGR, and provide advice on on-going stakeholder communications". In the south, SLS established the Crowsnest Pass PAC with the mandate "to act as a review panel and sounding board for the company's operating plans within the C5 Forest Management Unit".

PAC members represent a broad spectrum of interests including:

- First Nations
- Environmental organizations
- Motorized and Non-motorized recreation
- Ranching
- Oil and Gas
- Community members
- Municipal Districts
- Fish and Game
- Alberta Government (Agriculture and Forestry)

To view the Terms of Reference, Committee membership and meeting notes for each of the PACs, please visit the SLS website (www.spraylakesawmills.com).

Other Communication Tools

A variety of methods for accommodating public input have been evaluated and used by SLS over time. Communication tools need to be open, transparent and accessible. The key is to promote dialogue and appreciation for varying points of view. Participants in a public involvement process are not expected to be technical experts, but to provide

insight on how a broad spectrum of societal values might be integrated with natural landscape developments.

Other communication tools considered include surveys, questionnaires, social media, focus groups, workshops and newsletters. Spray Lake Sawmills have selected several of these public involvement tools in the past to garner a more complete scope of public opinion and will continue to use the entire toolbox. Tools are selected for their ability to:

- Be effective and meaningful for the participants
- Be time efficient in meeting strategic planning benchmarks
- Be cost effective

SLS has also created a Facebook page. Please feel free to visit us at <https://www.facebook.com/spraylakesawmills/>

Public Consultation and Respect in the Workplace Policy

SLS has an established respect in the workplace policy that promotes an atmosphere of trust, teamwork, cooperation and respect. In the spirit of that policy, SLS employees are required to discontinue consultation in the event of the public exhibiting threatening or abusive communication or behavior; making false accusations that serve to defame the company; or otherwise demonstrate consultation with SLS is not in good faith. SLS will also discontinue consultation if the member of the public falsely misrepresents themselves or their stakeholder group affiliation to obtain personal gain.

Grazing Timber Agreements

Overlapping grazing and timber harvest operations on approved dispositions will conform to direction outlined in Grazing Timber Agreements (GTA) developed as per the Grazing Timber Integration Manual. GTAs conform to higher order plans, policies, and guidelines such as Integrated Resource Plans (IRP), DFMP, Species Recovery & Management Plans, Fire Smart Community Protection Plans, Resource Integrated Decisions, Fish and Wildlife Policy for Alberta, and Integrated Resource Management strategies. Details of GTA's are outlined in FHP/AOP submissions.

Emergency Response

An effective safety program includes a plan to deal with emergency response in the event of medical incidents, forest fires, or environmentally hazardous spills. This annual plan provides step by step instructions for addressing various emergencies that could potentially occur in woodland operations.

SLS uses the STARS Emergency Link Centre (ELC), a 24-hour multi-function communications center established to meet the needs of industry working in remote locations. The ELC works closely with partners in the Chain of Survival, including first responders, 9-1-1 dispatch, EMS, fire, police, search and rescue, and hospital personnel to ensure efficient and effective patient care and transport. In the event of an emergency, one call to the ELC will link emergency service providers, medical personnel, and appropriate emergency transportation providers in one conversation – saving valuable time.

SLS contractors deploy a SLS Emergency Response Trailer to a central location near harvesting sites. The trailer contains equipment required for various types of emergencies and is equipped to safely store environmentally hazardous materials.

A review of the ERP is completed each year with staff and contractors. Personnel are trained in first aid and spill response and emergency drills are completed periodically.

The ERP is shared each year with various stakeholders, groups, or individuals who may be present in the areas where we are operating.

FMA Planning Considerations

The following planning considerations outline the current year's strategies and plans for the FMA and B09 Quota. It is strongly advised the stakeholders and other user groups refer to the attached GDP Production Table to review the 5-year planned harvesting activities by compartment and license areas to provide any feedback.

All AOP roads will be fully reclaimed once silviculture activities have been completed apart from the portions of roads that are designated trails. These trails will be restored back to original condition.

SLS is finalizing the 2020 FMP submission. Consultation and field work commence one to two years prior to operational plans (FMP/AOP); as such, SLS has initiated planning blocks based on the 2020 FMP SHS. Volume harvested prior to May 1, 2021 is planned on the approved SHS. Volume harvested after May 1, 2021 is either planned on the approved SHS and scheduled in the 2020 FMP SHS or entirely planned on the 2020 FMP SHS. The information based on the FMP is subject to change and will be updated as necessary following FMP approval.

Coalcamp Creek Compartment

There is no volume planned for the 5 years outlined in this GDP.

Grease Creek Compartment

Following 2020 FMP SHS, the GDP reflects volume sequenced for the 2021/22, 2022/23 & 2024/25 seasons. Initial design of the 2021/22 and 2022/23 volume is being completed and prepared for the consultation program; fieldwork is scheduled for 2020. The FHP is to be submitted in late 2020 or early 2021; variance will be calculated on the most recent approved SHS.

Burnt Timber Creek Compartment

Following the approved SHS, the GDP reflects volume sequenced for the 2020/21, 2021/22 & 2023/24 seasons. The 2020/21 volume (6040m³) is harvested, to be hauled only. The 2021/22 & 2023/24 volume was planned and laid out based on the approved SHS. The FHP outlining this laid out volume is currently being developed, to be submitted in late 2020 or early 2021; variance will be calculated on the most recent approved SHS.

Atkinson Creek Compartment

Following the approved SHS, the GDP reflects FHP approved volume sequenced for the 2020/21 & 2021/22 seasons. The volume in the 2020/21 season contains 7926m³ bush inventory which is harvested; yet to be hauled, the remaining volume is standing inventory to be harvested in the 2020/21 & 2021/22 seasons. Blocks are to be harvested before and after May 1, 2021 and have been accounted for in the 2020 FMP SHS.

Following 2020 FMP SHS, the GDP reflects volume sequenced for the 2021/22, 2022/23 & 2024/25 seasons. Initial design of the 2021/22 and 2022/23 volume is being completed and prepared for the consultation program; fieldwork is scheduled for 2020. The FHP is to be submitted in late 2020 or early 2021; variance will be calculated on the most recent approved SHS.

Ghost River

There is no volume planned for the 5 years outlined in this GDP.

Jumpingpound Creek

Following the approved SHS, the GDP reflects FHP approved volume sequenced for the 2020/21 season.

Following 2020 FMP SHS, the GDP reflects volume sequenced for the 2022/23 & 2023/24 seasons. Initial design of this volume is being completed and prepared for the consultation program; fieldwork is scheduled for 2021.

McLean Creek

Following the approved SHS, the GDP reflects FHP approved volume sequenced for the 2020/21 & 2021/22 seasons. Blocks are to be harvested before and after May 1, 2021 and have been accounted for in the 2020 FMP SHS.

Sullivan Creek

Following the approved SHS, the GDP reflects FHP approved volume sequenced for the 2020/21 season.

Highwood River

Following 2020 FMP SHS, the GDP reflects volume sequenced for the 2022/23 & 2023/24 seasons. Initial design of this volume is being completed and prepared for the consultation program; fieldwork is scheduled for 2021.

CTQB090001

Following 2020 FMP SHS, the GDP reflects volume sequenced for the 2024/25 season.

C5 Planning Considerations

The following planning considerations outline the current year's strategies and plans for the SLS & CFP C5 Quota areas. It is strongly advised the stakeholders and other user groups refer to the attached GDP Production Table to review the 5-year planned harvesting activities by compartment and license areas to provide any feedback.

CTLC050006 (Dutch Creek)

In 2018/2019 1,944m³ was harvested from this license under the approved C5L8/C5L6 FHP. Following the approved SHS, no volume is planned for the 5 years outlined in this GDP.

CTLC050008 (Wintering Creek)

The original FHP for this license was approved on June 2nd, 2016 and 59,264m³ was harvested during the 2016/2017 timber year. An amended FHP for the license, including one block in CTLC050006, submitted November 16th, 2016 was approved on April 21, 2017. Approximately 51,000m³ was harvested in the 2017/2018 timber year. Approximately 69,019 m³ was harvested in 2018/2019. An updated FHP was submitted March 22nd, 2019 and approved on July 17, 2019. Approximately 72,252m³ was harvested during the 2019/2020 timber year. The remaining volume, approximately 31,768m³, is scheduled for harvest in the 2020/2021 timber year.

CTLC050003 (Spoon Valley)

Following the approved SHS, no volume is planned for the 5 years outlined in this GDP.

CTLC050009 (Savanna Creek)

27,574m³ was harvested in the winter of 2018/2019. Reforestation and road reclamation were activities were completed in the spring/summer of 2019. Following the approved SHS, no volume is planned for the 5 years outlined in this GDP.

CTLC020026 (Upper Livingstone)

Reforestation and road reclamation activities were completed in the spring/summer of 2019. Harvest planning will continue this year and an FHP will be developed and submitted for the CTLC020026 license in the 2020/2021 timber year.

CTLC050005 (Porcupine Hills)

Following the approved SHS, no volume is planned for the 5 years outlined in this GDP.

CTLC050016 (Allison)

Following the approved SHS, no volume is planned for the 5 years outlined in this GDP.

CTLC050018 (Todd Creek)

Preliminary planning and stakeholder consultation continue in this license. Discussions with the Todd Creek local landowners regarding the Todd Creek harvest plans commenced in 2011. SLS will collaborate with AAF on the possible use of alternatives to “Clear-Cut with Retention” silvicultural systems prior to establishing commitments with the local landowners. The harvest volume planned for this area is reflected in the GDP Production Table.

CTLC050019 (West Chain Lakes)

The latest FHP was approved May 10, 2018. 83,782m³ was harvested in the 2017/2018 season. Approximately 43,345m³ was harvested in from CTLC050019 in the 2018/2019

season with approximately 24,328m³ of carry-over volume hauled during the 2019/2020 season. Approximately 99,488 m³, including carry-over volume, was extracted in the 2019/2020 timber year. Approximately 74,500m³ is scheduled for harvest in the 2020/2021 timber year.

CTLC020025 (Lower Livingstone)

Layout and the consultation process for this license commenced in 2013. The harvest volume planned for this area is reflected in the GDP Production Table. This license was included in a preliminary layout between SLS and AAF/AEP held on March 12, 2018. One block, 9114 m³ in the license has been included in the C5L4/C2L25 FHP and is scheduled to for harvest in 2020/2021.

CTLC020024 (Vicary Creek)

This license was included in a preliminary layout meeting between SLS and AAF/AEP held on March 12, 2018. Planning in CTLC020024 will continue this season.

CTLC050004 (Regal Creek)

This license was included in a preliminary layout between SLS and AAF/AEP held on March 12, 2018. Planning in CTLC050004 will continue and an FHP will be developed and submitted this season. The C5L4/C2L25 FHP 2020-2024 has been submitted. Approximately 72,933m³ is scheduled to be harvested in the 2020/2021 timber year.

CTLC050007 (Oldman)

This license was included in a preliminary layout between SLS and AAF/AEP held on March 12, 2018. Planning in CTLC050007 will continue this season.

**Spray Lake Sawmills
2020-2024
General Development Plan
Submitted by:**

Rob Berndt
Spray Lake Sawmills
Operations Manager

Signature: 

Date: April 9/20

