

Sustainable Forest Management Plan

for the Cariboo-Chilcotin Business Area



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Introduction

Vision

Cariboo-Chilcotin Business Area's (CCBA) vision is to be an effective timber marketer generating wealth through sustainable resource management. Forest stewardship, accountability, honesty and integrity are our core values.

Our vision means:

- we have skilled, motivated, proud and loyal employees;
- we have, and continuously seek out, efficient, effective and innovative business practices;
- we are respected managers of the public forests;
- we are an integral part of British Columbia's economy; and
- we optimize opportunities for our customers from B.C. forests.

Mission

Our mission is to market Crown timber to establish market price and capture the value of the asset for the public.

Core Values

In pursuit of our mission, BC Timber Sales (BCTS) core values are:

- honesty and integrity;
- accountability; and
- forest stewardship.

Scope

This plan applies to all of BCTS forest management operations with the CCBA, as established by the BCTS Business Area Regulation, deposited June 20, 2003. BCTS forest management operations are carried out in the Williams Lake TSA, the Quesnel TSA, and TFL 52 (formerly known as TFL 5 and TFL 52). The timber sales office is located in Williams Lake, with a field office in Quesnel.

Consistency

This Sustainable Forest Management Plan (SFMP) is consistent with all of the following plans which are created by CCBA:

Forest Stewardship Plans (FSPs); and Site Plans (SP).

This SFMP will outline how the CCBA meets the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Standards through the application of legislation, policies, programs, operational plans, the ISO 14001 certified EMS program, and appropriate monitoring systems.

Cariboo-Chilcotin Business Area Environmental Policy

CCBA is committed to sustainable forest management and responsible stewardship of the environment.

It is the policy of the CCBA to:

- comply with all relevant environmental legislation, regulations and the other requirements to which we subscribe;
- strive for excellence in forest management by continually improving the performance of resource management activities and practices;
- maintain a framework that sets and reviews environmental objectives and targets, and promotes the prevention of pollution associated with BCTS forestry activities;
- monitor and evaluate key BCTS forestry operations; and
- communicate BCTS business activities and policies to all staff and make them available to the public.

THE 9 PRINCIPLES OF THE SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE

1. Sustainable Forestry

To practice sustainable forestry to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs by practicing a land stewardship ethic that integrates reforestation and the managing, growing, nurturing, and harvesting of trees for useful products with the conservation of soil, air and water quality, biological diversity, wildlife and aquatic habitat, recreation, and aesthetics.

2. Responsible Practices

To use and to promote among other forest landowners sustainable forestry practices that are both scientifically credible, and economically, environmentally, and socially responsible.

3. Reforestation and Productive Capacity

To provide for regeneration after harvest and maintain the productive capacity of the forest land base.

4. Forest Health and Productivity

To protect forests from uncharacteristic and economically or environmentally undesirable wildfire, pests, diseases, and other damaging agents and thus maintain and improve long-term forest health and productivity.

5. Long-Term Forest and Soil Productivity

To protect and maintain long-term forest and soil productivity.

6. Protection of Water Resources

To protect water bodies and riparian zones.

7. Protection of Special Sites and Biological Diversity

To manage forests and lands of special significance (biologically, geologically, historically, or culturally important) in a manner that takes into account their unique qualities and to promote a diversity of wildlife habitats, forest types, and ecological or natural community types.

8. Legal Compliance

To comply with applicable federal, provincial, state, and local forestry and related environmental laws, statutes, and regulations.

9. Continual Improvement

To continually improve the practice of forest management and also to monitor, measure and report performance in achieving the commitment to sustainable forestry.

CCBA must meet Objectives 1-7 and 9-13. Objective 8 is for companies that have a procurement program.

OBJECTIVES FOR LAND MANAGEMENT

Objective 1

To broaden the implementation of sustainable forestry by ensuring long-term harvest levels based on the use of the best scientific information available.

The AAC is determined as a result of extensive analyses that consider a number of factors including growth and yield modeling, socio-economic factors, forest health factors and sustainable long term harvest levels. The AAC calculations also include assumptions around forest management activities such as planting, stand tending and other activities that enhance the long-term sustainability of the forest.

CCBA is working aggressively to harvest mountain pine beetle affected stands.

CCBA monitors the volume of timber harvested compared to the volume scaled or volume billed, and CCBA's apportionment.

Indicator: CCBA will compare volume of timber harvested to BCTS' apportionment of the AAC for the Management Unit.

Objective 2

To ensure long-term forest productivity and conservation of forest resources through prompt reforestation, soil conservation, afforestation, and other measures.

CCBA ensures long term forest productivity and conservation of forest resources through prompt reforestation, soil conservation measures, wildlife tree retention strategies, and other measures as outlined in the legislation and in the FSPs.

CCBA is committed to meeting reforestation standards as stated in the FSPs. Standards for reforestation may be greater than two years for artificial regeneration, and greater than five years for natural regeneration for site-specific environmental or forest health considerations.

CCBA is committed to minimizing the use of chemicals to achieve management objectives. Should CCBA choose to use chemicals, applicable regulatory requirements will be met.

CCBA is committed to protecting and maintaining forest and soil productivity and includes protection from disease and fire to the extent possible, based on our operational issues, ecology and responsibilities. CCBA maintains a mistletoe eradication program. CCBA currently manages a Forest Health Program, and has developed a Forest Health Strategy.

Fire preparedness is addressed by the Emergency Response Plans (ERP) prepared and submitted at pre-works by contractors and Timber Sale Licence holders. Commitments made in the ERPs are verified by CCBA staff in the field where appropriate

CCBA uses planting stock from nurseries that have met provincial standards. CCBA will minimize use of exotic species and stock derived through biotechnology. CCBA will seek appropriate approvals if such stock is considered.

Indicators:

number of months after harvest completion that regeneration delay is met, for planted areas and for naturally regenerated areas, annually;
hectares planted or naturally regenerated annually;
hectares site prepared annually;
hectares surveyed annually;
hectares on which herbicide was used annually, and volume used;
hectares brushed, by method, annually;
hectares declared regeneration delay met annually;
hectares stand tended annually; and
hectares declared free growing annually.

Objective 3**To protect water quality in streams, lakes, and other water bodies.**

CCBA is committed to protecting the water quality and maintaining riparian values in the areas in which it operates. Riparian protection will be managed in accordance with the legislation and as outlined in the FSPs. The ISO 14001 certified EMS also addresses the riparian risks, and training will ensure that staff and contractors are competent in understanding and applying practices in regard to riparian issues.

Site inspections and monitoring, audits, shut-down criteria (Environmental Field Procedures - EFPs), address water quality protection.

Objective 4**To manage the quality and distribution of wildlife habitats, and contribute to the conservation of biological diversity by developing and implementing stand and landscape level measures that promote habitat diversity, and the conservation of forest plants and animals, including aquatic fauna.**

CCBA is committed to managing and protecting wildlife, wildlife habitat and biodiversity at stand and landscape levels by meeting or exceeding legislation and the application of results and strategies made in the FSPs. Commitments made in the FSPs reflect regulatory requirements and non-regulatory commitments.

CCBA is committed to preventing the spread of noxious weeds as outlined in our FSPs.

CCBA will utilize the most updated ILMB Seral Run analysis available. Seral drawdown will be consistent with Section 6.3 1 (d) of the Williams Lake FSP, or Section 6.4.1 Objective 2 Result and Strategy 1(d) of the Quesnel FSP.

CCBA has developed Species of Management Concern Program which includes lists of plants, plant ecosystems, and animal species that are threatened or endangered in the Central Cariboo Forest District, Chilcotin Forest District, and the Quesnel Forest District (including TFL 52). CCBA also has a detailed Species of Management Concern Office Manual, and Identification Guide, and a Field Guide to Wildlife Habitat Management. A tracking system has been developed to record locations of known and previously unrecorded sites and sightings of the threatened or endangered species.

Staff have been trained in the use of these materials, and the materials have been made available to CCBA Licensees Permittees and Contractors (LPCs).

When prescribed burning is considered appropriate on the landbase as determined by a qualified forest professional, a burning plan and/or the required paperwork will be completed and submitted to the Cariboo Fire Centre.

Objective 5

To manage the visual impact of harvesting and other forest operations.

Visual impact of harvesting and other forest operations will be managed to a level that meets or exceeds the regulated level as identified in the FSPs, for areas with established and recommended visual quality objectives (VQOs).

If the visual quality objectives cannot be met because of forest health issues, exemptions will be required.

Adjacency is addressed by meeting legislation requirements.

Cutblock size is monitored and tracked.

Indicator: average cutblock size.

Objective 6

To manage program participant lands that are ecologically, geologically, historically, or culturally important in a manner that recognizes their special qualities.

The CCBA will identify, map, and manage special sites that may be present in our operations in accordance with provincial government legislation and policy. Site-specific or area-specific plans will have prescriptions in place to address the management of special sites. Special sites are identified through BEC mapping, soil identification at the site plan level, Archaeological Overview Assessments (AOA), Archaeological Impact Assessments (AIA), Cariboo Chilcotin Land Use Plan (CCLUP), FSPs, and our Species of Management Concern program, etc.

Environmental Field Procedures provide shut-down criteria for previously unidentified resource features.

The CCBA Species of Management Concern Program also contains some information on how to manage for special sites as it relates to those species of management concern.

Objective 7

To promote the efficient use of forest resources.

On TSLs that were advertised before September 1, 2008, BCTS will conduct waste and residue assessments in accordance with the Waste and Residue Manual. Where the waste and residue exceeds the benchmark, the Licensee will be billed accordingly.

TSLs advertised post September 1, 2008, Licensees are required to monitor their waste and residue volumes on their TSLs. If a Licensee's waste and residue survey show that the Licensee has exceeded the waste and residue benchmark, the Licensees will be billed accordingly.

Indicator: Waste will be measured and tracked. Cruise based ITSL program promotes 100% utilization.

OBJECTIVES FOR PROCUREMENT

Objective 8

To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry through procurement programs.

Procurement from sources within the United States and Canada (8.1–8.4 apply).

Does not apply to the CCBA – CCBA does not procure wood.

OBJECTIVES FOR FORESTRY RESEARCH, SCIENCE, AND TECHNOLOGY

Objective 9

To improve forestry research, science, and technology, upon which sound forest management decisions are based.

The CCBA maintains support for forestry research that includes improvement for areas in forest health, productivity and management of the forest resource.

BCTS headquarters funds three full-time equivalents (FTE) in the Southern Interior Region which provides expertise in forest health, silviculture, planning, geomatics and inventory. Forest Science services are available from regional research scientists in soils, geomorphology, hydrology, ecology, wildlife habitat ecology and silviculture. These positions are geographically located in the Williams Lake Forestry Centre. This agreement between Forest Sciences, Southern Interior Regional Office & BC Timber Sales Business provides guidance on project scope and prioritization.

Provincial funding provided to CCBA in the form of FIA funds is also used to finance research projects for activities that CCBA is not legally obliged to undertake. CCBA also cost shares with other licensees for projects such as watershed analysis, when appropriate.

The CCBA also provides in-kind support for community projects and initiatives such as the Gavin Lake Forest Education Society, and research projects such as “Maintenance of 15 to 25 year old site preparation and species trials”, and “Novel aerial photography as an aid to sampling secondary structure in pine stands”.

Other initiatives that BCTS has provincial representation on are: the Western Canadian Sustainable Forestry Initiative Implementation Committee (WCSIC), website address: <http://www.wcsic.ca> the FERIC institute, Land Based Investment Program (LBIP) and Forest Science Program (both funded through the Forest Investment Account program). In most of these initiatives, CCBA or the provincial representative (Certification Standards Co-ordinator) have a role in determining which projects are funded based on internal and provincial meetings where priorities are established.

Indicators: list of projects funded by CCBA.

OBJECTIVES FOR TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Objective 10

To improve the practice of sustainable forest management by resource professionals, logging professionals, and contractors through appropriate training and education programs.

The CCBA is committed to improving the practice of sustainable forest management.

CCBA ISO 14001 certified EMS system ensures appropriate training and updating are done for both staff and contractors.

Roles and responsibilities are identified in the EMS tables.

The CCBA is represented on the WCSIC committee by the business area's Certification Standards Officer and the provincial Certification Officer.

The SFMP is available for public comment and review at http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/BCTS/areas/TCC_certification.htm

OBJECTIVES FOR LEGAL AND REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

Objective 11

Commitment to comply with applicable federal, provincial, state, or local laws and regulations.

CCBA is committed to compliance with relevant federal, provincial and local laws.

CCBA has implemented their ISO 14001 certified EMS program which in conjunction with our FSPs, monitors compliance with legislative requirements. CCBA also completes internal audits, and can and may be, audited by the provincial government for compliance to provincial rules and regulations.

CCBA is committed to high standards of employment and complying with all social laws as outlined in the *Public Service Act*.

OBJECTIVES FOR PUBLIC AND LANDOWNER INVOLVEMENT IN THE PRACTICE OF SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY

Objective 12

To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry by encouraging the public and forestry community to participate in the commitment to sustainable forestry and publicly report progress.

Educational materials supporting sustainable forest management issues are available to the public from the CCBA front counter and on the main BCTS website. Information specific to biological diversity issues is available on the Ministry of Environment website at www.env.gov.bc.ca.

CCBA's website is updated with our sustainable forest management information, and SFI awareness information has been mailed to our clients and contractors, and has been provided to each LPC in the CCBA "Certification Binder".

The CCBA also promotes public involvement in sustainable forestry through funding of projects such as recreation site and trail maintenance. Commitments are also made in the FSPs for appropriate recreation site maintenance, when operating in those identified areas.

The CCBA participates in annual forestry forums, trade shows, job fairs, and are members of TSA level organizations such as the Williams Lake and Quesnel TSA Associations, and the Cariboo Licensees Land Use Strategy Committee.

Public comments received during official review periods will be tracked, recorded, and responses will be documented.

CCBA commits to following referral processes and protocol agreements for the purpose of seeking input. First Nations bands receive referrals for proposed blocks and off-block roads for input before harvesting approval. Protocol agreements are also pursued for First Nations for information sharing purposes.

CCBA maintains a membership and participates in the Western Canadian Sustainable Forestry Initiative Implementation Committee (WCSIC).

CCBA maintains a public website where the public is invited to submit comments on environmental concerns regarding BCTS practices.

The CCBA annually completes a management review.

Indicator: public comments and CCBA responses will be tracked.
Management Review document.

OBJECTIVES FOR MANAGEMENT REVIEW AND CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENT

Objective 13

To promote continual improvement in the practice of sustainable forestry and monitor, measure, and report performance in achieving the commitment to sustainable forestry.

CCBA internal audit protocols shall include SFI program requirements.

CCBA conducts internal audits through our ISO 14001 certified EMS system. These audits shall include SFI requirements. CCBA will conduct third party audits as required.

CCBA Management Team will assess the performance of the EMS and SFM program annually during a management review process. The record for this annual review is kept on the EMS file. This assessment considers performance results from monitoring programs, internal and external audits. Results from the assessments are used for continuous improvement of our business practices. Any changes to these processes that affect staff, clients and contractors, will be communicated as necessary.