Alberta’s Forests
Forestry & Economy
Provincial Planning Hierarchy
Sustainable Forest Management
Alberta’s Forests

- National parks
- Metropolitan areas
- Forests cover nearly 60 per cent of Alberta, with 38 million hectares of forested lands
- Almost all forests are public resource in Alberta
- Historical split between Green and White areas
Alberta’s Forests

• Land Cover
Alberta’s Forests

Natural Regions and Subregions

- Boreal
- Canadian Shield
- Foothills
- Rocky Mountain
- Parkland
- Grassland
Alberta’s Forests

- Disturbances
  - Fire

Source: David Dodge, The Pembna Institute. [www.oilsandswatch.org](http://www.oilsandswatch.org) | GoA staff photos
Alberta’s Forests

- Disturbances
  - Fire

![Image of forest fire]

**Area Burned (2005-2014)**

- 2005: 60,657 hectares
- 2006: 118,753 hectares
- 2007: 103,580 hectares
- 2008: 20,727 hectares
- 2009: 65,857 hectares
- 2010: 81,173 hectares
- 2011: 805,880 hectares
- 2012: 385,651 hectares
- 2013: 19,572 hectares
- 2014: 23,116 hectares
Alberta’s Forests

• Disturbances
  o Fire
  o Insects and diseases
  o Anthropogenic activities
Alberta’s Forests
Forestry & Economy
Provincial Planning Hierarchy
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Forestry & Economy

- Alberta owns and is responsible for management of forests on provincial public lands

- Forest Management Agreement areas
  - Responsible for planning on crown land and reforestation after harvest

- Timber quotas
  - Timber harvesting rights for a specified volume from a specific area
Forest Tenures

20 FMAs
- 22 million hectares
- 62% of Green Area

137 Timber Quotas
- 98 Coniferous
- 39 Deciduous
Mills in Alberta

- Sawmills
- Pulp mills
- Panelboard mills
- Integrated facilities
- Laminated veneer lumber mills

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Alberta Forestry Economic Impact

- Forestry directly employs 15,400 people in 70 communities and generates over $5.4 billion in GDP

- Economic diversification through the production of:
  - Lumber, pulp, newsprint and engineered wood products

- Industry investments in capital projects
  - Offshore market expansion
  - Generation of electricity from renewable forestry biomass
Alberta Forestry Economic Impact

• Four main economic drivers
  
  o Expand into new markets
  o Focus on cost and performance competitiveness
  o Retain secure access to fibre
  o Invest in strategically focused, market driven innovation
Alberta Forest Innovation

• Alberta is continually reviewing standards, monitoring operational and research results, and seeking improvements

• New forest management practices

• Development of new forest products and technology
Alberta Forest Bio-Industrial Innovation

• From forest and field to freeway: Alberta fibre going into auto parts

• Lucrative extracts from Alberta agriculture & forest biomass

• ‘Strengthening’ Alberta forest sector with an eco-friendly adhesive
Alberta’s Forests
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Provincial Planning Hierarchy
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Provincial Planning Hierarchy

• Land-Use Framework (LUF)
• Regional Planning
• Sub-Regional Planning
• Integrated Resource Management System (IRMS)
Land-Use Framework

- Blueprint for land-use, natural resource management, and decision-making to manage growth
- Sustains growing economy while balancing social and environmental goals
- Considers the cumulative effects of all activities
- Legally enforceable
- Subject to regular reviews
- Incorporates significant public feedback gathered through extensive consultation
Alberta’s Land-Use Framework

- 7 Planning Regions

- Lower Athabasca and South Saskatchewan Regional Plans are completed

- North Saskatchewan Regional Plan in progress
Regional Planning

Provincial Policy & Legislation

Lower Athabasca Regional Plan & Management Frameworks
(e.g., BMF, Tailings MF, Surface Water Quality, etc.)

Sub-Regional Plans
(e.g., LMP, Municipal, SAOS-SRP, IRPs)

Sectorial and Operational Plans
(e.g., Recreation Management Plans)

Operational and Regulatory Decisions
(e.g., Project and Disposition Approvals)

Place-Based Rules & Decisions
Integrated Resource Management System

Why pursue an IRMS?

- Continued economic and population growth
- Need to manage cumulative effects
- Heightened need for integration and resource optimization
- Growing expectations of public and stakeholders
Integrated Resource Management System

• Means by which Alberta will achieve responsible resource stewardship and the triple bottom line (social, economic & environment)

• Broadly defined, incorporating the management, conservation and wise use of all resources

• Founded upon principles of cumulative effects management
  o Adaptation and continuous Improvement
  o Knowledge based
  o Outcomes driven
  o Future focused
  o Comprehensive implementation
  o Place-based flexibility
  o Collaboration
Alberta’s Forests
Forestry & Economy
Provincial Planning Hierarchy
Sustainable Forest Management
Alberta • National Parks • Metropolitan Areas • Green / White Area • 35.1 million ha • Natural Subregions (map 3/…
Sustainable Forest Management
Sustainable Forest Management

- Alberta owns all timber located on crown lands
- Alberta government policy does not allow timber harvesting to exceed the forest's ability to grow
- Less than one percent of forested land is harvested in any year
Sustainable Forest Management

- The annual forest growth of all inventoried public lands in the province is estimated at 44 million cubic metres.

- The Green Area had a total annual allowable cut of 32 million cubic metres:
  - 19.4 million cubic metres of coniferous
  - 12.6 million cubic metres deciduous

- 23.1 million cubic metres were harvested

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product Category</th>
<th>Total Volume Harvested (m$^3$)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lumber</td>
<td>15,831,325</td>
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<tr>
<td>Panelboard</td>
<td>1,986,440</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pulp for Paper Products</td>
<td>5,263,774</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>40,936</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Provincial Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>23,122,475</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sustainable Forest Management

- Alberta is committed to the principles and policies of sustainable forest management and responsible stewardship

- Forests continue to provide ecological, economic, social and cultural opportunities

- Forest management planning is an essential component of:
  - Sustainable forest management
  - The Alberta planning hierarchy
Sustainable Forest Management

- Aboriginal People and public are involved in forest management planning
- Most of the forest management plans are developed by industry
- All forest management plans are validated by Registered Professional Foresters
Sustainable Forest Management

- Forest management plans are CSA-based (CSA Z809-02)
  - Based on Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM) Criteria for Sustainable Forest Management
  - Provides a credible planning framework
  - Defines system and performance elements
  - Involves a high degree of public involvement
  - Identifies Values, Objectives, Indicators and measurable Targets (VOITs)
  - Monitors real outcomes against forecasts
  - Emphasizes continual improvement / adaptive management

- Voluntary certification
  - Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)
  - Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)
Forest Management Planning

• Incorporates trade-off analyses and mitigates impacts of forest operations on other values and users

• Manages forest vegetation and minimizes harvest impacts at the landscape level

• Completed every 10 years and forecasts forest development to create a desired future forest spanning 200 years

• Guides forestry operations using 70 years of spatially explicit harvest forecasting

• Subject to performance assessment every 5 years
Alberta’s Forests
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Sustainable Forest Management
Thank you

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