## **Type 4 Silviculture Strategy** in the Kamloops **TSA**

## **SITUATION ANALYSIS**

**Prepared for:** 



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November 2013

Attention Rick Sommer:

#### Subject: Type 4 Silviculture Strategy in the Kamloops TSA - Situation Analysis

Please find enclosed the report in support of the above-mentioned analysis. Please do not hesitate to call with any questions.

Yours Truly,

Kelly Sherman, RPF & Krysta Giles-Hansen, RPF Senior Resource Analyst and Resource Analyst



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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

## 1.1 Context

The Kamloops TSA has been selected for a Type 4 silviculture strategy project, to provide tactical level direction for steering silviculture investment to help mitigate midterm timber supply impacts created from the mountain pine beetle (MPB) epidemic. Ecora Natural Resource Group Ltd (Ecora) has been contracted by the MFLNRO to undertake the Type 4 silviculture strategy on the Kamloops TSA.

The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (MFLNRO), Resource Practices Branch (RPB) has recognized the need to define clear timber objectives in the Kamloops TSA and ensure silviculture activities are consistent with objectives for all forest values.

The project plan of action is to:

- Identify present and emerging issues;
- Identify objectives and create targets;
- Create vision for timber and habitat supply;
- Create and implement silviculture plan to translate the vision into operational reality; and
- Allow for monitoring and iterative updates in the process.

This will be achieved by holding an inclusive kick-off meeting with a wide range of local and regional participants and utilizing expert's input to facilitate the inclusion of specific values. Ecora will facilitate this discussion and tie it all together in an optimization modelling environment that allows for the inclusion of the many complex and overlapping timber and non-timber resource values in the Kamloops TSA.

The main outcomes from this process are:

- **5-year silviculture investment plan** spatial and at the tactical level to link strategic level planning to management level actions; and
- To identify, model and monitor the performance of important indicators on the landbase.

This 'situational analysis' document is the first of four documents to make up this Type 4 Silviculture Strategy for the Kamloops TSA:

- 1. <u>Situational analysis:</u> describing the general situation for the TSA. PowerPoint slides that were presented at the initial meeting are included at the end of the document;
- 2. <u>Data Package:</u> describing the input data, information and assumptions;
- 3. Analysis Report: describing the modeling output and rationale; and
- 4. <u>Silviculture Strategy:</u> providing treatment options, targets and benefits.



## 2.0 SUMMARY OF CURRENT PLANS AND STRATEGIES

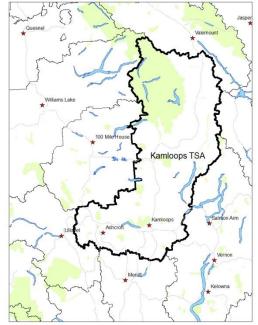
## 2.1 Kamloops TSA

#### <u>Area</u>

The Kamloops TSA is located in south center of interior BC covering a total area of 2.77 million hectares. Of this area, approximately 1.47 million hectares (or 53%) is classified as productive forest with around 1 million hectares designated as available for timber harvesting (68% of the productive forest).

#### **Community**

Within the TSA boundary, there are significant areas of private land, Indian reserves, tree farm licenses (TFLs) 35 and 18, Community Forests (CF), woodlots and First Nation Woodland Licenses (FNWL). There are many communities of considerable size throughout the TSA, generally located around the lower elevation lakes and rivers. Kamloops is the largest population centre and is located near the south of the TSA. There are multiple First Nations communities throughout the TSA.



#### Tree Species and Environment

The species composition and ecology of the TSA is varied and diverse, ranging from hot and dry grasslands in the south to rugged mountains with high precipitation in the north. Biogeoclimatic zones vary from Bunchgrass (BG) and Ponderosa Pine (PP) in the lowelevation valleys in the south to Engelmann Spruce-Subalpine Fir (ESSF) and Alpine Tundra (AT) on the northern mountains. Lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, Spruce and forests cover the majority of the forested land base.

#### Land Use

The Kamloops Land and Resource Management Plan (KLRMP) (1995), provides direction for the management of Crown land and resources in the area. Forest planning and practices are guided by this plan in addition to other provincial level plans and legislation (FRPA-FPPR, GAR, FSPs). Draft spatial old growth management areas (OGMAs) were identified to help meet biodiversity requirements operationally.



## **2.2 Timber Supply Situation**

#### Annual Allowable Cut

The annual allowable cut (AAC) has been regulated in the Kamloops TSA since 1981 (Figure 2.1). The AAC ranged from 2.35million m<sup>3</sup>/year to a high of 4.35million m<sup>3</sup>/year from 2004 - 2008 to address the current MPB epidemic and 2003 wildfire season.

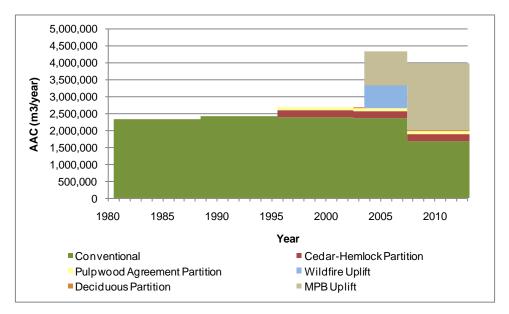


Figure 2.1: Mid-term Timber Supply Forecasts

In June 2008, the AAC was set at 4million m<sup>3</sup>/year including partitions for pine and non-pine species as listed in Table 2.1.

Partition	AAC (m3/year)
Non-pine partition*	1,700,000
Pine stands	1,994,000
Cedar/Hemlock stands	200,000
Pulpwood Agreement 16	86,000
Deciduous outside PA16 (in Headwaters)	20,000
Total	4,000,000

Table	2.1:	Current	AAC	Partition
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\*Stands predominated by Douglas-fir, spruce or balsam

#### Mountain Pine Beetle

The current mountain pine beetle (MPB) epidemic has affected an estimated 723 million m<sup>3</sup> or 53% of the merchantable pine volume province wide (Walton, 2013). In the Kamloops TSA, an estimated 28.9million m<sup>3</sup> (or 49% of the mature pine volume) has



been affected (Walton, 2013). Figure 2.2 shows the volume of red-attack on the Kamloops TSA THLB (data adapted from Table 1 in Walton, 2013).

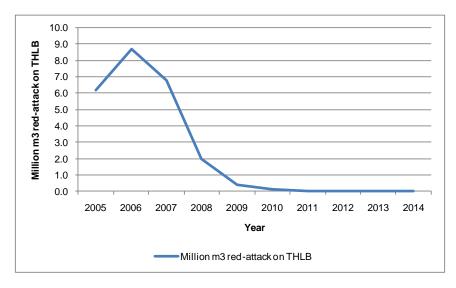


Figure 2.2: Volume of Red-attack (Kamloops TSA THLB)

## Mid-Term Timber Supply

The most recent timber supply analyses in Kamloops TSA include:

- Kamloops TSA Mountain Pine Beetle Horizontal Initiatives Project (Type 2 Silviculture Analysis) (Timberline, 2007 Ecora's analysis team);
- 2007 Timber Supply Review (TSR). The timber supply analysis work for this TSR was based on the above project; and
- 2001 TSR (B.C. Ministry of Forests, July 2001).

Mid-term basecase timber supply forecasts in these 3 analyses vary between 1.8 and 2.2 million  $m^3$ /year (Figure 2.3).

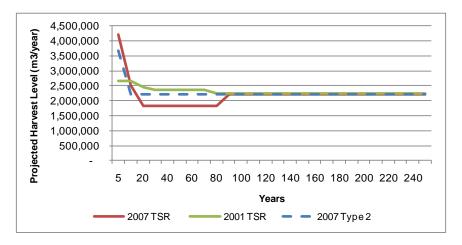


Figure 2.3: Mid-term Timber Supply Forecasts



Other projects that have been completed on Kamloops TSA that will feed into the Silviculture Strategy process include:

- Kamloops risk analysis: this project started with a 1980 forest cover inventory and scheduled human and natural disturbances until a starting point of 2012. This approach can be replicated in this analysis prior to forecasting the analysis from 2013 onwards.
- Kamloops Future Forest Ecosystems Scientific Council (FFESC) Project: this
  project provides a framework and strategy for forest management looking
  through the climate change lens. Considerable expertise and research has been
  done in the Kamloops TSA, which will provide a strong foundations for the
  working group to integrate climate change into the Silviculture Strategy analysis.

## **2.3 Timber Quality Situation**

The overarching timber quality target is for at least 10% premium logs<sup>1</sup> (MOF, 1999), and Kamloops - specific premium definitions and timber targets may be defined as part of this process. At the initial meeting, Ministry representatives, silviculture experts and licensee representatives will all participate in a discussion on these definitions and targets.

## **2.4 Historic Silviculture Program**

Historic levels of silviculture activities in the Kamloops TSA are shown in Figure 2.4. Since 1974, almost 300,000ha has been planted, 46,000ha brushed and 36,000ha juvenile spaced.

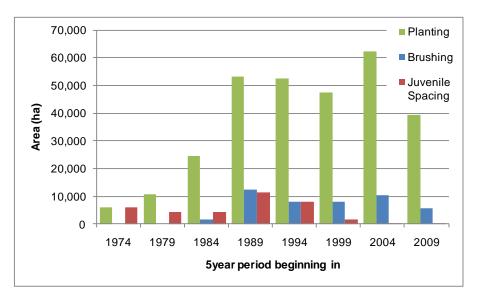


Figure 2.4: Historic Silviculture Program

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Premium quality logs have one or more of the qualities of: larger dimension, narrow ring width, high specific gravity, low taper, few or no knots, such that they are suitable for the production of high value forest products and therefore command higher than normal prices in a free market. Specifications will vary by tree species, demand and location (Incremental Silviculture Strategy For British Columbia, MOF 1999).



## **2.5** Biodiversity and Habitat Issues

The Kamloops TSA has many biodiversity and habitat resources that are directly managed and affected by the MPB epidemic and forestry operations. In timber supply, traditionally modeled resource management zones (RMZs) include:

- Community watersheds (CWS);
- Integrated resource management zones (IRM);
- KLRMP critical deer winter range (DWR);
- KLRMP critical moose winter range (MWR);
- Lakeshore management zones (LMZs);
- Mountain Caribou approved ungulate winter ranges (u-3-004 and u-3-005);
- Old growth management areas (OGMAs);
- Visual quality objectives (VQOs); and
- Wildlife habitat areas (WHAs).

For this project, modelling methodology, indicators and targets will be discussed and if necessary, augmented from the TSR modelling. As well, additional non-TSR resource modelling will be discussed and implemented if needed. Some initially identified issues are listed below; however more may be identified during the process:

- Timber:
  - Ecosystem restoration in low site areas
  - Facilitating harvest in low site/low volume areas (ITSLs)
  - New VRI with dead layer for MPB affected wood
  - Fibre flow- not just dimensional lumber
  - Economics
- Hydrology:
  - improve modelling (EDA/ECA);
  - o over an extended landbase (not just CWS).
- Range modelling / forage supply;
- Ecosystem restoration;
- Forest health;
- Climate change;
- Wildfire;
- First Nations management regime and values;
- Road modelling;
- Carbon;
- Tree species diversity.

## **2.6 Opportunities for Silviculture**

Treatments that may be modeled on the landbase include:

- Clear-cut harvesting (MPB salvage/non-MPB);
- Partial-cut harvesting;
- Fertilization;
- Reforestation planting (rehab);
- Spraying for insect control;
- Range cut-blocks;
- Ecosystem restoration;



- Fuel management.
- Tree improvement; and
- Salvage of low volume/low value stands (ITSL program).



## **3.0 SITUATION ANALYSIS POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS**

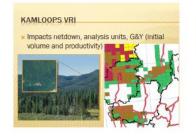




B PROJECTIONS IN KAMLOOPS TSA	TIMBER AVAILABILITY - TYPE 2	
	* Limiting pinch point immediately after MPB salvage	SELECTED ANALYSIS ASSUMPTIONS
Ecora		Feore



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#### ANALYSIS UNITS

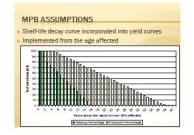
- AUs are aggregations of stands with similar species composition, site productivity and treatment regime
- TSR analysis units classify stands according to: – Species, dry/wet belt, PA16, productivity and age
- This analysis will employ more detailed AUs to capture MPB, increased treatment options, wildfire modelling

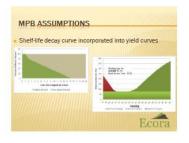
Ecora

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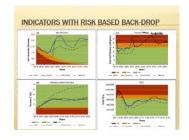


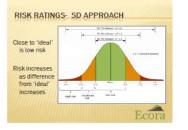














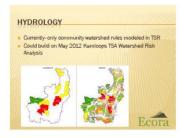


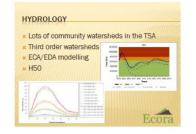
Timber volume – targets?	
Species diversity - targets?	
Value – piece size	
× Cost	
Harvest profile:	
+ Terrain	
+ Economics	
+ Visuals	
Premium logs?	Ecora

#### TSR/KLRMP RMZS

- Community watersheds (CWS);
- Integrated resource management zones (IRM); KLRMP critical deer winter range
- KLRMP critical moose winter range (MWR);
- Lakeshore management zones (LMZs); Mountain Caribou approved ungulate winter ranges;
- Old growth management areas (OGMAs); Visual quality objectives (VQOs); and Wildlife habitat areas (WHAs).
- - Ecora









Stand density equation)\* 0.5



#### WILDFIRE HAZARD

#### × Wildfire hazard

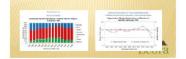
- Interaction with ecosystem restoration
- \* Community wildfire interface
- Try to include wildfire hazard in the forest estate modelling so it is able to be used for decision support

Ecor

Ecora



## 



#### RANGE SUPPLY

- Range agreements have a target forage by pasture
- Measured in animal unit months (AUMs)
   Forestry significantly impacts forage supply
- Provide foundation to reasonably incorporate range into the planning process

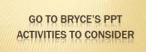


#### 13



Ecora

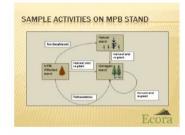
#### ROAD DENSITY \* Patchworks can incorporate road networks Apply costs associated with roads dynamically construction - maintenance + hauling costs Send volume to explicit mills Calculate and control road density e.g. by watershed or in grizzly bear habitat Ecora





#### ACTIVITIES FOR CONSIDERATION

- Clear-cut harvesting
- Selection harvesting
- MPB salvage harvesting Réhab (planting non-harvested MPB stands)
- Fertilization
- Ecosystem restoration
- Brushing impeded stands
- Defoliator spraying program



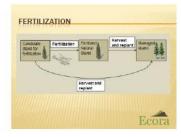
## MPB AFFECTED STAND A MPB affected stand can be harvested if it is: on the THLB; and > minimum harvest volume.

A MPB affected stand can be planted if it is: on the THLB; and not harvested.

cost of planting is applied (e.g. \$2,681/ha); the value and cost of harvesting is calculated;



## HOW ACTIVITIES ARE MODELLED - 11 Ecor



#### FERTILIZATION

- A stand is suitable to be a candidate for fertilization if it is:
- Sound is soundable to be a cardial
   Douglas-fir or spruce leading;
   Non-MPB affected;
   Site index >= 15; and
   On the THLB.

- cost of fertilization is \$450 /ha; no harvesting for 10 years after treatment; growth response realised from fertilization implemented (10 m³/ha for spruce and 12 m³/ha for Douglas-fir)
  - Ecor

#### SELECTION HARVESTING

- TSR assumptions: an anna Fir dry selection 1----as Arleading
- NCORPOSCIONACIONALACAN
- 40/30% removed on the first/second past 30year return interval
- Approx 100,000ha / 1M ha THLB (10% of THE)





#### OTHER ACTIVITIES

What other activities should be considered in the modelling environment?

Ecora

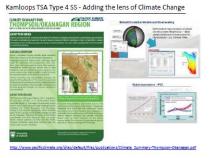
Spacing / thinning?

× Defoliator spray program?

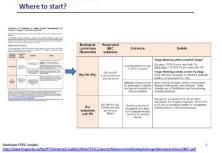












#### Adding the Climate Change Lens Where to start?

Guidance to Adapt Forest Management for Climate Change in the Kamloops TSA. FIRST APPROXIMATION (June 7, 2012) which should be viewed as a continuous work in progress.

re Forest

Adapting Forest Climate Change

nt in the Konsloops TSA to Askins tiloops Future Forest Strategy (K)



http://ww ww.for.gov.bc.ca/het/climate/knowledge/tools.htm 4

#### Adding the climate change lens Where to start?

Adding the Climate Change Lens



Sections include: Key projected climate change tre nds Regeneration strategies Harvesting Incremental silviculture

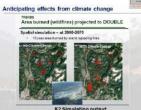
Other strategies

w120607.pdf



Adding the climate change lens Where to start? Assessing Risk









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Tree Improvement in the Kamloops TSA

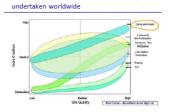






- Understanding natural genetic diversity
  Managing seed transfer
- Genetic conservation
- Breeding and selection
- Seed production
   To be discussed
- Climate change response

#### Tree improvement is an economic activity



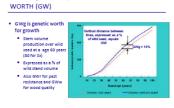
#### Positive NPV because of low per ha cost

Perspective on genetic resources

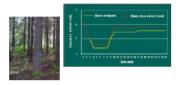
 Forests, and all values that flow from forests, depend upon a gene pool

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#### Genetic gains are quantified as a GENETIC



Class A seed can impact timber supply in the mid-term • Impact appends upon inventory age-class profile • Protocolis 6 & Y models and TSR



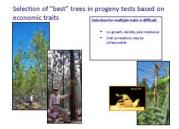


Tree breeding starts with testing offspring from selected parent trees





Genetic solutions are not the best solutions for some traits





#### Silvicultural and genetic options work together to improve stand yield and quality

# Typical traits for genetic selection Growth rate Wood quality Pet reliator Stem form and transhing Silviculture options Controlling stand density influences log quality Fertilization can improve growth Etc.

#### Species with breeding programs and seed orchards in BC (Kamloops TSA) Interior

- Coast
   Douglas-fir
   Western redcedar
   Sika spruce
   Western white pine
   Western white pine
   Vestern hemiock
   Yellow cedar
- Interior Interior (hybrid) spru Lodgepole pine Douglas-fir Western white pine Western larch Ponderosa pine

#### Seed orchards in BC

- 105 orchards
- 11 species
- 15 sites (licensee, private, MFLNRO, SelectSeed co-op) · Produce over about 66% of the seed used provincially



#### Seed production forecasts are available for all



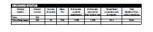
#### Seed production forecasts available for all seed

•	Unique species, seed zone, elevation (i.e. Sx, Thompson Okanagan 1300-2100m)
•	<b>Produced by Forest Genetics Council</b>
•	On Tree Imp. Branch website
	c//www.forgoubc.cq/hti/speciespien/Index.htm arch on Tree Improvement Branch species plant)

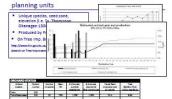
Orshand	Down	Number	Means -	#d to take	Pol terrate.	Target Seed	1381
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#### Seed production forecasts available for all seed

planning units	Investing/2014 Trand - 2003 (c 2013)
<ul> <li>Unique species, seed zone elevation (i.e. Sx, Thompso Okanagan 1300-2100m)</li> <li>Produced by Forest Genet</li> <li>On Tree Imp. Branch websi</li> </ul>	
http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/htt/speciesplan loawsh on Tree improvement Branch spec	2011 120 100 100 100 300 100 101 101 101



#### Seed production forecasts available for all seed





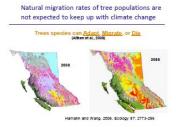
#### Seed planning units relevant to the Kamloops TSA

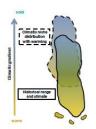


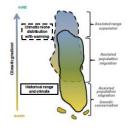
#### Genetics is fundamental to climate-change adaptation

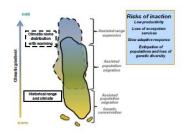
- Trees are genetically adapted to past climates
- Many climate-change issues in forests are due to a mis-alignment with local climate at both the species level and the genetic population level
   rests
   prought
   Growth phenology
   Coils hardness

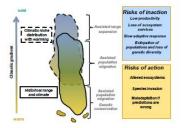
  - Vulnerability to snot



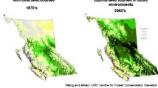




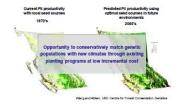




#### But all is not doom and gloom Current Pll pr



But all is not doom and gloom





Choice of seed will become increasingly critical to stand performance

- Local seed will be less optimal
- Local seed will be less optimal
   Choices will happen at the
   specie level first
   Population level second (choosing the right seedlets)
   Knowledge is key
   Cineta modeling (Climate WILA UBC)
   Charactering the population (seedlet) performance using
   cimited parameters
   Seed transfer standards will provide guidance
   Significant work underway

