

# Terms of Reference

## Amendment of the Detailed Forest Management Plan for Canfor FMA 9900037 to Incorporate Management Strategies for Mountain Pine Beetle Control



Canadian Forest Products Ltd.  
Grande Prairie Division  
March 28, 2007  
Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Title Page Photographs:**

Mountain Pine Beetle – [www.mpb.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/.../images/beetle2\\_sml.jpg](http://www.mpb.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/.../images/beetle2_sml.jpg)

Pine with pitch tubes - [www.gov.mb.ca/.../images/fh\\_mtn\\_pine\\_tubes.jpg](http://www.gov.mb.ca/.../images/fh_mtn_pine_tubes.jpg)

Infested tree - [www.bcit.ca/.../forestecosystem/img/id2.jpg](http://www.bcit.ca/.../forestecosystem/img/id2.jpg)

Engel, Brad W., D. Weeks, J. Stephenson and B. Morin. 2007. *Terms of Reference – Amendment of the Detailed Forest Management Plan for Canfor FMA 9900037 to Incorporate Management Strategies for Mountain Pine Beetle Control*. Prepared for Canadian Forest Products Ltd., Grande Prairie Division. 21 pp.



**Terms of Reference  
Amendment of the Detailed Forest Management Plan for  
Canfor FMA 9900037 to Incorporate Management  
Strategies for Mountain Pine Beetle Control**

**Canadian Forest Products Ltd.  
Grande Prairie Division**

**Prepared By:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Stephenson".

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James Stephenson, RPF #724

Woodlands Manager

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Dwight Weeks, RPFT #R010165

Strategic Planning Superintendent

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Engel".

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Brad Engel, RPF #105

Resource Management Consultant

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bernie Morin".

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Bernie Morin, RPFT #970009

Operations Supervisor



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## Executive Summary

In summer 2006, significant flight(s) of mountain pine beetle (*Dendroctonus ponderosae Hopkins*) infected a large area of lodgepole pine stands in northwestern Alberta, including Canfor's FMA area and quota tenures. Approximately forty percent of the AAC for Canfor's FMA area is comprised of lodgepole pine, which is now under threat.

This Terms of Reference (TOR) describes the processes and timelines for development and submission of an amendment to Canfor's approved Detailed Forest Management Plan (Canfor, 2003) that reflects the implications of changes to the timber harvesting sequence necessitated by the current mountain pine beetle infestation. Proposed changes to the currently approved coniferous and deciduous annual allowable cuts will be determined through a Resource and Timber Supply Analysis (RTSA). The amendment RTSA will be developed in conformance with the *Alberta Forest Management Planning Standard ver. 4*. The text of the approved DFMP (2003) will not be amended.

Most of the inputs and assumptions used in the current approved DFMP (2003) will be used as the basis for modeling; however modified AACs and flow regimes to implement pine management strategies will be generated. The timber harvest and status of susceptible pine stands will be modeled on a 20-year basis, with other values projected to 200 years. Management scenarios will be evaluated by a series of COMPLAN runs. Sensitivity analyses will be completed to determine the level of risk implicit in the modeled solution. After evaluating numerous sensitivity analyses, the preferred management strategy will be selected.

Canfor is the principal planner regarding development of the amendment RTSA; however the process will be a cooperative effort between the public, other timber resource users, other stakeholders, government, and consultants. Aboriginal input will be garnered via processes that are in conformance with The Government of Alberta's First Nations Consultation Guidelines on Land Management and Resource Development.

Development and implementation of the amendment RTSA will be an open and transparent process. Representatives of stakeholder groups that have expressed interest in Canfor's mountain pine beetle strategy prior to submitting the amendment to ASRD will have opportunities to provide input. Commercial Timber Permit/ Miscellaneous Timber Permit holders, located directly adjacent to the FMA area boundary, will be contacted to determine if they wish to provide comments or advice regarding selection of final management alternatives. Copies of the finalized RTSA will be available for viewing at local and area libraries.





## 1. Introduction

Canfor Corporation is a leading Canadian integrated forest products company based in Vancouver, British Columbia with interests in over 33 facilities in British Columbia, Alberta, Quebec, Washington State and North and South Carolina. Canfor is the largest producers of softwood lumber in Canada while also producing oriented strand board (OSB), plywood, remanufactured lumber products and specialized wood products. Canfor owns an 80% interest in Canfor Pulp Limited Partnership, one of the largest producers of northern softwood kraft pulp in Canada and a leading producer of high-performance kraft paper. The main operating company is Canadian Forest Products Ltd., from which the name Canfor is derived.

Canfor's long history of lumber production in Grande Prairie started in 1964 when its predecessor, North Canadian Forest Industries Limited (NCFI), acquired timber holdings in the area. On May 26, 1964, Canadian Forest Products Ltd. (formerly North Canadian Forest Industries Limited) entered into a twenty-year Forest Management Agreement with the Province of Alberta. This Agreement was renewed in 1978. In May 1999 Canadian Forest Products Ltd., Grande Prairie Division entered into a twenty-year Forest Management Agreement with the Province of Alberta that will expire on April 30, 2019 unless renewed under the provisions of the agreement. This agreement grants Canfor the rights to manage, grow, harvest and reforest coniferous timber, and to maintain and/or increase the coniferous annual allowable cut within Forest Management Area (FMA) 9900037, comprising 649,160 hectares.

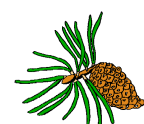
NCFI built its first mill in Grande Prairie and when these operations were sold to Canfor, a new dimension mill was built in 1989. Modernization occurred in 1996 and 2001 to maximize flexibility and manufacture metric and specialty lumber products, as well as North American sizes.

The majority of the logs required by the sawmill are obtained from FMA 9900037, which is located in three separate areas in the vicinity of Grande Prairie (Figure 1), and from coniferous quota tenures held by Canfor and 946013 Alberta Ltd. in the Hines Creek area. The approved coniferous annual allowable cut (AAC) from FMA 990007 is 640,000 m<sup>3</sup> per year and the combined Hines Creek quota AAC is 230,081 m<sup>3</sup> per year of which approximately 35,000 m<sup>3</sup> is provided annually to Zavisha Sawmills under the terms of a timber supply agreement between the two companies. The Grande Prairie facilities have an approximate annual log requirement of 831,000 m<sup>3</sup>/year<sup>1</sup>.

In 2001, Canfor commenced preparation of a detailed forest management plan (Canfor, 2003) in accordance with paragraph 10 of the Forest Management Agreement 9900037, which received approval from ASRD in November 2003. The DFMP 2003 prescribes AACs for both coniferous and deciduous species. Canfor's Sustainable Forest Management Plan (SFMP 2001), developed and approved in fulfillment of the requirements for certification under the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Sustainable Forest Management System Standard CAN/CSA-Z809-96, was incorporated into the DFMP. In 2005, Canfor's SFMP was certified to the CAN/CSA-

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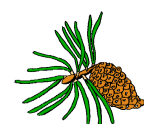
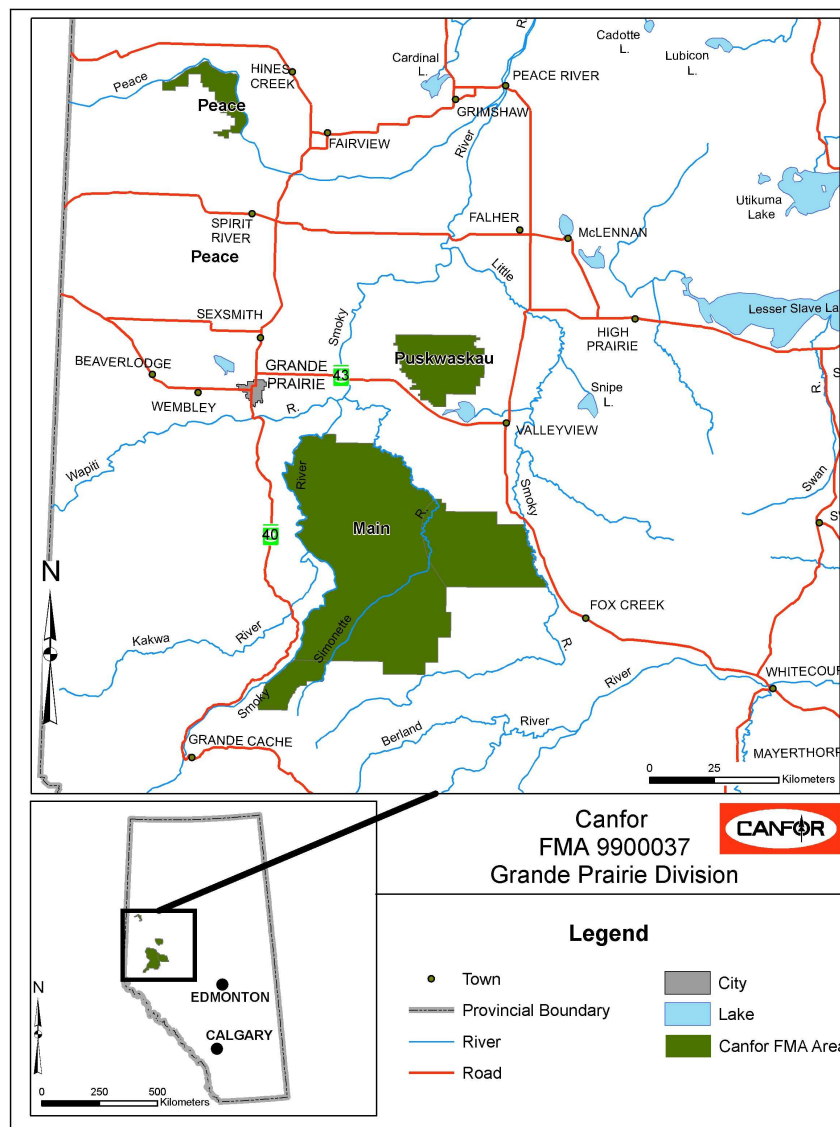
<sup>1</sup> Based on the five-year wood flow requirement (m<sup>3</sup>) indicated in Canfor's 2006 General Development Plan.



Z809-02 standard and it was incorporated into the DFMP 2003 as a replacement of the previous version.

In summer 2006, significant flight(s) of mountain pine beetle (*Dendroctonus ponderosae Hopkins*) infected a large area of lodgepole pine stands in northwestern Alberta, including Canfor's FMA area and quota tenures. Approximately forty percent of the AAC for Canfor's FMA area is comprised of lodgepole pine, which is now under threat. As a result, Canfor is working cooperatively with Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (ASRD) to monitor and control the infestation, including development of timber harvesting strategies aimed at removing the most susceptible pine stands before beetles infect them.

**Figure 1. Location of Canfor FMA 9900037**



## 1.1 Purpose of this Document

This Terms of Reference (TOR) describes the processes and timelines for development and submission of an amendment to Canfor's approved Detailed Forest Management Plan (Canfor, 2003) that reflects the implications of changes to the timber harvesting sequence necessitated by the current mountain pine beetle infestation. The amendment Resource and Timber Supply Analysis (RTSA) will be developed in conformance with the *Alberta Forest Management Planning Standard ver. 4* (ASRD, 2006).

## 1.2 Scope

This amendment applies to the resources within Canfor's FMA 9900037. The approved Detailed Forest Management Plan (Canfor, 2003) forms the basis for the amendment.

## 2. Amendment Framework

Canfor has adopted public participation as an essential element in development of this amendment RTSA. Canfor will continue to be accountable to the public and will verify, by independent audit, that forestry operations are achieving present and future objectives.

Proposed changes to the currently approved coniferous and deciduous annual allowable cuts will be determined through a Resource and Timber Supply Analysis. The timber harvest and status of susceptible pine stands will be modeled on a 20-year basis, with other values projected to 200 years.

The amended DFMP will be implemented through adaptive management processes, which include provisions for changes to forest management plans based on a process of scientific evaluation, monitoring, assessment and feedback. Monitoring and forest stewardship reporting will be important components of the amended DFMP. Monitoring provides the necessary feedback on assumptions and predictions, and supports adaptive management. Through the monitoring program, data will be collected to verify the status of the forest and, based on this "new" knowledge, management of forest resources will continue as prescribed, or will be modified to achieve acceptable outcomes.

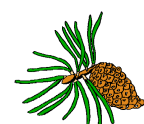
Operational activities will be conducted in accordance with the *Canfor FMA 9900037 Operating Ground Rules* (ASRD, 2005) and *Canfor Ground Rules Addendum – Mountain Pine Beetle Operations* (ASRD 2006c)

## 3. Resource and Timber Supply Analysis (RTSA)

Management scenarios will be evaluated by a series of COMPLAN<sup>2</sup> runs. Sensitivity analyses will be completed to determine the level of risk implicit in the modeled solution.

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<sup>2</sup> COMPLAN is a spatially based forest simulation model, developed by Olympic Resource Management that has been used for timber supply analyses since 1994. COMPLAN uses an iterative approach to establish periodic harvest levels that can vary over time. Users are able to set harvest levels that the model will try to reach within the constraints established. COMPLAN schedules harvests at the individual cut block or stand level subject to adjacency (green-up) and non-timber resource constraints (cover



It can reveal areas where relationships between values are easily misunderstood and where small decisions have a high impact on the outcome. A decision on the acceptable level of risk is made. If the level of risk is unacceptable, then further runs must be completed and the timber and environmental objectives re-examined. After evaluating numerous sensitivity analyses, the preferred management strategy will be selected.

Timberline Natural Resources Group Ltd. will be the primary consultant providing services with respect to the RSTA.

### 3.1 Modeling Scenarios

Most of the inputs and assumptions used in the current approved DFMP (Canfor, 2003) will be used as the basis for modeling; however modified AACs and flow regimes to implement pine management strategies will be generated.

On December 11, 2006, Canfor submitted a request to ASRD to revise the utilization standard for infected pine stands, and stands harvested under pine management strategies, from the existing 10 or 11 centimeter top diameter to a 13 centimeter top diameter. The request was approved by the Executive Director of ASRD on January 4, 2007 and is applicable to FMA 9900037 and all quotas held by Canfor and 946013 Alberta Ltd. The timber supply analyses conducted in support of the DFMP amendment will assume continuation of the revised utilization standard, but will model the impact of the larger top size and 15-centimeter stump height currently specified in the amended FMA Operating Ground Rules on the AAC.

It is anticipated that the following general activities will be undertaken:

➤ **Stage 1. Accomplishments by April 20, 2007**

- ◆ As indicated within *Interpretive Bulletin Planning Mountain Pine Beetle Response Operations* (ASRD, 2006a), the Alberta Stand Susceptibility Index will be used, in conjunction with other data sets, as a guide to establish the Timber Harvesting Landbase.

➤ **Stage 2. Accomplishments by May 4, 2007**

- ◆ Establishment of modified coniferous and deciduous AACs.

➤ **Stage 3. Accomplishments by May 11, 2007**

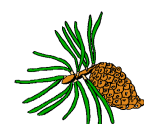
- ◆ Establishment of flow regimes or harvest sequence;
- ◆ Percent removal (75%) of high susceptibility pine stands will be guided by *Timber Supply Analysis Criteria for the Mountain Pine Beetle Disaster Scenario Evaluation* (ASRD, 2006b).

➤ **Stage 4. Accomplishments by May 16, 2007**

- ◆ Modeling and evaluation of CSA values within the DFMP 2003;

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constraints). COMPLAN uses a hierarchical data structure that takes advantage of a compartmental management approach to spatial data organization.



- ◆ If existing CSA targets and indicators cannot be sustained due to the impact of MPB, Canfor will consult the Forest Management Advisory Committee to revise indicators and targets or develop new ones as required.
- **Stage 5. Accomplishments by June 15, 2007**
  - ◆ Management scenarios will be modeled via an iterative series of computer runs. A final run will eventually be conducted and the final management alternative will be selected. The preferred management strategy will be comprised of compatible resource management strategies that best achieve the identified objectives.
- **Stage 6. Accomplishments by July 1, 2007**
  - ◆ Submission of the amendment Resource and Timber Supply Analysis to ASRD.
  - ◆ The text of the approved DFMP (2003) will not be amended.

Canfor will continue to monitor progress toward achievement of CSA targets as described in its SFMP 2005 (Canfor, 2005), which has recently been incorporated into the Detailed Forest Management Plan (Canfor, 2003). Progress in achieving the targets will be reported within its *Annual Performance Monitoring Report*.

Commencing in 2008, achievement of MPB strategies will be reported in the *Five Year Stewardship Report*.

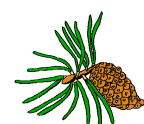
If circumstances require revised or new indicators and targets to be developed, then corresponding monitoring and reporting procedures will be identified at that time.

#### **4. Challenges to Resource Management**

The challenge of the amendment process is to develop plans and implementation strategies based on current knowledge and to find a balance between social, environmental and economic values.

Possible challenges include:

- Not all infested or high-risk pine stands may be addressed due to their geographic location, operability constraints, inadequate road infrastructure or other physical or economic factors;
- Establishment of optimal timber flow regimes, in terms of managing the risk of beetle infestation, may require trade offs between pine management objectives and legal requirements, or Canfor commitments to maintain other resource values;
- Lack of public support for aggressive beetle and pine management strategies or tactics;
- The Canada/ US Softwood Lumber Agreement applies prohibitive taxes on lumber export volumes at low markets, thereby reducing opportunities to sell additional lumber production that may result from AAC uplifts;
- Poor lumber markets may delay or inhibit capital investment in sawmill upgrades that are required to effectively utilize small diameter pine logs; and
- Poor markets may precipitate mill production slowdowns or mill closures.



## 5 Roles, Responsibilities and Obligation of Participants

A number of companies, organizations and individuals will play a role in the development of the amendment RTSA, as described in the following sections.

### 5.1 Canfor

Canfor is the principal planner regarding development of the amendment RTSA; however the process will be a cooperative effort between the public, other timber resource users, other stakeholders, government, and consultants.

The amendment RTSA will be developed and reviewed by the planning team, under the leadership of the Strategic Planning Superintendent. The amended RTSA requires the approval of the Woodlands Manager.

### 5.2 Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (ASRD)

The *Alberta Forest Management Planning Standard* (ASRD, 2006a) and its annexes, and updates provide the standard for preparing and implementing DFMPs in Alberta.

ASRD will designate a team to evaluate and approve the amendment RTSA. Canfor proposes that the ASRD approval team be comprised of:

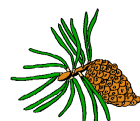
- Forest Management Planning Forester, Forest Planning Section (Edmonton);
- Area Manager, Fire Management, Smoky Area;
- Forestry Manager, Smoky Wildfire Management;
- Forester, Lands - Forest Operations (Valleyview);
- Forest Health Officer, Lands - Forest Operations (Peace River); and
- Area Wildlife Biologist, Fish and Wildlife (Grande Prairie).

### 5.3 Forest Management Advisory Committee

Canfor recognizes that public participation is essential to the development of successful forest management plans and established the Forest Management Advisory Committee (FMAC) in August 1995. The FMAC consists of members who represent a broad range of interested parties, including a Defined Forest Area<sup>3</sup> representative who works on Canfor's FMA area.

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<sup>3</sup> Under the CAN/CSA-Z809-02 standard, Defined Forest Area equates to Canfor's FMA area.



**Table 1. Forest Management Advisory Committee Members and Advisors**

FMAC Member List 2007.xls

Member Affiliations	Industry/ Government Advisors
Alberta Fish and Game Association	ASRD, Fish and Wildlife
Alberta Conservation Association	ASRD, Land and Forests
Alberta Professional Outfitters Society	Ainsworth Lumber Company Ltd.
Alberta Trappers' Association	Tolko Industries Ltd.
Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers	Canadian Forest Products Ltd.
City of Grande Prairie	
Canadian Natural Resources Ltd.	
Ducks Unlimited	
Grande Prairie Chamber of Commerce	
Grande Prairie and Area Education Society	
Grande Prairie Regional College.	
Grande Prairie Regional College student observer	
Defined Forest Area Worker (Little Smoky Forestry Service)	
Municipal District of Greenview #16	
Métis Nation Zone 6	
Peace Wapiti School Division No. 76	
Public Members at Large	
South Peace Environmental Association	
Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation	
Tolko Industries	
Town of Valley view	
Travel Alberta North TDR	

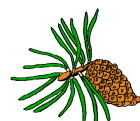
Membership is not limited to the above-mentioned list. Periodically, invitations are extended to other organizations to join the committee.

The committee operates under a terms of reference, which describes the committee's roles and responsibilities, as follows:

- Identify and select values, objectives, indicators and targets, based on the CSA Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) elements and any other elements of relevance to the DFA;
- Develop alternative strategies to be assessed;
- Assess alternative strategies and select the preferred one;
- Review the SFM plan;
- Design monitoring programs, evaluate results and recommend improvement;
- Discuss and resolve any issues relevant to SFM in the DFA;
- Provide input regarding Forest Ecosystem Management Objectives; and
- In partnership with Canfor, review, refine and implement the Public Involvement Program.

#### 5.4 Other Forest Companies

Tolko Industries Ltd. and Ainsworth Lumber Company Ltd. have been allocated deciduous timber dispositions within the FMA area. Representatives of those



companies will be invited to participate in the amendment RTSA document review process by providing input during Stages 4 and 5 of the Modeling Scenarios process (Section 3.1). Tolko and Ainsworth also provide representatives to act as advisors to FMAC.

## **5.5 Consultants**

Forestry consultants will play an important role in the development of the amendment RTSA. Canfor ensures that consultant services are provided in a manner consistent with its goals and objectives. Timberline Natural Resources Group Ltd. will be the primary consultant providing services with respect to the RSTA. Brad Engel, RPF will provide technical input and prepare documents related to the plan.

## **5.6 Aboriginal Involvement**

Canfor makes provision for Aboriginal input using processes that are in conformance with the Government of Alberta's First Nations Consultation Guidelines on Land Management and Resource Development (ASRD, 2006d).

Aboriginal involvement is ensured in two ways:

- Aboriginal groups, Including Sturgeon Lake First Nation and Métis Nation Zone 6, are members of the Forest Management Advisory Committee; and
- Via direct consultation with Sturgeon Lake First Nation and the Aseniwuche Winewak First Nation of Canada prior to submission of the proposed amendment to ASRD (Stage 6, Section 3.1).

## **6 Public Involvement Plan (PIP)**

Canfor is committed to revising its current public involvement plan (PIP) to meet ASRD requirements and to reflect the changing social, environmental and economic times. The PIP contains an effective dispute resolution mechanism. In the case of unresolved disputes, Government will arbitrate, and provide decisions that will be binding on all parties.

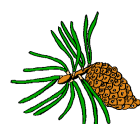
The procedures for internal and external communication are described in the PIP.

## **5. Conflicts of Interest**

Members of Canfor's DFMP planning team and any other person(s), either internal or external to Canfor, are expected to announce if they have a conflict of interest and to remove themselves from any decision making process.

## **7 Mechanism to Adjust the Process**

The most up to date data and information will be utilized to develop the amendment RTSA. As new information becomes available, Canfor will evaluate it and make a determination regarding the course(s) of action to be undertaken. If existing CSA targets cannot be sustained due to the impact of MPB, Canfor will work with the Forest Management Advisory Committee to develop revised targets and indicators or develop new ones as required.



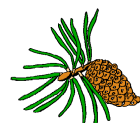


## **8 Access to Information**

Canfor's process for development and implementation of the amendment RTSA will be an open and transparent process. In particular, Canfor will contact representatives of stakeholder groups that have expressed interest in Canfor's mountain pine beetle strategy prior to submitting the amendment to ASRD. Also, Canfor will contact Commercial Timber Permit/ Miscellaneous Timber Permit holders, located directly adjacent to the FMA area boundary, to determine if they wish to provide comments or advice regarding selection of final management alternatives.

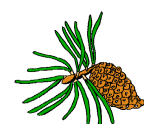
Following ASRD approval, the amended DFMP (which includes the SFMP 2005) will be:

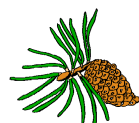
- Disseminated to local and area libraries;
- Available for review at open houses and town hall meetings;
- Forwarded to interested parties on request; and
- Available on the ASRD website.



## 9 Literature Cited

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File: [..\\..\\..\\..\\OPERATIONAL\\_PLANNING\\OPERATING\\_GUIDELINES\\OPERATING\\_GROUND\\_RULES\\FMA\\_OGR\\2005\\Canfor\\_OGR\\_master\\_Dec1\\_05ARfinal.doc](..\\..\\..\\..\\OPERATIONAL_PLANNING\\OPERATING_GUIDELINES\\OPERATING_GROUND_RULES\\FMA_OGR\\2005\\Canfor_OGR_master_Dec1_05ARfinal.doc)
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## Canadian Forest Products Ltd.

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### Grande Prairie Division

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March 28, 2007

Executive Director  
Forest Management Branch  
Alberta Sustainable Resource Development  
7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Great West Life Building  
9920 – 108 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2M4

Attention: Mr. Doug Sklar

Dear Sir:

**Re: Terms of Reference Regarding an Amendment of the Detailed Forest Management Plan for Canfor's FMA 9900037 to Incorporate Management Strategies for Mountain Pine Beetle**

In response to the 2006 infestation of the mountain pine beetle in Alberta, Canfor has committed to prepare and implement a strategy to control or prevent the spread of beetles within the pine forests managed under the company's tenures. As outlined in Alberta Sustainable Resource Development's Interpretive Bulletin entitled *Planning Mountain Pine Beetle Response Operations Version 2.6*, an important component of an effective prevention strategy is to modify the age class structure of pine forests to reduce the long-term susceptibility to mountain pine beetle attack. This modification may create a significant change in the spatial harvest sequence that is currently approved in the Detailed Forest Management Plan for FMA 9900037. The enclosed terms of reference outlines our proposed methodology regarding the modeling of the environmental, social and economic implications of the control strategy, and key components of the consultation process. We are pleased to submit them for your consideration and approval.

Yours truly,

James Stephenson, RPF  
Woodlands Manager

Cc Robert Stokes, Sustainable Resource Development  
Manager Forest Planning Section  
Dwight Weeks, RPFT

Enclosure