13.7. SMOOP

STATEMENT OF MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES, OPTIONS AND PROCEDURES

SLOCAN FOREST PRODUCTS LTD.
VAVENBY DIVISION
TREE FARM LICENCE No. 18
MANAGEMENT AND WORKING PLAN #9

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INTRODUCTION

Slocan Forest products Ltd., Vavenby Division has initiated the preparation of Management Plan #9 through giving notice of the commencement of the new plan and inviting the public and resource agencies to review the existing plan. This Statement of Management Objectives, Options and Procedures (SMOOP) is the next step in the process towards the submission of the Management Plan.

Tree Farm Licence #18 is situated immediately northwest of Clearwater B.C. and approximately 30 km west of Slocans mill in Vavenby B.C. The TFL represents 39.5% of Vavenby's annual allowable cut, contributing significantly to the economic and social values of the North Thompson communities. It is the goal of Slocan, Vavenby Division to ensure commercial competitiveness by consistently producing forest stands which will yield high value lumber products. The yield analysis, 20 year plan, silvicultural practices and harvesting priorities will all reflect this approach.

As with Management Plan #8, integrated resource management will play a significant role in the development of Management Plan#9. The management objectives as defined in the Kamloops LRMP and biodiversity objectives will form an integral part of the planning process.

Management plan #9 and this SMOOP must be recognized as dynamic documents. Specific goals and objectives will evolve over time. Therefore, strategies and recommendations for management may be altered in successive plans to reflect improved practices. This has become more evident with the implementation of the Forest Practices Code and public perception of how the forests are managed.

1.0 MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

1.0.1 OVERALL OBJECTIVES

- To protect and enhance the productivity of the forest land base by using appropriate management strategies that will result in an improved long term timber supply.

- To manage the forest land base for the production of timber to produce high quality sawlogs and shorten harvest rotations.

- To ensure Vavenby division remains competitive through production of high quality timber products. This will ensure a secure source of employment and continuing economic benefits to the province.

- To utilize harvesting systems and rehabilitation techniques that will minimize soil degradation and the subsequent loss of productive forest.

- To promote integrated resource management through the inclusion of non-timber resource values in all phases of forestry operations while considering economic sustainability.

- To abide by the Kamloops LRMP in resource management decisions that affect the forest landbase.

- To encourage involvement of the general public in the management of the TFL through communication and education of ongoing forest management activities.

1.0.2 HARVESTING AND TIMBER

Management and Working Plan #8 was approved for an annual allowable cut of 187,000 cubic metres for the period up to October 1, 2000 or until a new AAC is determined. This cut level will be re-evaluated in a new timber supply analysis based on the currently approved inventory. This analysis will address other resource uses as well as taking into consideration objectives for biodiversity.

Approximately 10% of the harvesting landbase on the TFL occurs in balsam I.U. logged stands. Slocan is committed to the continued harvest and rehabilitation of these stands as stated in the Harvest and Rehab Plan for I.U. stands. Harvesting and rehab will continue for the remainder of M.P. #8 and continue through M.P. #9. Actual volumes to be harvested and rehabilitation strategy will be confirmed through field verification.

Harvesting methods and silviculture systems will be utilized that will minimize loss of productive forest while taking into consideration social and economic issues. More emphasis has been placed on the use of alternative harvest methods in sensitive sites including low ground pressure equipment and helicopters. An approximate breakdown of harvest methods from 1997 to 2003 is as follows:

- Conventional ground skid 65%
- Low ground pressure 10%
- Cable 13%
- Helicopter 12%

Silviculture systems proposed over the same time frame include:

- Clearcut 17%
- Patch Clearcut (openings 5 Ha or less) 20%
- Clearcut with reserves 60%
- Select (Single tree, comm. Thin) 3%

All harvested timber will be utilized based on, at a minimum, close utilization standards for the B.C. interior.

1.0.3 VISUAL QUALITY

The landscape inventory has been updated and was approved on August 28, 1996. Slocan will manage for the visual quality objectives identified in this inventory in all harvesting activities. Landscape design techniques and visual simulation models will be utilized to ensure visual objectives are being met while maximizing the potential for harvest. Viewsheds within the TFL will be modelled using the planimetric VQO rules in both the Timber Supply and Twenty Year Plan Analysis.

1.0.4 BIODIVERSITY

TFL #18 falls within the Clearwater landscape unit as defined by the Kamloops LRMP and recently adopted by the MOF. This landscape unit has an approved biodiversity emphasis of low and will be managed as such considering the guidelines set forth in the biodiversity guidebook. Slocan will also work closely with MOF and MELP staff in achieving biodiversity objectives.

Seral stage mapping for the TFL is currently in progress through an MOF initiated FRBC project. This data will be used as a tool in managing for proper seral stage distribution on the TFL.

Slocan has been actively managing for biodiversity primarily on the stand level in the absence of an approved landscape level plan. The management plan will focus on managing for both stand and landscape level biodiversity taking into consideration biodiversity characteristics such as riparian management and protection, landscape connectivity, wildlife tree retention and coarse woody debris.

1.0.5 WATER QUALITY

Interior Watershed Assessment Procedure (IWAP) level 1 surveys have now been completed for the entire TFL through a MELP initiated FRBC project. The TFL and immediately surrounding area has been divided into 13 drainages or watersheds. These assessments will form the framework, on an identified priority basis, for any rehabilitation or mitigative measures that are required for the maintenance and/or improvement of water quality. The IWAP indices and ECA (Equivalent Clearcut Area) calculations for each watershed will be tracked and updated on an annual basis.

Slocan will utilize harvesting and road building and deactivation techniques that will minimize the impact on water quality.

Gill creek provided drinking and irrigation water for households in Sunshine Valley until the summer of 1994, when Sunshine valley was brought into the Clearwater Improvement District water system from the Russell Hascheak McDougal watershed. MELP is currently in the process of de-registering Gill creek as a community watershed, until this occurs the area will continue to be managed as per the community watershed plan.

1.0.6 RECREATION INVENTORY

A recreation inventory was completed for TFL #18 in 1993. This inventory provides the framework for the management of the recreation resource.

The TFL is ideally located and suited to providing a quality recreational experience associated with the well roaded managed forest land, numerous small fishing lakes and associated recreational sites. The major public uses and potential uses are:

- Sports fishing
- Camping
- Hunting
- Snowmobiling

Other activities include hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, horseback riding and dog sledding. The TFL also supports two private fishing resorts.

Harvesting activities are scheduled to accommodate recreational activities wherever possible. Harvesting near lakes and recreation sites are dictated by the lakeshore harvesting guidelines which have been established through the Lakes LRUP and visual quality objectives.

The TFL currently supports approximately 10,000 satisfactory user days (SUD). Management of the resource will focus on maintaining this level with a realization that the potential recreation carrying capacity is approximately 120,000 SUDs as identified in the recreation inventory.

1.0.7 CULTURAL HERITAGE

Slocan takes a proactive approach in management of the cultural heritage resource. Slocan staff attends regular meetings with the local native band so that their concerns regarding areas of cultural significance can be heard and addressed. Local bands are invited and have attended development plan reviews to express any concerns over harvesting proposals.

An Archeological Overview Assessment (AOA) has been completed as part of the Kamloops LRMP. Areas of high or medium significance where harvesting is proposed have been surveyed at a more intense level to determine potential cultural activities. In addition, sites have been surveyed that band members have identified as having potential significance.

All areas on the TFL proposed for development are closely monitored for existing areas of cultural significance. In the event that sites are discovered the appropriate parties will be immediately identified and a mutually agreed upon management strategy will be developed.

Managing for the cultural resource currently has no impact on activities within the TFL nor is any impact expected in the immediate future. Slocan will develop appropriate management objectives in consultation with aboriginal groups and government agencies if conflicting interest does occur in future.

1.0.8 RANGE

There are currently two range licensees on the TFL. Slocan will continue to manage for range values in consultation with the ranchers and MOF through meetings as required.

There is currently little pressure on forage production capacity. The company will continue to maintain the present use rate of 4,000 animal unit months (AUM) per year.

Knapweed control continues to be a concern for local ranchers. Slocan works with local ranchers and MOF staff to minimize the spread of this noxious weed. Some control measures currently being implemented are:

- Access control
- Revegetation of disturbed areas
- Public education

1.0.9 FISH AND WILDLIFE

The TFL provides habitat for a diverse range of wildlife including deer, moose, black bear. A significant area in the south of the TFL has been identified as critical moose winter range through the LRMP and will be managed as such. A detailed list of red and blue listed species as provided by MELP will be included with the Management Plan. The "Identified Wildlife Management Strategy Guidebook" will be considered in developing management strategies where these species are identified. The majority of wildlife issues can be adequately managed for through implementation of the biodiversity objectives including connectivity corridors, wildlife tree patches as well as coarse woody debris for small mammal habitat.

Slocan commits to work with MELP staff in identifying site specific habitat based on animal presence as well as identifying areas of potential habitat. The intent will be to develop a more comprehensive habitat inventory over time. This process will take place for the remainder of M. P. #8 and continue during M.P. #9.

The numerous lakes and streams on the TFL contain a significant population of rainbow and eastern brook trout. Mann creek is also of importance for the downstream presence of salmon near the junction with the North Thompson river. Twenty four lakes which are currently unclassified were surveyed for fish presence and fish potential. This information will aid in future classification of the lakes and resultant management objectives for harvesting.

The entire TFL has default stream classifications on all mapped streams. In addition, streams are surveyed where development is proposed and fish presence is in question. The Riparian Management guidebook will be consulted in establishing objectives for fish creeks and best management practices as described in the guidebook will be used where appropriate.

Slocan will continue to work closely with MELP in establishing both landscape and stand level objectives for the management of wildlife and fisheries. DFO will be consulted where salmonids are potentially impacted.

1.1.0 PROTECTION

Fire prevention will be addressed as per regulations. A fire preparedness plan is submitted annually to the Ministry of Forests.

1.1.1.0 Fuel Management

Logging debris disposal will take place so that potential fire and insect hazards are minimized while taking into consideration coarse woody debris and other biodiversity objectives. Fire fuel breaks will be incorporated into block layout and configuration as well as utilizing natural and man made fire breaks on a landscape level.

Fire insect killed and damaged timber will be assessed and prioritized for salvage logging. Fuel management problem areas such as juvenile spaced or pruned stands have been identified spatially on forest development plan maps.

1.1.2.0 Prescribed Fire

The use of prescribed fire as a site preparation tool has decreased dramatically since 1995. This trend is expected to continue during Management Plan #9. Approximately 1 cutblock annually will be scheduled for prescribed burn. Prescribed burning activities will follow appropriate burning guidelines and venting indices.

1.2.0 FOREST HEALTH

Slocan is currently in the process of developing a Pest Management Plan that will identify procedures and policies for the management of forest health concerns. The intent will be to consolidate current policies and procedures developed with the M.O.F. into one document. This plan is scheduled for completion during 1998.

1.2.0.1 INSECTS AND DISEASE

Forest stands within TFL #18 are monitored on an ongoing basis for the incidence of insects and disease by company forestry crews. In addition, Forest Insect and Disease Surveys are conducted annually by Regional MOF staff. Plans are adjusted according to needs identified by the survey.

Trap trees and pheromone traps are currently the most common methods of managing for insect attack. Mixed species planting and stumping are used as treatment for root disease. As the TFL is well roaded, the majority of insect and disease attacked timber is salvaged, however a small amount will form non recovered losses. This volume will be accounted for in the yield analysis. Following are the main forest health concerns at present on TFL #18:

Spruce Bark Beetle – (*Dendoctronus rufipennis)*

The spruce beetle appears to have reached the peak of its current cycle during 1997. The population reached epidemic levels in older spruce stands and salvage operations are ongoing. This is a natural stand initiating event in this disturbance type. Slocan has instituted an aggressive trap tree program to control the infestation in consultation with district and regional MOF staff and MELP. Salvage operations will concentrate harvesting in the southwest portion of the TFL during 1998/99. The potential impact on future harvesting strategies will be considered in the yield analysis.

White Pine Weevil *(Pissodes strobi)*

White pine weevil is a significant pest in our younger spruce stands. While it does not generally effect stocking levels significantly, it does have a potential effect on reaching free to grow status and future wood quality. The following control measures are being used to minimize or eliminate the impact of weevil:

- Establish mixed species plantations. Faster growing species act as a nurse crop for regenerating spruce.
- Plant weevil resistant stock
- Avoid pure or high percentage spruce plantations below 1500 metres

1.2.0.2 BLOWDOWN

A management strategy has been developed and included in the development plan to minimize harvesting related blowdown. Blowdown is generally managed as an emergency priority due to the potential for insect infestations. A detailed management strategy for blowdown will be included in the Management Plan.

1.2.1 ROADS

1.2.1.2 CONSTRUCTION

Slocan is bound by the Forest Practices Code for all road construction. The objective of road construction will be to minimize disturbance through:

- exploring alternative harvesting methods to minimize the amount of road constructed
- identification of terrain stability concerns followed by appropriate road construction techniques

1.2.1.3 MAINTENANCE AND DEACTIVATION

A detailed road maintenance and deactivation plan is included in the development plan. The management plan will address the objectives of a road maintenance and deactivation plan for planned and existing roads as well as deactivation and rehabilitation of landings and trails. A road inventory was completed during 1997 in cooperation with the M.O.F. This inventory will help in scheduling future deactivation and maintenance activities.

1.3.0 MINING CLAIMS

A map of mining claims from the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Northern Development will be included as a reference map in the management plan.

1.4.0 SILVICULTURE

Following are management objectives for basic and intensive silviculture during MP #9.

1.4.0.1 BASIC SILVICULTURE

(a) Regenerate all harvested forest lands promptly to take advantage of the productive growing capacity.

(b) To clean up all backlog NSR. Reforestation of backlog areas is currently ahead of schedule and substantial completion is expected in 1999.

(c) Retention of deciduous stems will be encouraged over spruce in areas of high weevil incidence. Some retention of deciduous will be encouraged on all sites to improve soil nutrients and improve forest health.

(d) To ensure current NSR levels are kept to a minimum and that all harvested or denuded lands are brought to regenerated target stocking within the prescribed regeneration period.

1.4.0.2 INTENSIVE SILVICULTURE

Intensive silviculture activities will focus on activities that have the potential to increase long term timber supply and improve overall stand quality. Proposed and ongoing activities include the following:

(a) Provide for commercial thinning opportunities during juvenile spacing activities. Target higher leave density to allow more volume for commercial thinning. Leave density and commercial thinning timing will depend on site by site prescriptions.

(b) Provide for improved wood quality by pruning through Forest Renewal funding. Target crop trees that will be left for final rotation. Pruning operations will be limited to select stands. The pruning guidebook will be considered in all pruning activities.

(c) Survey old balsam residual stands, without opening numbers or previous stand history (TFL 18 Harvesting and Rehab Plan for I.U. stands – June 1996). Consider methods for improving stand growth through sanitation spacing or rehabilitation.

(d) Fertilization trials

(e) Landing rehabilitation/reforestation

2.0 MANAGEMENT ISSUES

2.1 MINISTRY OF FOREST ISSUES

The following issues were identified in the pre SMOOP assessment dated November 20 1997.(see Appendix 1) The following responses are as presented in that letter.

(a) Intensive Silviculture

Issue: In your MP the commitment of a continued schedule for the elimination of the backlog NSR in the TFL, by 2001, is expected. Also included in your MP should be a plan or strategy outlining the priorities on which blocks will be spaced, pruned and/or fertilized.

Action: The elimination of backlog NSR is ahead of schedule. Approximately 240 Ha remained at the end of 1997. The majority of this area will be stocked by 1999. Some of the more problematic stands will have to be revisited over the next few years. Minor amounts of fill planting may be required on a small portion of these areas.
A plan for the scheduling of intensive silviculture activities will be included in the management plan.

(b) Residual Balsam

Issue: Your harvesting and rehabilitation plan for the areas that were logged to intermediate utilization, including balsam residual stands, that was submitted to the District Manager on June 27 1997, needs to have its past performance incorporated into the current schedule for inclusion into the Information Package and MP. How the plan relates to habitat and biodiversity values also needs to be addressed.

Action: Slocan is committed to the harvest, rehabilitation and stand enhancement in I.U. stands on the T.F.L. Details of harvesting, rehabilitation and stand enhancement activities in I.U. stands will be incorporated into the Information Package and MP. These activities follow the principles as set forth in the Harvesting and Rehabilitation Plan for I.U. stands as submitted on June 27 1996.

FRBC funding was received during 1997 to complete the first phase of intensive silviculture surveys. These have been completed and prescriptions are being developed. The results of these prescriptions will form the basis for future rehabilitation and stand enhancement for the remainder of management plan #8 and will continue with management plan #9.

Slocan will continue to work closely with MOF and MELP in managing these stands to ensure biodiversity and wildlife needs are addressed while achieving the objectives for stand management.

(c) LRMP Commitment

Issue: In your MP, commit to the higher level plan of the Kamloops Land Resource Management Plan in your TFL Operations and in your information package, identify declared Protected Areas Strategy within the TFL.

Action: Slocan commits to the higher level plan of the Kamloops LRMP. This will be addressed in the Management Plan. Protected Areas, as legislated through the LRMP, will be identified in the information package.

(d) Biodiversity

Issue: Landscape level biodiversity must be addressed. In the base case, we require the seral stage portion be achieved now or as soon as possible, rather than at the end of three rotations. A sensitivity analysis may be required.

Action: Seral stage mapping is currently underway through a MOF initiated FRBC project to determine seral requirements. Slocan will undertake a parallel project to verify this data. The Timber Supply Analysis and Twenty Year Plan will consider seral stage requirements, OGMA's (Old Growth Management Areas) and FEN's (Forest Ecosystem Networks)

(e) Maximum Block Size

Issue: In your management plan, you may wish to state whether you intend to exceed the maximum size cut blocks in specific situations, recognizing the need for larger reserves.

Action: Slocan will address maximum block size as it relates to landscape level biodiversity objectives. A statement to this effect will be included in the Management Plan.

(f) Forest Health

Issue: Outline forest health strategies to deal with insects and diseases such as spruce weevil. Strategies to minimize blowdown along the edges of cut blocks should also be proposed.

Action: See section 1.2.0 entitled Forest Health. Slocan has a detailed plan for the management of spruce weevil. This will be addressed in the management Plan and Timber Supply Information Package.

(g) Wildlife

Issue: Your MP will need to address wildlife concerns within the TFL as noted in Peter Weilandt's letter of August 23, 1995, and the licensee's September 28, 1995 response.

Action: The management of the TFL for biodiversity will include both stand level features such as wildlife tree patches and landscape level features such as connectivity, old growth management and wildlife travel corridors.

The total chance plan for the west side of the TFL will be incorporated into the twenty year plan. All issues relating to biodiversity including old growth attributes and wildlife corridors will be addressed.

Management strategies for all wildlife will be addressed in the Management Plan. There is no critical deer winter range within the TFL as identified by the Kamloops LRMP, however stands that exhibit attributes of deer winter range will be managed as such. "The Managed Identified Wildlife Guidebook" will be considered for the development of wildlife management strategies.

2.2 LICENSEE ISSUES

(a) Productive Forest Landbase

The TFL is under increasing pressure from various net downs to the productive forest due to protected areas and reserves for ecological or wildlife habitat. This constitutes a threat to maintaining current harvest levels.

In an attempt to minimize these impacts, thereby maintaining the current harvest level, Slocan will pursue sound intensive management practices in an attempt to increase yields on the remaining landbase. This will include intensive silviculture activities and rehabilitation of roads and landings. Innovative analysis techniques will also be considered to adequately model the increasing complexity of integrated resource requirements.

(b) Site Index

Slocan has concern over the accuracy and precision of site index on the TFL. A new inventory was not considered for this management plan due to the proposed changing standards through VRI implementation. There is a concern that VRI will not adequately address site index.

Slocan will continue in attempts to improve site index accuracy on the TFL through the establishment of permanent sample plots. Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping is also be considered for potential accuracies gained through SIBEC data, as well as the contribution to biodiversity planning. Slocan will consider augmenting any future VRI inventory and resulting site index data with this improved site index information.

Low indicated site index in plantations is also a concern where derived from site index curves. Subsequent surveys on free growing stands show a significantly higher site index using actual measurements (growth intercept). Planted stands will be reviewed critically to determine the accuracy of indicated site index. SIBEC data will be considered, where available, when it more accurately reflects site potential. Sensitivity analysis will be conducted on those stand types which site index accuracy is questioned to show the effects on timber supply.

(c) Small Business Forest Enterprise Program

The SBFEP program has traditionally operated on the TFL on a block by block basis in procuring their portion of the AAC. This has resulted in operational and logistic problems for both Slocan and SBFEP.

Recent attempts have been made by both parties to consolidate SBFEPs cut into a defined operating area. Slocan intends to continue this cooperative approach during Management Plan #9, by defining operating areas that are representative of the TFLs timber profile and harvesting methods to the mutual acceptance of both parties.

(d) Balsam Residual Stands

Slocan has been aggressively pursuing the management of these stands by conversion through harvesting and rehabilitation. Recent surveys have identified a number of management options dependent on stand composition. These various options will be tried on an experimental basis to determine the various merits and overall success of each one before any large scale treatment is attempted.

Harvesting in many marginal stands in these areas has shown a significant falldown in indicated Balsam volumes. As a result, many of these stands become uneconomical to harvest. Slocan will be critically reviewing such stands in future and considering their merit as rehabilitation projects through alternate funding sources. Various options are being explored, including intensive volume decay sampling to assist in recognizing actual volume falldown.

3.0 MANAGEMENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Slocan has met or exceeded the objectives identified in MP #8. These achievements identify further opportunities and set the stage for MP #9.

3.1 INTENSIVE SILVICULTURE

A number of intensive silviculture projects were completed during the period covered by management plan #8 through FRBC funding. Slocan considers these projects critical to enhancing the growth potential in forested stands.

- Juvenile spacing 574 Ha.
- Pruning 604 Ha

Fill planting was completed on 386 Ha of marginally stocked stands. It is expected this will contribute to the overall success of the stands and provide better opportunities for commercial thinning as the stands mature.

A foliar sampling project was completed on seven spaced and pruned blocks in various locations to determine nutrient deficiency. A number of the stands were found to be deficient in both nitrogen and trace elements. These sites have subsequently undergone random individual tree fertilizer trials. The results of these trials will identify future opportunities.

3.2 BASIC SILVICULTURE

Recent advancements in site preparation techniques have resulted in greatly improved plantation growth and survival particularly in sites with adverse growing conditions. (hygric, high elevation)

Planting of species other than those traditionally planted in the TFL, including small experimental trials, has been aggressively pursued. This has resulted in greater flexibility in mixed species planting contributing to overall stand diversity, health and performance.

3.3 REHABILITATION

Full rehabilitation was carried out on 84.7 Ha of old landings from 1995 – 1997 through FRBC. These landings are now part of the productive landbase. An inventory of all remaining old landings that are not required for operations was completed during 1997. A five year plan is now being developed for the systematic rehabilitation of these landings. All new landings are now rehabilitated within two years of completion of operations where they have not been identified for future use.

IWAPs have now been completed for the entire TFL. These surveys will assist in identifying roads that can and/or should be rehabilitated.

The following rehabilitation, conversion or stand enhancement activities have occurred in balsam I.U. stands to date during the period covered by this plan:

• Harvested	81.6 Ha
• Mechanical site prep and plant	approx. 390 Ha
• Plant	approx. 1600 Ha
• Fill plant	approx 900 Ha

Site preparation and planting activities concentrated on I.U. stands that were NSR. This forms a large part of the identified backlog NSR. An additional 194 Ha has been accessed and identified for harvest during 1998/99.

3.4 DIGITAL MAP BASES

Slocan upgraded digital mapping capabilities on the TFL in 1996. All maps will now be produced digitally including the twenty year plan, inventory and status maps. These map bases and Slocans' GIS capabilities will allow for more detailed analysis in harvest planning and integrated resource management. Integration of the GIS and the analysis model will allow for spatial output of harvesting scenarios.

3.5 PERMANENT SAMPLE PLOTS

Slocan established 49 permanent sample plots in the TFL. during 1996/97 through an FRBC funded project. Growth and yield data from trials established during the 1950s to 1970s has been researched during winter 1997/98. These areas will be field reviewed during 1998 to determine the potential for resurrection. Potential for future permanent sample plots will be actively pursued during M.P. #9.

4.0 PLANNING PROCEDURES

4.1 PUBLIC AND AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

4.1.0 INITIAL ADVERTISING OF MP #9 PROCESS

An advertisement announcing the initiation of the planning process for management plan#9 and requesting comment on the past performance was published in both local newspapers and the gazette. (See copies in Appendix 2) In addition, letters were sent to interested resource users, MELP and DFO requesting comment.

4.1.1 ADVERTISING OF THE SMOOP

The draft SMOOP has been advertised in both local newspapers and the gazette. The draft SMOOP will be made available for public review at SFPs office in Vavenby as well as the MOF district office. In addition copies of the draft SMOOP will be forwarded to MELP and DFO. Letters will also be sent to resource users soliciting comment.

4.1.2 MANAGEMENT PLAN #9

An initial draft of the Management Plan will be submitted to the MOF at the time of Timber Supply Analysis submission.

A public meeting or open house will be provided for formal public review of the draft Management Plan. A final draft will also be submitted to the MOF at this time.

4.3 PLANNING SCHEDULE

TARGET DATE	ACTIVITY
March 9 1998	Submission of final SMOOP to Regional Manager
May 31 1998	MOF target for SMOOP approval
March – July 1998	Preparation of Information Package
August 1 1998	Submission of Information Package
August 1998	Initiate Timber Supply Analysis
August 1998	Initiate Twenty Year Plan
February 15 1999	Submit Timber Supply Analysis to Timber Supply Forester
February 15 1999	Submit Twenty Year Plan to DM
February 20 1999	Initiate draft Management Plan
June 18 1999	Advertise/refer and submit draft management plan to MOF, MELP
Sept 30 1999	Submit proposed Management Plan

4.4 TIMBER SUPPLY ANALYSIS

An analysis of available timber supply will be conducted to analyze the effects of various management options on the TFL landbase. These options will provide a rationale for the proposed AAC.

An MOF accepted data simulation model will be used for the yield analysis. A final decision on the model to be used has not been made.

The currently approved inventory was audited and approved on August 14 1997. This inventory, updated to December 1997, will be used in the yield analysis.

4.4.0 ANALYSIS SCENARIOS

Several management scenarios are proposed for this yield analysis. The list of scenarios is not conclusive at this time. Prior to carrying out the analysis the scenarios and related parameters will be presented in the information package for review and approval by the MOF.

As the various scenarios are analyzed refinements will be made and documented in the yield analysis. Various aspects of the scenarios will be considered and integrated into one recommended scenario. This scenario will form the basis for the AAC rationale.

4.5 RECREATION AND LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Recreation and landscape information will be updated as required and will further direct the development of landscape management strategies for inclusion in the timber supply analysis.

4.6 RANGE INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Since the range resource on the TFL is relatively minor, Slocan recommends a range analysis is not required. Range users will be invited to review the draft management plan.