

# **Long Term Community Forest Agreement K1H**



## **Forest Stewardship Plan**

**McBride Community Forest Corporation**

**October 2007**

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## Table of Contents

1.0 Interpretation.....	5
1.1 Definitions and Abbreviations.....	5
2.0 Introduction.....	5
3.0 Submission date, term and commencement date of this FSP.....	6
4.0 Forest Development Unit.....	6
5.0 Higher Level Plans.....	6
6.0 Results or Strategies.....	6
6.1 Objectives Set by Government.....	7
6.1.1 Land Use Objectives.....	7
6.1.1.1 Landscape Biodiversity Objectives.....	7
6.1.1.2 Landscape Units.....	7
6.1.2 Objectives Prescribed under Section 149(1) of FRPA.....	7
6.1.2.1 Objectives Set by Government for Soils.....	7
6.1.2.2 Objectives Set by Government for Wildlife.....	7
6.1.2.3 Objectives Set by Government for Water, Fish, Wildlife and Biodiversity in Riparian Areas.....	8
6.1.2.4 Objectives Set by Government for Wildlife and Biodiversity – Landscape Level.....	8
6.1.2.5 Objectives Set by Government for Wildlife and Biodiversity – Stand Level.....	8
6.1.2.6 Objectives Set by Government for Cultural Heritage Resources.....	9
6.1.3 Other Established Objectives.....	10
6.1.3.1 Recreation Resources.....	10
6.1.3.2 Visual Quality Objectives.....	10
7.0 Measures.....	11
7.1 Measures for Preventing the Introduction or Spread of Invasive Plants.....	11
7.2 Measures to Mitigate the Loss of Natural Range Barriers.....	11
8.0 Stocking Requirements.....	12
8.1 General Standards.....	12
8.1.1 Deciduous Component Allowed in Single Layer Coniferous Stands.....	12
8.1.2 Multi-layer Stocking Standards.....	12
8.1.3 Deciduous Component Allowed in Multi-layer Coniferous Stands.....	12
8.1.4 Standards for Removal of Individual Trees, or similar types of Intermediate cutting.....	12
8.2 Variations from General Standards.....	13
8.3 Milestone Dates.....	13
8.3.1 Leader Weevil Area Considerations.....	13
8.3.2 Riparian Management Considerations.....	13
8.3.3 Maximum Density.....	13

8.3.4	Minimum Inter-tree Distance.....	13
8.3.5	Using Interior Spruce in Place of Engelmann Spruce.....	14
8.3.6	Pine, Douglas fir and/or Spruce as a Preferred Species....	14
Appendix 1	Forest Development Unit maps.....	15
Appendix 2	Stocking Standards.....	16

## **1.0 Interpretation**

### **1.1 Definitions and Abbreviations**

In this FSP:

CFA means community forest agreement

FDU means forest development unit

FPC means *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act*

FPPR means *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation*

FRPA means *Forest and Range Practices Act*

FSP means forest stewardship plan

GAR means *Government Action Regulation*

LRMP means Land and Resource Management Plan

MCFC means McBride Community Forest Corporation

OGMA means old growth management area

RPF means registered professional forester

VQO means visual quality objective

Unless otherwise expressly indicated, or indicated by context, terms used in this FSP have the definition given to them in FRPA and the *Forest Act* and regulations under them, as amended from time to time.

## **2.0 Introduction**

The McBride Community Forest Corporation (MCFC) signed a long-term CFA on February 28, 2007. This agreement grants MCFC exclusive rights to harvest Crown timber from approximately 60,000 ha surrounding the community of McBride. MCFC is solely owned by the Village of McBride.

Although timber will be the main economic stimulus of the community forest, using other non-timber forest products and developing alternate land use opportunities will be long-term objectives of MCFC. The community forest was intended to serve the social,

economic and environmental needs of the community. In general terms, we will be managing the forest for all of its product potential rather than just timber.

### **3.0 Submission date, term and commencement date of this FSP**

The submission date of this FSP is October 29, 2007. The commencement date for the term of this FSP is March 4, 2008 (the date the FSP was approved). The term of this FSP is 10 years (5 years initially plus a 5 year extension).

### **4.0 Forest Development Unit**

Under FRPA licensees must identify areas where forest development (i.e. harvesting and road construction activities) may occur. These areas are referred to as FDU's. This plan will have one FDU which will cover the whole CFA area (Appendix 1). Each FDU will have results and/or strategies that are developed to meet Objectives Set by Government in the *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation* (FPPR).

Section 196(1) of FRPA allows for blocks and roads that have been previously approved as category "A" in an approved FDP and have all assessments completed as per sections 16, 17 and 37 of the *Operational and Site Planning Regulation* and section 5 of the *Forest Road Regulation* to be deemed as having Minister's approval, and therefore are not subject to further review in this plan

Blocks and roads that are currently under permit (cutting permit and road permit) at the time of approval of this plan will continue under the plans in which they were approved.

Appendix 1 shows the location of the following items that are in effect 4 months prior to the submission date:

- Ungulate winter range areas
- Scenic areas
- Community watersheds
- Old growth management areas

### **5.0 Higher Level Plans**

There are no Higher Level Plans in this FDU.

### **6.0 Results or Strategies**

All results or strategies are applicable across the entire FDU unless otherwise specified.

#### **6.1 Objectives Set by Government**

## **6.1.1 Land Use Objectives**

### **6.1.1.1 Landscape Biodiversity Objectives**

Legal Reference: Established under section 4(1) and (2) of FPC Order Establishing Provincial Non-Spatial Old Growth Objectives, June 30, 2004

#### Result or Strategy

The holder of this FSP will undertake to comply with the objectives set out in this order within the FDU of this FSP.

Scale of Measurement:

### **6.1.1.2 Landscape Units**

Legal Reference: Established under FPC 4(1) and (2) Order to Establish Crescent Spur, Lower Morkill Cushing, Forgetmenot, Upper Morkill, North Trench and Goat Landscape Unit Objectives, January 30, 2006

#### Result or Strategy

The holder of this FSP will undertake to comply with the objectives set out in this order within the FDU of this FSP.

Scale of Measurement: Each OGMA.

Map Reference: OGMA identified on FSP content maps.

## **6.1.2 Objectives Prescribed under Section 149(1) of FRPA**

### **6.1.2.1 Objectives Set by Government for Soils**

Legal Reference: FPPR Section 5 and 12.2

#### Result or Strategy

The holder of this FSP will undertake to comply with Sections 35 and 36 of the FPPR as a result or strategy.

### **6.1.2.2 Objectives Set by Government for Wildlife**

Legal Reference FPPR Section 7

Order – Ungulate Winter Range #U7 – 003 was established on May 23, 2006 under the authority of sections 9(2) and 12(1) of the GAR for Mountain Caribou.

Result or Strategy

The holder of this FSP will undertake to comply with this order as per the General Wildlife Measures set out in Schedule 1 of the order.

Scale of Measurement: FDU.

Map Reference: Ungulate Winter Range Identified on FSP content maps.

**6.1.2.3 Objectives Set by Government for Water, Fish, Wildlife and Biodiversity in Riparian Areas**

Legal Reference: FPPR Sections 8 and 12.3

Result or Strategy

The holder of this FSP will undertake to comply with Sections 47 to 53 of the FPPR as a result or strategy. Please note that while section 52(1) applies only to minor tenure holders, the holder of this FSP commits to the retention levels set out in the table contained within section 52(1) for the various riparian management classes listed. Furthermore, the holder of this FSP commits to retain greater than 15 sph, 17 cm dbh or greater per 100 m of stream length within a cutblock on all S4 streams.

**6.1.2.4 Objectives Set by Government for Wildlife and Biodiversity – Landscape Level**

Legal Reference: FPPR Section 9 and Section 12.4  
Order Establishing Provincial Non-Spatial Old Growth Objectives, June 30, 2004

Result or Strategy

The holder of this FSP will undertake to comply with this order within the FDU of this FSP. In addition, harvesting of cutblocks will trend positively toward meeting the NDT patch size distribution targets included in the FPC Biodiversity Guidebook (September 1995).

**6.1.2.5 Objectives Set by Government for Wildlife and Biodiversity – Stand Level**

Legal Reference: FPPR Section 9.1 and Section 12.5(1)

Result or Strategy



The following results or strategies apply to the holder of this FSP:

- Ensure that the total area covered by wildlife tree retention areas relating to one or more cutblocks where harvesting is concluded between April 1<sup>st</sup> and March 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year is a minimum of 7% of the total area of the cutblocks
- Ensure that at the conclusion of harvesting in a cutblock that is greater than 15 ha in size, the total amount of wildlife tree retention areas that relate to the cutblock is a minimum of 3.5% of the area of the cutblock
- Ensure that for the purposes of the above, a wildlife tree retention area may relate to more than one cutblock if all the cutblocks that relate to the wildlife tree retention area collectively meet the applicable requirements of this section, and
- Section 67 of the FPPR.

#### **6.1.2.6 Objectives Set by Government for Cultural Heritage Resources**

Legal Reference: FPPR Section 10

For the purposes of this result or strategy, the following definitions apply:

“cultural heritage resource” refers only to those resources that are the focus of a traditional use by an aboriginal people that are of continuing importance to that people, and not regulated under the *Heritage Conservation Act*.

A “cultural heritage resource evaluation” is a process conducted by a qualified person and consisting of the following steps:

- Notify the affected First Nation and solicit input.
- Record the location of the cultural heritage resource.
- Evaluate the direct impact of the forest practice on the cultural heritage resource.
- Prepare recommendations to mitigate the impact on, conserve or, if necessary, protect, the cultural heritage resource considering: the relative value or importance of the cultural heritage resource to a traditional use by an aboriginal people; the relative abundance or scarcity of the cultural heritage resource; the historical extent of the traditional use of the cultural heritage resource; and, the impact that conserving or protecting the cultural heritage resource has on the agreement holder’s timber harvesting rights.
- Communicate the outcomes of this evaluation to the First Nation in whose asserted traditional territory the area lies.

Result or Strategy

The holder of this FSP will comply with the following results or strategies:

- 1) Communication of Development Planning

The holder of this FSP will make reasonable efforts to communicate development planning to affected First Nations Bands, thereby allowing them opportunity for input.

2) Evaluation For Cultural Heritage Resource Potential

Prior to harvest of a cutblock or construction of a road, a cultural heritage resource evaluation will be conducted within areas that contain previously identified cultural heritage resources, if the area has not been previously evaluated or where site-specific information regarding cultural heritage resources is brought forward or made available to the holder of this FSP by First Nations or a government employee.

3) Unidentified Features Encountered During Development Activities

If a previously unidentified cultural heritage resource is encountered by the Agreement holder while conducting a forest practice, operations will be modified or cease to the extent necessary to protect the resource, until a cultural heritage resource evaluation can be carried out.

4) Forest Practice Activities Consistent with Recommendations from Evaluations

Forest practice activities will be consistent with the recommendations given in a cultural heritage resource evaluation conducted under 2 or 3.

### **6.1.3 Other Established Objectives**

Legal reference: FRPA Section 181

The following results and strategies apply to other established objectives that pertain to all or part of the FDU under this FSP. These objectives relate to areas listed in section 180 of FRPA.

#### **6.1.3.1 Recreation Resources**

Legal reference: FRPA Section 181

Result or Strategy

The following results or strategies apply to the holder of this FSP:

- Harvesting or road construction adjacent to a recreation site, area or trail with established objectives will be conducted in accordance with the established objectives.

#### **6.1.3.2 Visual Quality Objectives**

Legal reference: GAR section 17  
FRPA section 181

## Result or Strategy

The holder of this FSP will undertake to comply with the established VQO's of the known scenic areas.

## 7.0 Measures

All measures are applicable across the entire FDU.

### 7.1 Measures for Preventing the Introduction or Spread of Invasive Plants

Legal Reference: FPPR Section 17

The following measures will be taken to prevent the introduction or spread of invasive plants if such introduction or spread is likely to be the result of forest practices carried out under this FSP:

- Contiguous areas greater than 0.25 hectares of exposed soil that will support vegetation, and that are disturbed through a forest practice activity, will be seeded with grass and legumes within one year of disturbance, unless the forest practice activity is still ongoing, in which case the area will be seeded as soon as practicable following the conclusion of the activity. This measure excludes areas that are to be reforested, and the road surface of active roads.
- Areas seeded will be monitored over the year following seeding to ensure that they are revegetated. Sites not revegetated will be re-seeded and further monitored.
- Areas seeded will be revegetated within 4 years of the conclusion of activities.
- The seed used in this seeding will meet or exceed Canada Common Number 1 Forage Mix specifications as defined by the *Canada Seeds Act*.
- Each lot used must have a seed testing certificate showing that the lot does not contain any noxious weeds as defined by the *BC Weed Act*, nor any invasive plants listed in the NWIPS's strategic plan and profile.

### 7.2 Measures to Mitigate the Loss of Natural Range Barriers

Legal Reference: FPPR Section 18

The following measures will be taken in all FDU areas that contain or are adjacent to range tenures, to mitigate the effect of removing or rendering ineffective natural range barriers that are being relied upon pursuant to range tenures inside or immediately adjacent to the FDU:

- The range tenure holder will be informed of planned harvest and road construction within or adjacent to their range tenure through communication of development planning 30 days prior to development.
- Where the range tenure holder indicates that the planned harvest and road construction will remove or render ineffective a natural range barrier, the holder of this FSP will mitigate these effects prior to the next grazing season.
- Measures to mitigate these effects may include installing cattle guards, gates and drift fences.

## **8.0 Stocking Requirements**

All stocking requirements are applicable across the entire FDU. Stocking standards are listed in Appendix 2.

### **8.1 General Standards**

#### **8.1.1 Deciduous Component Allowed in Single Layer Coniferous Stands**

In specific Standards Units managed as single layer coniferous stands where forest health factors can be mitigated through the management of deciduous species such as aspen, cottonwood and birch, these deciduous species are acceptable at the time of free growing to no greater than 35% of the silviculture label.

#### **8.1.2 Multi-layer Stocking Standards**

The preferred and acceptable species to be retained at the time regeneration delay is declared are noted in the coniferous single layer standards table.

#### **8.1.3 Deciduous Component Allowed in Multi-layer Coniferous Stands**

In specific Standards Units managed as a multi-layer coniferous stand where forest health factors can be mitigated through the management of deciduous species such as aspen, cottonwood and birch, these deciduous species are acceptable at the time of free growing to no greater than a total of 35% of the silviculture label in layers 1, 2, 3, and 4 combined.

#### **8.1.4 Standards for Removal of Individual Trees, or Similar Types of Intermediate Cutting (including harvest of special forest products)**

In accordance with FPPR 44(3)(h)and(i), the Holder of this FSP is exempted from the requirements of section 29(1) and (2) of the Act in

respect to establishment of Free Growing Stands where single tree removal, intermediate cutting or removal of special forest products is undertaken. As per section 16(4) of the FPPR, the stocking standards to be applied (uneven) to these areas are identified in Appendix 2 of the FSP.

## **8.2 Variations from General Standards**

### **8.2.1 Milestone Dates**

The regeneration date of 4 years may be extended to 7 years where natural ingress is used to achieve regeneration. Late free growing date may be extended to 20 years for all stocking standards listed in this plan.

### **8.2.2 Leader Weevil Area Considerations**

In areas with high incidence ( $\geq 20\%$ ) of leader weevil (*Pissodes strobii*) (below 1000 m elevation on flat or southerly aspects) aspen and birch will not be considered deleterious competition to a spruce crop tree as long as the height diameter ratio of the spruce crop tree is less than 60 when conducting a free growing survey.

### **8.2.3 Riparian Management Considerations**

In order to adequately manage riparian values along streams, aspen, cottonwood, birch, willow and alder are not considered deleterious brush competition when conducting a free growing survey within 5 m of S4, S5 and S6 streams.

### **8.2.4 Maximum Density**

The maximum countable stems per hectare for both coniferous and deciduous single-layer stocking standards and layer 3 in the coniferous multi-layer stocking standards in all site series is 10 000 stems per hectare. Maximum density may exceed 10 000 stems per hectare within a standards unit if, as a result of forest health or stand damage considerations, it is determined by a qualified professional that a higher density is appropriate to maintain stocking levels beyond 20 years. A rationale supporting an increase in maximum density will be documented in a post harvest inspection.

### **8.2.5 Minimum Inter-tree Distance**

The default minimum inter-tree distance may be reduced down to 1.6 or 1.0 m in certain standard units where site limiting factors make it difficult to meet target stocking densities. A rationale will be documented by a

qualified professional if a reduced distance is utilized. Site limiting factors include circumstances that limit microsite selection such as:

- Hygric or wetter sites
- Large amounts of rocks, boulders, or exposed rock that reduce plantable spots (i.e.  $\geq 70\%$  coarse fragment content)
- On sites with slopes greater than 25%, and where protected microsites are identified as critical to protect regeneration from snow creep
- Sites with a minimum of 40 dispersed wildlife trees per hectare
- Riparian management areas with a high residual component
- Sites where stump avoidance strategy is employed to manage root rot ( $>10\%$  incidence)
- Cluster planting (e.g. to accommodate grizzly bear management strategies)
- Partial cut areas with an abundance of residual regeneration
- Sites that are frost prone and standard reforestation efforts have yielded densities lower than minimums, or
- Sites that require mechanical site preparation (i.e. mounding or other spot treatment).

#### **8.2.6 Using Interior Spruce in Place of Engelmann Spruce**

Engelmann Spruce (Se) may replace interior spruce (Sx), and vice versa, if use of Engelmann Spruce and/or interior spruce is consistent with the Chief Forester's seed transfer guidelines.

#### **8.2.7 Pine, Douglas fir and/or Spruce as a Preferred Species**

Pine, Douglas fir, and/or spruce may be considered a preferred species on sites where it occurred naturally, comprising 20% or more of the pre-harvest volume.

## **Appendix 1 Forest Development Unit maps**

## **Appendix 2 Stocking Standards**