



Timber harvest planning and operating ground rules

Canadian Forest Products Ltd.
Forest Management Plan/Agreement
Area-Specific Addendum

The logo for the province of Alberta, featuring the word "Alberta" in a stylized, cursive script font, followed by a small square icon.

2023

Canadian Forest Products Ltd. G15 FMU

**FOREST MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT SPECIFIC
ADDENDUM-TIMBER HARVEST PLANNING AND
OPERATING GROUND RULES**

**CANADIAN FOREST
PRODUCTS LTD. ALBERTA
OPERATIONS**

**ALBERTA
FORESTRY, PARKS AND
TOURISM**

ENDORSEMENTS

The Canadian Forest Products Ltd. Operating Ground Rules, having been prepared in accordance with Section 16 (2) of FMA 9900037 O.C. 198/99, and hereby endorsed this 11th day of April, 2023. The Executive Director of Forest Stewardship and Trade Branch has determined these ground rules will apply to all operations within FMA 9900037.

Canadian Forest Products Ltd.

HIS MAJESTY THE KING in right of Alberta as represented by the Minister of Forestry, Parks and Tourism

Original Signed

Original Signed

Per:

Per:

(print name)

Ken Greenway

(print name)

(title)

Executive Director

(title)

Preamble

The Timber Harvest Planning and Operating Ground Rules – FMA Specific Addendum (the “Addendum”) is a reference manual that provides regulatory guidance and direction to be used by timber harvest planners, forest operators and other forestry professionals involved in implementing forest management plans (FMP). Items within the Addendum are required for implementation of unique or specific strategies within the FMP and/or are specific to an individual FMA. The Addendum will work in concert with the standardized Provincial Timber Harvest Planning and Operating Ground Rules (Provincial OGR). The Addendum is Section 4 to Sections 1, 2 and 3 in the Provincial OGR. Rules found in the Addendum will supersede those found in the Provincial OGR when they address the same objective.

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Introduction

These Addendum Ground Rules will supersede rules in the Provincial OGR where there are rules addressing the same objective.

Authorizations and Legislation

This Agreement inures to the benefit of and is binding upon the Crown and His heirs, successors and assigns, and the Company and its successors and assigns.

4.1 Timber Harvest and Reforestation Planning Requirements

GROUND RULES

- 4.1.1 The GDP submission date is June 1 of each year unless otherwise approved by Alberta.
- 4.1.2 The AOP submission date is June 1 of each year unless otherwise approved by Alberta.
- 4.1.3 The reforestation program, which is part of the AOP, shall be submitted before May 1 of each year unless otherwise approved by Alberta.

4.2 Operational Ground Rules

4.2.1 Structure Retention

GROUND RULES

- 4.2.1.1 4% of the area harvested (ha) will be retained as representative merchantable structure retention across the FMA.
- 4.2.1.1.1 Target of 4% based on a 5 year rolling average. 3% retention (ha) achievement will be considered acceptable variance with rationale provided to Alberta.
 - 4.2.1.1.2 Retention is variable (from 0%) within any individual harvest area.
 - 4.2.1.1.3 Operational buffers on shallow open water or semi-permanent marsh will count fully towards retention targets if internal to the harvest opening.
- 4.2.1.2 Merchantable volume retained shall be measured and charged as AAC production and must be reported to Alberta in an acceptable manner.
- 4.2.1.3 Merchantable structure retention that contributes to the target shall be representative of the harvest area.
- 4.2.1.4 Forest operators shall retain structure in blocks in the following manner:
- a) leave larger patches rather than multiple smaller patches;
 - b) leave individual stems (dispersed) of residual structure throughout; harvested areas, as available; and
 - c) leave as many individual stems of non-merchantable trees, shrubs and snags as operationally and silviculturally feasible (this retention will not contribute to the target).
- 4.2.1.5 The following are guidelines for the spatial distribution of residual structure:
- a) retain residual structure near the block boundary to create a gradual ecotone between the block and un-harvested forest;
 - a) retain residual structure in patterns and locations that minimize the potential for blowdown;
 - b) retain residual structure near ephemeral draws and intermittent streams; and
 - c) retain residual structure within inoperable areas whenever possible.
- 4.2.1.6 Identify forested FMP netted down landbase within the block to aid in justification of where the allowance for structure retention targets will be left. The purpose of this is to identify harvest units where structure is required to be left on the landscape. Some examples include:
- a) Buffers;
 - b) Non merchantable patches; or
 - c) Understory.
- 4.2.1.7 For the block area, determine if there is a need for more structure retention, over and above what is required to be left. Specify the purpose of the structure that will be retained.
- a) Machine Free Zone's along intermittent or ephemeral draws with merchantable retention; or
 - b) Additional internal retention patches (i.e. merchantable volume retained within an understory patch or a pure merchantable patch).
- 4.2.1.8 Annually report on structure retention results by operational unit and FMA area in the GDP.
- 4.2.1.8.1 Calculate the planned versus actual results. Report on methodologies employed to achieve targets. Significant variances shall be discussed. Internal tracking of structure retention percent by operational units shall be conducted to ensure proper representation across the landscape.

- 4.2.1.9 Forest operators may create stubs anywhere within the harvested area to supplement snag densities, aid in wind-firmness of residual patches or for use as rub posts.
- 4.2.1.10 Dangerous trees that are greater than 6 m in height that create a safety hazard may be felled to create safe working conditions.
- 4.2.1.11 Dangerous trees within 40 m of roads, camps, landings, fence lines, power lines and machine maintenance areas may be felled to create safe working conditions.
- Cooperation with relevant power distribution agent if recommended for removal of hazard trees along power lines.
- 4.2.1.12 Migratory bird harvest timing retention:
As per 7.4.1.1.1 of the approved Detailed Forest Management Plan, stands within blocks that are scheduled to be harvested between May 1st and July 30th will be categorized by their relative risk. Mitigative measures to be applied to high and very high risk stands must include at least two of the following, to be incorporated into ~~site plans~~ final harvest design:
- a) Retention of live trees within the stand (minimum 15/ha, > 17.5 cm dbh);
 - b) Retention of standing dead trees (not stubs) within the stand (3/ha > 23 cm dbh);
 - c) Retention of riparian habitat (hygric and sub-hygric sites), particularly with older hardwood or mixedwood stands on them, within riparian reserves;
 - d) Retention of wildlife tree patches or other reserves within the block- all at least .25ha in size, with some > 2ha and for blocks > 100 ha, > 5 ha- focused around important habitat features like snags, large old trees, mixedwood areas; and
 - e) Retention of a representative portion of the stand at least 2ha in size outside the net harvested area of the block (either as wildlife tree patch, or other reserve, so it will not be harvested in the future);

4.2.2 Species of Special Management Concern ~~{CFP 7.7}~~

Arctic Grayling/Bull Trout

Locations of existing arctic grayling and bull trout can be identified using the Fisheries and Wildlife Management Information System (FWMIS), and the associated Fish and Wildlife Internet Mapping Tool (FWMIT). Within areas that have identified “very high” and “high” fish risk (as per Canfor’s Fish Risk Flow Chart):

GROUND RULES

- 4.2.2.1 Operational planning by the company should incorporate the use of an available Wet Areas Mapping tool to identify areas that are sensitive to disturbance. Field confirmation of these sites including depth to water, potential disruption of groundwater flows, and areas at high risk of erosion in wet or riparian areas can be a useful tool in determining road and crossing location.
- 4.2.2.2 Detailed Block Plans (DBP) for operations shall be submitted in the GDP
- 4.2.2.2.1 The FMP identifies watersheds with high risk and very high risk with respect to fish and will schedule and implement appropriate mitigation in these areas where

Canfor influence is >25%. Where applicable, specific mitigation strategies may be included in the DBP.

4.2.3 Soils

Provisions for reforestation of temporary roads, bared landing areas, and displaced soil created by timber harvesting operations shown in Appendix G Table 2- Reforestation Strategy in the 2015 FMP are adequate. Ground Rule 2.13.1 of 2023 Provincial OGR is, therefore, not applicable.

4.3 Monitoring and Reporting

GROUND RULE

- 4.3.1 Summary information submitted annually as per 3.1.4 of Provincial OGR must be in a format mutually agreed to by the companies and the Grande Prairie Forest Area.