



Timber harvest planning and operating ground rules

Manning Forest Products
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

MANNING FOREST PRODUCTS FMA

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

**MANNING FOREST
PRODUCTS (A Division of
West Fraser Mills, Ltd)**

**ALBERTA
FORESTRY, PARKS AND
TOURISM**

ENDORSEMENTS

The Manning Forest Products FMA Timber Harvest Planning and Operating Ground Rules, having been prepared in accordance with Section 16 (2) of FMA0200041, and hereby endorsed this 11th day of April, 2023. The Executive Director of Forest Stewardship and Trade Branch has also determined these ground rules will apply to FMU P20.

Manning Forest Products (A Division of West Fraser Mills, 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.

Contents

Preamble.....3

Introduction.....5

Authorizations and Legislation5

4.1 Timber Harvest and Reforestation Planning Requirements6

4.2 Operational Ground Rules7

4.2.1 Structure Retention7

4.2.2 Soils8

4.3 Monitoring and Reporting.....9

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 a minimum of 30 working days prior to commencement of operations unless otherwise approved by Alberta.
- 4.1.3 The reforestation program shall be submitted:
 - a) before April 30 for silviculture operations commencing between May 1 and October 31;
 - b) with the AOP for silviculture operations commencing between November 1 and April 30; or
 - c) as otherwise specified in an FMA, or at a time agreed to by Alberta.

4.2 Operational Ground Rules

4.2.1 Structure Retention

GROUND RULES

- 4.2.1.1 The total stand level retention target is a minimum of 3% based on a ten year roll up of gross harvest area, sub-divided into the following two classes:
- Internal retention. A minimum 2/3 of the required retention must be from internal structure retention. Internal structure is defined as areas of standing, merchantable trees, which are located within a harvest area boundary and not connected to the edge.
 - Proximal retention. A maximum of 1/3 of the required retention can be from proximal retention. Proximal retention is defined as areas of standing, merchantable trees, which are located within a harvest area boundary and connected to a portion of the edge.
- 4.2.1.2 Retention Patches shall be representative of all harvested stand types and will be classified into one of the three following timber types:
- Coniferous ($\geq 80\%$ of merchantable stems are coniferous);
 - Mixedwood ($< 80\%$ of merchantable stems are coniferous, and $< 80\%$ of merchantable stems are deciduous); or
 - Deciduous ($\geq 80\%$ of merchantable stems are deciduous).
- 4.2.1.3 Small retention patches (< 1 ha) shall consist of wind-firm trees expected to stand for a minimum of 30 years. Overmature conifer retention should be left in larger patches as it has a greater risk of blowdown.
- 4.2.1.4 Retention shall be within or adjacent to the harvest block boundary.
- 4.2.1.5 A post-harvest field call shall be used to assign strata for each retention patch. The field call is to be made by a company forest management professional on site.
- 4.2.1.6 Any retention that arises as a result of ground rule deletions outside section 2.17 of Provincial OGR (i.e. required buffers for watercourses) is not to be included in the 3% stand level target.
- 4.2.1.6.1 Operational buffers on shallow open water or semi-permanent marsh will count fully towards retention targets if internal to the harvest opening.
- 4.2.1.7 The following describes the structure retention patch size targets. These targets are independent from harvest opening size.
- Large Patches (> 5 ha) – minimum of 30% of required retention needs to come from large patches
 - Medium Patches (1.0 – 5 ha) – minimum of 30% of required retention needs to come from medium patches
 - Small Patches (< 1.0 ha) – minimum of 10% of required retention needs to come from small patches.

MONITORING AND REPORTING

- 4.2.1.8 Merchantable patches < 0.5 ha and scattered individual trees shall be accounted for by either GPS (or acceptable equivalent) or counting the individual stems. An individual tree is defined as either live or dead, at least 15 cm stump diameter (IB), an 11 cm top diameter (IB) and at

least 2.6 m long. The area equivalent of these small merchantable patches will be approximated using the relationship of 500 stems/ha.

- 4.2.1.9 All merchantable volume left as retention shall be charged against the AAC under the appropriate disposition. This is to be done using the retention stratum/volume relationship as outlined in Table 3, Appendix IV: FMP Implementation of the approved FMP.
- 4.2.1.10 Each operator shall annually submit a report of the structural retention by block along with as-built plans. The report shall include area of retention by cutover size group, retention patch size, field calls (species group) as outlined in the FMP and a summary table of the volume charged to the AAC. Where the target in 4.2.1.1 is not achieved the company shall submit an action plan detailing how the target will be achieved.

4.2.2 Soils

Provisions for reforestation of temporary roads, bared landing areas, and displaced soil created by timber harvesting operations shown in Table 6-3- Silviculture Matrix in the 2012-2021 FMP are adequate. Ground Rule 2.13.1 of 2022 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 Peace River Forest Area.