



File: 19505-55/2016-2023 SFMP

May 4, 2018

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**RE: Sustainable Forest Management Plan #3**

Your proposed Sustainable Forest Management Plan (SFMP) #3 for the Fort St. John Timber Supply Area, updated February 7, 2018 is hereby approved for 6 years.

As required by Section 38(7) of the *Fort St. John Pilot Project Regulation (FSJPPR)*, public notice was given and First Nations consultation was carried out, and written comments and responses are included in the submitted draft.

In accordance with Section 39 of the FSJPPR, we are satisfied that the plan is consistent with the content requirements of the regulation, is consistent with the preamble to the *Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA)*, provides at least the equivalent protection for forest resources and resource features as provided by the Act and the FSJPPR, and adequately manages and conserves forest resources on those portions of the pilot project area that are affected by the proposed strategies subject to the following conditions as per 39(2):

- 1) That an amendment be submitted within 1 year from this date of approval to the Timber Harvesting Strategy which includes:
  - a) any new direction(s) as noted in the Chief Forester's rationale upon the completion of the Fort St. John Timber Supply Review;
  - b) an additional indicator to ensure a balanced distribution of harvest activities across the TSA, which considers the establishment of forestry objectives under the Muskwa Kechika Management Area, harvest performance in the Graham area, and deciduous harvesting in Supply Block F; and
  - c) an additional indicator that focuses on improving the utilization of the timber resource.

- 2) That an amendment to the Range and Forage Landscape Level Strategy be submitted within 2 years from this date of approval regarding the management of natural range barriers.
- 3) That an amendment to the Patch Size, Seral Stage Distribution and Adjacency Strategy and the associated indicators be submitted within 2 years that reflects:
  - a) the Natural Range of Variation for old seral (indicator 6.2 – Seral Stages);
  - b) specific targets and reporting for indicator 6.2 (seral stages) for spatial Old Forest Retention Areas;
  - c) Indicators and targets be reviewed and revised to consider the requirements for maintaining furbearer habitat;
  - d) Indicators and targets be reviewed and revised to consider the requirements for forest connectivity throughout the landscape; and
  - e) Indicators and targets be reviewed and revised to consider targets that reduce the overall linear disturbance resulting from forest activities.

Further to the above noted conditions, we also recommend the following:

- a) That the participants continue to build positive working relationships with First Nations. This can be achieved through regular meetings, respectful and solution-oriented dialogue, and meaningful avoidance and mitigation measures. Participants could consider the reinstatement of the Joint Management Advisory Committee, or some other appropriate venue.
- b) That the participants to reinstate the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC), in order to address many of the conditions above. The STAC could provide the participants with direction on how to incorporate new science and ideas into the SFMP. The STAC could also make suggestions to the Province around emerging issues.

Furthermore, we are aware of a number of processes underway with First Nations in the NE (e.g. the Regional Strategic Environmental Assessment; mediation with Blueberry River First Nations) that may result in new higher level plans that affect the objectives, indicators and targets within this SFMP. If the SFMP is inconsistent with any new higher level plans, we will require that the SFMP be amended and consulted on appropriately.

Note that following any amendment to the SFMP for the conditions noted above, an assessment of the Forest Operations Schedule must be completed to ensure consistency with any revisions to the SFMP.

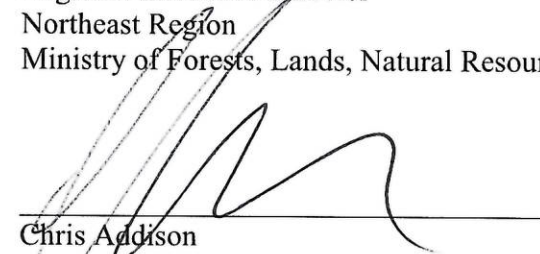
We look forward to working with you in the coming months to incorporate new management direction as it arises.

Yours truly;



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Karilyn Vince  
Regional Executive Director  
Northeast Region  
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development



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Chris Addison  
Director of Resource Management  
Northeast Region  
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

