



ALBERTA WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION

"Defending Wild Alberta through Awareness and Action"

Bruce Mayer
Assistant Deputy Minister, Forestry Division
Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development
10th Floor, Petroleum Plaza ST
9915 – 108 St. NW
Edmonton, AB T5K 2G8
By email: bruce.mayer@gov.ab.ca

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Dear Bruce,

I write in the hope that you can clear up some confusion surrounding the recent AESRD decision to disallow logging within the Castle Special Management Area pending the completion of the South Saskatchewan Regional Land Use Plan (SSRP).

Specifically, AWA is attempting to determine in which blocks of forest logging will still be allowed to proceed, and in which blocks logging will be deferred until the completion of the SSRP.

In a telephone conversation with Duncan MacDonnell on October 23, 2012, I was given to understand that the harvesting of those blocks identified in Spray Lake Sawmills 2011/2012 Annual Operating Plan for the CTQC050009 license (as approved by AESRD on September 12, 2011) would be allowed to proceed, but nothing further to that. I was also given the impression that this harvest would amount to roughly 50,000m³, less the 11,600m³ that had already been taken earlier this year.

While we were unable to find a copy of this Annual Operating Plan on either Spray Lake Sawmills' or the AESRD website, AWA did have a copy as part of a package of materials that we had obtained from ASRD pursuant to a *Freedom of Information and Privacy Act* (FOIP) request this summer.

In looking through that document, however, the plan appears in fact to identify 51 blocks constituting 148,000m³ of total harvest volume, not the 50,000m³ understood above. We are thus uncertain: is the above figure mistaken, and are all 51 blocks still eligible to be logged? Or is it only a subset of those blocks?

Complicating our understanding is a supplementary map in the FOIP package that divides those 51 blocks into the classes "Proposed 2011 Harvest Year" and "Subsequent Years." The first of these

classes comprises the blocks 1306, 1308, 1324, 1344, 1365, 1366, 1403, 1415, 1428, 1435, 1466, 2415, 2431, 2442, 2456, 2462, 2478 and 2486. However the associated total volume of harvest for these 18 blocks only comes out to a little under 31,000m³, which is to say, yet another number inconsistent with that I was given.

This leaves the remaining 33 blocks with a status about which AWA is uncertain. For each one of them: is it up for logging this winter, or is that activity to be deferred pending the SSRP process? Specifically, the blocks in question would be those numbered: 152, 184, 187, 315, 347, 349, 526, 549, 666, 680, 693, 870, 983, 1558, 2272, 2550, 2553, 2657, 2694, 2719, 2816, 2858, 2908, 2997, 3128, 3154, 3230, 3277, 3348, 3372, 3386, 3436 and 3689.

We look forward to a response at your earliest convenience so we have clarity on what areas will be logged and what areas will be under the deferral announced in the *Pincher Creek Echo* of October 10, 2012.

Yours truly,
ALBERTA WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION



Sean Nichols,
Conservation Specialist