



FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN

Long Term Community Forest Agreement K1A

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1.0 Introduction

Burns Lake Community Forest Ltd. has prepared this Forest Stewardship Plan for the areas managed under Long Term Community Forest Agreement K1A.

The term of this Forest Stewardship Plan will be for five years, effective on the date of approval.

The entire area managed under Long Term Community Forest Agreement K1A will be considered one Forest Development Unit, as shown on Forest Stewardship Plan Map 1. The results and strategies within the Forest Stewardship Plan apply to the entire Forest Development Unit, unless otherwise specified.

For purposes of this plan, “licensee” means Burns Lake Community Forest Ltd., and “the plan” means the Forest Stewardship Plan.

2.0 Objectives, Strategies and Results

2.1 Objectives set by government for soils

Forest Planning and Practices Regulation Section 5 “The objective set by government for soils is, without unduly reducing the supply of timber from British Columbia’s forests, to conserve the productivity and the hydrologic function of soils.”

The licensee undertakes to comply with sections 35 and 36 of the <i>Forest Planning and Practices Regulation</i> .

2.2 Objectives set by government for wildlife

Forest Planning and Practices Regulation Section 7(1): “The objective set by government for wildlife is, without unduly reducing the supply of timber from British Columbia’s forests, to conserve sufficient wildlife habitat in terms of amount of area, distribution of areas and attributes of those areas, for

- a) the survival of species at risk;
- b) the survival of regionally important wildlife; and
- c) the winter survival of specified ungulate species”

One Order, entitled “Category of Species at Risk” (dated the 6th day of May, 2004) describing categories of species at risk has been issued for the province of BC. This Order can be found in the supporting documents.

Two notices affecting the Lakes Timber Supply Area have been issued. The first, “Indicators of the Amount, Distribution, and Attributes of Wildlife Habitat Required for the Survival of Species at Risk in the Nadina Forest District” includes Grizzly Bear and

Caribou habitat. The Grizzly Bear and Northern Caribou habitat areas described in the “Notice of the Amount, Distribution, and Attributes of Wildlife Habitat Requirements for the Survival of Species at Risk in the Nadina Forest District” are thought to fall outside of the plan area. The location of the areas in question was clarified in a memo from Anne Hetherington on March 21st, 2005. This notice and the memo can be found in the supporting documents. However, the exact habitat areas have not been formally (spatially) defined. We have included a result for Grizzly Bear because some critical patch habitats for this species are found within our forest development unit.

The second notice, “Indicators of the Amount, Distribution and Attributes of Wildlife Habitat Requirements for the Winter Survival of Ungulate Species in the Lakes Timber Supply Area” describes moose and mule deer winter habitat in the Lakes Timber Supply Area, and can be found in the supporting documents.

Most of the lodgepole pine trees over 80 years old have been killed by mountain pine beetle. We have included an applicable qualifier in some of the results in this section.

Wildlife Result – Moose 1: During the term of the plan, the licensee shall maintain the following condition in each of the contiguous areas of Moose Winter Habitat within the Forest Development Unit as shown in Forest Stewardship Plan Map 2:

-a minimum of 30% of the area is comprised of stands greater than or equal to 101 years old at any given time.

Stands greater than 80 years old and where greater than 60% of stand volume is lodgepole pine will not be deemed to grow or age.

Wildlife Result – Moose 2: During the term of the plan, the licensee shall maintain the following condition in each of the contiguous areas of Moose Winter Habitat within the Forest Development Unit as shown in Forest Stewardship Plan Map 2:

-a maximum of 33% of the area is comprised of stands less than 3 m tall or 17 years old at any given time.

Wildlife Strategy – Moose 1: During the term of the plan, the licensee shall not apply herbicides on areas of Moose Winter Habitat within the Forest Development Unit as shown in Forest Stewardship Plan Map 2:

Wildlife Result – Mule Deer 1: During the term of the plan, the licensee shall maintain the following condition in each of the contiguous areas of Mule Deer Winter Habitat within the Forest Development Unit as shown in Forest Stewardship Plan Map 2:

-a minimum of 50% of the area will be comprised of stands greater than or equal to 101 years old at any given time

Stands greater than 80 years old and where greater than 60% of stand volume is lodgepole pine will not be deemed to grow or age.

Wildlife Strategy – Mule Deer 1: During the term of the plan, the licensee shall not apply herbicides on areas of Mule Deer Winter Habitat within the Forest Development Unit as shown in Forest Stewardship Plan Map 2.

Wildlife Result – Grizzly Bear 1: During the term of the plan, the licensee shall maintain the following condition in the total area of Grizzly Bear Habitat within the Forest Development Unit as shown in Forest Stewardship Plan Map 2:

-a maximum of 50% of the area is comprised of stands greater than or equal to 121 years old at any given time.

Stands greater than 80 years old and where greater than 60% of stand volume is lodgepole pine will not be deemed to grow or age.

Wildlife Result – Grizzly Bear 2: During the term of the plan, the licensee shall maintain the following condition in the total area of Grizzly Bear Habitat within the Forest Development Unit as shown in Forest Stewardship Plan Map 2:

-a maximum of 33% of the area is comprised of stands less than 5 m tall or 28 years old at any given time.

Wildlife Strategy – Grizzly Bear 1: During the term of the plan, the licensee shall not apply herbicides on areas of Grizzly Bear Habitat within the Forest Development Unit as shown in Forest Stewardship Plan Map 2:

2.3 Objectives set by government for water, fish, wildlife and biodiversity within riparian areas

Forest Planning and Practices Regulation Section 8: “The objective set by government for water, fish, wildlife and biodiversity within riparian areas is, without unduly reducing the supply of timber from British Columbia’s forests, to conserve, at the landscape level, the water quality, fish habitat, wildlife habitat and biodiversity associated with those riparian areas.”

The licensee undertakes to comply with sections 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52 (2), and 53 of the *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation*.

In the case of riparian management zones we propose a minimum level of protection that appears to be more suitable for harvesting operations that are smaller in scale than proposed under this plan. However, riparian management zones are given very high priority for retention as wildlife tree patches in our efforts to manage stand-level biodiversity. Only a fraction of the riparian management zones will be harvested. Having significant areas of close to 100% basal area retention will supplement the lower levels of basal area retention in harvested portions of the riparian management zones.

The qualifiers for conditions where retention levels may not be met are designed to cover rare (but possible) circumstances where more trees must be removed than originally planned. As these are rare circumstances, again our focus on wildlife tree patches in riparian management zones are expected to suitably offset any adverse effects of additional minor basal area removal.

Riparian Area Result 1:

The licensee, for any cut block harvested within the forest development unit defined under this Forest Stewardship Plan and upon completion of the term of this plan, shall retain the percentage of total basal area specified in Column 2 below in each riparian management zone.

Column 1 Riparian Class	Column 2 Basal Area to be Retained Within Riparian Management Zone (%)
S1-A or S1-B stream	≥ 20
S2 stream	≥ 20
S3 stream	≥ 20
S4 stream	≥ 10
S5 stream	≥ 10
S6 stream	Not applicable
All classes of wetlands or lakes	≥ 10

Measurable basal area shall include all trees and shrubs of stem size greater than or equal to 7.5 cm in diameter when measured 30 cm from ground level. Retained basal area shall be left as individual stems or in clumps of stems.

The percent basal area to be retained within the Riparian Management Zone does not apply when one or more of the following conditions are present within the RMZ:

- a) Topping or pruning a tree that is not wind firm
- b) Constructing a stream crossing outside of a road right-of-way
- c) Creating a corridor for full tree suspension yarding

- d) Creating guyline tiebacks
- e) Felling or modifying a tree for the purpose of establishing an interpretive forest site, recreation site, recreation facility or recreational trail.

2.4 Objectives set by government for wildlife and biodiversity

Forest Planning and Practices Regulation Section 9: “The objective set by government for biodiversity at the landscape level is, without unduly reducing the supply of timber from British Columbia’s forests, to design areas on which timber harvesting is to be carried out that resemble, both spatially and temporally, the patterns of natural disturbance that occur within the landscape.”

Forest Planning and Practices Regulation Section 9.1: “The objective set by government for wildlife and biodiversity at the stand level is, without unduly reducing the supply of timber from British Columbia’s forests, to retain wildlife trees.”

The licensee undertakes to comply with sections 64, 65, 66 and 67 of the *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation*.

2.5 Objectives set by government for cultural heritage resources

Forest Planning and Practices Regulation Section 10: “The objective set by government for cultural heritage resources is to conserve, or, if necessary, protect cultural heritage resources that are

- a) the focus of a traditional use by an aboriginal people that is of continuing importance to that people, and
- b) not regulated under the Heritage Conservation Act.”

Cultural Heritage Resource Strategy 1:

- a) Employees of the licensee and its affiliated companies and all their contractors working in the field (“field workers”) will be required to follow procedures for management of culturally modified trees and other cultural heritage resources as described in the Burns Lake Community Forest Ltd. *Safety and Environmental Handbook* (“the Handbook”). The Handbook will be given to the employees and contractors prior to commencement of any works or contracts. Contractors will be required to provide a signed/dated form verifying receipt of the above said document, and will be required to provide a signed/dated form verifying this document has been reviewed by themselves and with their employees prior to commencement of any forestry, harvesting, road building or silviculture activity. The licensee will provide an updated copy to all field workers within one calendar week after the relevant section is amended.
- b) Employees of the licensee and its affiliated companies and all their contractors carrying out block or road layout will be required to review the cultural heritage resource

descriptions on pages 21 to 32 and 45 to 75 of the *Lakes Forest District Cultural Heritage Resource Manual* (August 28, 2002), and the most recent Cultural Heritage Resource maps prior to commencement of layout activities, and sign a form to acknowledge that they have completed this review. The same process will be repeated within one calendar week after each time the relevant sections or maps are amended or a replacement manual is issued.

c) If field crews or other persons identify cultural heritage resources in the field, they will report them to the licensee within 72 hours unless one of the following applies: Regardless of this timeframe, the licensee will not submit new harvest unit or road section applications until the licensee confirms with the field crew that (in the harvest unit or road section in question) no cultural heritage resources have been noted or they have been noted and dealt with appropriately. In the case of active machine operations, if the field cultural heritage resource is identified it will be immediately reported to the licensee's site supervisor. In all cases the licensee will ensure that the cultural heritage resource is assessed to determine its location, nature, type, extent and attributes. The licensee will ensure that the cultural heritage resource is appropriately conserved or protected.

d) Cultural heritage resource information gathered/reported by field crews will be summarized and submitted by the licensee to the Nadina Forest District annually (by May 31st). Examples of cultural heritage resources to be summarized are listed in the Handbook. At minimum, the summary will include reference to the area assessed (block number or road section, forest cover polygon or latitude and longitude), the type of cultural heritage resource identified, and a brief description of the site and resource. The summary will also include management actions prescribed for the cultural heritage resource (if still at the planning stage) or applied to the cultural heritage resource (if implementation has occurred). An overview map will be included showing the area where cultural heritage resources were located. If additional site-specific information (assessment records, maps, forms) is available it will be included with the submission.

e) The licensee will provide this information to the First Nations groups for locations within their traditional territories semi-annually (during the month of April and October) or as otherwise agreed with the First Nations group. In no case will the location of identified archeological sites be made public.

The relevant section of the Burns Lake Community Forest Ltd. Safety and Environmental Handbook and relevant pages of the Cultural Heritage Resource Manual can be found in the supporting documents.

Cultural Heritage Resource Strategy 2:

On a semi-annual basis the licensee will request a face-to-face meeting with a representative of each First Nation whose traditional territory overlaps with the license (during the month of April and October). Interim meetings will be scheduled if requested by the First Nation. Minutes will be maintained of these meetings, and made available to

the Ministry of Forests and Range upon request. This schedule may be adjusted by agreement between the First Nations and the licensee.

During the semi-annual meetings, the licensee will seek information regarding areas of interest and sensitivity on the part of the First Nations groups within their traditional territories, and the First Nations representative(s) can update the licensee regarding cultural heritage resources (archeological sites and traditional use sites) that are of continuing importance to the aboriginal people. First Nation's recommendations will be sought at both the landscape and site specific level. The licensee will respond in writing within two calendar weeks to the recommendations received from First Nations groups. This correspondence will be made available to the Ministry of Forests and Range upon request. In the event that the licensee is made aware of cultural heritage resource values and/or areas of interest and sensitivity outside of this defined process, a similar process will be followed.

2.6 Objectives for visual quality in scenic areas

The licensee shall, for all cut blocks harvested and roads constructed during the term of this plan and in the Forest Development Unit defined in this plan, meet the Visual Quality Objectives established through Section 17 of the *Government Actions Regulation* (GAR) for scenic areas made known prior to October 24, 2002, as shown on Forest Stewardship Plan Map 3. The Visual Quality Objectives will be deemed to have been met, if when viewed from a significant public viewpoint the altered forest landscape in the individual Visual Quality Objective polygon is consistent with the descriptions in the following table:

Visual Quality Objective	Description of Altered Forest Landscape
Preservation	(i) very small in scale, and (ii) not easily distinguishable from the pre-harvest landscape
Retention	(i) difficult to see, (ii) small in scale, and (iii) natural in appearance
Partial Retention	(i) easy to see, (ii) small to medium in scale, and (iii) natural and not rectilinear or geometric in shape
Modification	(i) is very easy to see, and (ii) is (A) large in scale and natural in its appearance, or (B) small to medium in scale but with some angular characteristics;
Maximum Modification	i) is very easy to see, and ii) is (A) very large in scale, (B) rectilinear and geometric in shape, or (C) both.

Scenic Areas within FDU 1:
Boer Mtn (Star Lake Cluster)

Francois Lake
Guyishton Lake
Highway 16 corridor (includes railway, highway, lakes)
Maxan Lake
Tchesinkut Lake
Numerous unnamed lakes

2.7 Objectives from Higher-level Plans

Higher-level Plan Result 1: During the term of this plan in all Forest Development Units, the licensee shall not harvest a cut block area if harvesting that area would result in failure to maintain or increase the level of non-conformance to the seral stage distributions described in the Order Establishing Resource Management Zones and Resource Management Zone Objectives for the Lakes District Pursuant to Sections 3(1) and 3(2) of the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act* (the Act) dated July 26th, 2000. This Order is included in Appendix 1.

2.8 Objectives for Fish Habitat in Fisheries Sensitive Watersheds

There are no fisheries sensitive watersheds within the Forest Stewardship Plan area.

2.9 Objectives for Water Quality in Community Watersheds

There are no community watersheds within the Forest Stewardship Plan area.

2.10 Objectives Set for a Recreation Site, Recreation Trail or Interpretive Forest Site

In the Order entitled “Order to Establish Objectives For a Recreation Site, Recreation Trail or Interpretive Forest Site” (dated the 31st day of October, 1997), The Ministry of Forests established objectives as follows:

Bear Dens Recreation Trail, Recreation Project File 900-5937

“The objectives are, to manage the Bear Dens recreation trail for a natural recreation experience. The bed rock formations will be protected and all over story vegetation will be maintained within the site boundaries and 10 m on either side of the trail. The trail is to provide the opportunity for hiking, horseback riding and mountain biking activities. Motorized vehicles will not be permitted.”

Guyishton Lake Recreation Trail, Recreation Project File 900-6474

“The objectives are, to manage the Guyishton Lake recreation trail for a natural recreation experience. The coniferous vegetation features will be maintained within 10 m of the trail. The trail is to provide the opportunities for hiking, mountain biking, horse back riding, and snowmobiling activities.”

A copy of the Order to establish Objectives for a Recreation Site, Recreation Trail or Interpretive Forest Site can be found in Appendix 2.

A number of other recreation sites exist in the forest development units. However, they do not have legally established objectives and will not be addressed in this forest stewardship plan.

Recreation Site, Recreation Trail or Interpretive Forest Site Result 1:

During the term of the plan the licensee shall ensure that no roads are constructed or cut blocks harvested within the site boundary and within 10 m on either side of the Bear Dens Trail, Recreation File Project 900-5937.

Recreation Site, Recreation Trail or Interpretive Forest Site Result 2:

During the term of the plan the licensee shall ensure that no roads are constructed or cut blocks harvested within 10 m on either side of the Guyishton Lake Recreation Trail, Recreation File Project 900-6474.

3.0 Additional Information

3.1 Areas under Cutting Permit/Road Permit

Areas under cutting permits and road permits held by Burns Lake Community Forest Ltd. are shown on Forest Stewardship Plan Map 1.

3.2 Invasive Plants

Forest Planning and Practices Regulation Section 17 states the Forest Stewardship Plan must “specify measures in the plan to prevent the introduction or spread of species of plants that are invasive plants under the Invasive Plants Regulation, if the introduction or spread is likely to be the result of the person’s forest practices.”

Definitions:

Access structure includes roads, landings, access trails, and bladed trails. It also includes designated skid trails resulting in soil exposure on >50% of trail areas.

Non-surfaced means not covered by gravel, rock, pavement or other similar surfacing materials.

Establishment will be defined as 50% cover of plants from the seed mixture applied, as measured on the non-surfaced portion of contiguous sections of access structure areas. For purposes of the cover measurement, the minimum size of an assessment area is 0.1 ha of non-surfaced area in a contiguous section of access structure area.

Invasive Plant Strategy 1: In order to control the introduction and spread of invasive plant species, the licensee will use certified grass and legume seed (Canada No. 1 Forage Mixture) in the plan area when seeding disturbed areas associated with access structure construction on all forest development units during the term of the plan.

The licensee will seed non-surfaced portions of access structure areas by June 1st for any access structures that were constructed between August 1st of the previous year and May 15th of the same year. All non-surfaced portions of access structure areas will be seeded by August 15th for any access structures that were constructed between May 16th and July 31st. The licensee will assess seeded areas within 18 months of seeding date to ensure establishment has been achieved.

The licensee will re-seed areas where establishment has not been achieved within three months of the assessment if this three month period overlaps the May 15th to August 15th period. Otherwise re-seeding will be conducted between May 15th and August 15th of the following calendar year. Assessments and re-seeding will be conducted on a similar schedule until establishment is achieved.

Invasive Plant Strategy 2: In order to control the introduction and spread of invasive plant species, during the term of the plan the licensee will report invasive plant locations within all forest development units to the North West Invasive Plant Council. The licensee will report the invasive plant species, approximate size of infestation, and location (road section / cutblock / forest cover polygon and GPS coordinates if available). The licensee will submit reports within one calendar week of identifying the infestation.

3.3 Natural Range Barriers

Forest Planning and Practices Regulation Section 18 states the Forest Stewardship Plan must “specify measures to mitigate the effects of removing or rendering ineffective natural range barriers”.

Natural Range Barrier Strategy 1:

- a) The licensee will contact the holders of range tenures overlapping or directly adjacent to the forest stewardship plan area annually by February 28th via registered mail. The licensee will provide information on the areas of planned harvesting and road construction in their range tenure area. The licensee will ask the range tenure holders to describe the location and type of natural range barriers in the overlap area, and what would be required to mitigate the effects of removing them or rendering them ineffective. The range tenure holder will be given 60 days to respond.
- b) In the event that our activities are expected to remove or render ineffective a natural range barrier described in a), before the activities occur the licensee will contact the range tenure holder and advise them of the measures being taken to mitigate the effects of removing them or rendering them ineffective. Measures considered reasonable include placement of cattleguards and installation of drift fences.
- c) If the licensee and range tenure holder disagree on the course of action to address the potential removal of or rendering ineffective a natural range barrier, the matter will be referred to the Range Department at the Ministry of Forests and Range, Nadina District. The licensee will provide the Range Department with a supporting rationale for their

plans and allow up to 14 days thereafter for the range tenure holder to provide arguments to the Range Department. The Range Department will recommend a course of action to the licensee. The licensee will follow the recommended course of action to the extent practicable.

3.4 Cumulative Effect of Multiple Forest Stewardship Plans

There are no other Forest Stewardship Plans on the area of Long Term Community Forest License K1A, and therefore this item is not applicable.

3.5 Referral Summary

3.5.1 Advertisements

A copy of the local newspaper insertion advertising the 60 day review period is included in the review and comment summary provided with our submission.

3.5.2 Review and Comment / Documentation and Referral

All comments received during the 60 day review period have been reviewed by Burns Lake Community Forest staff. The comments and Burns Lake Community Forest Ltd.'s decisions relating to those comments are included in the review and comment summary.

3.5.2.1 Letters

Letters regarding our plan were sent to many potentially affected parties. No written comments were received during the 60 day public review period.

3.5.2.2 First Nations

Burns Lake Community Forest Ltd. staff has met with First Nations groups regarding this plan. Summaries of these meetings, comments and responses have been included in the review and comment summary.

3.5.2.3 Agencies

No correspondence was received from other governmental agencies during the 60 day public review period.

3.5.3 Summary of Revisions

No revisions were made to the Forest Stewardship Plan during the 60 day public review period.

3.6 Stocking Standards

3.6.1 Stocking Standards for this plan

For purposes of section 16(1) of the Forest Planning and Practices Regulation, section 44(1) of the Forest Planning and Practices Regulation applies to all areas where the licensee is required to establish a free growing stand. The licensee shall, for the term of this Forest Stewardship Plan and for the areas where the licensee is required to establish a free growing stand, adhere to the stocking standards found in Appendix 3.

For purposes of section 16(4) of the Forest Planning and Practices Regulation, section 44(4) of the Forest Planning and Practices Regulation does not apply to this Forest Stewardship Plan. The licensee does not propose to carry out the harvesting activities listed in section 44(3)(h) and (i) of the Forest Planning and Practices Regulation.

3.6.2 Minimum Inter-tree Distance

The licensee shall, for the term of this Forest Stewardship Plan and for the entire FDU described under this plan, use a minimum inter-tree distance of 1.6 metres on hygric, subhydric, and mounded areas where raised microsites have been prepared. A minimum inter-tree distance of 2.0 metres applies to all other areas.

3.6.3 Height of Trees Above Brush

The licensee shall, for the term of this Forest Stewardship Plan and for the entire FDU described under this plan, ensure that trees reach a minimum percentage height relative to the height of competing brush in order to be free growing. This percentage height is greater than or equal to 150% on all SBSdk and SBSmc2 sites and greater than or equal to 125% on all ESSFmc sites.

3.6.4 Maximum density

The licensee shall, for the term of this Forest Stewardship Plan and for the entire FDU described under this plan, use a maximum density of 10,000 countable stems per hectare.

4.0 Maps

The Forest Stewardship Plan maps are enclosed, at a scale of 1:50,000. There is one Forest Development Unit in the Forest Stewardship Plan. The following maps are included in this plan:

Map Number	Map Reference
1	Development/Biodiversity
2	Ungulate Winter Habitat
3	Scenic Areas

5.0 Bibliography

Supporting Documents Section 2.2

1. Order – May 6, 2005 – *Category of Species at Risk*
2. Notice – *Indicators of the amount, distribution and attributes of wildlife habitat required for the survival of species at risk in the Nadina Forest District*
3. Email – March 24, 2005 - – from Rena Betemps, Nadina Forest District, re. response from Troy Larden concerning grizzly bear and caribou habitat
4. Notice – *Indicators of the amount, distribution and attributes of wildlife habitat required for the winter survival of ungulate species in the Lakes Timber Supply Area*

Supporting Documents Section 2.5

1. Cultural Heritage Resource Identification – *Burns Lake Community Forest Ltd. Safety and Environmental Handbook*, page 13
2. Cultural Heritage Resource Manual and Policy Manual and Policy – Lakes Forest District, September 5, 2002, pages 21-75