

Guidelines for approving AOPs under the draft Caribou Range Plan

Revised June 1, 2018

Section 1: AOP approval guidelines for the Area

The following guidelines should be considered when approving annual operating plans near the Little Smoky / A La Peche range boundaries.

1. From the 2018/2019 timber year to the 2020/2021 timber year, we will accept any AOP for the caribou range that falls within "Series 1" as long as it also falls within the currently approved contributing landbase. There is no requirement that the AOP represent a block that is part of the approved spatial harvest sequence.
 - Block boundaries in the AOPs cannot extend out of Series 1 into the range, but may extend into the non-range portion of the FMA.
 - The pine strategy does not need to be respected when selecting stands from within Series 1. The order of harvesting stands within Series 1 until Apr 30, 2021 will be reviewed, but there will be no requirements to balance to the strata present in Series 1.
 - Be aware that all stands on the contributing landbase within Series 1 will likely need be harvested, as this was factored in when calculating the annual volume thresholds in the Mediator's report, as well as in the calculation of the AAC. This includes all species mixes, densities and heights. Sb deferrals in W15 are not acceptable in Series 1, and should be converted into older minimum harvest age checks instead.
 - The companies are encouraged to plan for efficient harvesting within Series 1 over the remainder of the 5 year period.
 - FMA/FMU boundaries within Series 1 will be respected.
 - Company-specific VOITS that relate to individual sites, such as approved stand retention plans, shall be respected as a precautionary measure. VOITS that report at the landscape level may need to be relaxed, such as seral stage targets and strata balancing. This discussion will happen when the FMP is aligned with the approved Detailed Range Plan in 2021.
 - Company-specific OGRs shall be respected during harvesting.
 - If deemed to be reasonable when creating individual openings, the minimum harvest ages within Series 1 may be relaxed to a minimum of 70 years for coniferous leading stands, otherwise the harvest ages in the TSA will be respected.
 - AOPs shall factor in the annual volume thresholds for Series 1, and where applicable, the company's portion of the annual thresholds. FMB will provide tables capturing these allocations.
 - As per Sec 4.5, bullet 10, [Zone 1] harvest volume may be carried forward from year to year, but may not exceed the volume cumulative to that year.
 - The volume difference between the approved AAC and the annual volume threshold for Series 1 will be harvested outside of the range, following the pattern in the 20 year SHS .
 - First Nations and Metis consultation will be required as per the Policy.
2. The draft Zone 1 boundary was selected to identify stands that were considered 'second-pass', 'reserve blocks', or otherwise would serve to concentrate harvest activities. Series 1 is typically

developed as an expansion of Zone 1, modified by the current needs of the caribou herd. As long as the AOP boundaries falls within the Series 1, further examination for proximity or adjacency to existing blocks will not be necessary.

3. Once an AOP is approved, the companies should be made aware of any remediation or restoration commitments associated with harvesting and replanting. This information will be provided by the caribou range management team. There may also be efforts to coordinate seismic rehabilitation work with forest harvesting work to prevent damage to previous remediation efforts.
4. We could accept a shared FHP that includes up to 5 years' worth planned blocks within each FMA/FMU. We will deal with any impact that consultation on the range plan may have on the Series 1 boundaries and behaviour on the back-end.
 - We strongly recommend that the operators in W15 develop a 3 year harvest plan to access Series 1, and sign off on the strategy in the same manner that they would a spatial harvest sequence. This strategy would factor in the volume, piece size, location and other issues. This strategy needs to be coordinated with other industries, and integrated with O&G activities with respect to both access, and proposed new and reclamation efforts.

Section 2: Background work to support the AOP approval process

5. Operators in W15 and E8 have annual caps on the volume harvested that were defined in the mediator's report. These thresholds will over-ride the standard flexibility seen in quadrant cut controls. The annual caps do factor in the carry-over volume that was accounted for in the timber supply.
 - Annual volume would be shared within an FMU in the same proportion as the allocation percentages.
 - We strongly recommend that the W15 operators coordinate their AOP submissions, and sign off that they agree to the allocation of stands.
6. Canfor and West Fraser Hinton do not have annual caps explicitly stated in the mediator report, but the caribou range team has worked with the companies to set the Series 1 access pattern.
 - Deciduous operators in G15 can follow the intention of the existing SHS and use the compartment allocations when determining who will operate in Series 1, and who will operate outside of the range.
7. Blocks associated with new or additional carry-over requests must be scheduled outside the caribou range. See the Q&A section about specific carry-over requests.
8. At some point in the future, allowances will need to be made for stewardship reporting. While these new AOPs should be tracked as additions to the approved SHS, they shouldn't be a cause of concern. When a new SHS is provided that accounts for the newly created Zone 1, this should be less of an issue. Outside of the caribou range, AOPs should still follow the SHS as normal. Allowances are being made to access the second decade of the SHS early where needed.