

Issue 5 - The Planning Issue

Welcome to the fifth issue of the Swan Valley Forest Management Plan Newsletter. In this issue we focus on planning - specifically, the processes and techniques used in the annual planning of operations. A detailed overview of the tactical planning process was described in the first issue of the newsletter, and the second issue concentrated on the strategic direction for long-term planning.

An Annual Operating Plan (AOP) provides detailed information on the exact locations and types of forestry activities that will occur over the year. Everything from access roads and stream crossings to the planning of harvest and renewal activities is included in the AOP. Our current 2003-2004 AOP can be found on our website at www.swanvalleyforest.ca and is also available at the LP Woodlands Office.

The LP integrated planning team is busily working on the Annual Operating Plan for the 2004-2005 operating year. The upcoming open houses are an opportunity for the public to review and provide input into the planned activities for the year (schedule is provided on page 4).

Planning Techniques

The picture below is an example of a cutblock after harvesting has been completed. The numbers on the picture correspond to the text below. The planning process includes accounting for protection of riparian features, wildlife features (mineral licks, rookeries etc.), softwood understorey, steep topography, heritage resources, recreational features and research plots. Roads and stream crossings are minimized, which helps control access.

1. 100 m treed buffer on lake. This large lake buffer provides for a wildlife travel corridor and maintains the aesthetic value of the lake.

2. 50 m buffer on creek. The creek is buffered 10 m back from top of the down slope to prevent erosion.

3. 30 m buffer on in-block stream. This buffer also serves as a wildlife travel corridor.

4. Wildlife tree clumps and single tree retention within harvest area.

5. Rehabilitated roads. In-block roads have slash and debris spread on them to prevent erosion, control access and return nutrients to soil on the roadbed.

6. Stream crossing removed and rehabilitated.

7. Block boundary follows natural features such as stand types, riparian features and topographic features.

8. Future harvest area.

9. Snow cache site. Spruce seedlings are stored in a winter harvest area for tree planting in the spring. This mixedwood site will regenerate back to a mixedwood forest.



Planning Process Overview

1

PLANNER'S INITIAL HARVEST AREA DESIGN (PHOTO & FIELD CHECK)



THE PLANNER USES AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS TO SEE IN THREE DIMENSIONS, IN ORDER SEE THE 'LAY OF THE LAND' AND DELINEATE CUTBLOCK BOUNDARIES THAT FOLLOW NATURAL FEATURES.

2

BLOCKS ARE SURVEYED PRIOR TO HARVESTING (SUMMER)



PRE-HARVEST SURVEYS ARE CONDUCTED ON ALL PROPOSED CUTBLOCKS. TIMBER, SOILS, VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE INFORMATION CONTRIBUTE TO SITE-SPECIFIC PRESCRIPTIONS FOR HARVEST AND RENEWAL PLANS FOR EACH BLOCK.

3

LP INTEGRATED PLANNING TEAM: PRESCRIBES ROADS, CROSSINGS, HARVEST, RENEWAL & WILDLIFE STRATEGIES (SEPT-NOV)



THE LP INTEGRATED PLANNING TEAM (IPT) CONSISTS OF A BIOLOGIST, RENEWAL FORESTER, OPERATIONS COORDINATOR AND PLANNERS. THE IPT COMBINES THE PHS DATA AND THEIR COLLECTIVE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE TO MAKE CUTBLOCK PRESCRIPTIONS.

4

MITIGATION MEETINGS BETWEEN LP AND MANITOBA'S INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT TEAM (NOV-JAN)



MANITOBA CONSERVATION HAS AN INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT TEAM (IRMT) WHICH CONSISTS OF FISHERIES, FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE, OPERATIONS (ENFORCEMENT) AND PARKS STAFF WHO REVIEW THE LP CUTBLOCK PRESCRIPTIONS AND SUGGEST IMPROVEMENTS.

5

STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC) REVIEW (NOV-JAN)



THE MITIGATED BLOCKS ARE SHOWN TO THE SAC FOR REVIEW AND INPUT.

6

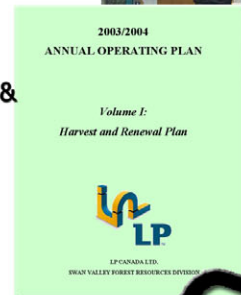
PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES (JAN 26-29TH)



OPEN HOUSES IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES ARE HELD TO GIVE THE GENERAL PUBLIC AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE INPUT.

7

AOP SUBMITTED TO MANITOBA & FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS (FEB 28TH)



LP PRODUCES THE FINAL AOP BLOCK LAYOUT, AOP DOCUMENTS AND MAPS.

8

AOP APPROVAL (MAY 30TH)



THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT REVIEWS THE AOP FOR 90 DAYS, THEN ISSUES AN AOP APPROVAL LETTER WITH CONDITIONS AND CHANGES.

Interview with Duane Whyte of the Stakeholders Advisory Committee

Since 1994, LP Swan Valley Forest Resources Division has worked with a Stakeholders Advisory Committee (SAC). The purpose of this group is to provide a local focus for advice at Strategic, Tactical and Operational levels. The SAC operates under a "terms of reference" and generally meets 8 or 9 times per year. In 1994, the company approached several individuals and groups looking for members and participation for this committee. Currently there are 32 members on this committee made up of representatives from 21 groups or organizations including: Cottage Owners Association, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Duck Mountain Trappers Association, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Intermountain Conservation District, Intermountain Snowmobile Club, Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Naturalists Society, Manitoba Trappers Association, MB Ag & Food Crown Lands, Mixedwood Forest Society, Midwest Lodge & Outfitters, Mountain Quota Holder's Association, Northern Association of Community Councils, Parks Canada, Roblin Snowmobile Association, SV Sport Fishing Enhancement, Swan River Snowmobile Club, Swan Valley Snowmobile & ATV Association, and the Universities of Manitoba and Winnipeg.

We would like to highlight various individuals or groups from our SAC. This issue highlights **Duane Whyte** and the **Cottage Owners Association**. Duane has been sitting on the SAC since its inception. Duane, a science & biology teacher at the Swan Valley Regional Secondary School, has been teaching for 33 years, raised his family in the Valley, and spends summers at Wellman Lake.

LP: What does the Cottage Owners Association get out of being involved with LP's Stakeholders Advisory Committee?

Duane Whyte (DW): We get to be involved in the goals and objectives of forest management. We have become more knowledgeable about forestry and involved in and understanding the mitigation of concerns. In other words, we have the opportunity to express our opinions and concerns and have them addressed for things that are important to us as cottage owners. We are now also more aware of the diverse nature of the forest and its users, as well as becoming more appreciative of the other uses.

LP: How has LP benefited from having your representation on the Stakeholders Advisory Committee?

DW: Well, I certainly have an opinion and I speak my mind without reservation. This group provides a forum to be constructively critical about plans, operations and options. It is a way to provide some input into sensitive issues as sometimes we as cottage owners are aware of things that LP may not be aware of. Because of the diverse nature of the members on the SAC, LP receives a lot of information and needs from a wide range of users.

LP: You are a long-time member of the SAC participating since the beginning in 1994. Why?

"LP's door is always open to those who want to learn more and become involved..."

DW: One of the early reasons I joined was that I was concerned that a large forest company would not take care of the forest and that by being a part of the SAC I could gauge the level of commitment and influence decision making. I have stuck with it over the years because I have enjoyed contributing to the process and I have enjoyed learning about a wide variety of things. I have learned a great deal more about forestry, science and biology. In many cases meetings are almost like an 'in-service' day, a tremendous learning experience for me as a teacher. It has also served as a conduit for my students to learn more about the science and biology of forestry, including, fish, wildlife and ecosystems.

LP: Being a member for such a long time what have you seen change over those years?

DW: Lots over the years... I believe LP is now doing a better job at managing the forest. Cutblocks are being managed more from an ecological point of view. There is now more protection for soil, better road decommissioning, more wildlife habitat management and more education for the workers in the bush. The changes in practices are more ecologically oriented. Technology has also changed incredibly... computers, digital aerial photography and GPS. LP has used technology to involve the SAC and others in the forest management business. LP is doing different kinds of research and now are sharing results of that. I feel that there is a greater effort on collecting more detail. There is a great level of interaction with the SAC currently but I would like to see more yet and some kind of mechanism for others to become more conversive and involved.

LP: If you could give one message to the public about forestry, forest practices or LP what would that be?

DW: Get involved! Go to open houses, take part in tours with professionals, read the LP plans about forest operations. I am sure LP's door is always open to those who want to learn more and become involved and I would encourage everyone to take advantage of the opportunities. Don't be apathetic about the management of the forest.

AOP Open Houses

2004 Open House Schedule

Roblin - Monday January 26th
Grandview - Tuesday January 27th
Ethelbert - Wednesday January 28th
Swan River - Thursday January 29th

Public input is actively solicited by LP. One of many methods of seeking public input is inviting the public to attend an open house in their local community. Open houses are a forum where people can review maps with proposed roads and cutblocks and provide comments on the Annual Operating Plan (AOP). Open houses allow an open and friendly atmosphere where people can ask questions of the LP Integrated Planning Team.

Open houses are held each year during the last week of January. The LP integrated planning team members and Operations Technicians are available to discuss the proposed plans with those who attend. Concerns, both written and verbal, are recorded and taken into consideration when finalizing the plan. We take public comments very seriously, and will change buffers or cutblock plans to accommodate the public where appropriate.

Some comments are general in nature, such as "Do you plant all the areas you cut?" Other comments are more specific to an area the person

has a strong interest in, such as trappers, outfitters or cottage owners.

For more information on Open Houses, call the LP Office at (204) 734-4102.

Frequently Asked Questions

"How will LP Canada help to maintain large predators, 'species at risk', and non-forested habitats, so that these will continue to fulfil their key roles in the Duck Mountain ecosystem?"

LP will help to maintain large predators and species at risk by ensuring the continued availability of suitable habitat for the many species found in the Duck Mountain ecosystem. LP's forest management system will assist LP in ensuring that the habitat these plants and animals need to survive will be available in the future. This includes both forested and non-forested habitats such as meadows, wetlands, lakes and bogs. LP supports research and monitoring of the Duck Mountain forests to learn more about the sustainable management of these forests and will continue to monitor the effects and effectiveness of their management strategies on these ecosystems.

For a more detailed answer, and to see other Frequently Asked Questions, visit our website www.swanvalleyforest.ca.

Provide YOUR input! Subscribe to the Newsletter! For Questions or Comments...

Phone: 204-734-7703 Fax: 204-734-3646

Email: Swan.Comments@LPCorp.com

Mail: LP Canada Ltd

P.O. Box 998 439 Westwood Road
Swan River, MB, Canada R0L 1Z0

Or visit our website:

<http://www.swanvalleyforest.ca>

