



**Spray Lake Sawmills**

## **2021 Open House and Collaborative Planning Session (CPS) Information Package** **FMA Operations**

### **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, these should be reviewed to answer many frequently asked questions. (<https://www.spraylakesawmills.com/woodlands/public-involvement-process/collaborative-planning-sessions/>)

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). FHPs 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 2021/22 AOP includes operations scheduled from May 1, 2021 - April 30, 2022. Within the SLS operating area operations are typically scheduled from July – March.

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. Any designated trails that are impacted during operations are restored to pre-existing condition during 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 2021/2022 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 (2019)

- CPS held April 26, 2018
- FHP\_AK2019\_24 Approved
- Operations partially completed in 2019/20 and 2020/21 seasons
- Operations scheduled for 2021/22 season

### 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 to mitigate impact on the designated trail network. There is overlap with designated trails in one block (AK\_1314); SLS will restore any unavoidable designated trails to pre-existing condition following road reclamation.
- AK\_1314 is adjacent to HWY 940 across from Ghost Airstrip 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 in 2019/20 to access AK\_3185, the other approach to access AK\_1314 is currently scheduled as contingency in the 2021/2022 season, potentially deferred until 2022/2023.
- Access will be controlled using the methods described in the OGR and as directed by Alberta.
  - o SLS is recommending access control at the entry point off HWY 940 to AK\_1314
  - o Access controls are in place at the entry point off HWY 940 to AK\_3185 and on AK MAIN prior to entering AK\_0516.

### Sensitive Sites:

- Visual sensitivity: 2021 FMP; there is 'foreground' area along the west edge of AK\_1314. Understory, lesser vegetation will be retained along HWY 940 to break up visual continuity.
- 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.
- Bull Trout and Westslope Cutthroat Trout critical habitat identified in the subject area, specifically tributaries to Aura and Waiparous Creek, operations in these areas will be assessed and approved as necessary.
- 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 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.
- 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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### Atkinson Creek FHP (2021)

- CPS held online, originally posted May 2020
- FHP\_AK2021\_26 Approved
- Operations scheduled for 2021/22 & 2022/23 seasons

### Integration 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 the trail network. 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; 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:

- 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 operations. SLS is recommending maintaining 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.
  - o Blocks east of Owl Creek are planned to be hauled south along Canlin Energy LOC013277 to HWY 1A east of Waiparous Village. This route is planned for 2022/23 operations. 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:

- Visual sensitivity: 2021 FMP; there is no 'foreground' area in this FHP.
- 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 are 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



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minimized wherever possible, there is not a watercourse crossing planned on either Owl or Atkinson Creeks.

- 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.
- Bull Trout critical habitat identified in the subject area, specifically tributaries to Atkinson, Aura, and Owl Creek, operations in these areas will be assessed and approved as necessary.
- 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); 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.

### 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 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.
- 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 online, originally posted May 2020
- FHP\_AK2021\_26 Approved
- Operations scheduled for 2021/22 & 2022/23 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 to mitigate impact on the designated trail network. There is overlap with designated trails in four blocks (BT\_1704, 1862, 2084, and 2492); SLS will restore any unavoidable designated trails to pre-existing condition following road reclamation.
- 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; 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:

- 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 controls are monitored as part of the road inspection and maintenance program, SLS has recommended the following locations:
  - o 1967A Road: East boundary of 2084 to limit traffic from HWY 940 and the designated trail intersection immediately to the east.
  - o 1967A Road: On or just east of the bridge crossing to limit traffic off the designated trails in 2084 from accessing further west.
  - o 0994A Road: Beginning of the road to limit traffic from HWY 940.
  - o 1704A Road: Beginning of the road to limit traffic from Hunter Valley Road.
  - o Burnt Timber Road: Beginning of the road to limit traffic from Anadarko Road (LOC971714)





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### Sensitive Sites:

- Visual sensitivity: 2021 FMP; there is 'foreground' is the northwest corner of BT\_1994. There is treed covered HWY 940 and the block edge. In-block retention will be placed strategically to break up visual continuity.
- 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 Wildlife to identify important habitat and use strategies such as 'early in, early out' to minimize disturbance in these areas.
- Bull Trout critical habitat identified in the subject area, specifically tributaries to Burnt Timber, Fallentimber, Nuisance, and Pretty Place Creek, operations in these areas will be assessed and approved as necessary.
- 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 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.



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- Refer to attached maps for the location of watercourse crossings, type of structure and all stream classifications.
- 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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### Grease Creek

- CPS held May 1, 2019
- FHP in development for 2021 submission.
  - o One FHP, but two separated areas within the Grease Creek compartment, referred to as GC\_North and GC\_South.
- Operations scheduled for 2022/23

### Integration with Other Users:

- FHP overlaps Ghost Public Land Use Zone (PLUZ), common recreation activities include hunting, ATV, single track, 4x4 truck, and camping. SLS continues to work with trail users and Alberta to mitigate impact on the designated trail network. SLS will restore any unavoidable designated trails to pre-existing condition following road reclamation.
  - 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; the current Grazing Timber Agreements will be updated prior to operations to integrate timber and grazing interests.
- FHP overlaps Trapline 127 and 2034; initial notification and information package has been provided
- GC\_North has been assessed for historical impact, no sites to date require protection, GC\_South will be assessed during snow free conditions in 2021.
- 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 will be recommending access control at these locations.
- GC\_South is accessed from Harold Creek Road in two locations, the east approach was last used by SLS in 2002. SLS will be recommending access control at this location.

### Sensitive Sites:

- Visual sensitivity: 2021 FMP; there is no 'foreground' area in this FHP.
- 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.



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- 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 are 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.
- Bull Trout critical habitat identified in the subject area, specifically tributaries to Harold, Grease, and Vam Creek as well as the Red Deer River; operations in these areas will be assessed and approved as necessary.
- 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); Northeast 9ha of GC\_3454, all GC\_South 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 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.



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- 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 Approved
- Operations partially completed in 2020/21 seasons
- Operations scheduled for 2021/22 season, starting July 2021

### Integration with Other Users:

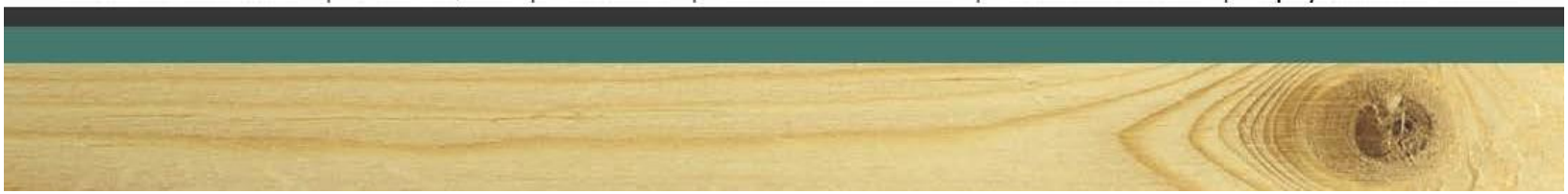
- FHP overlaps McLean OHV Public Land Use Zone (PLUZ) and Kananaskis PLUZ, common recreation activities include camping, hiking, ATV, single track, and 4X4 truck. SLS continues to work with trail users and Alberta to mitigate impact on the designated trail network. SLS will restore any unavoidable designated trails to pre-existing condition following road reclamation.
  - o MC\_2861 was harvested in the 2020/2021 season, overlapping Fisher West trail on access, no in-block designated trails.
  - o MC\_3115 overlaps with non-motorized trail, trail '9999'.
- 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 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 and approaches for MC\_0240 & MC\_2861 and installed on approached to MC\_3115 & MC\_3463

### Sensitive Sites:

- Visual sensitivity: 2021 FMP; there is 'foreground' area along the south edge of MC\_0678. This area was harvested in the 2020/2021 season.
- 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





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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.
- Bull Trout critical habitat identified adjacent to the subject area, specifically Threepoint and Ware Creek. There is no overlap between the critical habitat and the harvest operations.
- 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 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.
- 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 2019/2020 & 2020/21 seasons
- Operations scheduled for 2021/22 season, starting Nov 2021

### Integration 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 two locations 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 or Blacklock Road)
- 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, specifically at the end of TWP Rd 195.

### Sensitive Sites:

- Visual sensitivity: 2021 FMP; there is 'foreground' area along the north boundary of SC\_1637 and SC\_2210 due to proximity to the Sheep River. These blocks have been harvested and the operating ground rules wet met or exceeded.
- 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





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- Wildlife to identify important habitat and use strategies such as 'early in, early out' to minimize disturbance in these areas.
- Bull Trout critical habitat identified in the subject area, specifically tributaries to Wolf Creek flowing north into the Sheep River, operations in these areas will be assessed and approved as necessary.
  - 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 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.
- 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.





**Spray Lake Sawmills**

## **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: Jumpingpound Creek and Highwood River. 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.

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/>





## Spray Lake Sawmills

### Jumpingpound Creek

- FHP\_JP2022\_27
- Approximately 1174ha planned for harvest
- Operations currently scheduled for 2022/23 and 2023/24 seasons in the GDP

Jumpingpound Creek compartment is in the south SLS Defined Forest Area (DFA) and is 52,852ha. The compartment is bordered by Stoney No. 142, 143, 144 (North), White zone (East), Elbow River and HWY 66 (South), and Don Getty and Elbow-Sheep Wildland Parks (West). The subject area is within the Jumpingpound Creek sub-basin. Major watercourses in the area include Bateman, Coxhill, Jumpingpound, Moose, and Sibbald Creek. Jumpingpound Creek compartment is in the Subalpine and Montane natural subregions, the subject area can be described as a western edge Montane subregion.

SLS timber harvest operations history:

- 1980-1989: 640.7ha
- 1990-1999: 1106.8ha
- 2000-2009: 898.4ha
- 2010-2019: 2702.1ha
- 2020 (not including this FHP): 266.1ha

### Integration with Other Users:

- FHP overlaps the Sibbald Snow Vehicle and Kananaskis Country Public Land Use Zones (PLUZ), common recreation activities include OHV, hiking, camping, and hunting. 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 several designated trails overlapping with harvest plans (blocks and roads), mitigation work to continue as plan develops. A portion of Tom Snow is within the planned boundary of JP\_1231
- FHP is near Sibbald Lake and Sibbald Viewpoint Provincial Park Areas. There are no harvest or haul operations planned within the parks.
- FHP overlaps Jumpingpound Grazing Allotment; there is a GTA in place however may require updating. Grazing operator will be consulted during plan development to integrate grazing concerns/interests. Initial information package was provided April 2020.
- FHP overlaps Trapline 296; initial information package was provided April 2020, communication will continue throughout plan development.
- FHP will be assessed for historical impact in the spring/summer of 2021
- 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 Hwy 68, requiring two access routes.





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- Blocks north of Hwy 68 are accessed directly off the highway between the demonstration forest south loop and Sibbald Lookout Park Area. Access controls will be recommended at this location.
- Blocks south of Hwy 68 are accessed off the Husky LOC (LOC920365) and the demonstration forest south loop. Access to this LOC is currently controlled.

### Sensitive Sites:

- Visual sensitivity: 2021 FMP; there is 'foreground' area along the west and south boundary of JP\_1828 due to proximity to Hwy 68. Block will be assessed for visual impact and final design will incorporate mitigate strategies to lessen any impact.
- 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. Watercourse crossings are minimized in amount, size, and duration wherever possible.
- 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.
- Bull Trout critical habitat identified in the subject area, specifically Bateman and Jumpingpound Creeks, operations in these areas will be assessed and approved as necessary.
- 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 (Core); All FHP blocks
  - Key Wildlife Biodiversity Zone (KWBZ); Partial areas of JP\_0161, 0776, 1439, 1828, 2635, 2771, totaling approx. 29ha.

### Harvest Design:



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- 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 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Approach locations and safety of log haul activities, additional signage will be placed along Hwy 68 to ensure safety of all road users. Line of sight at approach locations will be increased as possible.





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### Highwood River

- FHP\_HW2022\_27
- Approximately 1082.1ha planned for harvest
- Operations currently scheduled for 2023/24 season in the GDP

Highwood River compartment is in the south SLS Defined Forest Area (DFA) and is 42,846ha. The compartment is bordered by Don Getty, Elbow-Sheep Wildland Parks as well as C5 Forest Management Unit to the south and the Sullivan Creek compartment to the North. Major watercourses in the subject area include Bishop, Loomis, McPhail Creeks, following generally East into the Highwood River. Jumpingpound Creek compartment is in the Subalpine natural sub-region, the subject area can be described as a typical Alpine with some Montane attributes in the valley bottoms. Fire history in the subject area includes landscape level replacement fires in the 1930's.

SLS timber harvest operations history:

- 1980-1989: 113.0ha
- 1990-1999: 726.8ha
- 2000-2009: 784.0ha
- 2010-2019: 503.9ha

### Integration with Other Users:

- FHP overlaps The Kananaskis Country Public Land Use Zone (PLUZ), common recreation activities in this non-motorized zone include hunting, hiking, fishing, and equestrian. 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 trails requiring protection.
- FHP overlaps the Highwood Grazing Allotment; there is a GTA in place however will require updating. Grazing operator will be consulted during plan development to integrate grazing concerns/interests. Initial information package was provided April 2020.
- FHP overlaps Trapline 2542; initial notification and information package provided in April 2020; communication will continue throughout plan development.
- FHP will be assessed for historical impact in the spring/summer of 2022
- 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 subject area is accessed from Hwy 40 approx. 9km NW of the Highwood Junction or approx. 2.8km SE of Lineham Park Area. Although there is a historic approach at this location, a new approach onto the highway will be required. SLS will be recommending access control at this location.





## Spray Lake Sawmills

### Sensitive Sites:

- Visual sensitivity: 2021 FMP; there is 'foreground' area along the east boundary of HW\_2106 due to proximity to the Highwood River and Hwy 40. Block will be assessed for visual impact and final design will incorporate mitigate strategies to lessen any impact.
- 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.
- Watercourse crossings are minimized wherever possible, there will be one clear-span bridge required on the Highwood River and two clear-span bridges required on Loomis Creek. Site plans will be developed specifically for these significant watercourse crossings.
- 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.
- Bull Trout critical habitat identified in the subject area, specifically tributaries to Loomis and McPhail Creek as well as the Highwood River, operations in these areas will be assessed and approved as necessary.
- Westslope Cutthroat Trout identified adjacent to subject area, specifically in Odlum Creek. There are no operations within the Odlum Creek sub-basin.
- Although winter operations are planned, this FHP may be scheduled for both summer and winter activities, 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 Mountain Goat and Sheep Areas; All FHP 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





## Spray Lake Sawmills

- determining the best locations for block boundaries and road access. Harvest and haul routes are designed 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:
    - Approach locations and safety of log haul activities, additional signage will be placed along Hwy 40 to ensure safety of all road users. Line of sight at approach locations will be increased as possible.
    - Pre-existing disturbance is incorporated into the plan to minimize road and trail network footprint.
    - Steep terrain (> 70% slope) throughout subject area; blocks will be laid out to both ensure the safety of the operator and protection of the soils.
    - 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.
  - 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.

