



# **Spray Lake Sawmills & Crowsnest Forest Products**

## **2023 General Development Plan Information Package**

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## **Introduction**

This document addresses the current proposed and forecasted operations of Spray Lake Sawmills (1980) Ltd. (SLS) and Crowsnest Forest Products (CFP). It contains broad information regarding the Companies' anticipated fibre supply, proposed harvest areas, and the access construction and maintenance activities necessary to support these harvesting plans. CFP relies on SLS to deliver key components of plan development, operations, and reporting. Work completed or submitted by Spray Lake Sawmills on behalf of Crowsnest Forest Products is synonymous with information prepared by Crowsnest Forest Products.

## **Forest Management Agreements (FMA), Quota (CTQ) and other Tenure**

The Honorable Minister of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, pursuant to section 16 of the Forests Act, entered a 20-year renewable FMA with SLS, issued as FMA0100038, commencing May 1, 2015. This FMA was a renewal of the 2001 FMA which itself was a conversion of long-term quotas previously held by Spray Lake Sawmills. CTQB120001 and DTAB120001 are included in the FMA planning and approvals.

The Honorable Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, pursuant to section 16 of the Forests Act, entered a 20-year renewable FMA with CFP, issued as FMA2100047, commencing May 1, 2021. This FMA was a conversion of long-term quotas previously held by SLS/CFP.

For more information on the FMA visit [Forest Management Agreement – Spray Lake Sawmills](#).

## **The Facilities**

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

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

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

## **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) – The GDP gives a comprehensive description of a timber disposition holder’s proposed timber operation for up to five years. The GDP provides the operational link to the commitments of the FMP and is a tool for communicating where forestry operations will occur. It is at this stage that the approved harvest sequence is refined to meet the operational requirements of the operator. The GDP assists the timber disposition holder in the integration of timber operations with other forest resources users and ensures that identified issues and concerns are addressed early in the planning process.

Annual Operating Plan (AOP) – The AOP provides a comprehensive description of a timber disposition holder’s planned activities within the current or upcoming timber year. The AOP is the stage of the operational planning process in which harvest areas and temporary roads approved in the GDP are further refined to meet all required expectations and are ready to operate. The approval of an AOP authorizes the timber disposition holder to proceed with the proposed forest management activities. The 2023/24 AOP includes operations scheduled from May 1, 2023 - April 30, 2024.

Typical lifecycle of a timber operations:

- 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.
- Year 0: AOP submission. Alberta review and approval prior to 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.

For more information on forest management planning visit [Planning Hierarchy – Spray Lake Sawmills](#).

### **Applications of Operating Ground Rules (OGR)**

SLS operates in accordance with current FMAs and CTQ, the requirements of SLS and C05 OGR, and area-specific standards developed with Alberta.

The ground rules highlight the current standards and guidelines for timber harvest planning and operations, road construction and reclamation, reforestation and the integration of other forest users and values. The OGR practices constitute the methods used to implement decisions made in the FMP and other higher-level plans such as the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan.

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

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

A higher level of detail addressing many of the OGR such as fish and wildlife, recreation, access management, rare eco-sections and eco-sites and species of special management have been included in harvest design for each of the operating areas or dispositions. The Forest Management Plans (FMP) also address many of these points and have incorporated them into the associated Spatial Harvest Sequence (SHS).

To view the Operating Ground Rules visit [Operating Ground Rules – Spray Lake Sawmills](#).

### **Environmental Stewardship**

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

For more information on forest certification and environmental stewardship visit [Forest Certification – Spray Lake Sawmills](#).

### **Indigenous Consultation**

Indigenous consultation is conducted at the General Development Plan stage. The regulatory requirements for Indigenous consultation are outlined in government policies including but are not limited to as amended from time to time:

- The Government of Alberta's Policy on Consultation with First Nations on Land and Natural Resource Management, 20138



- The Government of Alberta’s Guidelines on Consultation with First Nations on Land and Natural Resources Management, 20149
- The Government of Alberta’s Policy on Consultation with Metis Settlements on Land and Natural Resource Management, 201510
- The Government of Alberta’s Guidelines on Consultation with Metis Settlements on Land and Natural Resource Management, 201611

### **Historical Resources and Unique Features**

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

In recognizing the valuable and non-renewable nature of historic resources, the Historical Resources Act provides the framework for Historic Resources Impact Assessments (HRIA) and mitigation studies. As historic resources are often not visible, the potential for forestry activities to impact these resources may not be apparent. SLS submits proposed harvest and road building data for review by subject-area experts prior to commencement of operations. If any potentially impacted historical resource sites are identified, the sites are documented, submitted for HRIA Approval, field reviewed, and protected as necessary.

Rare eco-sections and ecosites are reviewed during harvest design and layout with considerations in alignment with the FMP. Any location encountered during timber operations that has historic or sensitive potential will be immediately protected until that potential can be assessed and protection requirements determined.

### **Watershed Protection**

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

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

For more information on watershed protection visit [Water – Spray Lake Sawmills](#).

## **Wildlife**

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

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

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

## **Species at Risk**

The potential effect of the Species at Risk Act (SARA) on management practices remains a concern. SLS will continue to monitor the development of regulations and applicable species recovery plans that could have implications for forest management plans and operations.

## **Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO)**

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

## **Forest Insects and Diseases**

SLS monitors forest insects and diseases as a standard operating procedure. Alberta is notified regarding infestations or forest conditions of concern. Operating plans will be tailored to address known situations.

For more information on forest insects and diseases visit [Insects and Diseases – Spray Lake Sawmills](#).

## **Weed Control**

All land-use dispositions that are held by SLS are subject to noxious weed legislation. The OGRs have a series of procedures to minimize the impact and spread of noxious and prohibited noxious weeds. All forestry operators in the Defined Forest Area must ensure that their contractors are aware of the obligations under the OGRs. SLS has established a weed management plan that specifies the following:

- Education and Training of staff to increase awareness of weed concerns within the companies' sphere of interest
- Prevention, Inventory and Control of noxious and prohibited noxious weeds classified by the Alberta Weed Control Act and Regulation.
- The companies will implement where practical the recommended 'Good Standards of Practice for Prevention' outlined in Forestry Directive 2001-06. Prevention measures will focus on clean equipment, limited disturbance, and clean seed usage.

As of this submission date, no weed management action areas have been identified. The company has participated in MD coordinated Weed Management Co-ops where possible and will continue to collaborate with stakeholders through agreements on weed control.

### **Forest Protection**

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

### **Timber Harvesting Systems and Harvest Design**

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

For more information on harvest method selection and sequence patch cutting visit [Timber Harvesting Systems – Spray Lake Sawmills](#)

### **Slash Disposal**

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

In areas identified with a high volume of slash and debris it will be managed following Directive 2017-07 (Debris Management Standards for Timber Harvest Operations) and the OGR.

### **Reforestation Program**

Timber harvesting is planned to be sustainable, all areas harvested must be reforested. The rate of harvesting is calculated so it will not exceed forest growth. Silviculture systems are the prescribed strategic approaches recommended for harvesting timber and completing subsequent reforestation processes. Selected systems are chosen to match the biological needs of the tree species being harvested and the specific growing conditions of the harvest site. Prescriptions must consider seasons of operation, species being harvested, available harvest methods, site preparation tactics, species to reforest and regeneration method. Reclamation activities will follow operations as closely as possible, and roads will be reclaimed upon completion of planting activities.



For more information on the reforestation process including assessments, site preparation, tree planting, and surveys visit [Reforestation Process – Spray Lake Sawmills](#)

### **Log Haul**

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

Annually, log haul notices are placed in the local papers at the commencement of the log haul season outlining log haul routes and providing public driving safety tips concerning the log haul. Additional public driving safety tips are available at [Safety – Spray Lake Sawmills](#).

Haul routes and road classes within the timber dispositions are identified in operational plan submissions. Roads outside the timber dispositions will be either covered under road use agreements, disposition, or permits obtained from either Alberta Transportation or the local MD prior to the hauling of logs. Hauling through gated areas will be required through closure periods. SLS will continue to work with Alberta Transportation and impacted stakeholders for access beyond road closures.

### **Satellite and Storage Yards**

Log storage capacity at the SLS mill site will not accommodate annual harvest levels. To resolve this, SLS utilizes both satellite and storage yards.

The Longview satellite yard approx. 1km west of Longview on Hwy 541 has been established and will continue to be used into the future. The satellite yard has been identified on the GDP map and the associated volume is planned for haul to the SLS mill site during the spring break-up and summer seasons.

The Grease Creek offsite storage yard (21-T30-R7-W5M) was established in the 2020-21 season. SLS is pursuing a public land disposition on this site to be used in the future. Associated volume is planned for haul to the SLS mill site during the spring break-up and summer seasons.

### **Grazing Timber Agreements**

Overlapping grazing and timber harvest operations on approved dispositions will conform to direction outlined in Grazing Timber Agreements (GTA) developed as per the Grazing and Timber Integration Manual.

### **Oil and Gas**

SLS supports Integrated Land Management and communicates regularly with the oil and gas sector regarding options to minimize their impact on forest resources. Sharing of

advance planning information, joint use of access corridors, and coordination of operations are a few approaches being promoted.

### **Access Management**

The OGRs provide the procedures for planning and working within areas where access control is required. Unless otherwise approved, temporary roads will be operated and reclaimed in accordance with the OGR. Access agreements required through seasonal gate closures will be obtained through Alberta Transportation authorities. SLS will continue to work with Alberta to restrict motorized access and to decommission undesignated trails where they intersect with SLS activities.

### **Public Involvement Process**

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

Our promise to interested parties is to keep them informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influences decisions. SLS's public involvement policy is to carefully consider feedback and then respond to stakeholders by addressing their concerns. Changes to a plan or operation as a result of public input are recorded by SLS and communicated to the interested party.

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

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

SLS encourages anyone with an interest in our operations to contact us. For more information on the SLS public involvement process, how to contact us, or to sign up for event/information notices visit [Public Involvement Process – Spray Lake Sawmills](#)

### **Public Land Use Zones**

SLS operations overlap with several Public Land Use Zones. These zones can be motorized or non-motorized and present mixed-use challenges. SLS works with trail users, trail groups, and Alberta to mitigate impact on the designated trail network. All designated recreation infrastructure will be maintained as much as possible throughout operations and restored to pre-industrial condition upon completion of activities. All designated infrastructure overlapping with SLS operations will be:

- Inventoried, mapped, and marked with ribbon/paint prior to operations. Inventory will include pictures or video as necessary to properly capture pre-industrial conditions.
- Avoided as possible throughout operations and use will be maintained within operational, safety, or regulatory limitations. This may include portions of a trail that is utilized as part of the SLS road network. SLS does not have the authority to close designated trails and will discuss with recreation groups and Alberta should a trail closure be recommended. Recreational use is maintained by:
  - Avoiding trails with heavy equipment and crossing at limited, designated, signed locations.
  - Ramping trails up to and down from SLS roads, signing trail prior to intersection.
  - Temporary re-routes of trail network to avoid high risk locations.
  - Communicating regularly on safety concerns, trail use, and schedule
- Delineated by leaving retention, understory, or high stumps during harvest stage to mark the trail location for follow up activities such as scarification, reclamation, and planting.
- Restored to pre-industrial condition upon completion of road reclamation (within 3 years of initial road construction). These locations will be limited to SLS road overlap and skid crossings. Infrastructure inventory as well as adjacent trail condition will be referenced to ensure trail is in as good or better condition than prior to SLS operations

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.

### **Emergency Response**

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

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

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

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

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

### **Harvest Plans**

All block locations and status are identified on the maps. A detailed analysis was done during the block design phase 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. Watercourse crossings are minimized and placed to best limit environmental impact. All locations are field verified prior to operations by Forestry Professionals.

Please review the corresponding maps and AOP table showing which blocks are scheduled for operations in the 2023/2024 operating season. Blocks listed as contingency are scheduled for future operations, however, may be operated if necessary. Schedule of operations is subject to change. Only operating areas with current plans are listed below. Current plans include preliminary planning, plans in development, and active operations.

### **Atkinson Creek**

- Current approval: GDP
- Field assessments completed in 2022.
- **Scheduled in AOP for 2023/24 operations**
  - o 10 blocks, 903ha including contingency volume
  - o Remaining area to be scheduled in 2024/25
- Area is split by Waiparous Creek, accessed via:
  - o Cadet camp road (East)
  - o Canlin Energy LOC013277 (West)
- Watercourse buffers are laid out on all watercourses as per the OGR. Watercourse crossings are minimized wherever possible. There is a clear-span bridge crossing planned on Aura Creek and no crossing on Waiparous Creek.
- Wildlife zones in this area include Key Wildlife Biodiversity Zone and Secondary Grizzly Bear Zone. SLS operations comply with OGR to mitigate potential impacts to wildlife.
- Area overlaps with the Ghost PLUZ. SLS will continue to work with trail users and Alberta throughout operations to mitigate impact where possible. There are several designated trails overlapping with harvest plans (blocks and roads), mitigation work to continue throughout operations. Standard trail management

- applies; trail marked with safety signage, trail use maintained where possible throughout operations, impacted trail restored following operations.
- SLS will be recommending access control be put in place off publicly accessible roads and designated trails.

### B9 Quota

- Current approval: GDP
- Initial planning stage, field assessments to be completed summer 2023.
- Operations are tentatively scheduled for 2025/26 and 2026/27; partially operated with the Coalcamp and Grease Creek (Red Deer River) plans.
  - o 9 blocks, 353ha
- Harvest plan is divided into two separate areas. Accessed via:
  - o Coalcamp road (Red Deer River)
  - o Spray Lake Sawmills DLO4661 (Nitchi Creek)
- Watercourse buffers are laid out on all watercourses as per the OGR. Watercourse crossings are minimized wherever possible. There is a clear-span bridge crossing planned on Nitchi Creek and no crossing on Red Deer River.
- Wildlife zones in this area include Key Wildlife Biodiversity Zone (along Red Deer River) and Core Grizzly Bear Zone. SLS operations comply with OGR to mitigate potential impacts to wildlife.
- There are no designated trails overlapping timber operations
- This area is within grazing lease land, SLS has contacted grazing operators and will continue to discuss mitigation of potential impact throughout plan development and implementation
- SLS will be recommending access control be put in place off publicly accessible roads.

### Burnt Timber Creek

- Current approval: GDP
- Initial planning stage, field assessments to be completed summer 2023.
- Operations are tentatively scheduled for 2024/25 and 2025/26
  - o 17 blocks, 915ha
- The area is accessed directly off HWY 940 near Canlin LOC760534 (Benjamin Creek Road), with three approaches in the initial plan. This will be assessed in 2023 to limit to two approaches if possible.
- SLS road is planned to utilize existing disturbance of Canlin MSL12149 where possible.
- Watercourse buffers are laid out on all watercourses as per the OGR. Watercourse crossings are minimized wherever possible. There is a clear-span bridge crossing planned on Benjamin Creek and no crossing on Burnt Timber Creek.
- Wildlife zones in this area include Core and Secondary Grizzly Bear Zones. SLS operations comply with OGR to mitigate potential impacts to wildlife.
- There are no designated trails overlapping timber operations
- SLS currently has access control in place on DLO4661 and will be recommending access control be put in place off publicly accessible roads.



### Coalcamp Creek

- Current approval: GDP
- Initial planning stage, field assessments to be completed summer 2023.
- Operations are tentatively scheduled for 2026/27; to be operated with the B9 Quota (Red Deer River) and Grease Creek (Red Deer River) plans.
  - o 5 blocks, 283ha
- Area is accessed directly off Coalcamp road near Pieridae LOC011417 and Taqa LOC990535, both LOCs are planned to be utilized to reduce linear disturbance.
- Watercourse buffers are laid out on all watercourses as per the OGR. There are no crossings planned on named watercourses.
- Wildlife zones in this area include Key Wildlife Biodiversity Zone and Core Grizzly Bear Zone. SLS operations comply with OGR to mitigate potential impacts to wildlife.
- There are no designated trails overlapping timber operations
- SLS will be recommending access control be put in place off publicly accessible roads

### Grease Creek

There are three areas being operated in the Grease Creek compartment, identified as:

- Stud Creek
- Gas Plant
- Red Deer River

#### Stud Creek:

- Current approval: GDP
- Field assessments completed in 2021
- **Scheduled in AOP for 2023/24 operations**
  - o 7 blocks, 519ha
- Accessed from Canlin LOC770244 (Stud Creek Road) with three pre-existing approaches, one across from DML92003, and one on either side of Vam Creek.
- Watercourse buffers are laid out on all watercourses as per the OGR. 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.
- Wildlife zones in this area include Key Wildlife Biodiversity Zone, Core and Secondary Grizzly Bear Zone. SLS operations comply with OGR to mitigate potential impacts to wildlife.
- There are several designated trails overlapping with harvest plans (blocks and roads), mitigation work to continue throughout operations. Standard trail management applies; trail marked with safety signage, trail use maintained where possible throughout operations, impacted trail restored following operations.
- SLS will be recommending access control be put in place off publicly accessible roads and designated trails.

#### Gas Plant:

- Current approval: GDP
- Field assessment completed in 2022
- Operations are tentatively scheduled for 2024/25 and 2025/26
  - o 6 blocks, 912ha
- The area is accessed directly off Burnt Timber Gas Plant Road (multiple dispositions) and Spray Lake Sawmills DLO02872, approx.1.5-6.5km west of the gas plant site.
- Watercourse buffers are laid out on all watercourses as per the OGR. Watercourse crossings are minimized wherever possible, there are no watercourse crossings planned on either Grease or Fallen Timber Creeks.
- Wildlife zones in this area include Key Wildlife Biodiversity Zone and Secondary Grizzly Bear Zone. SLS operations comply with OGR to mitigate potential impacts to wildlife.
- There are several designated trails overlapping with harvest plans (blocks and roads), mitigation work to continue throughout operations. Standard trail management applies; trail marked with safety signage, trail use maintained where possible throughout operations, impacted trail restored following operations.
- SLS will be recommending access control be put in place off publicly accessible roads and designated trails.

#### Red Deer River:

- Current approval: GDP
- Initial planning stage, field assessments to be completed summer 2023.
- Operations are tentatively scheduled for 2026/27; to be operated with the B9 Quota (Red Deer River) and Coalcamp plans.
  - o 5 blocks, 196ha
- The area is accessed directly off Coalcamp road near Pieridae LOC011417 and Taqa LOC990535.
- Watercourse buffers are laid out on all watercourses as per the OGR. Watercourse crossings are minimized wherever possible, there are no crossings planned on named watercourses.
- Wildlife zones in this area include Key Wildlife Biodiversity Zone and Core Grizzly Bear Zone. SLS operations comply with OGR to mitigate potential impacts to wildlife.
- There are no designated trails overlapping timber operations
- SLS will be recommending access control be put in place off publicly accessible roads.

#### Highwood River

- Current approval: GDP
- Field assessments completed in 2022.
- **Scheduled in AOP for 2023/24 operations**
  - o 4 blocks, 785ha including contingency volume

- Remaining area to be scheduled in 2024/25
- The area is accessed on the west side on Hwy 40 near Lineham Park Area.
  - Operations will be primarily conducted during seasonal road closure.
  - Signage will be placed along Hwy 40 to ensure the safety of all road users.
  - Line of sight at approach locations will be increased as much as possible.
- Pre-existing disturbance (old road) is incorporated into the plan to minimize road and trail network footprint.
- Watercourse buffers are laid out on all watercourses as per the OGR. Watercourse crossings are minimized wherever possible, there will be one clear-span bridge required on the Highwood River and three clear-span bridges required on Loomis Creek. There are no crossings planned on Bishop, Carnarvon, McPhail, Muir, or Odlum creeks. Site plans (biologist review, terrain mapping, flood modelling) will be developed for significant watercourse crossings.
- Steep terrain (> 70% slope) throughout area; blocks will be laid out to both ensure the safety of the operator and protection of the soils.
- Wildlife zones in this area include Core Grizzly Bear Zone and Mountain Goat and Sheep Areas. SLS operations comply with OGR to mitigate potential impacts to wildlife.
- There are no designated trails overlapping timber operations, however, there are several trails the grazing operator utilizes that may be left in place following SLS operations.
- SLS will be recommending access control be put in place off publicly accessible roads trails.

### Jumpingpound Creek

- Current approval: GDP
- Field assessments completed in 2021
- **Scheduled in AOP for 2023/24 operations**
  - Area partially operated during 2022/23 season
  - 12 blocks, 637ha remaining
- Accessed directly off highway 68 between the demonstration forest south loop and Sibbald Lookout Park Area and Caledonian LOC920365 (demonstration forest south loop).
- SLS has a road-use agreement with Alberta for use of the demonstration forest loop. This approach will be access controlled.
- Watercourse buffers are laid out on all watercourses as per the OGR. Watercourse crossings are minimized wherever possible, there is one clear-span bridge planned on upper Bateman Creek, one clear-span bridge planned on Coxhill Creek near the confluence with Jumpingpound Creek. There are no crossings planned on Jumpingpound Creek.
- Wildlife zones in this area include Key Wildlife Biodiversity Zone and Secondary Grizzly Bear Zone. SLS operations comply with OGR to mitigate potential impacts to wildlife.
- There are no designated trails overlapping timber operations

- A portion of Tom Snow (approx. 1500m) is within JP\_1231. SLS is not expecting a trail closure to be necessary. The road network was designed to only cross the trail at one location and to limit skid crossings to one location: directly south of the end of 1231C road. This skid crossing will be restored immediately following skidding. Specific to Tom Snow trail, no other skid crossings are permitted without Alberta notification. There are several other designated trails overlapping with harvest plans (blocks and roads), mitigation work to continue throughout operations. Standard trail management applies; trail marked with safety signage, trail use maintained where possible throughout operations, impacted trail restored following operations.
- There is currently access control in place on LOC920365. SLS will be recommending access control be put in place off publicly accessible roads and designated trails.

Future planning area of interest:

- Current approval: GDP
- There is an area sequenced for harvest near West Bragg Creek and Moose Mountain (East of Moose Mountain Road), currently planned for the 2026/27 season. SLS staff will be able to answer generic questions on this plan, however, full consultation will not begin until April/May 2024. This plan will be presented at the 2024 Open House with specific interest group meetings to follow as needed.

### McLean Creek

- Current approval: GDP
- Initial planning stage, field assessments to be completed summer 2023.
- Operations are tentatively scheduled for 2025/26
  - o 7 blocks, 405ha
- The area has two possible access points, to be determined through public consultation and discussion with Alberta.
  - o Fisher West Trail
  - o Caledonian LOC4760, LOC5217
- Watercourse buffers are laid out on all watercourses as per the OGR. Watercourse crossings are minimized wherever possible, there are two clear-span bridges planned on upper Fisher Creek.
- The area is within the Mountain Goat and Sheep Areas wildlife zone. SLS operations comply with OGR to mitigate potential impacts to wildlife.
- There are several designated trails overlapping with harvest plans (blocks and roads), mitigation work to continue throughout operations. Standard trail management applies; trail marked with safety signage, trail use maintained where possible throughout operations, impacted trail restored following operations.
- SLS will be recommending access control be put in place off publicly accessible roads and designated trails.

## Savanna Creek

### Current plan details:

- FHP approved April 20, 2021. 11 blocks for a total of 74.1 ha are scheduled for the 2023/2024 timber year.
- Blocks are planned in the upper Isolation Creek area, access from Highway 940 (Forestry Trunk Road) will be via Canlin Energy Corporation LOC1156 and LOC070511 (Savanna Road), and Shell Canada Limited LOC950751.
- Watercourse buffers are laid out on all identified watercourses as per Table 6 of the OGR. The main watercourse crossing in the area is a clear-span bridge planned on Isolation Creek. Several watercourse crossings will be constructed on small tributaries to Isolation Creek.
- Area overlaps with the Livingstone PLUZ. SLS will work with trail users and Alberta prior to and throughout operations to mitigate impact to designated trails where possible. The designated trail southwest of Isola Peak overlaps with harvest plans (blocks and roads). Standard trail management applies; trail marked with safety signage, trail use maintained where possible throughout operations, impacted trail restored following operations.
- Wildlife zones associated with FHP:
  - o Grizzly Bear (Core); All FHP blocks
  - o Mountain Goat and Sheep Areas; All FHP blocks

## Upper Livingstone

### Current plan details:

- Current Approval: GDP
- 29 blocks for a total of 411.5 ha are scheduled for the 2023/2024 timber year.
- The mainline access road at Coat Creek was constructed in 2022 with 11 blocks remaining to be harvested on that road system. To access blocks in the area East of the Livingstone River a road will be built from Highway 940 (Forestry Trunk Road) just north of the Highway 940 bridge over the Livingstone River.
- Area overlaps with the Livingstone PLUZ. SLS will work with trail users and Alberta prior to and throughout operations to mitigate impact to designated trails where possible. The designated trail which parallels Coat Creek overlaps with harvest plans (blocks and roads). There will also be road overlap with a portion of the designated trail south of Beaver Creek. Standard trail management applies; trail marked with safety signage, trail use maintained where possible throughout operations, impacted trail restored following operations.
- Watercourse buffers are laid out on all identified watercourses as per Table 6 of the OGR. The main watercourse crossings in this area will include clear-span bridges on Ridge Creek and Deep Creek. Several watercourse crossings will be constructed on small tributaries to Coat Creek, Livingstone River, Ridge Creek, and Deep Creek.
- Wildlife zones associated with AOP:
  - o Grizzly Bear (Core); All AOP area blocks
  - o 16 blocks contain Mountain Goat and Sheep Areas
  - o 10 blocks contain Key Wildlife Biodiversity Zone (KWBZ)



### Lower Livingstone

#### Current plan details:

- Current Approval: GDP
- 22 blocks for a total of 342.1 ha are scheduled for the 2023/2024 timber year.
- 20 of the 22 blocks are planned East of the Livingstone River and Highway 940 (Forestry Trunk Road) North of White Creek and south of Deep Creek. These blocks will be accessed via the same road system beginning at the bridge on Highway 940 over the Livingstone River, mentioned in the Upper Livingstone section above.
- Watercourse buffers are laid out on all identified watercourses as per Table 6 of the OGR. The main watercourse crossing in this area will be a clear-span bridge over Bruin Creek, several watercourse crossings will be constructed on small tributaries to Bruin Creek, White Creek, and the Livingstone River.
- Wildlife zones associated with AOP area:
  - o Grizzly Bear (Core); All AOP area blocks
  - o 2 blocks contain Mountain Goat and Sheep Areas
  - o 17 blocks contain Key Wildlife Biodiversity Zone (KWBZ)

### Regal Creek

#### Current plan details:

- 2,693m<sup>3</sup> or 64 truckloads estimated inventory harvested in the 2022/2023 season is being hauled to the mill site in the 2023/2024 season. This 'carryover' volume is submitted in the CRFP 2022/23 AOP.

### Vicary Creek

#### Current plan details:

- Current Approval: GDP
- 20 blocks for a total of 353.1 ha are included as contingency areas for the 2023/2024 timber year. If not required as contingency this season, this area will be planned for harvest in the 2024/2025 timber year.
- AOP planned area is East of Highway 940 (Forestry Trunk Road) within the headwaters of Daisy Creek drainage south of Fool's Creek.
- Area will be accessed via Canadian Natural Resources Limited LOC3613, LOC053011, and LOC4111, locally known as Coseka Resource Road.
- Watercourse buffers are laid out on all identified watercourses as per Table 6 of the OGR. The main watercourse crossing in this area will be a clear-span bridge over Daisy Creek, several watercourse crossings will be constructed on small tributaries to Daisy Creek and Fool's Creek.
- Wildlife zones associated with FHP:
  - o Grizzly Bear (Core); All AOP area blocks
  - o 3 blocks contain Mountain Goat and Sheep Areas
  - o 10 blocks contain Key Wildlife Biodiversity Zone (KWBZ)

Future plan details:

- Harvest areas planned East of Highway 940 (Forestry Trunk Road) near Vicary Creek, Pelletier Creek, and Blairmore Creek directly north of Coleman are in the early stages of planning. Field work and stakeholder communication planned for 2023/2024.

## **Attachments**

2023/24 AOP Block List

Harvest Area Maps

Available to view at open house, online, and with scheduled appointment with Spray Lake Sawmills.

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