



Spray Lake Sawmills

2020 Open House and Collaborative Planning Session (CPS) Information Package

Operating Ground Rules (OGR):

The OGR are the practices used in planning and conducting timber harvesting operations which constitutes the methods used to implement decisions made in the Forest Management Plan and other higher-level plans such as Integrated Resource Plans, within the SLS operating area, the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan. The OGR has recently been updated, the 2020 revision is available on the SLS website: <https://www.spraylakesawmills.com/woodlands/forest-management-planning/operating-ground-rules/>

Public Involvement Process:

This information package discusses the Open House and CPS portions of our Public Involvement Process, for further information regarding our program and sign up for our news & events, see <https://www.spraylakesawmills.com/woodlands/public-involvement-process/>.

Collaborative Planning Session – SLS hosts interested parties to develop preliminary harvest designs, this provides SLS with vital information to develop the harvest plans prior to any fieldwork being done and prior to plan submission to Alberta. Feedback provided in these sessions is gathered and an SLS response is provided. Past CPS sessions can be viewed on the SLS website (<https://www.spraylakesawmills.com/woodlands/public-involvement-process/collaborative-planning-sessions/>), these should be reviewed to answer many frequently asked questions.

Open House – SLS typically holds open houses the first week of May annually to discuss with stakeholders the upcoming harvest schedule. SLS Woodlands staff answer any questions and gather feedback while discussing the harvest plans. This occurs after initial consultation, fieldwork, and in some cases plan submission or approval by Alberta. Regardless of the state of the plan, feedback is incorporated and changes can be made.

Forest Management Planning:

This information package discusses the Forest Harvest Plan (FHP) and Annual Operating Plan (AOP) portions of our Public Involvement Process, for further information regarding forest management planning, see <https://www.spraylakesawmills.com/woodlands/forest-management-planning/>.

Forest Management Plan (FMP) – A 20-year plan (with 10-year renewal) that identifies sustainable harvest levels, identifies which stands are to be sequenced for harvest, models landscape changes over 200 years, outlines objectives and manner for integrating with other resource values, describes a monitoring and reporting process, and includes a stakeholder involvement process.

General Development Plan (GDP) – A 5-year plan (with annual renewal) that outlines past years production, access developments, and resource management issues and projects the same for the next 5 years.





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Forest Harvest Plan (FHP) – a 5-year operational plan, a map and report of harvest boundaries, roads, and water crossings. Report includes adherence to operating ground rules and compliance with FMP objectives. It is imperative that operational plans meet objectives of higher order plans. A harvest block with FHP approval can be operated within the 5-year approval term (ex: FHP_MC2020_2025; an FHP in the McLean Creek compartment with harvest design approval from 2020 until 2025). FHP's are submitted as they are completed and must be approved prior to AOP approval. An FHP typically takes two or more years to develop from initial consultation on design to active operations.

Annual Operating Plan (AOP) – Annual plan with operating schedule, timber production, reforestation program, forest protection, road development, road reclamation, and integration/mitigation strategies. The AOP is made up of FHP approved blocks and approval is harvest authority. The AOP is typically submitted April 1 annually, the COVID-delayed April 7, 2020 submission is currently under Alberta review. The 2020/21 AOP includes operations scheduled from May 1, 2020 - April 30, 2021.

Typical lifecycle of a harvest cut block:

- Year -2: Initial consultation on design with numerous stakeholders and government to develop the plan for fieldwork to be completed.
- Year -1: Plan development, continued consultation. FHP submission and approval
- Year 0: AOP submission, Alberta review, and approval. Harvest and haul operations. Access control and seasonal deactivation of roads to ensure proper drainage when not in use.
- Year +1: Block scarification to cycle soil nutrients and prepare the planting sites. Re-establish access control and seasonal deactivation of roads if necessary.
- Year +2: Reforestation, manual planting of regionally sourced seedlings. Road and watercourse crossing recontouring and reclamation.
- Year +3 to +14: Surveying and monitoring to ensure meeting regulatory regeneration standards. Should regenerations requirements be met at 14yrs, it is no longer a cut block but a healthy juvenile forest.





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Forest Harvest Plan Overview

Please review the corresponding maps and AOP table showing which blocks are scheduled for operations in the 2020/2021 operating season. Blocks listed as contingency are scheduled for future operations, however, may be operated if necessary. Schedule of operations in subject to change.





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Atkinson Creek FHP

- CPS held April 26, 2018
- FHP_AK2019_24 Approved
- Operations partially completed in 2019/20 season
- Operations scheduled for 2020/21 and 2021/22 seasons
 - o 2020/21 operations are scheduled in July, August and September

Integration with Other Users:

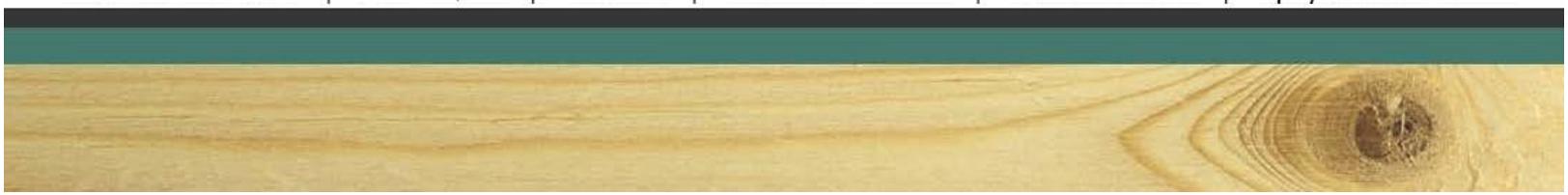
- FHP overlaps Ghost OHV PLUZ, common recreation activities include hiking, hunting, ATV, single track, and random camping. SLS continues to work with trail users and Alberta prior to and throughout operations to mitigate impact on the designated trails by maintaining and restoring trail network.
- AK_1314 is adjacent to HWY 940 across from Ghost Airstrip Recreation Area.
- The main haul route is planned on Whispering Pines Bible Camp DLO 2847 which travels through Waiparous Creek Recreation Area.
- FHP overlaps Aura Cache and Ghost River Grazing Allotments; Grazing Timber Agreements have been completed to integrate timber and grazing interests.
- FHP has been assessed for historical impact, no sites to date require protection
- SLS is committed to working cooperatively with all stakeholders to ensure public safety. Safety concerns may exist for the public during harvest operations and along the haul route. SLS will post signage at common access points to alert of harvest and haul operations.

Access Management:

- This harvest area will be accessed via the Forestry Trunk Road (HWY 940) with two new temporary approaches designed. One approach was constructed to access AK_3185, the other approach to access AK_1314 is currently scheduled to be built in the 2021/2022 season.
- Access will be controlled using the methods described in the OGR and as directed by Alberta.
- SLS is recommending access control at the entry points off HWY 940 to AK_1314 and AK_3185 and on AK MAIN prior to entering AK_0516.

Sensitive Sites:

- FHP blocks fall within low visual sensitivity rating as per figure 2.15 from the DFMP except for blocks AK_0516, the west half of AK_1314, and the west half of AK_3185 which fall within the high visual sensitivity area.
- SLS utilizes multiple forms of retention throughout operations. These include varied tree patch sizes and shapes, singletree and wildlife tree retention, as well as maintaining the understory and lesser vegetation wherever possible. All non-target species of trees will be left standing where operationally feasible. Refer to OGR 5.5 and 7.4 for more information of retention and aesthetic considerations.
- A minimum of a 20-meter treed buffer has been laid out on all identified water source areas as per Table 2 of the OGRs and can be seen in the attached maps.





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Wildlife:

- Wildlife zones have a significant impact on operational design and implementation and are consulted when considering changes to the sequenced area. SLS will work with Fish and Wildlife to identify important habitat and use strategies such as 'early in, early out' to minimize disturbance in these areas.
- This FHP may be scheduled for both summer and winter operations, blocks will be assessed by SLS (and Alberta, if necessary) staff prior to harvest to ensure mitigation of wildlife concerns.
- Key ungulate and biodiversity zone mapping have been consulted in developing this FHP. All operations intersecting with wildlife zones will comply with OGR 7.7.
- Within each block, SLS will retain snags that are often utilized by wildlife species as vital feeding, nesting and shelter sites.
- Zones associated with FHP:
 - o Grizzly Bear (Secondary); All FHP blocks
 - o Key Wildlife Biodiversity Zone (KWBZ); All FHP blocks

Harvest Design:

- All block locations and status are identified on the map. A detailed analysis was done during the block design phase of this FHP using Lidar in conjunction with the Spatial Harvest Sequence (SHS). Contours, slope classes and canopy height models have been generated from the Lidar Data to help determine the best locations for block boundaries, road access, and creek crossings in order to mitigate environmental impacts as well as help minimize the footprint on the landscape.
- All road locations and status are identified on the map. All proposed roads within this FHP will be built as Class IV roads as per the OGR. SLS will reduce road footprint where possible and all roads will be reclaimed as per the OGR.
- Refer to attached maps for the location of watercourse crossings, type of structure and all stream classifications.
- In order to achieve successful regeneration SLS uses stump-side processing to retain seeds on site, conserve soil moisture and to deflect severe chinook winds. Scarification is used to promote microsites for seedlings and to spread and break up slash.





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Burnt Timber Creek FHP

- CPS held May 1, 2019
- FHP_BT2020_25 in development, submission expected fall/winter 2020
- Operations scheduled for 2021/22 and 2023/24 seasons

Integration with Other Users:

- FHP overlaps Ghost OHV Public Land Use Zone (PLUZ), common recreation activities include hiking, hunting, ATV, single track, and camping. SLS continues to work with trail users and Alberta prior to operations to mitigate impact on the designated trail network.
- BT_2084 is adjacent to HWY 940 across from Fallen Timber South Provincial Park Area.
- The main haul route is planned on Hunter Valley Road and HWY 940, two approaches are planned off Hunter Valley to access BT_1704 & BT_0994. One new approach is planned off HWY 40 to access BT_2084.
- FHP overlaps Burnt Timber and Upper Fallen Grazing Allotments; the current Grazing Timber Agreements will be updated to integrate timber and grazing interests.
- FHP is scheduled to be assessed for historical impact summer 2020.
- SLS is committed to working cooperatively with all stakeholders to ensure public safety. Safety concerns may exist for the public during harvest operations and along the haul route. SLS will post signage at common access points to alert of harvest and haul operations.

Access Management:

- The main haul route is planned on Hunter Valley Road and HWY 940, two approaches are planned off Hunter Valley to access BT_1704 & BT_0994. One new approach is planned off HWY 40 to access BT_2084.
- Access will be controlled using the methods described in the OGR and as directed by Alberta.

Sensitive Sites:

- FHP blocks fall within medium visual sensitivity ratings as per figure 2.15 from the DFMP except for blocks BT_0994 and the east half of BT_2084 which fall within the high visual sensitivity area.
- SLS utilizes multiple forms of retention throughout operations. These include varied tree patch sizes and shapes, singletree and wildlife tree retention, as well as maintaining the understory and lesser vegetation wherever possible. All non-target species of trees will be left standing where operationally feasible. Refer to OGR 5.5 and 7.4 for more information of retention and aesthetic considerations.
- A minimum of a 20-meter treed buffer will be laid out on all identified water source areas as per Table 2 of the OGRs and can be seen in the attached maps.

Wildlife:

- Wildlife zones have a significant impact on operational design and implementation and are consulted when considering changes to the sequenced area. SLS will work with Fish and





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Wildlife to identify important habitat and use strategies such as 'early in, early out' to minimize disturbance in these areas.

- This FHP may be scheduled for both summer and winter operations, blocks will be assessed by SLS (and Alberta, if necessary) staff prior to harvest to ensure mitigation of wildlife concerns.
- Key ungulate and biodiversity zone mapping have been consulted in developing this FHP. All operations intersecting with wildlife zones will comply with OGR 7.7.
- Within each block, SLS will retain snags that are often utilized by wildlife species as vital feeding, nesting and shelter sites.
- Zones associated with FHP:
 - o Grizzly Bear (Core & Secondary); All FHP blocks
 - o Key Wildlife Biodiversity Zone (KWBZ); BT_1704

Harvest Design:

- All block locations and status are identified on the map. A detailed analysis was done during the block design phase of this FHP using Lidar in conjunction with the Spatial Harvest Sequence (SHS). Contours, slope classes and canopy height models have been generated from the Lidar Data to help determine the best locations for block boundaries, road access, and creek crossings in order to mitigate environmental impacts as well as help minimize the footprint on the landscape.
- All road locations and status are identified on the map. All proposed roads within this FHP will be built as Class IV roads as per the OGR. SLS will reduce road footprint where possible and all roads will be reclaimed as per the OGR.
- Refer to attached maps for the location of watercourse crossings, type of structure and all stream classifications.
- In order to achieve successful regeneration SLS uses stump-side processing to retain seeds on site, conserve soil moisture and to deflect severe chinook winds. Scarification is used to promote microsites for seedlings and to spread and break up slash.





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Jumpingpound Creek FHP

- CPS held May 13, 2016
- FHP_JP2018_23 Approved
- Operations partially completed in 2018/19 & 2019/20 seasons
- Operations scheduled to be completed in 2020/21 season
 - o 2020/21 operations are scheduled from September to November

Integrations with Other Users:

- FHP overlaps Kananaskis PLUZ, common recreation activities include hiking, biking, hunting, and random camping.
- Several changes to harvest design have been made throughout plan development and operations to incorporate trails and trail use. SLS continues to work with trail users and Alberta prior to and throughout operations to mitigate impact on the designated trails by maintaining and restoring trail network.
- FHP has been assessed for historical impact, no sites to date require protection
- SLS is committed to working cooperatively with all stakeholders to ensure public safety. Safety concerns may exist for the public during harvest operations and along the haul route. SLS will post signage at common access points to alert of harvest and haul operations.

Access Management:

- This harvest area will be accessed via Powderface Trail and HWY 68. SLS will request Alberta Transportation approval to be beyond the seasonal gate closure. Several approaches off Powderface Trail are required, one approach off HWY 68 is required utilizing an existing access route.
 - o Harvest operations have been completed on Powderface Trail, operations in 2020/21 are accessed off HWY 68
- Access will be controlled using the methods described in the OGR and as directed by Alberta. Access controls are currently in place along Powderface Trail, to be removed upon completion of reclamation/reforestation activities.

Sensitive Sites:

- FHP blocks fall within high visual sensitivity rating as per figure 2.15 from the DFMP.
- SLS utilizes multiple forms of retention throughout operations. These include varied tree patch sizes and shapes, single tree and wildlife tree retention, as well as maintaining the understory and lesser vegetation wherever possible. All non-target species of trees will be left standing where operationally feasible. Refer to OGR 5.5 and 7.4 for more information of retention and aesthetic considerations.
- A minimum of a 20-meter treed buffer has been laid out on all identified water source areas as per Table 2 of the OGRs and can be seen in the attached maps.



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Wildlife:

- Wildlife zones have a significant impact on operational design and implementation and are consulted when considering changes to the sequenced area. SLS will work with Fish and Wildlife to identify important habitat and use strategies such as 'early in, early out' to minimize disturbance in these areas.
- This FHP may be scheduled for both summer and winter operations, blocks will be assessed by SLS (and Alberta, if necessary) staff prior to harvest to ensure mitigation of wildlife concerns.
- Key ungulate and biodiversity zone mapping have been consulted in developing this FHP. All operations intersecting with wildlife zones will comply with OGR 7.7.
- Within each block, SLS will retain snags that are often utilized by wildlife species as vital feeding, nesting and shelter sites.
- Zones associated with FHP:
 - o Grizzly Bear (Core); All FHP blocks

Harvest Design:

- All block locations and status are identified on the map. A detailed analysis was done during the block design phase of this FHP using Lidar in conjunction with the Spatial Harvest Sequence (SHS). Contours, slope classes and canopy height models have been generated from the Lidar Data to help determine the best locations for block boundaries, road access, and creek crossings in order to mitigate environmental impacts as well as help minimize the footprint on the landscape.
- All road locations and status are identified on the map. All proposed roads within this FHP will be built as Class IV roads as per the OGR. SLS will reduce road footprint where possible and all roads will be reclaimed as per the OGR.
- Refer to attached maps for the location of watercourse crossings, type of structure and all stream classifications.
- In order to achieve successful regeneration SLS uses stump-side processing to retain seeds on site, conserve soil moisture and to deflect severe chinook winds. Scarification is used to promote microsites for seedlings and to spread and break up slash.





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McLean Creek FHP

- CPS held Sept 27, 2018
- FHP_MC2020_25 currently under Alberta review
- Operations scheduled for 2020/21 and 2021/22 seasons
 - o 2020/21 operations are scheduled from July to December

Integration with Other Users:

- FHP overlaps McLean OHV Public Land Use Zone (PLUZ) and Kananaskis PLUZ, common recreation activities include camping, hiking, ATV, single track, and 4X4 truck. SLS continues to work with trail users and Alberta prior to and throughout operations to mitigate impact on the designated trail by maintaining and restoring trail network. Note blocks MC_3115 and MC_2861 for trail overlap.
- The planned haul route along McLean Creek Trail is adjacent to McLean Creek, Fisher Creek, Mesa Butte, and North Fork Provincial Park Areas. The planned haul route along Gorge Creek Road is adjacent to Ware Creek Provincial Park Area, Bluerock Wildland Park, and Sheep River Provincial Park.
- FHP overlaps North Sheep Grazing Allotment; a Grazing Timber Agreement has been completed to integrate timber and grazing interests.
- FHP has been assessed for historical impact, no sites to date require protection
- SLS is committed to working cooperatively with all stakeholders to ensure public safety. Safety concerns may exist for the public during harvest operations and along the haul route. SLS will post signage at common access points to alert of harvest and haul operations.

Access Management:

- This harvest area will be accessed via Range Road 53A (McLean Creek Trail) and RDS790062 (Gorge Creek Road). Both McLean Creek Trail and Gorge Creek Road are seasonally closed from Dec – May. SLS will be requesting road use on the entire length of Gorge Creek Road to allow for hauling either north to McLean Creek Trail or south to HWY 546, however, plans to not use only a portion to maintain access control in this critical habitat area.
- Access will be controlled using the methods described in the OGR and as directed by Alberta.
- SLS is recommending access control to be maintained on Gorge Creek Road immediately south of Ware Creek Provincial Park Area, installed on approaches for 0240A, 3115A, and 3115C road off Gorge Creek road, and installed where 2861A road enters MC_2861.

Sensitive Sites:

- FHP blocks fall within medium visual sensitivity rating as per figure 2.15 from the DFMP except for blocks MC_0678, 0745, 1811, and the NE 50ha of MC_3115 which fall within the high visual sensitivity area.
- SLS utilizes multiple forms of retention throughout operations. These include varied tree patch sizes and shapes, singletree and wildlife tree retention, as well as maintaining the understory and lesser vegetation wherever possible. All non-target species of trees will be left



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standing where operationally feasible. Refer to OGR 5.5 and 7.4 for more information of retention and aesthetic considerations.

- A minimum of a 20-meter treed buffer has been laid out on all identified water source areas as per Table 2 of the OGRs and can be seen in the attached maps.

Wildlife:

- Wildlife zones have a significant impact on operational design and implementation and are consulted when considering changes to the sequenced area. SLS will work with Fish and Wildlife to identify important habitat and use strategies such as 'early in, early out' to minimize disturbance in these areas.
- This FHP may be scheduled for both summer and winter operations, blocks will be assessed by SLS (and Alberta, if necessary) staff prior to harvest to ensure mitigation of wildlife concerns.
- Key ungulate and biodiversity zone mapping have been consulted in developing this FHP. All operations intersecting with wildlife zones will comply with OGR 7.7.
- Within each block, SLS will retain snags that are often utilized by wildlife species as vital feeding, nesting and shelter sites.
- Zones associated with FHP:
 - o Grizzly Bear (Secondary); All FHP blocks exc. 2861
 - o Key Wildlife Biodiversity Zone (KWBZ); MC_0678, 0745.

Harvest Design:

- All block locations and status are identified on the map. A detailed analysis was done during the block design phase of this FHP using Lidar in conjunction with the Spatial Harvest Sequence (SHS). Contours, slope classes and canopy height models have been generated from the Lidar Data to help determine the best locations for block boundaries, road access, and creek crossings in order to mitigate environmental impacts as well as help minimize the footprint on the landscape.
- All road locations and status are identified on the map. All proposed roads within this FHP will be built as Class IV roads as per the OGR. SLS will reduce road footprint where possible and all roads will be reclaimed as per the OGR.
- Refer to attached maps for the location of watercourse crossings, type of structure and all stream classifications.
- In order to achieve successful regeneration SLS uses stump-side processing to retain seeds on site, conserve soil moisture and to deflect severe chinook winds. Scarification is used to promote microsites for seedlings and to spread and break up slash.





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Sullivan Creek FHP

- CPS held April 30, 2015
- FHP_SC2017_22 Approved
- Operations partially completed in 2019/20 season
- Operations scheduled to be completed in 2020/21 season
 - o 2020/21 operations are scheduled from December to February

Integrations with Other Users:

- FHP overlaps Kananaskis PLUZ, common recreation activities include hiking, horseback riding, and hunting. SLS continues to work with trail users and Alberta prior to and throughout operations to mitigate impact where possible and as approved by Alberta. There are no designated recreation areas or trail associated with this FHP.
- FHP overlaps Blue Ridge and South Sheep Grazing Allotments; Grazing Timber Agreements have been completed to integrate timber and grazing interests.
- FHP has been assessed for historical impact, no sites to date require protection however there are 2 location identified to be reviewed post-impact.
- SLS is committed to working cooperatively with all stakeholders to ensure public safety. Safety concerns may exist for the public during harvest operations and along the haul route. SLS will post signage at common access points to alert of harvest and haul operations.

Access Management:

- This harvest area is accessed via HWY 22 and the MD Foothills county road, TWP RD 195 (450 Ave)
- A roaduse agreement is in place with MD Foothills and Turner Valley
- Access is controlled using the methods described in the OGR and as directed by Alberta.

Sensitive Sites:

- FHP blocks fall within low visual sensitivity ratings as per figure 2.15 from the DFMP.
- SLS utilizes multiple forms of retention throughout operations. These include varied tree patch sizes and shapes, singletree and wildlife tree retention, as well as maintaining the understory and lesser vegetation wherever possible. All non-target species of trees will be left standing where operationally feasible. Refer to OGR 5.5 and 7.4 for more information of retention and aesthetic considerations.
- A minimum of a 20-meter treed buffer has been laid out on all identified water source areas as per Table 2 of the OGRs and can be seen in the attached maps.

Wildlife:

- Wildlife zones have a significant impact on operational design and implementation and are consulted when considering changes to the sequenced area. SLS will work with Fish and Wildlife to identify important habitat and use strategies such as 'early in, early out' to minimize disturbance in these areas.



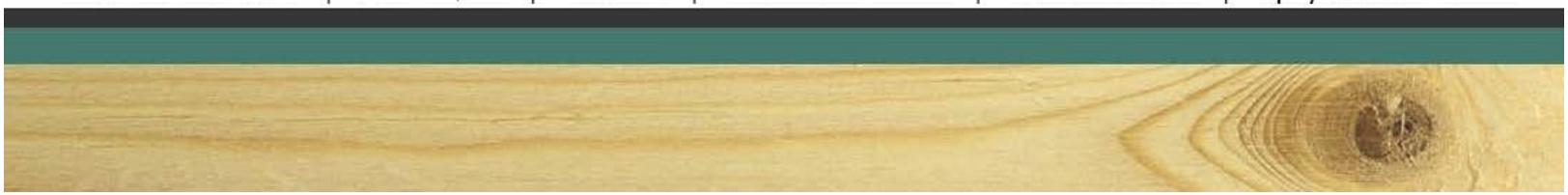


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- This FHP is scheduled for winter operations, blocks will be assessed by SLS (and Alberta, if necessary) staff prior to harvest to ensure mitigation of wildlife concerns.
- Key ungulate and biodiversity zone mapping have been consulted in developing this FHP. All operations intersecting with wildlife zones will comply with OGR 7.7.
- Within each block, SLS will retain snags that are often utilized by wildlife species as vital feeding, nesting and shelter sites.
- Zones associated with FHP:
 - o Grizzly Bear (Core); All FHP blocks
 - o Key Wildlife Biodiversity Zone (KWBZ); SC_0280, 1185, 3355, 3380

Harvest Design:

- All block locations and status are identified on the map. A detailed analysis was done during the block design phase of this FHP using Lidar in conjunction with the Spatial Harvest Sequence (SHS). Contours, slope classes and canopy height models have been generated from the Lidar Data to help determine the best locations for block boundaries, road access, and creek crossings in order to mitigate environmental impacts as well as help minimize the footprint on the landscape.
- All road locations and status are identified on the map. All proposed roads within this FHP will be built as Class IV roads as per the OGR. SLS will reduce road footprint where possible and all roads will be reclaimed as per the OGR.
- Refer to attached maps for the location of watercourse crossings, type of structure and all stream classifications.
- In order to achieve successful regeneration SLS uses stump-side processing to retain seeds on site, conserve soil moisture and to deflect severe chinook winds. Scarification is used to promote microsites for seedlings and to spread and break up slash.





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Collaborative Planning Session (CPS) – Preliminary Harvest Plan Overview

Please review the corresponding maps while reviewing the following information. Fieldwork is scheduled in two operating areas this summer: Atkinson Creek and Grease Creek. Please provide feedback regarding these areas for it to be incorporated into the plan. SLS will respond summarizing the feedback, showing how it can be incorporated, and post to our website at. Past CPS sessions can be viewed on the SLS website, these should be reviewed to answer many frequently asked questions. <https://www.spraylakesawmills.com/woodlands/public-involvement-process/collaborative-planning-sessions/>





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Atkinson Creek

- FHP_AK2021_26
- Approximately 635ha planned for harvest
- Average block size: 57.6ha
- Operations scheduled for 2021/22 and 2022/23 seasons

Atkinson Creek compartment is in the north SLS Defined Forest Area (DFA) and is 19,778ha. The compartment is bordered by Harold Creek Road (North), FMA boundary and Stoney No. 142B (East & South), and HWY 940 (West). Little Red Deer River, Atkinson Creek, Loblaw Creek, and Owl Creek flow in the Red Deer River watershed basin and Aura Creek flow in the Bow River watershed basin. The subject area is solely within the Red Deer River watershed sub-basin. Atkinson Creek compartment is in the Upper and Lower Foothills and Montane natural subregions, the subject area can be described as typical eastern edge of Upper Foothills; rolling or steeply sloping terrain. Forested areas are composed of Lodgepole Pine (62%), White Spruce (24%), and Aspen (14%). Aspen is heaviest in the Montane and Lower Foothills natural subregions primarily south and east aspects

SLS timber harvest operations history:

- 1980-1989: 254.7ha
- 1990-1999: 379.9ha
- 2000-2009: 508.6ha
- 2010-2019: 1311.2ha

Integrations with Other Users:

- FHP overlaps Ghost Public Land Use Zone (PLUZ), common recreation activities include hunting, ATV, single track, and random camping. SLS will work with trail users and Alberta prior to and throughout operations to mitigate impact where possible and as approved by Alberta. There are no designated recreation areas or trail associated with this FHP. There have been no non-designated trails highlighted for maintaining to date.
- FHP overlaps Little Red Deer Grazing Allotment; initial notification of GTA required in April 2020, follow up information to be provided in May 2020
- FHP overlaps Trapline 2356; initial notification and information package provided in April 2020
- FHP will be assessed for historical impact in the spring/summer of 2020
- SLS is committed to working cooperatively with all stakeholders to ensure public safety. Safety concerns may exist for the public during harvest operations and along the haul route. SLS will post signage at common access points to alert of harvest and haul operations.

Access Management:

- The harvest area is split by Owl Creek, requiring two access routes.
 - o Blocks west of Owl Creek are planned to be hauled west through AK_0496 to the Whispering Pine Bible Camp Road DLO2847. This route is planned for 2021/22





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operations. SLS is recommending access control on AK MAIN prior to entering AK_0516 as part of FHP_AK2019_24 and expects those controls to be sufficient for this plan as well.

- Blocks east of Owl Creek are planned to be hauled south along Canlin Energy LOC013277 to HWY 1A east of Waiparous Village. SLS has used this road to access this area in 2013. This route is gated, goes through white zone and private land, effectively controlling access.

Sensitive Sites:

- FHP blocks fall within low visual sensitivity ratings as per figure 2.15 from the DFMP
- SLS utilizes multiple forms of retention throughout operations. These include varied tree patch sizes and shapes, singletree and wildlife tree retention, as well as maintaining the understory and lesser vegetation wherever possible. All non-target species of trees will be left standing where operationally feasible. Refer to OGR 5.5 and 7.4 for more information of retention and aesthetic considerations.
- A minimum of a 20-meter treed buffer will be laid out on all identified water source areas as per Table 2 of the OGRs
- Buffers will be laid out on all identified watercourses as per Table 2 of the OGRs. Two main watercourses in the area are Owl Creek and Atkinson Creek. Watercourse crossings are minimized wherever possible, there is not a watercourse crossing planned on either Owl or Atkinson Creeks. There is watercourse (likely a 30-40ft bridge) crossing on a tributary to Owl Creek between AK_1085 and 1553 highlighted on the map.
- Any sensitive sites identified during plan development or operations will be addressed as per OGR or discussed with Alberta to determine proper further action

Wildlife:

- Wildlife zones have a significant impact on operational design and implementation and are consulted when considering changes to the sequenced area. SLS will work with Fish and Wildlife to identify important habitat and use strategies such as 'early in, early out' to minimize disturbance in these areas.
- This FHP may be scheduled for both summer and winter operations, blocks will be assessed by SLS (and Alberta, if necessary) staff prior to harvest to ensure mitigation of wildlife concerns.
- Key ungulate and biodiversity zone mapping have been consulted in developing this FHP. All operations intersecting with wildlife zones will comply with OGR 7.7.
- Within each block, SLS will retain snags that are often utilized by wildlife species as vital feeding, nesting and shelter sites.
- Zones associated with FHP:
 - Grizzly Bear (Secondary); All FHP blocks
 - Key Wildlife Biodiversity Zone (KWBZ); 9ha of the northeast of AK_1406 and the north 1ha tip of AK_1167. AK MAIN as a haul route travels approx. 5800m through KWBZ in AK_0416, 0465, and 0496 in FHP_AK2019_24.



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Harvest Design:

- Preliminary block locations are identified on the map. Lidar, Spatial Harvest Sequence (SHS), contours, slope classes and canopy height models are taken into consideration when determining the best locations for block boundaries and road access. Harvest and haul routes are designed in order to mitigate environmental impacts as well as help minimize the footprint on the landscape.
- Stakeholder and Alberta consultation prior to fieldwork is required to develop the harvest plan. SLS will incorporate feedback into plan development and submission.
- Highlights of harvest and haul design to date:
 - o Steep terrain (in excess of 70% slope) adjacent to Atkinson and Owl Creeks, blocks will be laid out to both ensure the safety of the operator and protect these main drainages. Buffers are required to be vegetated, should these steep slopes have exposed soils the buffers will be increased to account for that lack of filtering.
 - o AK_0228, 0224, and 3579 are adjacent to AK_0251 which was harvested in 2013. SLS will review and look for opportunities to lessen the impact to the regenerating AK_0251 while developing the adjacent harvest design.
 - o A bridge crossing on a tributary to Owl Creek (between AK_1085 & 1553) is required to avoid a larger crossing on Owl or Atkinson Creeks. SLS prioritizes watercourse crossing placement when designing a road network. There is a portion of road on either side of this crossing that will be designed, constructed, and monitored diligently to minimize environmental impact via erosion/sedimentation
 - o All proposed roads within this plan are planned as Class IV temporary roads as per the OGR. SLS will reduce road footprint where possible and all roads will be reclaimed as per the OGR.
- In order to achieve successful regeneration SLS plans stump-side processing to retain seeds on site, conserve soil moisture and to deflect severe chinook winds. Scarification is used to promote microsites for seedlings and to spread and break up slash.





Spray Lake Sawmills

Grease Creek

- FHP_GC2021_26
 - o One FHP, but two separated areas within the Grease Creek compartment, referred to as GC_North and GC_South.
- Approximately 1312.7ha planned for harvest (581.3ha GC_North; 731.4ha GC_South)
- Average block size: 45.3ha (83.0ha GC_North; 33.2 GC_South)
- Operations scheduled for 2021/22 and 2022/23 seasons

Grease Creek compartment is in the north SLS Defined Forest Area (DFA) and is 34,604ha. The compartment is bordered by Burnt Timber Creek and Coalcamp Road (North), FMA/PLUZ boundary (East), Harold Creek Road (South), and HWY 940 (West). Red Deer River and Vam, Benjamin, Mouse, Fallen Timber, and Stormy creeks flow generally northeast and Grease and Harold creeks flow generally southeast all in the Red Deer River watershed sub-basin. The subject areas are near Vam Creek (GC_North) and between Harold Creek and Grease Creek (GC_South). Grease Creek compartment is in Upper and Lower Foothills natural subregions, the subject area can be described as typical eastern edge of Upper Foothills; rolling or steeply sloping terrain. Forested areas are composed of Lodgepole Pine (62%), White Spruce (31%), and Aspen (7%). White Spruce is heavier, up to 50% in the GC_North.

SLS timber harvest operations history:

- 1970-1979: 515.3ha
- 1980-1989: 297.8ha
- 1990-1999: 3076.1ha
- 2000-2009: 3554.6ha
- 2010-2019: 1298.3ha

Integrations with Other Users:

- FHP overlaps Ghost Public Land Use Zone (PLUZ), common recreation activities include hunting, ATV, single track, 4x4 truck, and camping. SLS will work with trail users and Alberta prior to and throughout operations to mitigate impact where possible and as approved by Alberta.
 - o GC_North: There are no designated recreation areas or trail associated with these blocks. There have been no non-designated trails highlighted for maintaining to date.
 - o GC_South: There is approx. 4km of designated quad trail (limited, open November only) along an old logging trail, approx. 3km which is planned to reopen for this plan.
- FHP overlaps Burnt Timber, Grease Creek, Harold Creek, and Lower Fallen Timber Grazing Allotments; initial notification and follow up information to be provided in May 2020
- FHP overlaps Trapline 127 and 2034; initial notification and information package provided in April 2020
- One access to GC_North is adjacent to Hunter Valley Adventures Inc. (DML92003). SLS has used this access in the past, most recently 2016/17.
- FHP will be assessed for historical impact in the spring/summer of 2020



Spray Lake Sawmills

- SLS is committed to working cooperatively with all stakeholders to ensure public safety. Safety concerns may exist for the public during harvest operations and along the haul route. SLS will post signage at common access points to alert of harvest and haul operations.

Access Management:

- GC_North is accessed from Stud Creek Road with three pre-existing approaches, one across from Hunter Valley Adventures Inc. (DML92003), and one on either side of Vam Creek. SLS is recommending access control at the three locations.
- GC_South is accessed from Harold Creek Road in two locations, the east approach was last used by SLS in 2002.

Sensitive Sites:

- FHP blocks fall within low visual sensitivity ratings as per figure 2.15 from the DFMP except portions of GC_0969, 1008, 1412, and 1506 within approx. 500m of Harold Creek Road which fall within the medium sensitivity rating.
- SLS utilizes multiple forms of retention throughout operations. These include varied tree patch sizes and shapes, singletree and wildlife tree retention, as well as maintaining the understory and lesser vegetation wherever possible. All non-target species of trees will be left standing where operationally feasible. Refer to OGR 5.5 and 7.4 for more information of retention and aesthetic considerations.
- A minimum of a 20-meter treed buffer will be laid out on all identified water source areas as per Table 2 of the OGRs
- Buffers will be laid out on all identified watercourses as per Table 2 of the OGRs. The main watercourses in the area that require buffering are Harold, Grease and Vam Creeks. Watercourse crossings are minimized wherever possible, there are no watercourse crossings planned on either Grease or Harold Creeks. There is a small watercourse crossing on upper Vam Creek between GC_2879 and 2984,
- Any sensitive sites identified during plan development or operations will be addressed as per OGR or discussed with Alberta to determine proper further action

Wildlife:

- Wildlife zones have a significant impact on operational design and implementation and are consulted when considering changes to the sequenced area. SLS will work with Fish and Wildlife to identify important habitat and use strategies such as 'early in, early out' to minimize disturbance in these areas.
- This FHP may be scheduled for both summer and winter operations, blocks will be assessed by SLS (and Alberta, if necessary) staff prior to harvest to ensure mitigation of wildlife concerns.
- Key ungulate and biodiversity zone mapping have been consulted in developing this FHP. All operations intersecting with wildlife zones will comply with OGR 7.7.
- Within each block, SLS will retain snags that are often utilized by wildlife species as vital feeding, nesting and shelter sites.



Spray Lake Sawmills

- Zones associated with FHP:
 - Grizzly Bear (Core & Secondary); All FHP blocks
 - Key Wildlife Biodiversity Zone (KWBZ); Northeast 9ha of GC_3454, all GC_South blocks.

Harvest Design:

- Preliminary block locations are identified on the map. Lidar, Spatial Harvest Sequence (SHS), contours, slope classes and canopy height models are taken into consideration when determining the best locations for block boundaries and road access. Harvest and haul routes are designed in order to mitigate environmental impacts as well as help minimize the footprint on the landscape.
- Stakeholder and Alberta consultation prior to fieldwork is required to develop the harvest plan. SLS will incorporate feedback into plan development and submission.
- Highlights of harvest and haul design to date:
 - GC_North
 - Approach locations and safety of log haul activities, additional signage will be placed along Stud Creek Road to ensure safety of all road users. Line of sight at approach locations will be increased as possible.
 - Significant pre-existing disturbance is incorporated into the plan to minimize road network footprint, impact to regenerating cutblocks will be reduced as possible.
 - Several planned blocks are adjacent to blocks harvested in 2013. SLS will review and look for opportunities to lessen the impact to the regenerating stands while developing the adjacent harvest design.
 - GC_South
 - Steep terrain (in excess of 70% slope) adjacent to the western edge of planned area; blocks will be laid out to both ensure the safety of the operator and protection of the soils.
 - Approach locations and safety of log haul activities, additional signage will be placed along Harold Creek Road to ensure safety of all road users. Line of sight at approach locations will be increased as possible. SLS and Alberta will communicate regarding potential short-term closure to accommodate other road users.
 - Significant pre-existing disturbance is incorporated into the plan to minimize road network footprint, impact to regenerating cutblocks will be reduced as possible. Regenerating cutblocks in the area were harvested from 1997-1999.
 - Harold Connector Road: forms a loop between Harold West and Harold East Roads, a portion of this road is necessary for adequate working space in GC_2198 and 2211, the connection to Harold West Road is required for safe and efficient log haul flow.



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- All proposed roads within this plan are planned as Class IV temporary roads as per the OGR. SLS will reduce road footprint where possible and all roads will be reclaimed as per the OGR.
- In order to achieve successful regeneration SLS plans stump-side processing to retain seeds on site, conserve soil moisture and to deflect severe chinook winds. Scarification is used to promote microsites for seedlings and to spread and break up slash.

