

# 2023 Silviculture Activities

## Mechanical Site Prep

### Why do we use mechanical site preparation?

- Creates microsites for planting
- Warms soils
- Creates a dry place to plant
- Helps curb competition
- Encourages natural regeneration

### How much site prep will be done in 2023?

- We will complete approximately 2280 ha
- 1023 ha of Light Mounding
- 424 ha of Dragging
- 818 ha of Ripping
- 15 ha of Hoe Mounding



## Planting

### How many trees are being planted in 2023?

- We will be planting approximately 8.10 million seedlings
- Species are Lodgepole Pine, White Spruce and Black Spruce
- Trees are planted from middle of May until end of July



## Manual Tending

### Why do we manually tend?

- To remove deciduous competition in areas where it is impeding reforestation success
- We treat sensitive areas, where we don't want to apply herbicide; i.e. buffers, wet areas, etc.
- Areas where Aspen is too large for herbicide to be effective
- Program starts at the beginning of May to the end of July
- We are planning to manually tend 800 ha with brush saws



## Thinning

### Why do we thin?

- To control the density of young stands, prevent stagnation, improve crop tree quality and reduce rotation length
- To promote forest health and productivity
- To increase merchantable conifer volume yield
- 1500 ha planned in 2023





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## Herbicide

### Why do we have a vegetation management program?

- To control specific species such as grass and aspen from competing with conifer stock trees
- Grass and aspen compete with the newly planted conifer trees for moisture and nutrients
- Our goal is to achieve a successful stand that reaches rotation age (70-80 years) by following reforestation standards implemented by the province
- To ensure that we are conducting our program in a controlled and responsible manner

### How do we spray?

- Cutblocks are treated both aerially and on the ground by backpack sprayers

### When does the spray season start?

- The spray season is typically three weeks, starting mid August and ending the beginning of September
- The operational season can only occur when the conifer trees are in a dormant state and the competitive species are able to absorb the product

### What product is used?

- VisionMax is mainly used and it is a glyphosate based product commonly used by various forestry companies across Canada

### What are other methods are used?

- Mechanical site prep and manual tending are silviculture methods that are used to minimize competition
- Vegetation management is the most effective tool that can aid in grass and aspen suppression

### What are some of the risk management strategies in place?

- Watercourse buffers
- Boundary buffers
- Sensitive site identification
- Monitoring
- Weather parameters
- Intensive ground truthing
- GPS technology both mapping and operationally

### Does the entire cutblock get treated?

- Sensitive sites such as waterbodies, boundaries and wildlife trees are protected by buffers
- Based on cutblock strata, areas are left for natural growth and not treated. This promotes mixedwood forests
- Planned treatment data gets net down once the cutblock is sprayed

### How many hectares are planned for the 2023 season?

- Approximately 3000 ha of area is planned for the 2023 season. This includes both aerial and ground programs

