



# BCTS OMINECA SPRUCE BEETLE ACTION PLAN REPORT 2022 ADDENDUM

Omineca Spruce Beetle Management Team.

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## Introduction

Various licensee participants and BC Timber Sales (BCTS) form the Omineca Spruce Beetle Management Team (OSBMT). The OSBMT was directed by the RED expectation letter to present how licensees are collaboratively prioritizing the remaining, unconstrained spruce beetle impacted areas. The licensees from the OSBMT opted to delay conducting a full report until January. BCTS agreed to prepare an addendum to the 2021 Action Plan in response to the expectation letter to demonstrate how BCTS is responding to the ongoing spruce beetle infestation within the Omineca Region.

This report is an addendum to the Omineca Spruce Beetle 2021 Action Plan which outlines a plan that seeks to minimize effects of the spruce beetle infestation on timber supply, specifically within the Prince George and Mackenzie Natural Resource District (NRD).

This plan is a spatial exercise to analyze the existing spruce beetle impacts on the land base, and what BCTS is doing to address both the timber and non-timber impacts in their operating areas.

## Methods

### Categorizing the netted down AOS into Action Plan Categories

BCTS was provided with a Resultant August 3 by the MoF GIS analyst. With this layer, BCTS proceeded to categorize each polygon of Resultant into six general categories

- **Planned Harvest (PH)** – polygons scheduled for harvest within the 7-year shelf-life time frame (2022-2029)
- **Deferred (D)** – polygons not scheduled for harvest within the 7-year shelf-life time frame (2022-2029) due to one of more land base constraints
  - **Deferred for Biodiversity Management Area (D – BMA)** – polygons not scheduled for harvest within the 7-year shelf-life time frame (2022-2029) due to Biodiversity Management Area (BMA) severity overlap
  - **Deferred for Partition (D – Partition)** – polygons not scheduled for harvest within the 7-year shelf-life time frame (2022-2029) due to Partition constraints
  - **Deferred for PG NRD Landscape Biodiversity Order Spatialization Project (D – LBO)** – polygons not scheduled for harvest within the 7-year shelf-life time frame (2022-2029) due to Landscape Biodiversity Spatialization Project of the Order (**Spatialization Project**) constraints
  - **Deferred for Old Growth Technical Advisory Panel (D – TAP)** – polygons not scheduled for harvest within the 7-year shelf-life time frame (2022-2029) due to overlap with old growth Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) constraints
- **Retention (R)** – polygons intended to remain on landscape



## RESULTS

### 2022 Action Plan Outputs

A total of 7,579 hectares were classified as either Planned Harvest (PH), Deferred (D), Deferred for BMA (D – BMA), Deferred for TAP (D – TAP), Deferred for Partition (D- Partition), Deferred for Spatialization Project (D – LBO), and Retention (R) in this Action Plan. 578 hectares were categorized in the Mackenzie District while 7,001 hectares were categorized for the Prince George District.

Categorized action plan code totals are:

- 474 ha categorized as Planned Harvest
- 298 ha categorized as Deferred for TAP
- 646 ha categorized as Deferred for BMA
- 268 ha categorized as Deferred for Partition
- 3349 ha categorized as Deferred for Spatialization Project
- 1642 ha categorized as Retention

### Planned Harvest

There is 474 hectares classified as Planned Harvest (PH) within the Action Plan.



Table 4 - OSBMT 2022 Action Plan Results. Deferred, Retained, Planned Harvest (HA) and Years to Action

COMPANY	AOS - Remaining THLB (all severity and age classes, netted down, Sx leading and Sx secondary >35%)	Subset Target AOS - THLB, L-VS, AC6+, Sx Leading and Secondary	AOS - (II severity and age classes, netted down, Sx leading and Sx secondary >35%) TAP	AOS - (II severity and age classes, netted down, Sx leading and Sx secondary >35%) LBO	Deferred - AOS (All Severity, All Age Classes)	Deferred - Target AOS (THLB, L-VS, AC6+, Sx Leading and Secondary)	Deferred - AOS (All Severity, All Age Classes) PARTITION	Deferred - AOS (All Severity, All Age Classes) TAP	Deferred - AOS (All Severity, All Age Classes) BMA	Deferred - AOS (All Severity, All Age Classes) LBO	Retained - AOS (All Severity, All Age Classes) In Resultant	Retained - Target AOS (THLB, L- VS, AC6+, In Resultant	Retained - Non AOS (All Age Classes)	Planned Harvest - AOS (All Severity, All Age Classes, In Resultant)	Planned Harvest - Target AOS (THLB, L-VS, AC6+, Sx Leading and Secondary, In Resultant)	AAC as Area (ha) at 305m3/ha (from Table 1)	Years to Action - Planned Harvest - Target AOS (years)
BCTS MK	578	436	0	0	357	282	268	21	0	0	78	54		0	0	2951	0
BCTS PG	7001	2633	4.6	162	4176	1213	0	277	646	3349	1564	475		474	24	2951	0.16
Total	7579	3069	4.6	162	4533	1495	268	298	646	3349	1642	529	0	474	24	5902	0.16



### Deferred

There were 4,533 hectares of deferred. 6% (298 hectare) of this area is in the TAP old growth deferred area. 14% of this is deferred for BMA severity overlap. 6% of this is deferred in Mackenzie for the southwest green Partition. Lastly, 73% of the deferred area is deferred for the Spatialization Project.

### Retention

There was 1,642 hectares classified as retention within the Action Plan.



Table 6 - Planned Harvest by Severity (HA) and Years to Action (Years)

COMPANY	AOS - Remaining THLB (all severity and age classes, netted down, Sx leading and Sx secondary >35%)	Subset Target AOS - THLB, L- VS, AC6+, Sx Leading and Secondary	Planned Harvest - All, In Resultant	Planned Harvest - Target AOS (THLB, L- VS, AC6+, Sx Leading and Secondary, In Resultant)	Planned Harvest - Target, Low, In Resultant	Planned Harvest - Target, Mod, In Resultant	Planned Harvest - Target, Severe, In Resultant	Planned Harvest - Target, V.Severe, In Resultant	AAC as Area (ha) at 305m3/h a	Years to Action - Planned Harvest - All (years)	Years to Action - Planned Harvest - Target Low (years)	Years to Action - Planned Harvest - Target Moderat e (years)	Years to Action - Planned Harvest - Target Severe (years)	Years to Action - Planned Harvest - Target V.Severe (years)	Years to Action - Planned Harvest - Target AOS (THLB, L- VS, AC6+, Sx Leading and Secondary, In Resultant)
BCTS MK	142	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,951	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
BCTS PG	490	441	474	24	23	2	0	0	2,951	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0081



## Discussion

### Stand and landscape-level retention for harvesting in response to spruce beetle outbreaks

The Chief Forester's (CF) office provided the Omineca Region Guidance for Stand and Landscape-Level Retention for Harvesting in Response to Spruce Beetle Outbreaks. The RED expectation letter (July 20, 2022) outlined that there was an expectation to present how licensees are collaboratively prioritizing the remaining, unconstrained spruce beetle impacted areas.

BCTS is presenting an addendum to the Omineca Spruce Beetle 2021 Action Plan Report which displays the existing spruce beetle impacts on the land base, and what BCTS is doing to address both the timber and non-timber impacts in their operating areas.

## Summary

In summary, the results of the 2022 Action Plan Addendum demonstrate that:

- There are 474 hectares of Planned Harvest in the AOS within BCTS. This displays that only 7% of the full Prince George and Mackenzie accumulated AOS Spruce Beetle coverage has the potential to move forward to the harvest authorization issuance process.
- As indicated in the results section and detailed in Table 4, there are 4,533 hectares of deferred and 1,642 hectares of retained.
- As per your Spruce Beetle Management Expectations letter, BCTS continues to report out spatially to address the guidance provided by the Chief Foresters Office (Omineca Region Guidance Stand and Landscape Level Retention for Harvesting in Response to Spruce Beetle Outbreaks, September 9, 2017).
- There were 3 new deferral polygons introduced in this report.
  - The first being for TAP, as this year a new old growth retention layer was added, which affected both areas previously set for retention, and set for planned harvest. 298 hectares were affected by this constraint.
  - The second is the Spatialization Project, which affected the planned harvest polygons for Prince George. As displayed in Table 4 and 6, 3,349 hectares were deferred due to this new layer.
  - Lastly, any overlap with the BMA layer that was originally set to planned and/or retention has now been deferred, totaling 646 hectares in Prince George and Mackenzie.

## Recommendations

- With only 7% of the spruce beetle affected area available for harvest, BCTS is in the process of expanding development within our operating areas to fulfill our mandate. Forest health management will continue to be a priority however we may be required to target non-impacted stands. As can be seen from the various deferral categories presented in this plan, land use





planning must adapt to address various management, legal, and non-legal constraints on the land base. Therefore, BCTS will continue to support government initiative (Spatialization Project, TAP, BMA) as these projects progress.

## Next Steps

1. In January of 2023 the OSBMT will produce a Omineca Spruce Beetle Action Plan Report.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Taylor".

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