

March 26, 2009
Fraser TSA All Licensee Meeting
Spotted Owl Plan Revisions
Fraser Timber Supply Area
No Net Loss Evaluation

The “no net loss’ evaluation is based on forest inventory data from the vegetation resource inventory with projected attributes to 2007 and disturbance to 2006 using change detection mapping. A comparative analysis of the changes in species, age class, volume, hectares, contributing land base and non-contributing land base was completed comparing the 1997 SOMP and the proposed changes to the 1997 SOMP (proposed plan). Mapping products were also produced to capture all of the line work changes and to provide a spatial overview of the proposed plan.

A comparative analysis of this information indicates the following;

1. There is a reduction in the amount of Contributing Land Base (CLB) in the proposed plan of 6478 ha. from the FMA and LTOH areas, this equates to a decrease in the 1997 SOMP volume of approximately 1.2 million m3 (see Table 1). This area is now outside of any SOMP operations guidelines that constrained volumes to be left on the site from approximately 20% to 67%. This would create an upward pressure on the AAC in the next TSR review.

Table 1: Total of all age classes

		Contributing Land Base		Non-Contributing Land Base	
		1997 Plan	Proposed Plan	1997 Plan	Proposed Plan
Area (ha)	LTOH	27,510	27,528	37,034	43,767
	FMA	22,068	15,572	11,220	11,927
	Total	49,578	43,100	48,254	55,694
Volume (m3)	LTOH	10,101,815	9,679,000	14,462,864	15,995,215
	FMA	6,944,309	6,197,740	3,826,327	4,932,620
	Total	17,046,124	15,876,740	18,289,191	20,927,835

2. A larger percentage of the proposed plan is classified as non-contributing land base. Based on standing timber volume estimates from the forest cover inventory the percentage increased to 56% from 49%.
3. The data indicates that there will be a similar amount of age class 61-121+ (Table 2) in the proposed plan as in the 1997 SOMP however there is a increase in the amount of age class 61-121+ in the LTOH CLB of 4151 ha. This could have an impact on short term harvesting opportunities, but may not have any significant impact on long term timber supplies.

Table 2: Shows age classes 61 -121+years

		Contributing Land Base		Non-Contributing Land Base	
		1997 Plan	Proposed Plan	1997 Plan	Proposed Plan
Area (ha)	LTOH	14,303	18,454	30,938	37,840
	FMA	9791	6309	7763	9161
	Total	24,094	24,763	38,701	47,001

4. The locations of the SRMZs on the land base is also significant in that the LTOH SRMZs are located in the Fraser Canyon and in the more eastern and northern portions of the Fraser TSA, while the FMAs are located in the western and southern portions of the TSA. In general hauling distances are greater and wood quality traditionally has been poorer in the eastern/northern stands making some stands uneconomical at this time to harvest (i.e. Nahatlatch River). On average site productivity is lower in the dryer ecosystems than in the wetter ecosystems of the Fraser TSA resulting in slower growing stands. In the long term the shift to faster growing stands in the wetter ecosystems should provide an upward pressure on the AAC.
5. The proposed plan will consider greater overlaps with the ungulate winter range plan that is being developed by industry and the agencies. This will also reduce the timber supply impacts from the establishment of both plans using the same areas.

Table 3: Shows age classes 101-121+ years

		Contributing Land Base		Non-Contributing Land Base	
		1997 Plan	Proposed Plan	1997 Plan	Proposed Plan
Area (ha)	LTOH	11,441	15,357	25,839	30,335
	FMA	7428	4441	5906	8187
	Total	18,869	19,798	31,745	38,522

Summary

This comparative analysis is not intended to provide the definitive results that a timber supply review can provide regarding changes to the AAC of a TSA. Nor will this provide a precise change in the value of the stands. Both of these processes to conduct a timber supply review and an economic analysis would require substantial amount of time to complete. This comparative analysis is used as an overview of the changes between the plans using volume, hectares, age class, spatial information, CLB, NCLB, species and knowledge of the Fraser TSA.

From a long term volume perspective it would appear that the proposed plan would be equal to or slightly better than the 1997 SOMP. The release of 6478 ha to the timber harvesting land base (THLB) and 7% increase in volume in the NCLB in the proposed plan would have an upward pressure on the long term timber supply for the Fraser TSA.

From a value perspective the information provided will not enable one to provide an accurate assessment of the value differences between the two plans. However, the proposed plan is less

complicated in the management of the plan than the 1997 SOMP. The release of 6478 ha back to the THLB will be an advantage to the short and long term harvesting opportunities as there would be no constraints from the SOMP on these areas. The proposed plan LTOH SRMZs are concentrated in the eastern and northern areas of the TSA where generally the timber quality has been poorer and site productivity lower than in the western and southern portions of the Fraser TSA where the FMAs are located. There are more age class 101-121+ in the LTOH CLB in the proposed plan (see Table 3) than in the 1997 SOMP, which could impact the short term harvesting opportunities.

Using the data provided and CFD staff intimate knowledge of the Fraser TSA the value between the two plans would be very similar in the short term but would expect that the long term value of the proposed plan would be greater. In conclusion this evaluation shows no net loss in timber supply in the short term and a net gain in timber supply in the long term.

Prepared by:
Gene Mac Innes, RPF
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