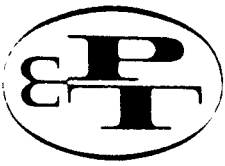


APPENDIX III

STATEMENT OF MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES, OPTIONS AND PROCEDURES



POPE & TALBOT LTD.

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June 19, 1997

Regional Manager
Ministry of Forests
518 Lake Street
Nelson, BC
V1L 4C6

*Final Snoop
Submission*

Dear Mr. Tozer,

Re: TFL 23 Management Plan #9

We are submitting the revised Statement of management Objectives, Options and Procedures (SMOOP) for our Arrow Lakes Tree Farm Licence #23.

Edits have been made after discussions with your staff. For your information, feedback on the draft SMOOP from the public was minimal. Only two responses letters and seven Forest Management Questionnaires were received. These have been attached in Appendix I.

We look forward to your early approval.

Thank you in advance.

Yours truly,

D.A. Lang, RPF
Forestry Manager

DAL\



5 m
F O I
8
Sept 2/97
P. Field
Dec 19/97

File: 19710-30/TFL 23/MP 9

August 28, 1997

D. A. Lang, R.P.F.
Forestry Manager
Pope & Talbot Ltd.
P.O. Box 2000
926 Highway 6 West
Nakusp, British Columbia
V0G 1R0

POPE & TALBOT LTD.
RECEIVED

1997

NAKUSP B.C.

Dear Mr. D. A. Lang:

Re: Statement of Management Objectives, Options and Procedures (SMOOP) for Tree Farm Licence (TFL) 23, Management Plan (MP) 9

The revised SMOOP dated June 19, 1997 has been reviewed. The revised SMOOP meets our earlier requests for changes as discussed with you. The SMOOP is therefore approved as submitted.

Yours truly,

Ross R. Tozer
Regional Manager
Nelson Forest Region

cc: Brian Simpson, District Manager, Arrow Forest District
Dave Raven, District Manager, Columbia Forest District
Dave Parsons, Tenures Manager, Nelson Forest Region
B. Koch, Resource Tenures and Engineering Branch, Victoria

Ministry of
Forests



Nelson Forest Region

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Arrow Lakes Tree Farm Licence #23

Statement of Management Objectives, Options & Procedures

**for
Management Plan #9**

April 1997

Pope & Talbot Ltd.
Arrow Lakes Timber Division

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
1.0 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 COMMITMENTS.....	3
1.2 MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES	4
1.3 RESOURCE INVENTORIES	6
1.4 ISSUES/OPPORTUNITIES	8
1.5 PLANNING PROCEDURES	12
2.0 OBJECTIVES FOR EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES	15

APPENDIX I - Public Comments on SMOOP and EEO

1.0 INTRODUCTION

As the holder of the Arrow Lake Tree Farm Licence (TFL 23), every five years, Pope & Talbot Ltd. is required to submit a management plan to the province's Chief Forester for approval. This fulfills a condition of the company's tree farm licence agreement. A tree farm licence management plan contains the proposed AAC, details the resource goals, objectives and strategies for a five year period. The next management plan (MP #9) is scheduled to be submitted by June, 1998 and is due to take effect January 1, 1999.

The key map illustrates the boundaries of TFL 23. It encompasses 554,997 hectares from Revelstoke down the Arrow Lakes to just north of Castlegar. The forests are primarily mixtures of hemlock/cedar, fir/larch, and spruce/balsam stands, growing in what is referred to locally as the interior wet belt. The allowable annual cut for the period August, 1994 to December, 1998 is 680,000 m³ of which 80,700 m³ is apportioned to the Ministry of Forest small business program.

The purpose of this document is to detail the preliminary objectives, planning activities and tasks that need to be done during the next 18 months in order to complete the new management plan for TFL 23.

This SMOOP document will be circulated to all the government resource agencies and will be made available to the public for comment. Any revisions or edits will be done before it is approved by the Nelson Forest Region Manager.

Background

The currently approved management plan #8 was prepared during the period 1992-1993 and was approved in August, 1994. Since that time, a number of significant events have occurred, all of which will have an influence on the strategies to be covered in the next management plan:

- the province's first Forest Practices Code was enacted by the BC government in June, 1995
- a new replacement tree farm licence document for TFL 23 was issued in 1995 by the Minister of Forests to Pope & Talbot
- a process of preparing the Kootenay-Boundary Land Use Plan was initiated by the government two years ago. It is expected to be completed during 1997
- the start-up of the Celgar Pulp Company's new pulpmill at Castlegar in 1994 created a local market for pulplogs. The whole-log chipping woodroom was re-opened
- in 1995, pulplog prices per/m³ and by-product chip prices per BDU rose to unprecedented record highs in response to the strong pulp and paper market. By mid-1996 prices had fallen back to 1995 levels.

- the provincial government created a new crown corporation, Forest Renewal BC, to spend money collected from a "super stumpage" on the forest resource
- in the four year period 1992-96, stumpage rates and delivered wood costs have doubled in cost
- intense competition and high prices for sawlogs forced the company to purchase logs from suppliers as far away as Alberta



Plot generated on December 31, 1993 at 08:34:58
Scale 18500000 - 1 cm = 8500 metres

Scale 100 = 100% correct

Verbal: 100% correct

1.1 COMMITMENTS

Pope & Talbot has received a new tree farm licence agreement, dated March 1, 1995 from the Minister of Forests. This replacement TFL document includes all the standard requirements. It does not include any special commitments. By 1995 the company had fulfilled those requirements agreed to as a result of the Minister's consent to transfer TFL 23 to Pope & Talbot in April, 1992.

The present licence commitments are those listed in Management Plan #8 and in the Chief Forester's approval letter of August, 1994.

As at December, 1996, fulfillment of these commitments is on track. Performance is up to expectations and is progressing on schedule. A brief accounting of progress on some of these relevant commitments is itemized below:

- Timber inventory database is updated to December, 1996
- Site index adjustment study was initiated and will be completed in 1997
- Harvesting for the years 1995-96 was 86%
- Steep slope harvesting 1994-96 was 320% of target
- Problem stand harvesting 1994-96 was 236.4 hectares, 105% of target
- Problem stand harvesting SBFEP 1994-95 for:
 - Arrow District was 5.0 hectares, 32% of target
 - Revelstoke District was 53.0 hectares, 438% of target
- Identification and agreement on 20 Year SBFEP areas in Arrow Forest District
- Non-conventional harvesting volume is 30% of target for 1995-96
- A helicopter logging feasibility study was completed in 1996
- Planted 5,673 hectares; 7.2 million seedlings for 1994-96
- Forest Renewal Initiative backlog reforestation program is completed
- Maintained an effective fire control program, no fires occurred
- Initiated mapping and classification of streams as per Forest Practices Code
- Archaeological overview assessment was completed
- More dialogue with local communities was conducted

1.2 MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

Pope & Talbot intends to continue managing TFL 23 essentially guided by the management objectives set out in the Management Plan #8. However, there will be some modifications as a result of the Forest Practices Code and the Kootenay-Boundary Land Use Plan. These objectives are outlined in draft format below. They should be regarded as preliminary objectives only, and will be subject to further revisions before they are finalized for inclusion in MP #9. Pope & Talbot is expecting to receive input and comments on these draft objectives from the government agencies and the public.

Corporate

- *Operate the Castlegar sawmill as an internationally competitive producer of lumber products while providing a fair return to the company shareholders*
- *Provide employment and economic opportunities for the communities dependent on the activities generated by the operation of the tree farm licence*

Forest Land Use

- *Manage the licence area by environmentally sound integrated resource use principles within the context of government legislation regulations and the Kootenay-Boundary Land Use Plan*
- *Follow forest management and harvesting strategies that will sustain the productivity of the working forest*

Public Involvement

- *Increase public awareness and knowledge of forest management activities on the licence area through consultation, information bulletins and public meetings*

Non-Timber Resource Users

- *Recognize the rights of holders of non-timber Crown tenures, including water rights, licensed trappers and guide-outfitters*
- *Consult with these tenure holders in the preparation of operational plans*

Timber

- *Harvest the AAC using harvesting techniques that permit the maximum economic utilization of sawlog, pulplogs and minor forest products*
- *Cooperate with the MoF in the administration of the small business forest enterprise program AAC apportionment of 80,700 m³/year*
- *Harvest the species and type groups in relative proportion to their distribution within the net operable landbase and the harvest priority ranking, providing the integrated resource use goals can be met*

Silviculture

- *Reforest all harvested areas in accordance with the Silviculture Practices Regulation*
- *Implement stand tending treatments of regenerated areas to maintain vigour and productivity*

Forest Health

- *Protect the forest resource by minimizing losses caused by forest fires, insects, diseases and damaging agents*
- *Ensure a healthy forest condition by maintaining a forest health program that maintains or enhances the productivity of the working forest*

Water Quality

- *Maintain the water quality produced by the watersheds within the licence area so that the requirements of the designated users are met*
- *Minimize the streamside impacts of forestry operations on water quality, fish habitat, wildlife habitat and recreation values*

Range

- *Continue to cooperate with the MoF in maintaining and providing 988.5 animal unit months of range grazing per year*

Wildlife

- *Cooperate with MoELP in planning silvicultural systems and harvesting operations to maintain a diversity of forest habitats capable of supporting wildlife species that exist on the licence area*

Recreation

- *Continue to provide the public opportunities for dispersed recreational use at the present level*
- *Maintain and upgrade existing recreational facilities in cooperation with the Ministry of Forests*

Visual Quality

- *Employ forest landscape design principles to achieve visual quality objectives*

1.3 RESOURCE INVENTORIES

This section describes the present status of the resource inventories for TFL 23.

Timber

Completion update - 1997

A spatially correct update for harvesting disturbances and roads was completed to September, 1995 using photography. A further update to December, 1996 is complete. It will be the latest update for the database and will be used in the timber supply analysis. The company has a proposal before FRBC to upgrade to a vegetation inventory standard over the next three years.

Terrain

Completion date - 1995

Terrain stability mapping Level D is completed for the entire tree farm licence landbase. This can be used instead of the Es classification for sensitive soils netdown in the timber supply analysis, assuming there is sufficient correlation.

Recreation

Scheduled completion date - fall 1997

An update of the recreation features inventory and recreation opportunity spectrum will be done in 1997 with FRBC funding.

Landscape

Scheduled completion date - fall 1997

An update of the landscape information and remapping of visually sensitive areas will be done in 1997 with FRBC funding.

Wildlife

Completion date - 1995

Pope & Talbot completed an ungulate winter range mapping project for the entire TFL and loaded into an ARC by geographic information system. A copy has been provided to the MoF for use in the Kootenay-Boundary Land Use Plan. Further mapping and defining of mountain caribou habitat range, drawing on results of telemetry studies is being undertaken in 1997. If possible it will be used in the timber supply analysis.

Fisheries

Scheduled completion date - 1998/1999

A project to classify all streams into the six stream classes of the Forest Practices Code is in progress, with FRBC funding support. Approximately 50% of the TFL is scheduled to be completed by the end of 1997. This may be used to areas of riparian reserve zones in the timber supply analysis.

Cultural Heritage

Completion date - 1995

The government keeps an inventory of archaeological sites reported for the West Kootenay. The Ministry of Forests completed an archaeological overview assessment in 1995 for the Arrow Forest District which included TFL 23.

1.4 ISSUES/OPPORTUNITIES

The list of issues and opportunities described below as topics will be used by Pope & Talbot to guide the various tasks and actions required to be completed in the course of preparing MP #9. Some of them were identified in the Regional Manager's pre-SMOOP assessment letter and others were committed to in Management Plan #8.

1. Kootenay-Boundary Land Use Plan

Topic: The draft Kootenay-Boundary Land Use Plan (October, 1996) if it was implemented as is, will impose a land use zonation that significantly reduces the AAC of TFL 23. The resource management guidelines will influence the strategies adopted for the TFL.

Action: An edited version of the Kootenay-Boundary Land Use Plan with revised guidelines is expected later in 1997. A timber supply scenario modelling the implementation of the updated Kootenay-Boundary Land Use Plan as it applies to TFL 23 will be analyzed. Mitigation strategies will be developed with input from Ministry of Environment Lands and Parks and Ministry of Forests and their off-setting effect on the harvest level will be analyzed.

2. 20 Year Plan

Topic: A twenty year plan needs to be prepared to provide a measure of operational reasonableness to the AAC proposed for approval.

Action: The company will submit a terms of reference for a new 20 Year Plan to the District Manager and will ensure that all parties, including MoELP, are in agreement with the methodology to be used. This plan will demonstrate the feasibility of the harvest forecast, reflecting current operational planning regulations and forest management objectives for TFL 23.

3. Operability Definition

Topic: The present AAC has a partitioned cut of 50,000 m³ for harvesting from areas outside the existing operable cutline by non-conventional logging systems. The merchantable area that contributes to a partitioned cut needs to be refined, as in the past six years since the OCL was last revised there have been significant increases in log values, greater use of cable systems and the introduction of helicopter logging to TFL 23.

Action: A revised operability definition will be prepared for MP #9. Increases in operable area outside the existing OCL will be identified and classified by category of logging system. The new operable landbase, conventional and non-conventional will also be stratified by elevation classes and biogeoclimatic zone. This will help in defining analysis units for the timber analysis units.

4. Problem Forest Types

Topic: The AAC includes a partition of 75,000 m³ (261 ha/year) to be harvested from leading hemlock stands greater than 140 years old. Although this strategy reflects the MoF's requirement to harvest the "old growth" profile, it may be at odds with the new biodiversity management guidelines. A problem forest type partition can not continue to be set in isolation from the resource targets to be set for TFL 23.

Action: The company will be examining a strategy of harvesting problem forest types and determining how this may fit with the old growth retention and biodiversity seral stage distribution targets. Any revised strategy needs to be in harmony with biodiversity objectives set for the TFL.

5. Small Business Forest Enterprise Program

Topic: There are indications of both supply and performance issues with the MoF small business program on TFL 23. The MoF Columbia (formerly Revelstoke) Forest District believes that the Shelter Bay block cannot provide the SBFEP AAC 37,700 m³ for the next 20 years. The Arrow Forest District SBFEP AAC of 43,000 m³ is undersold at this time and is also not meeting the problem forest type targets.

Action: The wood supply available in the Shelter Bay block will be assessed both through a timber supply analysis of that land-base and by the MoF undertaking a 20 year planning exercise. Changes to the current administration of the MoF small business program on TFL 23 will be discussed jointly with both forest districts. (Arrow and Columbia)

6. Enhanced Resource Development Zone

Topic: The draft Kootenay-Boundary Land Use Plan has placed a portion the west side of TFL 23 in a Timber Enhanced Resource Development Zone. The draft guidelines for this zone still need to be finalized. It has raised questions about the appropriate rate of cut, green-up and adjacency for this area.

Action: Pope & Talbot will be assessing management options for this ERDZ in order to develop goals and targets with an emphasis on wood supply. Also the effect of the management options on other resource values, watershed, wildlife, recreation, etc., will be examined.

7. Mountain Caribou

Topic: An extensive area of TFL 23 north east of Nakusp to Trout Lake has been identified as mountain caribou habitat in the draft Kootenay-Boundary Land Use Plan. The operational guidelines still have to be completed and the plan may not be approved by government before the yield analysis is done.

Action: Pope & Talbot has engaged a wildlife biologist to more closely define the caribou habitat. The approach to modelling mountain caribou habitat will be described in the timber supply analysis information package. Consensus on the approach and forest cover constraints applied will be sought with the MoF and MoELP.

8. Site Index Assignment

Topic: The company believes site index assignments used in the last plan should be improved and made more reliable. In Management Plan #8 time frame, the company undertook to improve the site index estimates for age classes 8 & 9 cover types, so that more reliable site index assignments could be used in the timber supply analysis for MP #9.

Action: An FRBC-funded site index productivity adjustment study for TFL 23 is in progress and is scheduled to be completed in 1997. The results are anticipated to be used in the forthcoming yield analysis.

9. White Pine Management

Topic: The strategy of planting only rust-resistant families of white pine appears to be very successful. With current standards only non-improved, natural regeneration of white pine is required to be low pruned to prevent rust infection. There is an opportunity to realize yield gains from increasing the amount and area of white pine planted in mixed species plantations.

Action: The current white pine management strategy will be evaluated. Growth performance and yield gains from different planted percentages of white pine regeneration will be analyzed. Yield curves and productivity assignments used will be outlined in the data package, and approved by the MoF.

10. Deciduous Management

Topic: There is more potential for deciduous management on some sites in TFL 23 than is currently being practiced, e.g., Fish River. The value of mixed deciduous stands as wildlife habitat has also received more recognition in the past three years.

Action: Although the current management plan provides for mixed stand management the strategy will be revisited and additional management options considered. If a significant area is regenerated to deciduous or mixed stands, deciduous yield curves would be used in the timber supply analysis.

11. Forest Health

Topic: The company must identify the scope of forest health problems and pending impacts. For example, hemlock looper infestations have been causing defoliation and mortality in the Upper Lardeau and Trout Lake areas at the north end of TFL 23.

Action: The company has been proactive in implementing a pest control action plan. Pope & Talbot will be submitting a proposal to FRBC to undertake a strategic level forest health inventory and preparation of a forest health plan based on risk and consequence of active pests. Also, a FRBC funded bark beetle inventory is in progress.

12. High Elevation Reforestation

Topic: The MoF requires Pope & Talbot to confirm regeneration success and performance on high elevation sites in the ESSF biogeoclimatic subzone.

Action: The company will be providing silviculture survey data to substantiate regeneration success in the ESSF as well as the years required to attain the three metre green-up to be used in the timber supply analysis. The area of ESSF and high elevation sites in the operability zones will also be determined.

13. Incremental Silviculture

Topic: There may be an opportunity for improved productivity and increases in yield from a continuous incremental silviculture program. While some incremental silviculture projects have been completed under FRBC funding, these have not necessarily resulted in yield gains.

Action: The potential and scope for an incremental silviculture program is being reviewed as part of the preparation of MP #9. The yield impacts will be assessed in the timber supply analysis. The results may be used in preparing the overall forest management strategy for TFL 23.

Other issues or opportunities may be examined when MP #9 is being prepared. In addition, the Regional Manager in his pre-SMOOP assessment has requested the following topics be covered in MP #9:

- forest health problems in plantations, e.g., armillaria root disease, spruce terminal weevil
- monitoring free-growing status of pre-October 1, 1987 regeneration
- completion of the backlog NSR program
- access management and deactivation of roads to popular recreation areas
- performance in achieving site disturbance targets

1.5 PLANNING PROCEDURES

Timber Supply Analysis

A forest estate model can produce a range of different harvest levels depending on the management assumptions chosen and the net operable landbase used. Pope & Talbot will be undertaking a timber supply analysis to determine potential harvest level options, as well as to prepare a rationale for the recommended AAC that will be proposed to the provincial Chief Forester for approval.

A simulation forest estate model will be used for the analysis. Several resource management options will be modelled and analyzed. The analysis will provide a range of harvest flows depending on the combination of management assumptions and landbase options used in each. The preliminary analysis results will be assessed and used in developing a planned management strategy. Sensitivity analysis and additional scenarios may be done to assess which factors affect the analysis results.

The analysis options will focus mainly on variation of management assumptions rather than gross landbase changes. The options will likely include:

1. *Gross Operable Landbase* - this will determine the theoretical biological harvest level for the productive forest area, unconstrained by non-timber resource netdowns.
2. *Current management* - this scenario will model the management of TFL 23 with the current resource management emphasis. It will include the conventional and non-conventional harvesting landbase and Forest Practices Code requirements.
3. *Current management minus Shelter Bay block* - the same as option 2 with the Shelter Bay area deleted. (A separate timber supply analysis of the Shelter Bay block may be undertaken by the Columbia Forest District.)
4. *Enhanced Forest Development* - this scenario will model an enhanced timber development strategy for the west side plus an incremental silviculture program. Any variances in assumptions from the current management scenario will be documented.
5. *Kootenay-Boundary Land Use Plan* - a scenario modelling the implementation strategy implied in the latest version of this KBLUP will be analyzed.

The technical procedures to be followed are to be described in a TFL 23 Data Information Package. This will be completed in the format required by MoF Timber Supply Branch and will be submitted for their review. It will include the following information:

- a detailed description of each scenario covering the management assumptions and data inputs
- the inventory data bases
- management zones
- definition of analysis units
- landbase netdowns
- yield curve development

Recreation Analysis

We will revisit the recreation analysis report prepared for Management Plan #8 and revise where necessary based on the information in the updated recreation features inventory. The results will assist in preparing revised management strategies for recreation and landscape values.

20 Year Plan

A detailed 20 Year Plan was submitted with the Management Plan # 8. This will serve as a base for preparing an updated or new 20 Year Plan. The first step will be to jointly draw up a terms of reference with the Ministry of Forests in consultation with the MoELP.

Public Consultation Procedures

A review strategy for public consultation was submitted to the Regional Manager on April 9, 1997. It outlines the key stages at which the company will be seeking public input during the course of preparing MP#9. This includes:

- initiation of the planning process
- review of the draft SMOOP
- open-house viewing of MP #9

Schedule

Pope & Talbot is obligated to prepare MP #9 to the satisfaction of the provincial Chief Forester. Timely responses to submission made during the course of preparing the plan are needed from MoF staff to enable completion on schedule.

A tentative schedule is attached that identifies the activities and milestones that need to be completed by June, 1998. The key milestones in this schedule are:

Advertising initiation of planning process.....	September, 1996
Regional manager approval of SMOOP.....	June, 1997
Completion of 20 year plan.....	March, 1998
Completion of timber supply analysis report.....	May, 1998
Public open-house of management plan.....	July, 1998
Chief Forester approval.....	December, 1998

2.0 OBJECTIVES FOR EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Pope & Talbot manages TFL 23 from its woodlands office based in Nakusp and operates a sawmill in Castlegar. The company's business makes a significant economic contribution to the regional economy. Employment opportunities occur in both the woodlands and sawmill operations. Hiring for new jobs is done locally, whenever possible.

Local residents are employed by both Pope & Talbot and its contractors. The work force is drawn from Nakusp area and the smaller communities along the Arrow Lakes and the Slokan valley. Sawmill workers reside in Castlegar and the surrounding district. There are no aboriginal reserves or communities near TFL 23.

Woodlands

TFL 23 is the primary log supply source for the Castlegar sawmill. Pulplogs are sold to Celgar Pulp Company in Castlegar and Cache Creek. Cedar sawlogs, shakewood and poles are sold or traded to local mills in Nakusp and Revelstoke.

From the AAC of 599,300 m³ approximately 500,000 m³ are produced as sawlogs for the Castlegar sawmill.

Employment

Man Years (based on 12 month period)

	Forestry	Logging	Silviculture	Administration
P&T staff	8	7	2	3
IWA	5	12*	0	0
Contractors	32	184	42	0

**includes marine group and log yard IWA*

Contract services in forestry, engineering and silviculture are seasonal. FRBC funded projects have created new seasonal employment opportunities.

Sawmill

The Castlegar sawmill is a three-line dimension mill that produces approximately 880,000 fbm of lumber daily. It cuts spruce, pine, balsam, Douglas-fir, larch, hemlock and white pine. CLS lumber is produced in random dimension. The fibre flow of the Castlegar sawmill is:

Input		Output	Destination
Sawlogs required	800,000	Dimension lumber	213 MM fbm N. American market
Source - TFL 23	500,000	Chips	116,000 BDU Celgar-Castlegar
Purchase/trades	300,000	Sawdust	23,000 BDU P&T - Halsey
		Hog fuel	77,000 BDT Washington W&P - Kettle Falls
		Planer shavings/fines	28,000 BDU Canpar Industries - Grand Forks

Employment

Sawmill Administration/Sales	
P&T hourly	280
P&T staff	26
Total	306

APPENDIX I

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SMOOP and Employment and Economic Opportunities(EEO)

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SMOOP AND EEO

The draft SMOOP was made available for public viewing between 1st and 30th of April, 1997. A total of seven Forest Management Questionnaires were completed and two letters were received: Village of Nakusp and Ktunaxa Kinbasket Tribal Council. The questionnaires and Smoop response letters are found in the section "Smoop Response Letters" and "Completed Forest Management Questionnaire"

Note copies of the smoop document with a covering letter, public response form, and questionnaire were sent to the addressees on the "Original Smoop Mailing List"

Find below the following section:

- 1) Example of:
 - Smoop cover letter
 - Smoop public response form
 - Forest Management Questionnaire
- 2) Copies of:
 - Smoop Response letters
 - Completed Forest Management Questionnaire
- 3) Original Smoop Mailing List
- 4) Revised Smoop Mailing list
- 5) Tracking Sheet of Smoop Responses