



**West Fraser**

**Cochrane**

**2024 General  
Development Plan  
Information Package**

**2024 Open House**

**Spray Lake Sawmills (1980) Ltd.  
Crowsnest Forest Products Ltd.**

## **Table of Contents**

Introduction.....	3
Forest Management Agreements (FMA), Quota (CTQ) and other Tenure .....	3
The Facilities.....	3
Forest Management Planning .....	4
Applications of Operating Ground Rules (OGR) .....	4
Environmental Stewardship.....	5
Indigenous Consultation .....	5
Historical Resources and Unique Features .....	6
Watershed Protection .....	6
Wildlife .....	6
Species at Risk .....	7
Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO).....	7
Forest Insects and Diseases.....	7
Weed Control .....	7
Forest Protection .....	7
Timber Harvesting Systems and Harvest Design .....	7
Slash Disposal.....	8
Reforestation Program .....	8
Log Haul .....	8
Satellite and Storage Yards.....	9
Grazing Timber Agreements.....	9
Oil and Gas .....	9
Access Management .....	9
Public Involvement Process.....	9
Public Land Use Zones .....	10
Emergency Response Plan.....	11
Harvest Plans .....	11
Attachments .....	20
Correspondence.....	20

## **Introduction**

This document addresses the current proposed and forecasted operations of West Fraser - Cochrane. It contains broad information regarding the Companies' anticipated fibre supply, proposed harvest areas, and the access construction and maintenance activities necessary to support these harvesting plans.

## **Forest Management Agreements (FMA), Quota (CTQ) and other Tenure**

The Honorable Minister of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, pursuant to section 16 of the Forests Act, entered a 20-year renewable FMA with Spray Lake Sawmills (1980) Ltd. (SLS), issued as FMA0100038, commencing May 1, 2015. This FMA was a renewal of the 2001 FMA which itself was a conversion of long-term quotas previously held by SLS. CTQB120001 and DTAB120001 are included in the FMA planning and approvals process.

The Honorable Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, pursuant to section 16 of the Forests Act, entered a 20-year renewable FMA with Crowsnest Forest Products Ltd. (CFP), issued as FMA2100047, commencing May 1, 2021. This FMA was a conversion of long-term quotas previously held by SLS/CFP.

West Fraser Timber Co. Ltd. acquired SLS/CFP Nov 17, 2023. All tenure held by SLS/CFP are operated as West Fraser - Cochrane. (WFC)

## **The Facilities**

West Fraser is a diversified wood products company with more than 60 facilities in Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, and Europe. From responsibly sourced and sustainably managed forest resources, the Company produces lumber, engineered wood products (OSB, LVL, MDF, plywood, and particleboard), pulp, newsprint, wood chips, other residuals, and renewable energy. West Fraser's products are used in home construction, repair and remodeling, industrial applications, papers, tissue, and box materials.

WFC has evolved from a portable bush mill to a state-of-the-art, high technology mill with a wood supply that is primarily sourced from crown land forest tenure. The mill is located within the Town of Cochrane and draws its wood supply from crown land along the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains; from the Crowsnest Pass area in the south to the Sundre area in the north. Dimensional lumber is the primary product; however, the product base expands to include a broad mix of secondary and value-added opportunities including agricultural fence posts, treated wood products, livestock bedding, woodchips (for use in pulp and paper products), bark mulch, and landscaping products.

WFC achieves virtually 100% utilization of the timber delivered to the mill in Cochrane. We continue to pursue maximization of product value and fibre use through the continued application of technology for improved recovery and grade.

## **Forest Management Planning**

Forest Management Plan (FMP) – A 20-year plan (with 10-year renewal) that identifies sustainable harvest levels, identifies which stands are to be sequenced for harvest, models landscape changes over 200 years, outlines objectives and manner for integrating with other resource values, describes a monitoring and reporting process, and includes a stakeholder involvement process.

General Development Plan (GDP) – The GDP gives a comprehensive description of a timber disposition holder's proposed timber operation for up to five years. The GDP provides the operational link to the commitments of the FMP and is a tool for communicating where forestry operations will occur. It is at this stage that the approved harvest sequence is refined to meet the operational requirements of the operator. The GDP assists the timber disposition holder in the integration of timber operations with other forest resources users and ensures that identified issues and concerns are addressed early in the planning process.

Annual Operating Plan (AOP) – The AOP provides a comprehensive description of a timber disposition holder's planned activities within the current or upcoming timber year. The AOP is the stage of the operational planning process in which harvest areas and temporary roads approved in the GDP are further refined to meet all required expectations and are ready to operate. The approval of an AOP authorizes the timber disposition holder to proceed with the proposed forest management activities. The 2024/25 AOP includes operations scheduled from May 1, 2024 - April 30, 2025.

Typical lifecycle of a timber operations:

- Year -2: Initial consultation on design with numerous stakeholders and government to develop the plan for fieldwork to be completed.
- Year -1: Plan development, continued consultation.
- Year 0: AOP submission. Alberta review and approval prior to harvest and haul operations. Access control and seasonal deactivation of roads to ensure proper drainage when not in use.
- Year +1: Block scarification to cycle soil nutrients and prepare the planting sites. Re-establish access control and seasonal deactivation of roads if necessary.
- Year +2: Reforestation, manual planting of regionally sourced seedlings. Road and watercourse crossing recontouring and reclamation. Any designated trails that are impacted during operations are restored to pre-existing condition during reclamation.
- Year +3 to +14: Surveying and monitoring to ensure meeting regulatory regeneration standards. Should regenerations requirements be met at 14yrs, it is no longer a cut block but a healthy juvenile forest.

## **Applications of Operating Ground Rules (OGR)**

WFC operates in accordance with current FMAs and CTQ, the requirements of the OGR, and area-specific addendums developed by Alberta.

The ground rules highlight the current standards and guidelines for timber harvest planning and operations, road construction and reclamation, reforestation and the integration of other forest users and values. The OGR practices constitute the methods used to implement decisions made in the FMP and other higher-level plans such as the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan.

The ground rules also represent the standards and guidelines pertaining to the Forests Act, the Public Lands Act, the Water Act and the Forest and Prairie Protection Act. Provincial Acts such as the Occupational Health and Safety Act and the Surface Rights Act as well as federal Acts including the Navigable Waters, Fisheries Acts, and Species at Risk Act must also be recognized during planning and when conducting forest operations.

Many rules and regulations are incorporated into a harvesting plan. At the same time, forest management strategies must be flexible enough to allow the incorporation of new knowledge and technology. Adaptive Management is the application of new approaches to plans and operations and can allow us to improve our ability to meet specified planning objectives.

A higher level of detail addressing many of the OGR such as fish and wildlife, recreation, access management, rare eco-sections and eco-sites and species of special management have been included in harvest design for each of the operating areas or dispositions. The Forest Management Plans (FMP) also address many of these points and have incorporated them into the associated Spatial Harvest Sequence (SHS).

To view the Operating Ground Rules, visit [publications - Open Government \(alberta.ca\)](#)

### **Environmental Stewardship**

From 1996 through 2009, WFC was under the Alberta ForestCare certification program. WFC obtained international third-party forest certification in 2013 and continues to be forest certified by internationally recognized programs.

### **Indigenous Consultation**

Indigenous consultation is conducted during the FMP and GDP stages. The regulatory requirements for Indigenous consultation are outlined in government policies including but are not limited to, as amended from time to time:

- The Government of Alberta's Policy on Consultation with First Nations on Land and Natural Resource Management, 20138
- The Government of Alberta's Guidelines on Consultation with First Nations on Land and Natural Resources Management, 20149
- The Government of Alberta's Policy on Consultation with Metis Settlements on Land and Natural Resource Management, 201510
- The Government of Alberta's Guidelines on Consultation with Metis Settlements on Land and Natural Resource Management, 201611

## **Historical Resources and Unique Features**

WFC works to identify and protect unique resources within our planning areas. Historic features, sites with archaeological potential, rare plants or plant communities and other unusual natural attributes are considered during planning and operations.

In recognizing the valuable and non-renewable nature of historic resources, the Historical Resources Act provides the framework for Historic Resources Impact Assessments (HRIA) and mitigation studies. As historic resources are often not visible, the potential for forestry activities to impact these resources may not be apparent. WFC submits proposed harvest and road building data for review by subject-area experts prior to commencement of operations. If any potentially impacted historical resource sites are identified, the sites are documented, submitted for HRIA Approval, field reviewed, and protected as necessary.

Rare eco-sections and ecosites are reviewed during harvest design and layout with considerations in alignment with the FMP. Any location encountered during timber operations that has historic or sensitive potential will be immediately protected until that potential can be assessed and protection requirements determined.

## **Watershed Protection**

Watershed protection and water quality maintenance are primary goals during both planning and operational stages. Watershed protection standards and guidelines have been defined for road construction and harvesting activities. They specify the requirements for establishing crossing structures, road locations, machine-free zones, and stream buffers. Watercourses ranging from ephemeral draws with water flow only during periods of heavy runoff, to rivers and lakes, are classified for protection according to the provincial guidelines.

Site-specific assessments are completed before harvest plans are developed. The assessment information is used to plan access routes and boundary locations to minimize watershed disturbance. All operations are planned and conducted in compliance with provincial & federal regulations and OGR.

## **Wildlife**

The foothill forests represent a range of habitat types supporting a variety of wildlife species. Monitoring our operations in relation to wildlife requirements will allow us to adapt future harvest designs to better incorporate habitat needs.

Each successional stage of forest development is important. Open areas and young forests represent early stages of forest growth. Both are necessary to sustain many species of wildlife. Harvest patterns can be planned to help maintain the full range of forest age classes across the landscape.

Human access into the forest is considered to have the greatest impact on wildlife. We strive to limit the number of access routes we develop and reclaim temporary roads as soon as possible following completion of operations.

### **Species at Risk**

The potential effect of the Species at Risk Act (SARA) on management practices remains a concern. WFC will continue to monitor the development of regulations and applicable species recovery plans that could have implications for forest management plans and operations.

### **Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO)**

WFC operates within DFO mapped Critical Habitat for Westslope Cutthroat Trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii lewisi*) and Bull Trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*). Operations will proceed as per the requirements of the species-specific recovery strategies.

### **Forest Insects and Diseases**

WFC monitors forest insects and diseases as a standard operating procedure. Alberta is notified regarding infestations or forest conditions of concern. Operating plans will be tailored to address known situations.

### **Weed Control**

All land-use dispositions that are held by WFC are subject to noxious weed legislation. The OGRs have a series of procedures to minimize the impact and spread of noxious and prohibited noxious weeds. All forestry operators in the Defined Forest Area must ensure that their contractors are aware of the obligations under the OGRs. WFC has established a weed management plan that specifies the following:

- Education and Training of staff to increase awareness of weed concerns within the companies' sphere of interest
- Prevention, Inventory and Control of noxious and prohibited noxious weeds classified by the Alberta Weed Control Act and Regulation.
- The companies will implement where practical the recommended 'Good Standards of Practice for Prevention' outlined in Forestry Directive 2001-06. Prevention measures will focus on clean equipment, limited disturbance, and clean seed usage.

As of this submission date, no weed management action areas have been identified. The company has participated in MD coordinated Weed Management Co-ops where possible and will continue to collaborate with stakeholders through agreements on weed control.

### **Forest Protection**

As per the OGR and the Forest and Prairie Protection Act and associated regulations, WFC annually develops a Fire Control Plan. The WFC Emergency Response Plan (ERP) identifies the process and procedures used to dealing with Forest Protection emergencies. A list of emergency contacts has also been included within the Fire Control Plan and the ERP.

### **Timber Harvesting Systems and Harvest Design**

Development of the preliminary and the final harvest patterns relies on increasing levels of knowledge about the forest areas being planned. Detailed information is actively

collected during field assessments and gathered from government agencies and stakeholders.

### **Slash Disposal**

WFC amended harvesting practices to recognize stump side processing since 1998. Stump side processing is a harvest practice that leaves treetops and limbs spread throughout the harvested area. Known as slash, this material has tremendous value for reforestation. Slash helps retain snow during the winter and modify soil surface temperatures during summer. Larger pieces can shelter new tree seedlings from damaging winds, frosts, and large foraging mammals. The slash also helps to maintain higher soil moisture levels and with time, the decaying needles and branches become nutrient sources for the new growing forest.

In areas identified with a high volume of slash and debris it will be managed following Directive 2017-07 (Debris Management Standards for Timber Harvest Operations) and the OGR.

### **Reforestation Program**

Timber harvesting is planned to be sustainable, all areas harvested must be reforested. The rate of harvesting is calculated so it will not exceed forest growth. Silviculture systems are the prescribed strategic approaches recommended for harvesting timber and completing subsequent reforestation processes. Selected systems are chosen to match the biological needs of the tree species being harvested and the specific growing conditions of the harvest site. Prescriptions must consider seasons of operation, species being harvested, available harvest methods, site preparation tactics, species to reforest and regeneration method. Reclamation activities will follow operations as closely as possible, and roads will be reclaimed upon completion of planting activities.

### **Log Haul**

Log hauling into the WFC mill site is primarily completed with hayrack and quad axle configurations and supplemented by seven axle and picker configurations. Trucks are permitted for legal weights. WFC assesses the merits of hauling winter weights on an annual basis if satisfactory conditions are available. WFC will also continue with the use of picker trucks to move smaller concentrations of volume and clean-up volumes. The proposed haul routes have been identified on the attached GDP map and labelled in the legend as transportation.

Annually, log haul notices are placed in the local papers at the commencement of the log haul season outlining log haul routes and providing public driving safety tips concerning the log haul.

Haul routes and road classes within the timber dispositions are identified in operational plan submissions. Roads outside the timber dispositions will be either covered under road use agreements, disposition, or permits obtained from either Alberta Transportation or the local MD prior to the hauling of logs. Hauling through gated areas will be required



through closure periods. WFC will continue to work with Alberta Transportation and impacted stakeholders for access beyond road closures.

### **Satellite and Storage Yards**

Log storage capacity at the Cochrane mill site will not accommodate annual harvest levels. To resolve this, WFC utilizes both satellite and storage yards.

The Longview satellite yard approx. 1km west of Longview on Hwy 541 has been established and will continue to be used into the future. The satellite yard volume is planned for haul to the Cochrane mill site during the spring break-up and summer seasons.

The Grease Creek offsite storage yard (21-T30-R7-W5M) was established in the 2020-21 season. Although WFC holds public land disposition on this site and intends on future use, the site is used for log storage on a temporary basis. Associated volume is planned for haul to the Cochrane mill site during the spring break-up and summer seasons.

### **Grazing Timber Agreements**

Overlapping grazing and timber harvest operations on approved dispositions will conform to direction outlined in Grazing Timber Agreements (GTA) developed as per the Grazing and Timber Integration Manual.

### **Oil and Gas**

WFC supports Integrated Land Management and communicates regularly with the oil and gas sector regarding options to minimize their impact on forest resources. Sharing of advance planning information, joint use of access corridors, and coordination of operations are a few approaches being promoted.

### **Access Management**

The OGRs provide the procedures for planning and working within areas where access control is required. Unless otherwise approved, temporary roads will be operated and reclaimed in accordance with the OGR. Access agreements required through seasonal gate closures will be obtained through Alberta Transportation authorities. WFC will continue to work with Alberta to restrict motorized access and to decommission undesignated trails where they intersect with WFC activities.

### **Public Involvement Process**

WFC operates on Crown lands and people have the right to be involved in decisions affecting them. Interested and affected public have local knowledge and expertise that can improve how our operations are conducted.

Our promise to interested parties is to keep them informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influences decisions. The WFC public involvement policy is to carefully consider feedback and then respond

to stakeholders by addressing their concerns. Changes to a plan or operation as a result of public input are recorded by WFC and communicated to the interested party.

To achieve our objective, WFC maintains communication programs in each of the following areas:

- Public Awareness (Public Education)
- Response to Information Requests
- Communications with Stakeholders & Government Agencies
- Open Houses
- Collaborative Planning Sessions
- Resource Management Workshops

WFC encourages anyone with an interest in our operations to contact us.

### **Public Land Use Zones**

WFC operations overlap with several Public Land Use Zones. These zones can be motorized or non-motorized and present mixed-use challenges. WFC works with trail users, trail groups, and Alberta to mitigate impact on the designated trail network. All designated recreation infrastructure will be maintained as much as possible throughout operations and restored to pre-industrial condition upon completion of activities. All designated infrastructure overlapping with WFC operations will be:

- Inventoried, mapped, and marked with ribbon/paint prior to operations. Inventory will include pictures or video as necessary to properly capture pre-industrial conditions.
- Avoided as possible throughout operations and use will be maintained within operational, safety, or regulatory limitations. This may include portions of a trail that is utilized as part of the WFC road network. WFC does not have the authority to close designated trails and will discuss with recreation groups and Alberta should a trail closure be recommended. Recreational use is maintained by:
  - Avoiding trails with heavy equipment and crossing at limited, designated, signed locations.
  - Ramping trails up to and down from WFC roads, signing trail prior to intersection.
  - Temporary re-routes of trail network to avoid high risk locations.
  - Communicating regularly on safety concerns, trail use, and schedule
- Delineated by leaving retention, understory, or high stumps during harvest stage to mark the trail location for follow up activities such as scarification, reclamation, and planting.
- Restored to pre-industrial condition upon completion of road reclamation (within 3 years of initial road construction). These locations will be limited to WFC road overlap and skid crossings. Infrastructure inventory as well as adjacent trail condition will be referenced to ensure trail is in as good or better condition than prior to WFC operations

WFC is committed to working cooperatively with all stakeholders to ensure public safety. Safety concerns may exist for the public during harvest operations and along the haul route. WFC will post signage at common access points to alert the public of harvest and haul operations.

### **Emergency Response**

An effective safety program includes a plan to deal with emergency response in the event of medical incidents, forest fires, or environmentally hazardous spills. This annual plan provides step by step instructions for addressing various emergencies that could potentially occur in woodland operations.

WFC uses the STARS Emergency Link Centre (ELC), a 24-hour multi-function communications center established to meet the needs of industry working in remote locations. The ELC works closely with partners in the Chain of Survival, including first responders, 9-1-1 dispatch, EMS, fire, police, search and rescue, and hospital personnel to ensure efficient and effective patient care and transport. In the event of an emergency, one call to the ELC will link emergency service providers, medical personnel, and appropriate emergency transportation providers in one conversation – saving valuable time.

WFC contractors deploy an Emergency Response Trailer to a central location near harvesting sites. The trailer contains equipment required for various types of emergencies and is equipped to safely store environmentally hazardous materials.

A review of the ERP is completed annually with staff and contractors. Personnel are trained in first aid and spill response and emergency drills are completed periodically.

The ERP is shared each year with various stakeholders, groups, or individuals who may be present in the areas where we are operating and is available upon request.

### **Harvest Plans**

All block locations and status are identified on the maps. A detailed analysis was done during the block design phase using Lidar in conjunction with the Spatial Harvest Sequence (SHS). Contours, slope classes and canopy height models have been generated from the Lidar Data to help determine the best locations for block boundaries, road access, and creek crossings to mitigate environmental impacts as well as help minimize the footprint on the landscape. Watercourse crossings are minimized and placed to best limit environmental impact. All locations are field verified prior to operations by Forestry Professionals.

Please review the corresponding maps and AOP table showing which blocks are scheduled for operations in the 2024/2025 operating season. Blocks listed as contingency are scheduled for future operations, however, may be operated in 2024/25 if necessary. Schedule of operations is subject to change. Only operating areas with current plans are

listed below. Current plans include preliminary planning, plans in development, and active operations.

### Atkinson Creek

- Current approval: GDP
- Field assessments completed in 2022.
- **Scheduled in AOP for 2024/25 operations**
  - o 5 blocks, 428ha including contingency volume
  - o Area partially operated in 2023/24 season
- Harvest plan is divided into two separate areas:
  - o Cadet Camp Road
  - o Whispering Pines Bible Camp Road
- Watercourse buffers are laid out on all watercourses as per the OGR. Watercourse crossings are minimized wherever possible. There are no crossings planned on perennial or named watercourses..
- Wildlife zones in this area include Key Wildlife Biodiversity Zone and Secondary Grizzly Bear Zone. WFC operations comply with OGR to mitigate potential impacts to wildlife.
- Area overlaps with the Ghost PLUZ. WFC continues to work with trail users and Alberta throughout operations to mitigate impact where possible. There are several designated trails overlapping with harvest plans (blocks and roads), mitigation work to continue throughout operations. Standard trail management applies; trail marked with safety signage, trail use maintained where possible throughout operations, impacted trail restored following operations. Through discussions with Alberta, several braided sections of designated trail have been aligned to a single track.
- Access control to be maintained/placed off publicly accessible roads and designated trails to maintain temporary road condition.

### B9 Quota

- Current approval: GDP
- Field assessments completed in 2023.
- Operations are tentatively scheduled for 2026/27 with potential to be moved forward
  - o 9 blocks, 298ha
- Harvest plan is divided into two separate areas:
  - o Red Deer River (see B9/Coalcamp/Grease map):
  - o Nitchi Creek
- Watercourse buffers are laid out on all watercourses as per the OGR. Watercourse crossings are minimized wherever possible. There is a clear-span bridge crossing planned on Nitchi Creek as part of the DLO04661 upgrading. There is no crossing on Red Deer River.
- Wildlife zones in this area include Key Wildlife Biodiversity Zone (along Red Deer River) and Core Grizzly Bear Zone. WFC operations comply with OGR to mitigate potential impacts to wildlife.

- There are no designated trails overlapping timber operations
- This area is within grazing lease land, WFC has contacted grazing operators and will continue to discuss mitigation of potential impact throughout plan development and implementation
- Access control to be maintained off publicly accessible roads to maintain temporary road condition.

### Burnt Timber Creek

- Current approval: GDP
- Field assessments completed in 2023.
- Operations are tentatively scheduled for 2025/26 with potential to be moved forward
  - o 17 blocks, 887ha
- The area is accessed directly off HWY 940 near Benjamin Creek Road. Approaches onto main roads are limited as possible, due to the harvest design and terrain up to 5 approaches (2 pre-existing) are required onto HWY 940
- The road is planned to utilize existing disturbance of Canlin MSL12149, along the powerline, where possible.
- Watercourse buffers are laid out on all watercourses as per the OGR. Watercourse crossings are minimized wherever possible. There are clear-span bridge crossings planned on the upper reaches of Benjamin Creek as well as several tributaries to Benjamin Creek. There is no crossing planned on Burnt Timber Creek.
- Wildlife zones in this area include Core and Secondary Grizzly Bear Zones. WFC operations comply with OGR to mitigate potential impacts to wildlife.
- There are no designated trails overlapping timber operations
- WFC currently has access control in place on DLO4661. Additional access controls to be placed off publicly accessible roads to maintain temporary road condition.

### Coalcamp Creek

- Current approval: GDP
- Field assessments completed in 2023.
- Operations are tentatively scheduled for 2026/27 with potential to be moved forward
  - o 5 blocks, 272ha
- Area is accessed directly off Coalcamp road near Pieridae LOC011417 and Taqa LOC990535, both LOCs are planned to be utilized to reduce linear disturbance.
- Watercourse buffers are laid out on all watercourses as per the OGR. There are no crossings planned on perennial or named watercourses.
- Wildlife zones in this area include Key Wildlife Biodiversity Zone and Core Grizzly Bear Zone. WFC operations comply with OGR to mitigate potential impacts to wildlife.
- There are no designated trails overlapping timber operations
- Access control to be maintained off publicly accessible roads to maintain temporary road condition.

## Grease Creek

There are three areas being operated in this compartment, identified as:

- Gas Plant
- Red Deer River
- Fallen Timber

### Gas Plant:

- Current approval: GDP
- Field assessment completed in 2022
- **Scheduled in AOP for 2024/25 operations**
  - o 6 blocks, 912ha
- The area is accessed directly off Burnt Timber Gas Plant Road and DLO02872, approx. 1.5 - 6.5km west of the gas plant site.
- Watercourse buffers are laid out on all watercourses as per the OGR. Watercourse crossings are minimized wherever possible, There are no crossings planned on perennial or named watercourses.
- Wildlife zones in this area include Key Wildlife Biodiversity Zone and Secondary Grizzly Bear Zone. WFC operations comply with OGR to mitigate potential impacts to wildlife.
- There are several designated trails overlapping with harvest plans (blocks and roads), mitigation work to continue throughout operations. Standard trail management applies; trail marked with safety signage, trail use maintained where possible throughout operations, impacted trail restored following operations.
- Access control to be placed off publicly accessible roads and designated trails to maintain temporary road condition.

### Red Deer River (see B9/Coalcamp/Grease map):

- Current approval: GDP
- Field assessments completed in 2023.
- Operations are tentatively scheduled for 2026/27 with potential to be moved forward
  - o 5 blocks, 149ha
- The area is accessed directly off Coalcamp road near Pieridae LOC011417 and Taqa LOC990535.
- Watercourse buffers are laid out on all watercourses as per the OGR. Watercourse crossings are minimized wherever possible. There are no crossings planned on perennial or named watercourses.
- Wildlife zones in this area include Key Wildlife Biodiversity Zone and Core Grizzly Bear Zone. WFC operations comply with OGR to mitigate potential impacts to wildlife.
- There are no designated trails overlapping timber operations
- Access control to be placed off publicly accessible roads to maintain temporary road condition.

### Fallen Timber:

- Current approval: GDP
- Initial planning stage, field assessments scheduled for snow-free 2024 and 2025
- Scheduled for 2025/26 and 2026/27 operations
  - o 13 blocks, 732ha
- The area is accessed from Burnt Timber Gas Plant Road, multiple road dispositions, and Stud Creek Road
- Watercourse buffers are laid out on all watercourses as per the OGR. Watercourse crossings are minimized wherever possible, location and structure to be determined during field assessments.
- Wildlife zones in this area include Key Wildlife Biodiversity Zone and Secondary Grizzly Bear Zone. WFC operations comply with OGR to mitigate potential impacts to wildlife.
- There are several designated trails overlapping with harvest plans (blocks and roads), mitigation work to continue throughout operations. Standard trail management applies; trail marked with safety signage, trail use maintained where possible throughout operations, impacted trail restored following operations.
- Access control to be maintained/placed off publicly accessible roads and designated trails to maintain temporary road condition.

### Highwood River

- Current approval: GDP
- Field assessments completed in 2022.
- **Scheduled in AOP for 2024/25 operations**
  - o 11 blocks, 1206ha including contingency volume
  - o Area partially operated in 2023/24 season
- The area is accessed on the west side on Hwy 40 near Lineham Park Area.
  - o Operations will be primarily conducted during seasonal road closure.
  - o Signage will be placed along Hwy 40 to ensure the safety of all road users.
  - o Line of sight at approach locations will be increased as much as possible.
- Viewpoint analysis completed, block design and retention locations placed to minimize visual impact.
- Pre-existing disturbance (old road) is incorporated into the plan to minimize road and trail network footprint.
- Watercourse buffers are laid out on all watercourses as per the OGR. Watercourse crossings are minimized wherever possible, there is one clear-span bridge required on the Highwood River (installed) and three clear-span bridges required on Loomis Creek (not installed). There are no crossings planned on Bishop, Carnarvon, McPhail, Muir, or Odium creeks. Site plans continue to be developed for significant watercourse crossings.
- Steep terrain (> 70% slope) throughout area; blocks will be laid out to both ensure the safety of the operator and protection of the soils.
- Wildlife zones in this area include Core Grizzly Bear Zone and Mountain Goat and Sheep Areas. WFC operations comply with OGR to mitigate potential impacts to wildlife.

- There are no designated trails overlapping timber operations, however, there are several trails the grazing, trapping, and/or trail ride operators utilize that are to be left in place following WFC operations, following Alberta authorization.
- Access control to be placed off publicly accessible roads to maintain temporary road condition.

### Jumpingpound Creek

There are two areas being operated in this compartment, identified as:

- Sibbald
- West Bragg Creek / Moose Mountain

Sibbald:

- Current approval: GDP
- Field assessments completed in 2021
- **Scheduled in AOP for 2024/25 operations**
  - o 1 partial block, 109ha remaining
  - o Area partially operated during 2022/23 and 2023/24 seasons
- Accessed directly off highway 68 on the demonstration forest south loop and Caledonian LOC920365.
- WFC has a road-use agreement with Alberta for use of the demonstration forest loop.
- Watercourse buffers are laid out on all watercourses as per the OGR. Watercourse crossings are minimized wherever possible. There are no crossings planned on perennial or named watercourses.
- Wildlife zones in this area include the Secondary Grizzly Bear Zone. WFC operations comply with OGR to mitigate potential impacts to wildlife.
- A portion of Tom Snow (approx. 1500m) is within JP\_1231, harvest operations near the trail were completed in the 2023/24 season. WFC is not expecting a trail closure to be necessary for log haul. There are several other designated trails overlapping with harvest plans (blocks and roads), mitigation work to continue throughout operations. Standard trail management applies; trail marked with safety signage, trail use maintained where possible throughout operations, impacted trail restored following operations.
- There is currently access control in place on Caledonian LOC920365. Access control to be maintained/placed off publicly accessible roads and designated trails to maintain temporary road condition.

West Bragg Creek / Moose Mountain:

- Current approval: GDP
- Initial planning stage, field assessments scheduled for snow-free 2024 and 2025
- Scheduled for 2026/27 operations
  - o West Bragg: 5 blocks, 362ha
  - o Moose Mountain: 16 blocks, 376ha
- Accessed from highway 66 (MSL781267) and Moose Mountain Road.



- There is a significant designated trails network overlapping with harvest plans (blocks and roads), mitigation work with trail operator groups (Bragg Creek Trails, Moose Mountain Bike Trail Society) to continue throughout design, development, and operational stages. Standard trail management applies; trail marked with safety signage, trail use maintained where possible throughout operations, impacted trail restored following operations, however, this may be enhanced based on consultation. Refer to the ‘West Bragg Creek & Moose Mountain Consultation and Operational Plan’ document attached for more information on ongoing consultation, trail mitigation, and trail overlap. Updates on plan development at the 2025 and 2026 open houses before commencement of operations.
- Watercourse buffers are laid out on all watercourses as per the OGR. Watercourse crossings are minimized wherever possible, location and structure to be determined during field assessments.
- Wildlife zones in this area include the Key Wildlife Biodiversity Zone and Secondary Grizzly Bear Zone. WFC operations comply with OGR to mitigate potential impacts to wildlife.
- Access control to be maintained/placed off publicly accessible roads and designated trails to maintain temporary road condition.

#### McLean Creek

- Current approval: GDP
- Field assessments completed in 2023
- Operations are tentatively scheduled for 2025/26 with potential to be moved forward
  - o 7 blocks, 405ha
- The area is accessed via Fisher West Trail, WFC to work with Alberta on use agreement and recreation mitigation summer 2024
- Watercourse buffers are laid out on all watercourses as per the OGR. Watercourse crossings are minimized wherever possible, there are two clear-span bridges planned on upper Fisher Creek.
- The area is within the Mountain Goat and Sheep Areas wildlife zone. WFC operations comply with OGR to mitigate potential impacts to wildlife.
- There are several designated trails overlapping with harvest plans (blocks and roads), mitigation work to continue throughout operations. Standard trail management applies; trail marked with safety signage, trail use maintained where possible throughout operations, impacted trail restored following operations.
- Access control to be maintained/placed off publicly accessible roads and designated trails to maintain temporary road condition.

### Upper Livingstone

- Current approval: GDP
- **Scheduled in AOP for 2024/25 operations.**
- 3 blocks for a total of 15.1 ha are scheduled as contingency for the 2024/2025 timber year.
- Approximately 847 m<sup>3</sup> or 19 truckloads harvested in the 2023/2024 season remain to be hauled this season.
- Watercourse buffers are laid out on all identified watercourses as per Table 6 of the OGR.
- Wildlife zones in this area include the Key Wildlife Biodiversity Zone and Core Grizzly Bear Zone. WFC operations comply with OGRs to mitigate potential impacts to wildlife.

### Lower Livingstone

- Current approval: GDP
- **Scheduled in AOP for 2024/25 operations.**
- 7 blocks for a total of 91.1 ha are scheduled for the 2024/2025 timber year.
- 5 of the 7 blocks in the White Creek area are accessed by the road constructed in the 2023/2024 East of the Livingstone River. The remaining 2 are directly adjacent to Highway 940 (Forestry Trunk Road).
- Approximately 35,000 m<sup>3</sup> or 778 truckloads harvested in the 2023/2024 season remain to be hauled this season.
- Watercourse buffers are laid out on all identified watercourses as per Table 6 of the OGR. Two clear-span bridges are planned on small permanent tributaries to White Creek.
- Wildlife zones in this area include the Key Wildlife Biodiversity Zone, Core Grizzly Bear Zone, and one block within Mountain Goat and Sheep Area. WFC operations comply with OGRs to mitigate potential impacts to wildlife.

### Daisy Creek

- Current approval: GDP
- **Scheduled in AOP for 2024/25 operations.**
- 20 blocks for a total of 353 ha are planned for the 2024/2025 timber year.
- Planned area is East of Highway 940 (Forestry Trunk Road) within the headwaters of Daisy Creek drainage south of Fool's Creek.
- Area will be accessed via Canadian Natural Resources Limited LOC3613, LOC053011, and LOC4111, locally known as Coseka Resource Road.
- Watercourse buffers are laid out on all identified watercourses as per Table 6 of the OGR. The main watercourse crossing in this area will be a clear-span bridge over Daisy Creek, several watercourse crossings will be constructed on small tributaries to Daisy Creek and Fool's Creek.
- Wildlife zones in this area include the Key Wildlife Biodiversity Zone, Core Grizzly Bear Zone, and 3 blocks within Mountain Goat and Sheep Area. WFC operations comply with OGRs to mitigate potential impacts to wildlife.

### Pelletier Creek

- Current approval: GDP
- **Scheduled in AOP for 2024/25 operations.**
- 8 blocks for a total of 420.8 ha are planned for the 2024/2025 timber year.
- Planned area is directly North of Coleman between Blairmore Creek and Pelletier Creek. All but 1 of the 8 blocks will be on the East side of Highway 940 (Forestry Trunk Road).
- Area will be accessed near the start of the Coseka Resource Road mentioned above and Highway 940 (Forestry Trunk Road).
- Watercourse buffers are laid out on all identified watercourses as per Table 6 of the OGR. 4 clear-span bridges will be constructed over unnamed tributaries to Blairmore Creek.
- Wildlife zones in this area include Core Grizzly Bear Zone, and 1 block overlaps partially with the Key Wildlife Biodiversity Zone. WFC operations comply with OGRs to mitigate potential impacts to wildlife.

### Vicary Creek

- Current approval: GDP
- **Scheduled in AOP for 2024/25 operations as contingency.**
- 6 blocks for a total of 84.3 ha are planned as contingency for 2024/2025 timber year.
- Planned area is South of Vicary Creek, West of Daisy Creek, and North of the Blairmore Creek Drainage.
- Area will be accessed by Highway 940 (Forestry Trunk Road) approximately 10 km North of Coleman.
- Watercourse buffers are laid out on all watercourses as per table 6 of the OGR. 3 clear-span bridges will be built over tributaries to Vicary Creek.
- Wildlife zones in this area include Core Grizzly Bear Zone. WFC operations comply with OGRs to mitigate potential impacts to wildlife.

### Dutch Creek

- Current approval: GDP
- **Scheduled in AOP for 2024/25 operations as contingency.**
- 8 blocks for a total of 158.2 ha are planned as contingency for the 2024/2025 timber year.
- Planned area is North of Dutch Creek, with 4 blocks South of Sugarloaf Mountain and 4 blocks Northeast of Caesar's Flats.
- Area will be accessed via Dutch Creek Road.
- Planned area (blocks and roads) overlap with several portions of the designated motorized trail network. WFC is not expecting a trail closure to be necessary for log haul. Work to mitigate impacts to trails will continue throughout operations. Standard trail management applies; trail marked with safety signage, trail use maintained where possible throughout operations, impacted trails restored following operations.
- Watercourse buffers are laid out on all watercourses as per table 6 of the OGR. There are no crossings planned on perennial or named watercourses.

- Wildlife zones in this area include Core Grizzly Bear Zone and 4 blocks within the Key Wildlife Biodiversity Zone. WFC operations comply with OGRs to mitigate potential impacts to wildlife.

### Oldman River

- Current approval: GDP
- Currently in the planning stage, field assessments scheduled for snow-free 2024.
- Planned for harvest in the 2025/2026 timber year.
- Planned area is South of Beehive Natural area West of the Oldman River and East of the Oldman River, North and Southeast of Honeymoon Creek Provincial Recreation Area.
- Area will be accessed by the Oldman Road. Access will involve the construction of a clear-span bridge over the Oldman River.
- Wildlife zones in this area include the Key Wildlife Biodiversity Zone, Core Grizzly Bear Zone, and Mountain Goat and Sheep Area. WFC operations comply with OGRs to mitigate potential impacts to wildlife.

### Attachments

#### 2024/25 AOP Block List

#### Harvest Area Maps

Available to view at open house, online, and with scheduled appointment with WFC

### Correspondence

#### **Cochrane - Main Office**

305 Griffin Road West, Cochrane, AB T4C 2C4

Phone: (403) 932-2234

#### **Crowsnest Pass – Field Office**

Box 690 12530 – 21 Avenue Blairmore, AB T0K 0E0

Phone: (403) 562-8520

#### **Media Contact**

Joyce Wagenaar

Director, Communications

Phone: (604) 817-5539

[media@westfraser.com](mailto:media@westfraser.com)