



Reference: 278082
File: 19505-55/2016-2023 SFMP

April 4, 2024

Fort St. John Pilot Project Participants
c/o Canadian Forest Products Ltd.
RR#1, Site 13, Compartment 2
Fort St. John, British Columbia
V1J 4M6

RE: 2-YEAR EXTENSION TO TERM OF SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN #3

Dear Fort St. John Pilot Project Managing Participants:

Your requested extension to the term of Sustainable Forest Management Plan (SFMP) #3, for a 2-year period, as per Section 39.1 of the Fort St. John Pilot Project Regulation, is hereby approved. As the original approval letter for SFMP #3 was dated May 4, 2018 for a 6-year term, the revised expiry date of SFMP #3 is now March 4, 2026.

During the term of this 2-year extension, it is our expectation that you work collaboratively with First Nations, that have interests in the Pilot Project area, and provincial representatives on updates and revisions to the Sustainable Forest Management Plan that align with the Province's commitments outlined within the Blueberry River First Nation Implementation Agreement and the Treaty 8 Consensus Agreement Letters. Key commitments contained in these agreements that the Province is looking to see addressed are as follows:

- Incorporation of any values, indicators, or targets reflective of those developed through watershed basin management planning, which may include specific indicators and targets related to Ecosystem Based Management objectives;
- Silviculture strategies that reflect the elimination of aerial herbicide use;
- Incorporation of identified forestry mitigations, within the "*Halfway River First Nation Forestry, Range and Oil and Gas Mitigation Measures within Enhanced Management Corridors*", as attached to the Halfway River First Nation Letter of Agreement with the Province;
- Incorporation of any new values or information developed through initiatives to promote the management of Cumulative Effects; and
- Specific management commitments related to moose habitat and features, such as significant moose licks.

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The 2023 wildfire season resulted in approximately 700,000 hectares of the Fort St. John Timber Supply Area being impacted by wildfire which will have significant impacts to many of the values, objectives, indicators, and targets specified within the SFMP. We expect to see many revisions to indicators and targets that incorporate the effects of this significant event in your forest management planning.

We would also recognize and note that in the fall of 2023 a District Manager Expectations letter was issued regarding prioritizing salvage harvesting of timber harvesting. Within that letter there are expectations regarding collaboration with First Nations, prioritizing burnt timber, minimizing roads, spatial distribution of cutblocks, and alternative silviculture practices. It is our expectation that these strategies and others will support meaningful practice of Treaty rights and address cumulative impacts.

These items may be considered in the context of the approval tests under Section 39(1)(d) of the Fort St. John Pilot Project Regulation for Sustainable Forest Management Plan #4.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Elizabeth Hunt, Peace District Stewardship Officer, by phone at (250) 784-1237 or by email at Elizabeth.Hunt@gov.bc.ca.

Yours truly,



Karilyn Vince
Regional Executive Director, Northeast Region
Ministry of Forests



James Jacklin
Director of Resource Management, Northeast Region
Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship