

# Public Involvement Plan

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Tolko Industries Ltd., High Level Lumber



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Ainsworth Engineered Canada LP

***Ainsworth***

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La Crete Sawmills Ltd



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Forest Management Agreement  
0200040

(Revised December 30, 2011)

List of Revisions:

- Addition of La Crete Sawmills Ltd who is now an FMA partner with Tolko and Ainsworth
- Corrected wording regarding a Public Advisory Committee (PAC) which is now a Public Advisory Group (PAG). Now references to PAC are strictly for historical purpose.
- Removed reference to La Crete Sawmills Ltd as an embedded tenure holder.
- Added Peerless Trout First Nation as a Nation which the companies need to consult with on the FMA.
- Removed reference to Aboriginal "Groups" and strictly reference Nations.
- Removed town billboard as a place to advertise company related public involvement activities as the billboard has been removed.
- Removed Annual Operating Plan from the listing of plans for review on [www.highlevelwoodlands.com](http://www.highlevelwoodlands.com) as the AOP has never been posted on-line.
- Added certification related audit reports to list of items posted on [www.highlevelwoodlands.com](http://www.highlevelwoodlands.com) .

# Joint Detailed Forest Management Plan

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TOLKO INDUSTRIES LTD., HIGH LEVEL LUMBER DIVISION, AINSWORTH & LA CRETE SAWMILLS

*(Note: The Public Involvement Plan is linked to the High Level Forests Public Advisory Group Terms of Reference therefore a change in one document may trigger a change in another.)*

Tolko Industries Ltd. (High Level Lumber Division), Ainsworth and La Crete Sawmills Ltd (hereby referred to as "the companies") are committed to Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) which is reflected in our SFM Policy and our joint Vision/Mission<sup>1</sup> statement for managing the FMA area.

In an effort to balance the economic, ecological, and social aspects of sustainable forest management, significant input from stakeholders, First Nations, and members of the general public is required during the planning process to ensure that forest management plans at every level are environmentally and socially acceptable.

In soliciting input from the public, Tolko and Ainsworth developed a Public Involvement Plan (PIP) in 2000 during the development of the first Detailed Forest Management Plan (DFMP) for the FMA area which was approved by Alberta in March 2004. This PIP used for the development of the DFMP was enhanced in 2003 as part of the companies' joint certification initiative to the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Z809:02 certification standard. (This revision includes La Crete Sawmills who is now a partner on the Forest Management Agreement area.)

The original document was accepted by the local Public Advisory Committee (PAC) and it is considered the framework for soliciting public input into the development of our forest management plans.

## **1.0 Goals**

The goals of the Companies are to develop and implement a diverse and adaptive public involvement plan that meets the needs of the companies, stakeholders, public, the Canadian Standards Association (CSA), and Alberta's First Nation Consultation Guidelines and public consultation requirements.

## **2.0 Objectives**

The primary objective for implementing an effective public involvement plan is that it encourages direct involvement from stakeholders and the general public in the development and implementation (including monitoring) of each forestry plan (i.e., DFMP, Annual Operating Plan, General Development Plan, Final Harvest Plan) required for managing the Forest Management Agreement (FMA) area.

## **3.0 Public Involvement Process**

Since participants in any public involvement processes have a wide range of knowledge, interests, and abilities to participate, an effective public involvement process needs to accommodate these differences.

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<sup>1</sup> The Companies joint Vision and Mission statements for managing the DFA can be viewed at [www.highlevelwoodlands.com](http://www.highlevelwoodlands.com).

In designing and implementing our public involvement process, a process which has been built on an existing process, the Companies have utilized the Canadian Standards Association Z764-96 "A Guide to Public Involvement" document to ensure that the process used is both diverse and effective.

Like our forest management plans, our public involvement process is adaptive in nature and will likely be refined over time and as the needs of interested parties change.

### ***3.1 Public Advisory Group (PAG)***

The April 2006 version of the Alberta Forest Management Planning Standard document outlines the requirement for the formation of a Public Participation Group (PPG) with representation from interested parties.

Direct involvement by interested parties in the development of the companies Forest Management Plans (FMP's) have been a primary component of the planning process in High Level since 1997 with the formation of a Public Advisory Committee (PAC). This level of involvement was enhanced in 2003 through the establishment of a Public Advisory Group (PAG) which was established to help identify local-level values, objectives, indicators, and targets (VOIT's) for incorporation into the Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Plan required by the Canadian Standards Association standard for forest certification. The PAC and PAG were subsequently merged into a single Public Advisory Committee (PAC) in 2005, and a Terms of Reference developed that had various annual revisions.

After a lull in regular meetings the PAC was revitalized on December 7, 2010 and the companies presented changes to the process. Following a subsequent meeting on January 11, 2011 a DRAFT Terms of Reference was created, and the name has been changed to Public Advisory Group to better align the name of the group with the associated role.

The company's public website, [www.highlevelwoodlands.com](http://www.highlevelwoodlands.com), continues to be used for posting information on the public process.

### ***3.2 Stakeholders***

In addition to those stakeholders participating in the PAG the companies recognize that involvement from other stakeholders affected by our activities on the defined forest area is imperative in the development of forest management plans which balance the economic, ecological, and social aspects of sustainable forest management.

Within the boundaries of the DFA, there are a number of stakeholders from which the companies solicit input during the development and implementation of our forest management plans. Some of these groups include the following:

#### ***3.2.1 Trappers***

The companies recognize trapping and trappers are an established industry with direct interest in the planning and operations of our companies. Registered trapline holders are contacted during Final Harvest Plan & herbicide plan development to identify any concerns with proposed development or activity. In addition, woodlands staff meet the requirements of the Upper Hay - Operating Ground Rules with respect to notifications to trappers prior to commencement of operations.

### **3.2.2 Other Tenure Holders**

As outlined in the Forest Management Agreement there are a number of additional tenure holders operating within the boundaries of the FMA area including Daishowa-Marubeni International Ltd., Netaskinan Development Corporation Ltd., Che K'Li Enterprises Ltd., Ventnor Forest Products Inc., and Ridgeview Mills Ltd.

Communication and involvement by the embedded operators in both the development of long-term and operational plans is required to ensure that all planning, harvesting, and reforestation activities align with the management objectives of the Defined Forest Area (DFA).

At the time a Detailed Forest Management Plan is being completed, some of the embedded operators may also be involved in the Plan Development Team, a group which reviews technical matters associated with plan development. Even without an on-going DFMP process all embedded operators can join and participate in the PAG.

### **3.2.3 Aboriginal Involvement**

The companies are committed to Aboriginal involvement in the development of our forest management plans, which is reflected in our Sustainable Forest Management Policy<sup>2</sup>. The companies recognize that the DFA, as claimed by the region's Aboriginal people, has been traditionally used for hunting, trapping and fishing as well as for recreational and spiritual purposes. This dependence on the forest for both economic and traditional purposes increases the need for Aboriginal involvement in the development of our forest management plans. The companies recognize Aboriginal and Treaty Rights of local First Nations, and these rights will not be prejudiced by taking part in the companies' public involvement program or being involved in the Public Advisory Group.

The companies intend to develop our forest management plans with the objective of avoiding and/or mitigating any adverse impacts to First Nations rights and traditional uses as a result of our activities through the implementation of a variety of community-based public involvement opportunities (i.e. newsletters, community functions, meetings, etc.). All responses and concerns will be documented and considered in the development of all forest management plans.

Specific First Nation's that may have an interest in forest management activities occurring on the DFA include the Little Red River Cree Nation, Tall Cree First Nation, Dene Tha First Nation, Beaver First Nation, Lubicon Lake Indian Nation and Peerless Trout First Nation. The companies also include the Paddle Prairie Metis Settlement in consultation efforts.

### **3.2.4 Oil and Gas**

The oil and gas industry constitutes a very large proportion of the industrial community within the DFA and involvement from these stakeholders is an important part of the public advisory process. In addition to communicating through the various mechanisms previously outlined in this document, copies of the General Development Plan are available for companies operating in the region to review in order to promote opportunities for integration.

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<sup>2</sup> The SFM Policy encompasses statements made in the respective Environmental Policies and Forest Management Principles of both Tolko Industries Ltd. and Ainsworth which can be viewed at [www.highlevelwoodlands.com](http://www.highlevelwoodlands.com)

### ***3.2.5 Local Government***

Local and municipal government agencies are contacted annually and periodically throughout the year to discuss our operations and to identify and incorporate concerns into plan development. Representatives from Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (ASRD) also participate in the Plan Development Team, a group which reviews technical matters regarding plan development, and can act as advisors to the general public.

### ***3.2.6 Special Interest Groups***

Special interest groups are identified during the development or implementation of long-term or operational plans. Concerns that are identified by these groups are identified and incorporated into plan development where possible, and our public involvement plan is updated to ensure that new interest groups are included in future advisory initiatives.

## **3.3 General Public**

### ***3.3.1 Open Houses***

Open Houses may be used to provide a forum for the companies to present information related to the development of the DFMP, Annual Operating Plan, as well area-specific Final Harvest Plans in communities within and adjacent to the FMA. Annual Performance Reports and/or Stewardship Reports outlining our performance in meeting our DFMP commitments and legal obligations may also be on display for public review. The companies may also make the plans available for public viewing at company offices by appointment only.

Open Houses, which may also include attendance at regional Trade Fairs and community events, will also provide an opportunity for members of the general public to discuss the various aspects of our operations with our woodlands staff.

### ***3.3.2 Newsletters***

During the development of the first Detailed Forest Management Plan, a series of newsletters were distributed to solicit input on the development of the plan as well as provide updates on plan progress. Due to the success of these information sources, newsletter distribution may continue for future management plans. Content will be successive and reflect the status of plan development to date.

Distribution will include a number of stakeholders and interest groups throughout the region including the Public Advisory Group (PAG), First Nations, government, and the general public and will include some of the information below:

- ❑ Company Overview (i.e. philosophies, history, etc.);
- ❑ Information specific to the FMA;
- ❑ Development and approval status of the DFMP or portions thereof;
- ❑ Values, Objectives, Indicators, and Targets
- ❑ Current and upcoming issues or other initiatives

### ***3.3.3 Invitational Brochures & Advertisements***

The companies may continue to utilize the local media to advertise or inform local stakeholders or members of the general public regarding upcoming public involvement initiatives or



operational activities. Some of these advertisements have included the local newspapers<sup>3</sup>, handouts, newsletters, and other postings.

The companies have also used additional radio and newspaper ads to provide information regarding public input, forest health, natural disturbance, forest certification, and overall sustainability in an effort to increase awareness and generate interest in forest management. However local advertising has not been as effective as expected.

### **3.3.4 Website**

To enhance the level of public involvement while providing a source of information distribution, the companies launched a website in July 2004. The website, [www.highlevelwoodlands.com](http://www.highlevelwoodlands.com), includes meeting minutes from the Public Advisory Committee as well as information regarding upcoming public involvement initiatives including meetings, open houses, or community presentations.

The website also allows members of the general public to provide DFA-specific information which can be incorporated into future plan development as well as provide input ([yourinput@highlevelwoodlands.com](mailto:yourinput@highlevelwoodlands.com)) regarding our forest management or operational activities.

The website also allows members of the general public to review digital copies of the Detailed Forest Management Plan, General Development Plan (GDP), and approved Final Harvest Plan(s) for the Defined Forest Area. In addition, all Annual Reports and certification related Audit reports associated with the Companies operations and overall woodlands performance are also posted on the website for public review.

As progress is made in the development of the Detailed Forest Management Plan, updates will also be posted and followed-up with key stakeholders and members of the general public to provide an opportunity for input.

## **4.0 Issue Identification and Resolution**

All external communications generated through the implementation of the Public Involvement Plan will be documented as part of our integrated CSA communication module to ensure that issues or concerns are documented and that a process for resolution is completed. Documented issues, suggestions, or concerns will be brought forth to the Public Advisory Group to assess its applicability in the forest management planning process and potential incorporation into the list of local-level Values, Objectives, Indicators, and Targets. When applicable, issues or concerns may also be discussed with the DFMP - Plan Development Team for strategic direction.

## **5.0 Monitoring and Adaptive Management**

As part of our commitment to continual improvement and adaptive management, this document will be reviewed annually by the Public Advisory Group and the Plan Development Team (when active) to ensure that the public involvement process remains effective.

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<sup>3</sup> The local newspapers include "The Echo" and "The Pioneer" which are distributed throughout the Upper Hay forest region.