

ELK VALLEY CEMF

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

WORKSHOP GROUP & WORKING GROUP

Annual workshops have been held, starting with the inaugural workshop in 2012 where the Cumulative Effects Management Framework was first created. The broad group of interested parties participating in these workshops is known as the **Workshop Group**, and is the source of social license and legitimacy for the CEMF as a consensus-based initiative. It is fundamental to the success of the CEMF. Representatives from 25 organizations participated in the February 2016 workshop.

A smaller **Working Group** was formed to ensure that the framework continues to be developed and implemented. The CEMF is fortunate to have the support of the following working group organizations:

- ❖ Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
- ❖ Ktunaxa Nation Council
- ❖ Teck Coal Ltd.
- ❖ Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
- ❖ Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy
- ❖ District of Sparwood
- ❖ District of Elkford
- ❖ Elk River Alliance
- ❖ CANFOR
- ❖ CanWel
- ❖ North Coal
- ❖ NWP Coal Canada Ltd.

MOVING FORWARD

The assessment and management of cumulative effects should be a continuous process and it is the intention that CEMF continues to operate in consecutive phases including implementation. The results of the first phase will be periodically updated as new information or assessment approaches become available. The results of the cumulative effects assessment will be made available to decision makers, the public, proponents and stakeholders.

PROVINCIAL CUMULATIVE EFFECTS FRAMEWORK (CEF)

The Elk Valley CEMF is embraced by the Provincial Cumulative Effects Framework, which provides policy and strategic directions. Five provincial values - aquatic ecosystems, forest biodiversity, old growth, grizzly bear and moose have been assessed at a broader scale. A Cumulative Effects Framework Interim Policy was approved by the Natural Resources Sector Board on October 2016. The policy provides directions on CE assessment, engagement and decision support.



...provides a practical & workable framework that supports decisions related to the assessment, mitigation and management of cumulative effects in the Elk Valley.

THE ORIGIN OF THE ELK VALLEY CUMULATIVE EFFECTS MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK (CEMF)

The management of cumulative effects in the Elk Valley is of increasing concern due to current and proposed development operations. There has been growing awareness of the need for a broadly accepted, credible, and workable approach to the assessment and management of cumulative effects in the Elk Valley.

In recognition of this need, and as a condition in the Environmental Assessment Certificate for Line Creek coal operation expansion, Teck Coal Ltd. and the Ktunaxa Nation Council (KNC) worked together to hold a multi-stakeholder workshop in July 2012. The Cumulative Effects Management Framework was launched during this initial workshop. Teck Coal Ltd. and the KNC led this initiative until January 2015, when leadership was transitioned to the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development.

Cumulative Effects:

“Changes to environmental, social and economic values caused by the combined effects of past, present and potential future human activities and natural processes.”

The purpose of CEMF is to assess historic, current and potential future conditions of selected valued components (VCs), and support natural resource management decisions

CONTEXT DEVELOPMENT

This CEMF stage includes establishing spatial and temporal boundaries for the study, and selecting valued components as the focus for the cumulative effects assessment. The study area extends from Mount Fox to Lake Koochanusa, encompassing the whole Elk River watershed. The analysis is looking approximately 60 years into the past, as well as 50 years into the future. Five valued components (VCs) have been selected for the first phase of the study and expert teams were created to support the

Assessment of the VCs below:

- Riparian Habitats
- Old and Mature Forest
- Grizzly Bear
- Bighorn Sheep
- Westslope Cutthroat Trout



RETROSPECTIVE ASSESSMENT

The retrospective assessment provides information on historic and current condition of the VCs. This is done using spatial and non-spatial indicators of quality and amount of habitat or population health. Ecological benchmarks & legal targets that support the interpretation of the condition of each indicator were defined, and VC conditions have been assessed in relation to those.

PROSPECTIVE ASSESSMENT

This involves forecasting potential future conditions. Three future development scenarios were created using different sets of assumptions to see how different rates of development may affect the valued components and their indicators:

- 1) Minimum Development
- 2) Reference or Business as Usual
- 3) Maximum Development

Two climate change scenarios, an increased natural disturbance as well as three mitigation scenarios have been defined, and integrated within the potential future conditions analysis. The outcome of the prospective assessment will show how valued components & indicators respond to different rates of development, and how we can best mitigate these effects.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

VC specific draft reports and a synthesis Cumulative Effects Assessment & Management (CEAM) report are currently under review by the CEMF Working Group. The CEAM report provides management responses including mitigation measures, which inform natural resource management decisions.