

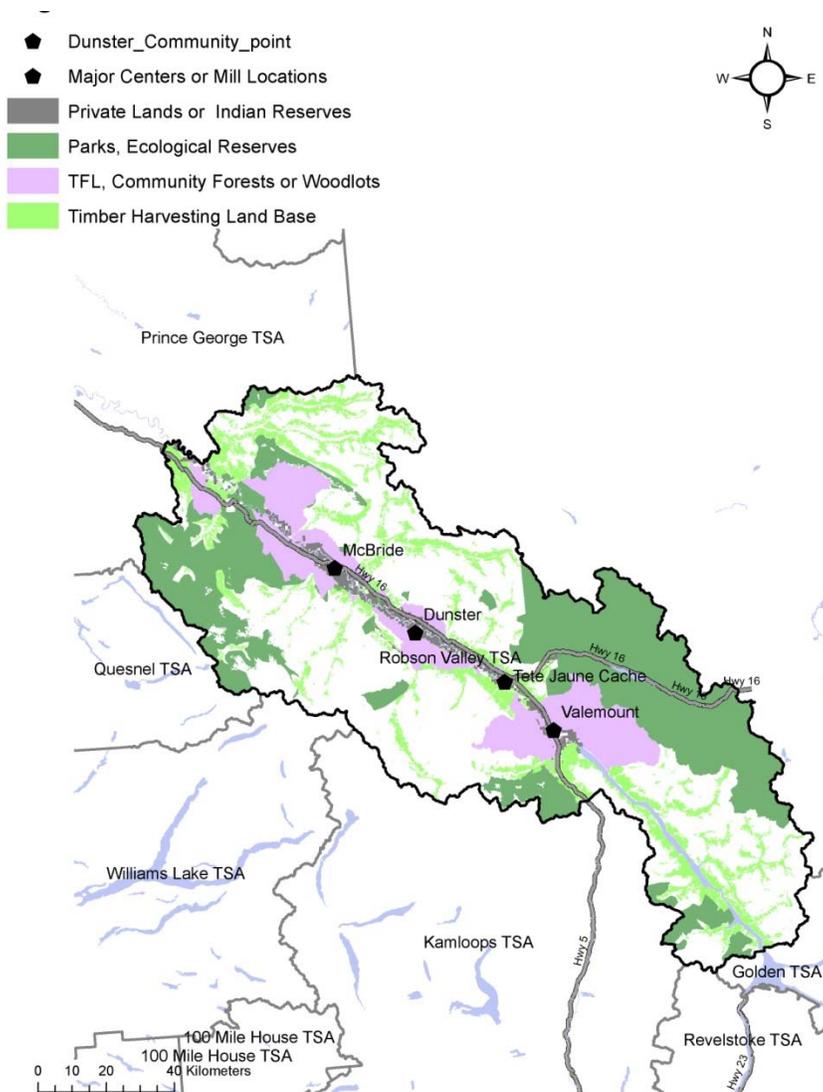


Mid-Term Timber Supply

June 8, 2012

Robson Valley Timber Supply Area

Background



Note: Parks and Ecological Reserves also includes Caribou Core Habitat

The Robson Valley Timber Supply Area covers about 1.5 million hectares:

- 34% is considered productive Crown forest (outside of private lands, woodlots and community forests).

- 63% of productive forest is not available for timber harvesting because it is reserved for parks and protected areas, riparian, old growth management or other critical habitat, or is considered uneconomic under current management practices.
- Current timber harvesting land base is approximately 180,000 hectares; 12% of the timber supply area.
- The Robson Valley Timber Supply Area is currently undergoing a formal timber supply review process that is expected to be complete with a new allowable annual cut determination in late 2013.

Communities: The total population is 1,877, and the largest communities are Valemount (population 1,020) and McBride (population 586). Small communities include Tête Jaune Cache, Crescent Spur-Loos, Dunster, and Albreda

First Nations:

There are no First Nations communities or reserves in the timber supply area. Eight First Nations have traditional territories: Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, Simpcw First Nation, Lhtako Dene Nation, Canim Lake Indian Band, Xat'súll First Nation (Soda Creek), Shuswap First Nation, Okanagan First Nation, Tsilhqot'in National Government.

Status of Land Use Plans

- Robson Valley Land and Resource Management Plan (policy implemented plan approved in 1999)
- Robson Valley Crown Land Plan (policy implemented plan approved in the 1980s)
- Robson Valley Sustainable Resource Management Plan (six individual Orders approved 2003-2006)
- Valemount Winter Recreation Sustainable Resource Management Plan (approved January 2005)

Past Allowable Annual Cut

- Established at 602,377 cubic metres a year in 2001
- Reduced to 536,000 cubic metres in 2006; currently at that level

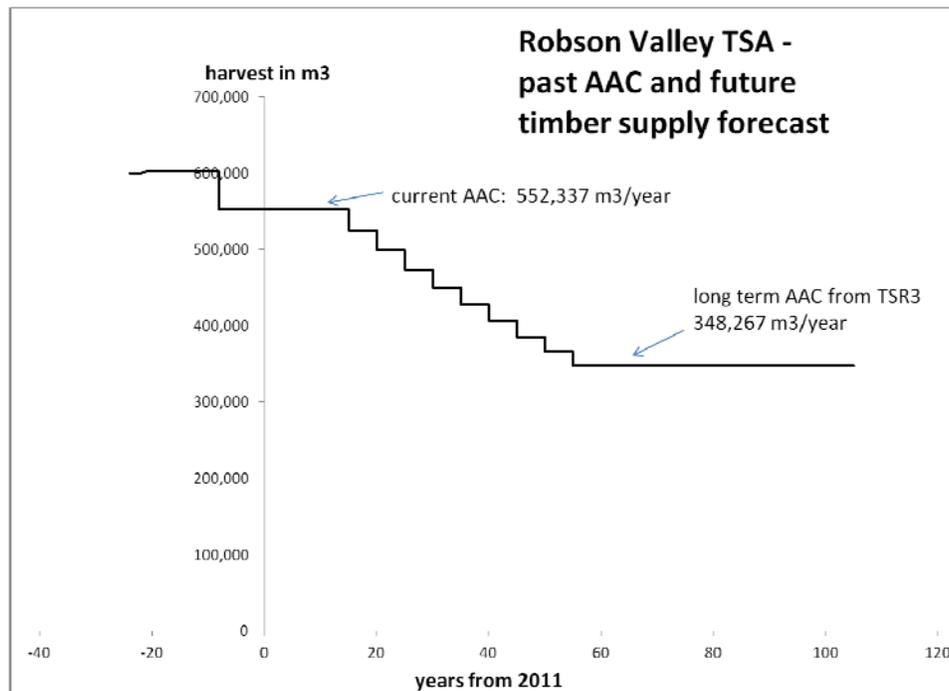
Harvest History

Year	Total TSA Harvest (m3)	Pine Harvest (%)
2007	189,582	29
2008	148,985	33
2009	50,086	56
2010	86,011	49
2011	146,179	63

**Timber Supply Area only – does not include community forests or woodlots*

Mid-Term Timber Supply Forecasts

- Timber supply analysis carried out in 2005 indicated that timber supply in the Robson Valley Timber Supply Area is projected to decline by 37% from 552,377 cubic metres a year in 2011 to 348,267 cubic metres a year in 2071.
- The mountain pine beetle has not substantially affected this timber supply forecast and there is no mid-term timber supply impact.
- The allowable annual cut was not increased due to the infestation because normal forest harvest levels are able to capture the pine killed by the mountain pine beetle.



- The 2005 harvest forecast does not, however, reflect current conditions. Since 2005, two new Community Forest Agreements have been awarded, and old growth management areas and additional caribou habitat have been designated. These land use changes have reduced the timber harvesting land base, and will be reflected in the next allowable annual cut determination. Although the community forests are not part of the timber supply area, they do provide timber and related employment.
- As well, a significant amount of remaining mature merchantable timber supply in the timber supply area is located in isolated areas and on steep slopes, and can only be harvested using more expensive road construction and cable logging systems. Many of these areas may not be economically feasible to harvest, especially since the economic downturn in 2008. The implications of these changes and issues are currently being assessed as part of a regular timber supply review.

Mountain Pine Beetle Forecast

The latest provincial-level mountain pine beetle model, which uses estimates of mortality from provincial overview forest health surveys, estimates 1.654 million cubic metres of dead merchantable pine in the timber supply area (2.5 million cubic metres when community forests are included). The model projects mortality to end in 2017 with a cumulative total (timber supply area and community forests) dead pine volume of 3.2 million cubic metres.

Dead Pine in Robson Valley Timber Supply Area and Community Forests (2012)

Zone	Total Dead Pine (m3) timber supply area	Dead Pine (m3) timber harvesting land base
Timber Supply Area	4,102,778	1,654,234
McBride Community Forest	185,609	87,317
Valemount Community Forest	926,162	435,699
Dunster Community Forest	734,589	345,577
Total	5,949,138	2,522,827

Current Practices and Silviculture Investments

- Lodgepole pine and other pine species are not a significant component of the timber supply in the Robson Valley Timber Supply Area. About 13% of the total volume of timber on the timber harvesting land base is from stands where pine is the leading tree species. More than 65% of the merchantable pine killed by the mountain pine beetle is located within timber supply area; the rest is in community forests.
- Robson Valley was not considered a mountain pine beetle-impacted timber supply area because pine is not a major species and, therefore, it did not qualify for significant Land-Based Investment Strategy funding.
- As part of the provincial backlog Not Sufficiently Restocked (NSR) project, 700 hectares will be surveyed in 2012.

Economic Profile of the Robson Valley Timber Supply Area

The report *2006 Economic Dependency Tables for Forest Districts* contains information about employment in the districts in 2006. At that time, the Robson Valley Timber Supply Area was administered by the Headwaters District. No information is included in the report solely for the Robson Valley Timber Supply Area so information for the Headwaters District is provided here.

- In the former Headwaters District, the forest sector accounted for 33% of basic employment, and the forest vulnerability index¹ was 60.
- Employment in other sectors in the Headwaters District: agriculture and food 8%, tourism 22%, public sector 25%, construction 8%, other 3%.

Mills:

- There are no large mills with closures of McBride Forest Industries veneer and lumber mill in McBride and Carrier Lumber in Valemount. Small mills include Hauer Brothers Lumber Ltd., Tete Jaune Cache; TRC, McBride; Crescent Spur Hardwoods, Crescent Spur; Cedar Three Products, McBride (currently closed); Gibbs Custom Sawmill, McBride; Lamming Cedar Mills Ulc, McBride (currently closed); Midget Mills, McBride; Natural Choice Bioenergy, McBride (currently closed); Simpson and Sons, Valemount; Syncra Wood Products (1995) Inc., McBride
- Robson Valley Timber Supply Area is a source of timber for Carrier Lumber in Prince George and Canfor in Vavenby

Opportunities for Diversification

- The Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation hosted a “Regional Economic Investment Pilot – McBride to Barriere Corridor Forum” in January 2012, which identified three opportunity sectors and specific projects:
 - **Power:** In May 2012 the Government of British Columbia announced a \$50-million upgrade to the Valemount Substation, which may have significant potential for independent power producers and economic development in general for the Robson Valley.
 - **Fibre:** ecoTECH Energy Group has a proposal to build a biomass-fuelled industrial park in McBride, which includes a combined heat and power plant, horticulture, aquaculture and cold storage.
 - **Destination Tourism:** Pheidias Project Management Corp. has submitted an expression of interest to the province for Valemount Glacier Ski Resort, a year-round ski and sight-seeing resort.

¹The magnitude of the forest vulnerability index indicates the vulnerability of each local area to potential downturns in the forest sector – a community is vulnerable if its forest sector dependence is high and its diversity is low. It is worth emphasizing that a high index value does not mean that the wood-based manufacturing facilities in that area are more likely to shut down than in other areas. Rather, a high value means that if forest sector activity in the area declines then the area will experience greater economic difficulties than other areas in the province would under the same circumstances.

Opportunities for Mitigation

- Because there is no mid-term timber supply, mitigation options were not investigated as part of the mid-term timber supply project.
- To address the long-term falldown that is anticipated in the timber supply area, a number of mitigation strategies are being investigated as a normal part of the timber supply process.

More information:

Mid-Term Timber Supply Project

www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/mountain_pine_beetle/#whatsnew

Forest Analysis: Robson Valley Timber Supply Area

www.for.gov.bc.ca/hts/tsa/tsa17/index.htm

Robson Valley Land and Resource Management Plan

www.ilmb.gov.bc.ca/slrp/lrmp/princegeorge/robson_valley/index.html