

# Swan Valley Forest Management Plan Newsletter



Volume 2, Issue 2: March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2004

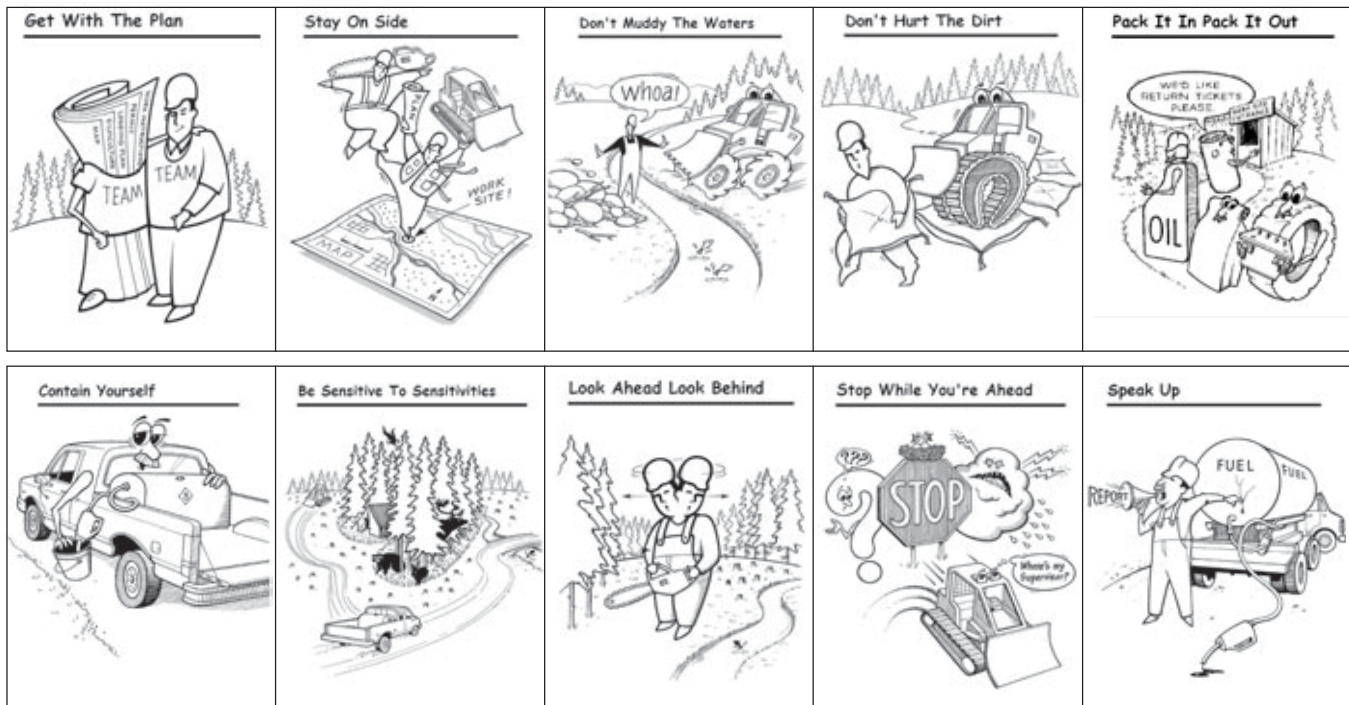
## Volume 2, Issue 2 - The Operations Issue

Welcome to "the Operations Issue" of LP Swan Valley Forest Management Plan Newsletter. In the December 2003 issue of the newsletter we focused on the Planning aspect of LP's operations, we described the detail that goes into an Annual Operating Plan and how LP staff accomplish this and what is considered for each block prescription. You might consider this issue a continuation to the December issue or how LP staff implement the plan. In future issues this spring we hope to bring you newsletters on our Silviculture Program, or what happens after harvesting, and an issue on our Stream Crossing and Rehabilitation Program.

In the 2004-2005 operating year, LP's OSB Mill in Minitonas will require up to 850,000 m<sup>3</sup> of trembling aspen, balsam poplar, white birch and tamarack. Approximately 75% of this fibre will be supplied from within FML #3 (FMUs 10, 11 and 13). The remaining 25% of LP's wood supply will come from FMU 12, FMU 14, Crown land, and privately owned land. LP's plans must not only cover forest management activities and operations for LP but also those of the 36 quota holders within FML #3. The forests of FMU 13 are largely comprised of mixedwood stand types. Each year LP has attempted to integrate operations with as many quota holders as possible. Integrated operations result in less roads, yet acquire the same volume of wood.

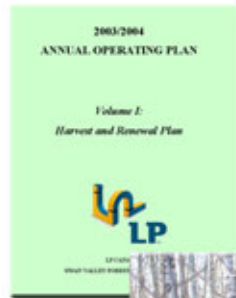
### The Ten Commandments

One of the most important things at LP are the operations in the bush, as such we focus a lot of attention on educating and training machine operators. The "Ten Commandments" are key components of our Environmental Management System (EMS), which is the backbone of our Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) certification. They summarize what we need to remember about the EMS and what we need to do to protect the environment. The Ten Commandments are based on the five elements of continual improvement (Plan, Do, Check, Respond, Report).



# Operations Overview

**1**  
THE PLAN



OPERATIONS STAFF REVIEW THE APPROVED ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN PRESCRIPTIONS PRIOR TO THE IMPLEMENTATION.

**2**  
LAYOUT/PREP WORK



HARVEST BLOCKS AND ROADS ARE LAID OUT USING GPS TECHNOLOGY. ANY PRESCRIBED BUFFERS OR MITIGATED EXCLUSIONS ARE RIBBONED. LP USES STANDARD COLOURS AND PATTERNS OF FLAGGING TAPE TO ENSURE CONSISTENCY.

**3**  
CONTRACTOR PRE-WORK



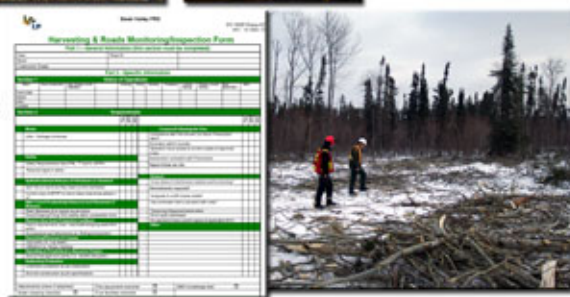
A CONTRACTOR PRE-WORK MEETING IS HELD PRIOR TO STARTING HARVESTING EVERY CUT BLOCK OR ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROJECT. THIS MEETING IS IMPORTANT TO COMMUNICATE THE BLOCK PRESCRIPTION AND ROAD INFORMATION TO THE CONTRACTOR AND OPERATORS WHO WILL BE DOING THE WORK. AT THIS TIME SPECIAL CONCERNS AND ITEMS ARE DISCUSSED. LP STAFF AND THE CONTRACTOR WALK THE AREA.

**4**  
OPERATIONS



THERE ARE SEVERAL STAGES OF OPERATIONS THAT OCCUR WHILE THE CUT BLOCK IS BEING HARVESTED. THESE INCLUDE BUNCHING, SKIDDING, SLASHING, LOADING TRUCKS AND HAULING. EACH SPRING LP HOSTS BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES TRAINING SEMINARS FOR CONTRACTORS AND THEIR OPERATORS WHO WILL BE HARVESTING WOOD FOR LP. THESE SEMINARS ARE MANDATORY AND COVER TOPICS SUCH AS SAFETY, STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES, WORK INSTRUCTIONS, INSPECTIONS, FIRE PREVENTION, WORKING AROUND WATER, SOIL COMPACTION AVOIDANCE AND FUEL HANDLING. SPECIAL GUESTS ARE BROUGHT IN FROM AGENCIES SUCH AS MANITOBA CONSERVATION, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND OCEANS.

**5**  
REGULAR INSPECTIONS



DURING HARVEST A NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS ARE CONDUCTED. THIS ENSURES THAT THE PLAN PRESCRIPTION IS MET AND THAT THE STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES ARE BEING FOLLOWED, ALONG WITH ALL APPLICABLE LAWS AND REGULATIONS. BOTH LP OPERATIONS STAFF AND MANITOBA CONSERVATION NATURAL RESOURCE OFFICERS COMPLETE INSPECTIONS.

**6**  
HARVEST BLOCK COMPLETION



WHEN THE HARVESTING HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND ALL THE WOOD SLASHED AND HAULED TO THE MILL, A FINAL INSPECTION IS COMPLETED BY BOTH LP AND MANITOBA CONSERVATION. ANY ROADS THAT HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED ARE CLOSED AND MANITOBA CONSERVATION ISSUES A FINAL BLOCK CLEARANCE. THE BLOCK IS THEN READY FOR ANY SILVICULTURAL TREATMENTS OR PLANTING TO TAKE PLACE LATER IN THE SPRING.

## Stakeholders Advisory Committee – An Interview with Terry Neely, President of the Mid West Manitoba Lodges & Outfitters Association

LP Swan Valley has been working with local and provincial organizations as part of our Stakeholders Advisory Committee (SAC) since 1994. Currently there are 32 members on the SAC representing 21 groups or organizations. Many of the members have been on the group for more than six years. The long-term commitment by these individuals is extremely valuable both for LP and for their own organizations and our SAC members need to be commended for their tremendous efforts.

Terry Neely, President of the Mid West Manitoba Lodges & Outfitters Association (MWLOA), sat down with the Newsletter Editor for some frank discussions about LP, its role and responsibilities in the forest, the community and the relationship between the MWLOA and its membership.

**LP:** Terry, you have been on the LP SAC since 1996, what do you hope to accomplish?

**Terry Neely (TN):** As a businessman, as all outfitters are, I am most concerned with bettering the image of outfitters and guides. Part of this includes ensuring the long-term viability of hunting areas, access and sustainability of the animals. I hope that by being part of the SAC we (the outfitters association) can be involved in helping to direct the planning and implementation of operations. Specifically where our members have their interests and concerns about hunting pressure, access and timing of harvest operations.

**LP:** Can you give me a little background on your association?

**TN:** The Mid West Manitoba Lodges and Outfitters Association was formed in the early 1990's and currently has 25 members. Membership is voluntary and each member pays a small membership fee and we hold meetings quarterly. We are a regional group of the large organization Manitoba Lodges and Outfitters Association ([www.mloa.com](http://www.mloa.com)). Our mandate is primarily one of education and it serves a lobby function. Our

purpose is to better the image of guiding and outfitting with the public and other groups. We spend a lot of time liaising with various provincial agencies on a variety of things. The Mid West group covers what is known as the Parkland Region and there are about 70 outfitters in the region.

Primarily our non-resident clients come to hunt black bear and whitetail deer. A 1997 study, commissioned by the Mid West Manitoba Lodge & Outfitter Association, found that more than 4 million dollars was generated in regional economic activity directly related to this industry and that a further \$975,000 was paid in taxes to the province and the municipalities.

**LP:** Terry, what are the sources of conflict between logging and outfitting?

**TN:** Generally I hear three complaints, the majority I hear from our membership (and non-member outfitters) is that LP does not do enough to protect trails that outfitters have in place. The second, also road/trail related, is that LP closes the trails and roads too well. Now I understand that on

road closures LP has to follow Manitoba Conservation directives and regulations. The third complaint is that there is not enough notice for work being conducted in the hunting areas that each outfitter runs. For example, many times our guys find out about harvesting or road building activities when they are happening. By that time it is too late.

**LP:** How can LP and the association help each other to resolve these issues?

**TN:** To date LP has been pretty good at coming to our Association meetings when asked to explain something or show some maps or to get information to our members. Additionally, you have the Annual Operating Plan Open Houses, usually in January. These maps show the current years plan plus 2 years of future blocks, so in theory everyone should have lots of time to comment and suggest changes. But lets be honest we don't usually get all our members out to our meetings nor does LP get a lot of interest in the open houses for whatever reasons. LP has shown it has worked well with members in the past to work through harvest timing, and are helpful at working through the details. LP needs to take a more proactive roll in contacting each individual outfitter with a map of their areas and have them place trails, baits, areas of concern and any comments the outfitter has on this map, and then

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*"We can make a difference if all interest groups take the time and opportunities when they arise to get involved."*

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the LP Planners can work with and around these concerns.

**LP:** What message would you like to leave our readership with Terry?

**TN:** A couple of things, first we sometimes suffer from many misconceptions about our industry but as outfitters we are also businesspeople. We are concerned about our resources and a need to provide for sustainable hunting levels, and we do provide economic stimulus into the regional economies. The second is that we as a group need to work closer with LP and other users in solving problems, mitigating concerns and incorporating details. We can make a difference if all interest groups take the time and the opportunities when they arise to get involved.

To read the full interview with Terry, please visit our website at [www.swanvalleyforest.ca](http://www.swanvalleyforest.ca)

### Best Practices Training

Contractor education is very important to LP. Every spring LP hosts several best practices meetings, both as a review of LP's current guidelines, and a forum to bring up any new procedures. LP holds meetings for both crown and private land logging operations, as well as for contractors that install water crossings.

A wide range of topics are covered such as certification requirements and processes, wildlife and planning concerns, water quality, and of course, safety. Presenters include LP staff, Federal & Provincial government representatives and specialized experts from various fields.

The next meeting dates are tentatively set for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of June with attendance being mandatory for any contractor that works directly for LP.

### Frequently Asked Questions

***"Related to stream crossings and habitat preservation, how can LP Canada work with landowners to ensure timber removal on private lands is done in an environmentally safe manner?"***

LP believes the best way to ensure timber removal on private lands is done in an environmentally safe manner is through landowner and harvester education. Over the past several years landowners, or more often harvesting contractors, have approached LP to provide aspen from private lands. Therefore, LP has not actively sought wood from private land.

LP Swan Valley has developed a solid Private Land Education Program. One of the very first things we do is provide the landowner and harvesting

contractor with an information package that contains LP's policies and principles on Protection of the Environment, Sustainable Forestry, Water Quality, Forest Management, Log Specifications, and a variety of "Best Management Practices" fact sheets around harvesting, soils, and water. LP Planners, with the landowner and logger, fill out a questionnaire. This questionnaire helps the LP Planners and the landowner determine the long-term management objectives for the land. For the most part we are finding that the landowners are farmers who wish to convert a portion of their land for agriculture or grazing purposes. LP also requires that landowners agree to protect the environment in terms of soil protection, wildlife/rare species, riparian areas, roads and stream crossings during harvesting. If the landowner refuses to agree to the Best Management Practices set forth in the principles or questionnaire, LP will not purchase the wood.

LP signs a Timber Purchase Agreement with the logger and copies of the Title Deed and Landowner Authorization Form (must be signed by all parties who have right or title to the land). LP Planners also maintain the right to inspect the private land before, during or after harvesting, in these cases a private land inspection form is completed and filed.

Generally LP has been dealing with about 45 private land harvesting contractors for the last few years and we have encouraged them and landowners alike to attend the BMP training sessions each spring free of charge. We have found most have taken us up on the invitation. LP is moving to make BMP training mandatory for all harvesters selling wood to LP from private land.

In many parts of the Swan River Valley private land is harvested and the wood is shipped to Ontario, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin to supply pulp mills. This is currently an attractive offer to landowners as those areas are experiencing a wood shortage. LP Canada Swan Valley has no control on harvesters, landowners or practices on these lands or on landowners who choose to sell wood in this way.

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

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