

Chinook Community Forest Management Plan #K4R

Prepared by:

Babine Forest Products Limited

for

Chinook Community Forest Limited

March 30th, 2015

Introduction

Under the Forest Act section 43.3(f), Community Forests must submit a Management Plan for review and evaluation. It must be consistent with the requirements of the application and to the satisfaction of the Community Forest organization and the Delegated Decision Maker (DDM).

Under the requirements set out in section 6 of the July 1, 2009 Community Forest Agreement (CFA) application, this management plan is consistent with the CFA offer from the Ministry of Forest, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) and the criteria set out in the CFA agreement application requirements. This document is approved by the Chinook Community Forest steering committee appointed by the Board of Directors.

This management plan sets out the intent of management and activities; however, does not give approval for operations within the Community Forest area. The approval of the Forest Stewardship Plan and issuance of cutting authority for road permits and cutting permits allows the proponent to initiate activities within the area with Site Plans for each cutting authority.

Table of Contents

Introduction	ii
Table of Contents	iii
List of Tables	vi
Glossary.....	vii
1.0 District Documentation.....	1
2.0 Area Overview and Description	2
2.1 Licence Area	2
2.2 General Location and Area Description	2
2.3 Maps.....	3
3.0 Guiding Principles, Vision, Objectives and Goals.....	3
3.1 Vision	3
3.2 Guiding Principles.....	4
3.3 Goals.....	4
4.0 Resource Management Goals.....	4
4.1 Social	5
4.2 Economics.....	5
4.3 Environmental	5
5.0 Timber Resource Management Objectives	5
5.1 Timber	5
5.1.1 Operations and Harvesting	6
5.1.2 Basic Silviculture	6
5.1.3 Incremental Silviculture	7
5.1.4 Growth and Yield	7
6.0 Non-Timber Resource Values and Objectives	8
6.1 First Nations Cultural Heritage.....	8
6.2 Non-timber Forest Products (Botanicals and Prescribed Products)	9
6.3 Energy and Minerals Rights and Other Tenures	10

6.4	Recreation	11
6.5	Visual Resources.....	11
6.6	Biodiversity.....	12
6.7	Riparian	13
6.8	Fish and Wildlife.....	14
6.8.1	Fisheries	14
6.8.2	Ungluate Winter Range.....	15
6.9	Soils	15
6.10	Water	15
6.11	Community Wildfire Protection	16
6.12	Trappers, Guides and Range.....	17
7.0	Resource Inventories	17
7.1	Vegetation Resource Inventory	17
7.2	Timber Harvesting Land Base (THLB) Inventory.....	17
7.3	First Nations Cultural Heritage.....	19
7.4	Recreation	19
7.5	Wildlife and Fish.....	20
7.6	Silviculture	20
7.7	Guiding, Trapping and Range Tenures	21
7.8	Planned Resource Inventories.....	22
8.0	Access Management	22
8.1	Road Systems	22
8.2	Construction, Maintenance and Deactivation	22
9.0	Annual Reporting.....	23
10.0	Annual Allowable Cut (AAC).....	23
11.0	Consultation and Information Sharing	24
11.1	First Nations.....	24
11.2	Range, Guides, Trappers, Other Agreement Holders.....	25
12.0	Forest Certification	25

13.0 Provision for Revisions.....	25
14.0 Plan Signatures.....	26
Applicants’ Signatures.....	26
References	29
Appendix A – Government Correspondence Letters.....	30
A1: Regional Executive Director’s Letter of Invitation January 8 th , 2015.....	30
A2: Government’s Commitment Letter September 11 th , 2012	33
Appendix B	36
B1: Overview Area Map	36
B2: Sub-unit Area Maps	37
Appendix C - Chinook Area Calculations Procedures	38
Appendix D – DFO Pinkut Creek OIC Best Management Practices.....	39

List of Tables

Table 1 - Required Commitments for CFA	1
Table 2 - Chinook Community Forest Area	2
Table 3 – Chinook Community Forest Area Sub-unit Blocks	2
Table 4 - Area by Block of Active, Pending and Mineral Tenures	10
Table 5 - Area and Percent of THLB in VQOs	12
Table 6 - Area and Percent of OGMAs by Block.....	13
Table 7 - Area and Percent of BEC by Block.....	13
Table 8 - THLB Inventory by Age Class and Species	18
Table 9 - THLB Gross Area Net-downs	19
Table 10 - Recreation Trails, Sites & Reserves	19
Table 11 - Guiding Tenures	21
Table 12 - Range Tenures.....	21
Table 13 - Trapline Tenures	21

Glossary

AAC – Allowable Annual Cut

CFA – Community Forest Agreement

GAR - *Government Action Regulation*

HSC – Houston Snowmobile Club

FLNRO – Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

FPPR – *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation*

FRPA – *Forest Range and Practices Act*

FSR – Forest Service Roads

FSW – Fisheries Sensitive Watershed

LORS – Lakes Outdoors Recreation Society

LRMP – Land and Resource Management Plan

MPB – Mountain Pine Beetle

OIC – Order in Council

RED – Regional Executive Director

RESULTS - Reporting Silviculture Updates and Land status Tracking System

SRMP – Sustainable Resource Management Plan

THLB – Timber Harvesting Land Base

TSA – Timber Supply Area

UWR – Ungulate Winter Range

VQOs – Visual Quality Objectives

WMB – Wildfire Management Branch

WUI – Wildfire Urban Interface

1.0 District Documentation

The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) January 8th, 2015 letter of formal invitation to apply for Community Forest Agreement initiated the requirement of this management plan (see Appendix A1). Also included is the Government's commitment letter from September 11th, 2012 which outlines securing timber supply to support the rebuild of a facility in Burns Lake (see Appendix A2).

The following Table 1 is the required commitments from the January 8th letter and identified the section(s) of the management plan that outlined how the commitments will be met.

Table 1 - Required Commitments for CFA

Requirement Commitment	Page and Section of Management Plan
A statement confirming that the tenure holder will be managing all the roads within the CFA area under road permit, and will continue to provide the public with safe and easy access to its tenure area.	<i>Access Management section outlines the commitments to manage roads.</i>
For all recreation sites within the CFA area, a plan and a commitment pertaining to how the tenure holder will develop and maintain these sites and encourage other recreational use with the CFA area.	<i>Commitment made in resource management goals section. See Recreation section under Non-Timber Values and Objectives.</i>
For all areas within five km of private residences or public buildings and infrastructure, a plan that addresses and minimizes the wildfire risk to these assets.	<i>See Non-Timber Resource Values and Objectives section, Community Wildfire Protection.</i>
A commitment to monitor the growth and yield of trees and forests within the tenure area, and a plan on how the licensee plans to carry out this task.	<i>Set Timber Resources Management Objectives section, Growth and Yield.</i>
A commitment to collaborate with the appropriate provincial government ministry to ensure that sufficient habitat is available to support key wildlife and that wildlife populations within the tenure area are appropriately monitored.	<i>Commitment made in resource management goals section. Also see Fish and Wildlife section 6.8 under Non-Timber Values and Objectives.</i>
A commitment to reach and maintain forest certification within five years of the effective date of the tenure agreement.	<i>Forest Certification section states commitment.</i>

2.0 Area Overview and Description

2.1 Licence Area

The Chinook CFA area is composed of:

Table 2 - Chinook Community Forest Area

Schedule A Land (Private Land)	None
Schedule B Land (Crown Land)	88,806.19 ha
Mapsheet Reference	093L010, 093L019, 093L020, 093L029, 093L030, 093L039, 093L040, 093L049, 093L050, 093L060, 093K001, 093K002, 093K013, 093K014, 093K023, 093K024, 093K031, 093K033, 093K034, 093K041, 093K043, 093K044, 093E080, 093E089, 093E090, 093E099, 093E100, 093F071, 093F081, 093F091, 093F092, 093F093

2.2 General Location and Area Description

The Chinook CFA is located within the Lakes Timber Supply Area (TSA) and its sub-units are discontinuous across the TSA. The area is composed of 5 separate blocks of land from South of Babine Lake to North of Ootsa Lake.

Table 3 – Chinook Community Forest Area Sub-unit Blocks

Community Forest Units	Description	Block Number	Total Gross Area (hectares)
Babine West	Along the west end of the TSA north of hwy 16	1	31,034
Babine Lake East	East part of TSA south of Babine Lake along both sides of Pinkut Creek	2	8,876
Maxan/Bulkley	Along the west end of the TSA south of hwy 16	3	11,948
Burns Lake East	East part of TSA, north of hwy 16, east along the Augier Main forestry road	4	9,984
South Francois Lake	Between Francois Lake and Ootsa Lake; west-central TSA	5	68,402

The CFA sub-units interface with private land, woodlots and public infrastructure such as highway 16, highway 37 and Forest Service Roads (FSRs). Areas like private land and woodlots will be netted out of the final THLB working forest area.

Much of the Lakes TSA is currently under a mix of replaceable and non-replaceable volume based and area based tenures. Within the CFA a few different volume based tenure holders have operated within it. Existing tenures may still have harvesting rights under active cutting

permits or silviculture obligations to achieve in plantations. Historically, the majority of the CFA units were primarily used for forestry activities (timber products). The overall intent for the area under the Chinook CFA is to focus on forest management and timber activities.

Blocks 1 and 5 do have some range and woodlot tenures that have historically used the area. All the blocks have traplines and guiding tenures that may use the area. Blocks 1 and 5 have the large majority of private land adjacent to the CFA.

The current state of the timber resource includes heavily impacted Mountain Pine Beetle stands. Much of the pine dominated landscapes have been impacted by the beetle so there are elevated levels of dead pine within the CFA.

2.3 Maps

See Appendix B for the following maps:

- B1: Overview map of entire CFA
- B2: Individual maps of Sub-unit blocks

3.0 Guiding Principles, Vision, Objectives and Goals

Chinook will manage the Provincial CFA Program Objectives by incorporating them into the guiding principles and goals for the CFA. Chinook will be consistent with the following provincial government objectives for Community Forests:

1. provide long-term opportunities for achieving a range of community objectives, values and priorities;
2. diversify the use of and benefits derived from the community forest agreement area;
3. provide social and economic benefits to British Columbia;
4. undertake community forestry consistent with sound principles of environmental stewardship that reflect a broad spectrum of values;
5. promote community involvement and participation;
6. promote communication and strengthen relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities and persons;
7. foster innovation; and
8. advocate forest worker safety.

3.1 Vision

Chinook's vision is sustainable forest management that fosters and supports a healthy and vibrant local community and economy for current and future generations. Chinook's mission is

to effectively and efficiently manage the community forest to maximize the benefits to all residents in the Lakes District.

3.2 Guiding Principles

Chinook's guiding principles are as follows:

1. Maintain community involvement which is represented by a local Board of Directors derived of First Nations and local government representatives.
2. Ensure forest resources are managed in a manner that is environmentally sustainable for the long-term.
3. Maintain and enhance a high standard of environmental stewardship through innovative avenues of land base management.
4. Practice forest management that applies a balanced use of land base resources.
5. Encourage local job creation and sustainability with increased quality of life within the community.
6. Initiate and sustain partnerships between Chinook, First Nations, and the community at large.
7. Generate revenue that is sustainable over the long-term for the benefits of current and future generations.
8. Maintain and enhance current recreational sites and features in the Chinook area.
9. Be transparent in all activities.

3.3 Goals

In addition to the provincial government objectives for community forests and Chinook's guiding principles, the following are Chinook's goals:

- Maintain a high standard of safety so that operations are conducted in a safe manner for the benefit of forest workers and forest users.
- Focus on the utilization of dead pine in the short term.
- Provide opportunities for meaningful public involvement.
- Support local businesses and build capacity locally for long term sustainability of the community.
- Generate revenues through a financially viable business model.

4.0 Resource Management Goals

The following section contains the broad social, economic and resource management goals for the CFA and are consistent with the guiding principles and goals.

4.1 Social

- Sustain the current forestry sector in Burns Lake which provides the economic stability for the local community.
- Ensure the protection and safety of people and property through wildfire management.
- Practice open dialogue with the community on resource management.
- Collaborate with persons and other resource groups and stakeholders within the CFA.

4.2 Economics

- Support local businesses with the expertise in resource management to the extent practicable.
- Utilize the timber resource allocated to Chinook CFA.
- Promote First Nations and local government relations through economic development opportunities.
- Encourage and initiate innovative forest practices which can help sustain and/or increase the AAC over the long-term.

4.3 Environmental

- Achieve a high level of environmental standards through forest certification.
- Promote sustainable harvest practices which are consistent with legislation.
- Be consistent with forestry legislation and with higher level plans under FRPA.
- Collaborate with provincial government to ensure habitat to support key wildlife.

5.0 Timber Resource Management Objectives

The overall management intent for the Chinook CFA is to produce and harvest fiber for sale. The license provides the opportunity for the community of Burns Lake and local First Nations groups to have local input on how to manage the timber resource and provides direct and indirect social and economic support for the communities.

5.1 Timber

Harvesting within the Chinook CFA will be in accordance with the legislated requirements under the *Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA)* and *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation (FPPR)*. Chinook will also be consistent with other relevant legislation and regulations, higher level plans, land use plans and objectives, protected areas, Land Act orders and government orders. Some of the strategic plans and Orders that will apply to Chinook's CFA are:

- Lakes District Land and Resource Management Plan

- Lakes South Sustainable Resource Plan
- Lakes North Sustainable Resource Plan
- 2010 Lakes Scenic Areas Order

The Lakes TSA has been heavily impacted by the Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) and there is an expected “fall-down” in available timber supply in the near future (3-5 years). Chinook’s area is representative of the timber types within the Lakes TSA; approximately 65-70% pine and 30-35% non-pine species. The goal for harvesting priorities in the short-term is to target the salvage of beetle-killed lodgepole pine before it diminishes beyond utilization. Harvesting of non-pine volume will be minimized to preserve harvest opportunities for the mid-term and meet the current non-pine partition and apportionment requirements of the Lakes TSA.

Under FRPA, Chinook is required to prepare and have approved a Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) prior to operations. Section 6 of FPPR identifies the objectives set by government for timber; therefore, the FSP will not prepare results or strategies for timber (FPPR, section 12(8)).

5.1.1 Operations and Harvesting

The primary means of harvesting will be with ground based harvesting systems which includes feller-bunchers, skidders and processors. There may be some opportunity to harvest some steeper ground through cable harvesting systems. Harvesting objectives will strive to:

- Have operations carried out in compliance with FRPA and its associated regulations;
- Focus on total chance planning in an area to maximize harvesting of dead pine stands and to not isolate timber;
- Selecting harvesting season(s) based on specific site factors details in Site Plans. Site factors considered during harvesting will include, but not limited to, potential soil features that may lead to soil degradation, potential impacts on wildlife, potential impact on regeneration capabilities and seasonal economics;
- Have operations not be carried out on wet soils during saturated conditions that may cause soil degradation;
- Have operations that will minimize soil disturbance and degradation; and
- Have operations that will maximize fiber utilization through minimizing stump heights (less than 30cm), minimizing top diameter, and use of feasible bioenergy product that is available during harvest.

5.1.2 Basic Silviculture

Under FRPA section 29 and the FPPR section 16 and 44, Chinook will be required to establish a free growing stand. Chinook’s objective is to create diversity with mixed-species planting where possible, planting suitable stocking types and sizes, site preparation where necessary to ensure survival on challenging sites and brush treatments as required to achieve free growing

targets. Chinook's goal is to reforest areas promptly following harvest completion consistent with the approved stocking standards under the FSP. The specific stocking standards will be documented in Chinook's FSP and they will generally follow the accepted standards currently used in the local area.

5.1.3 Incremental Silviculture

Incremental silviculture projects such as fertilization, pruning or spacing may be proposed. Proposals will depend on the availability of Forest Investment Account (FIA) funding and the surveyed suitable areas for treatment within the CFA. Fertilization does occur in the Lakes TSA through the Land Based Investment Strategy (LBIS) as the stands start to meet the criteria for fertilization¹. In 2012, within the proposed CFA block 5 in the Verdun area, approximately 2,000 hectares of predominantly Lodgepole Pine stands were fertilized. This will contribute to improvements in growth and yield in these younger stands.

Other opportunities to increase the productivity of the land base will also be explored site by site. For example, the use of class A seed stock or rehabilitation of in block roads to increase plantable areas within the harvested block. In turn, this will increase the productive land base and decrease permanent access structures.

5.1.4 Growth and Yield

A requirement of the CFA is to commit to monitor the growth and yield of trees and forests within the tenure area. Chinook is committed to developing a growth and yield monitoring program over the first five years². There are many avenues and methods that can be used to develop a meaningful growth and yield (G&Y) monitoring program. The objective of Chinook's G&Y monitoring program will be:

- Measurements over time that provide consistent and linear projections that can show trends in managed forest stands;
- The ability to use the measurements by incorporating them into timber supply analysis; and
- Consistency with provincial inventory measurement programs as a good practice to ensure evaluations with higher level timber objectives and good forest stewardship can also be determined³.

¹ http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hcp/fia/landbase/standards/fertilization_program_information.htm;
<http://lbis.forestpracticesbranch.com/LBIS/>

² Feb 20th, 2015 discussion with Manager of Analysis Branch; Recommended using YSM as the G&Y program because there is plenty of data on current mature stands through PSPs; however the concerns for inventory and analysis is the yields and development of young stands.

³ Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. Vegetation Resource Monitoring Program.
<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hts/vri/monitoring/monitoring.html>

Chinook will develop a G&Y evaluation process consistent with the Provincial programs and other area based tenures so that the information collected is useful and comparable to others in the province. Some options may be Change Inventory Monitoring (CMI)⁴ or Young Stand Monitoring (YSM)⁵ as a permanent and ongoing data collection process. The G&Y program will consist of the following elements:

- The identification and use of existing plots such as permanent sample plots (PSPs) where practicable;
- The establishment of a sufficient number of new plots over the next five years, which will support a statistically sound sampling program; and
- Continual periodical monitoring for established plots over the life of the CFA.

6.0 Non-Timber Resource Values and Objectives

6.1 First Nations Cultural Heritage

Chinook's objective for heritage resources under FPPR Section 10 and not covered by the *Heritage Conservation Act*, is to ensure that First Nation cultural heritage resources are maintained and conserved. Any features or traditional use area(s) identified and deemed as a significant value to a First Nations group will be protected within the CFA.

Chinook's CFA area overlaps with several First Nations groups. The following First Nations (including tribal councils and associations) have communities in the TSA⁶:

- Cheslatta Carrier Nation;
- Lake Babine Nation;
- Burns Lake Band;
- Wet'suwet'en First Nation;
- Skin Tye Nation; and
- Nee Tahi Buhn Band.

First Nations (including tribal councils and associations) with interest but located outside of the TSA include:

- Office of the Wet'suwet'en;
- Stelat'en First Nation;

⁴ http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hts/vri/standards/gs_cmi.html

⁵ <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hts/vri/monitoring/monitoring.html>

⁶ http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/mountain_pine_beetle/mid-term-timber-supply-project/Lakes%20TSA.pdf

- Nadleh Whut'en Band;
- Ulkatcho Band; and
- Yekooche First Nation.

6.2 *Non-timber Forest Products (Botanicals and Prescribed Products)*

“NTFPs include all of the botanical (plant) forest products (BFP) and mycological (fungus) resources and associated services of the forest other than conventional timber products such as lumber, and pulp”⁷. There are seven recognized categories: wild edible mushrooms, floral greenery, medicinal products, fruits and berries, herbs and vegetables, landscaping products, and craft products⁸. Some products that may be harvested within the CFA area (but not limited to):

- Medicinal and Pharmaceuticals;
- Mushrooms;
- Floras;
- Berries;
- Beverages;
- Craft products (e.g. weaving or carving);
- Firewood and biofuel;
- Christmas trees; and
- Cones and seeds.

It is known that there is personal and non-commercial harvesting for NTFPs within the CFA; however, the extent of the harvesting is unknown. Chinook understands and sees that the use of and free access to NTFPs by local residents as part of the local culture and does not intend to limit or regulate this use. The income opportunities and recreational and cultural pleasures afforded by harvesting NTFPs must not be unnecessarily infringed upon⁹. Unless such harvesting is unsustainable or is degrading to ecosystems and/or other resource values.

The objective for managing NTFPs if and when the opportunity arises, will be to focus on the balance of social and economic factors that provide diversification for resource uses. Factors such as community stability, different priorities of local and transient botanical forest product harvesters, costs and benefits for small businesses, employment opportunities and

⁷ Hamilton, E., 2012. Non-timber forest products in British Columbia: Policies, practices, opportunities, and recommendations. *Journal of Ecosystems and Management* 13(2):1–24. Published by FORREX Forum for Research and Extension in Natural Resources. <http://jem.forrex.org/index.php/jem/article/viewFile/165/111>

⁸ Lakes District Land and Resource Management Plan (2000).

⁹ Ministry of Forests, 1995. Summary of Public Resources, Pine Mushroom Task Force Recommendations. http://ruralnetwork.royalroads.ca/sites/default/files/tools_resources/de-geus-1995-public-response-matsutake-recommendations-bc.pdf

employment losses associated with restricted harvest market development requirements may be evaluated when determining the viability of NTFPs.

Within the first 5 year term of the management plan, Chinook does not anticipate any NTFPs commercial use or harvesting and will be consistent with the BFP regulation. This section will be reviewed if and when there are identified opportunities when users groups or persons approach Chinook for harvesting of a particular product. To reduce potential conflicts between the resource uses, the measures for BFPs or any prescribed product will be:

- To encourage commercial users to submit a proposal to Chinook to harvest NTFP(s) to determine the sustainability of the product. Chinook will require the proponent to submit a proposal which will outline the product, the harvesting area(s), the harvesting strategies for sustainability (harvest rates) and the economic viability of the NTFP.
- Continue to develop an inventory of NTFPs. This may prove challenging as persons or groups may not want to divulge information and location(s) of a high valued product.
- Coordinate forest resource use to minimize conflicts with timber harvesting activities¹⁰.
- Continue research on the potential for NTFPs and products and its economic viability. NTFPs have the potential to add economic diversity and opportunity, which may reduce the pressures for timber products.

6.3 Energy and Minerals Rights and Other Tenures

Equity mine is located in block 4 (Maxan) area along the western border of the Morice / Lakes TSA boundaries. Chinook does not plan to work in close proximity to the mine unless both parties are understanding and in agreement of the work being conducted. Chinook will work with and come to an understanding with other tenures holders if and when Chinook’s timber development overlaps with other tenures. Table 4 outlines the current total area where the CFA overlays with other tenures.

Table 4 - Area by Block of Active, Pending and Mineral Tenures

Block	THLB (ha)	FTA Active Tenure (THLB)	FTA Pending Tenure (THLB)	Mineral (THLB)
1	14,256	222	136	29
2	7,492	1,151		
3	8,051		7	879
4	7,527	428	95	35
5	28,946	260		69
Total Area	66,272	2,061	238	1,012

¹⁰Botanical Forest Products in British Columbia (April, 1995). <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/publications/00002/>

6.4 Recreation

The forest management objective for recreation sites and uses will be to identify and maintain the value that is identified as a recreation feature, without unduly reducing the potential for Chinook to meet other objectives. Within the first five years of operations, Chinook will work towards developing a recreation plan and identify recreation sites in cooperation with the Nadina-Skeena District of Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC), FLNRO. RSTBC holds the legal authority for the management of public recreation on crown land including designated recreation sites and trails. Working with local groups that have legal Partnership Agreements (PA) under FRPA or creational interests within the CFA will be consulted with to develop the recreation management plan. Currently there are two PA administered by the RSTBC within the CFA. One is held by the Lakes Outdoor Recreation Society (LORS) to maintain the four recreation sites within the CFA and the other is with the Houston Snowmobile Club (HSC) to maintain a snowmobile trail network that is partially within the CFA area. Chinook will commit to develop and maintain the designated sites.

There are several sites within the CFA that are identified in the Resource Inventory section of the plan. There are opportunities to expand recreation and tourism through the maintenance and enhancement of current sites and access to these sites. Chinook will encourage other recreational use within the CFA area by not limiting or restricting access into areas, unless restriction is required for the enhancement of other objectives such as public safety (e.g. removal an unsafe bridge), wildlife habitat protection, wildfire, sensitive and rare ecosystems or susceptible waterbodies.

Within the first five years of the license Chinook will develop a recreation plan in conjunction with RSTBC which:

- Identifies recreation features within the CFA and the maintenance that is required for each site;
- Allocates funds, resources (e.g. in-kind time or equipment) and timelines for activities to be completed; and
- Ensures the safety of the public is encompassed in the maintenance activities.

6.5 Visual Resources

The overall management objective for visuals will be to maintain the aesthetic quality and scenic values of the resource within the CFA. The Lakes TSA has a Visual Government Action Regulation (GAR) Order establishing scenic areas within the TSA¹¹. These scenic areas have established visual quality objectives (VQOs). When planning operations within visual areas,

¹¹ <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/tasb/legsregs/frpa/frparegs/govact/orders/dnd.htm>

Chinook will employ the principles of good visual design (lines of force, slope, soft edges and decrease skyline notches) to minimize the impact to the visual resource. Table 5 is a breakdown of THLB area within the VQO classes.

Table 5 - Area and Percent of THLB in VQOs

Block	THLB (ha)	THLB (ha) VQO					
		R	% R	PR	% PR	M	% M
1	14,256	563	4%	2,924	21%	821	6%
2	7,492	1,003	13%	2,074	28%	350	5%
3	8,051		0%	1,644	20%	832	10%
4	7,527		0%	1,296	17%		0%
5	28,946	875	3%	5,614	19%		0%
Total Area	66,272	2,441		13,552		2,003	

Chinook may explore opportunities to harvest within scenic areas if it poses a threat and risk to public safety or infrastructure because of wildfire hazards and risks such as dead timber causing increased fuel loading (see Community Wildfire Protection section 6.11).

6.6 Biodiversity

Currently, the Lakes TSA Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP)¹² sets the higher level objectives for biodiversity. Detailed biodiversity requirements for objectives such as Old Growth Management Areas (OGMAs), seral stage distribution, connectivity, patch size distribution, wildlife tree retention, retention of wild young forest and coniferous and deciduous tree species diversity are further developed through the Lakes South¹³ and North¹⁴ Sustainable Resource Management Plans (SRMPs). These plans provide more operational clarity and direction to implement the objectives. Tables 6 and 7 show the area of OGMAs and BEC for each of the CFA blocks.

¹² <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/DND/external/!publish/POLICY/Current/LRMP/Final%20Lakes%20LRMP.pdf>

¹³ http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/tasb/slrp/srmp/north/lakes_south/docs/Lakes_South_srmp_approved.pdf

¹⁴ http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/tasb/slrp/srmp/north/lakes_north/Docs/Lakes_North_SRMP_20090126.pdf

Table 6 - Area and Percent of OGMA by Block

Block	Gross (ha)	OGMA (Gross - outside of THLB)	% OGMA
1	31,034	1,687	5%
2	8,876	790	9%
3	11,948	1,570	13%
4	9,984	103	1%
5	68,402	3,629	5%
Total Area		7,779	

Table 7 - Area and Percent of BEC by Block

Block	Gross (ha)	THLB (ha)	SBS (THLB) NDT 3	% SBS	ESSF (THLB) NDT = 2 Except **	% ESSF
1	31,034	14,256	14,255	100%	1	0%
2	8,876	7,492	7,259	97%	233	3%
3	11,948	8,051	1,677	21%	6373**	79%
4	9,984	7,527	6,882	91%	644	9%
5	68,402	28,946	28,897	100%	49	0%
**15ha is ESSFmcp NDT 5						

6.7 Riparian

Section 8 of the FPPR sets the OSBG for water, fish, wildlife and biodiversity within riparian areas. Chinook’s objective is to meet the requirements set out in the FPPR sections 47 to 51, 52(2) and 53 which outline riparian reserves, management zones and forest retention by riparian class. Chinook will strive to be consistent with local efforts for riparian management objectives and management strategies. Some strategies that will assist in achieving the riparian objective, but are not limited to:

- Minimizing crossing riparian features with forest road(s);
- Riparian reserve zones meeting the targets set in FPPR sections 47 to 49 but may be expanded dependent on a site by site assessment; and
- Retaining adequate stream side vegetation and trees for forest cover and stream side bank stability.

6.8 Fish and Wildlife

Chinook is committed to collaborating with provincial government to ensure habitat to support key wildlife without unduly effecting timber supply. Some strategies that may be used to determine and study fish and wildlife are:

- Dialogue with First Nation elders on what is important to their cultural heritage. Develop research and surveys around what they would like to see. For example, moose population is an important value to First Nations in the area; therefore a study may be developed with objectives to address any concerns;
- In collaboration with FLNRO, priority species will be indentified and risks will be determined for each species without unduly impacting timber supply;
- Access mitigation where species and/or their habitat has been indentified to reduce the risk to incremental mortality and maintain future habitat supply and connectivity as the primary objective; and
- Collaboration with FLNRO on population monitoring objectives and species specific assessments that identify trends to understand the effects of the proposed forest management activities.

In preliminary discussions with FLNRO some of the priority species that could have overlap with the Chinook's tenure are¹⁵:

- Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*);
- Mountain Goat (*Oreamnos americanus*);
- Moose (*Alces alces*);
- Salmon (*Oncorhynchus spp.*, *Salmo salar*)¹⁶;
- Char (*Salvelinus*); and
- Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus*).

6.8.1 Fisheries

There are no fisheries sensitive watersheds (FSW) identified at this time within the CFA and thus no measures, results or strategies for the management of FSWs.

The Pinkut Creek Order in Council (OIC) area in block 2 is a required management area to conserve values necessary for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) Pinkut Creek Fish Hatchery. The hatchery is an important part of the Babine Lake Sockeye Salmon runs and are valued in the local First Nations cultural heritage. The buffer around the OIC is approximately

¹⁵ March 12th, 2015 email from Dana Atagi (R.P.Bio), Ecosystems Resource Management Division.

¹⁶ Appendix 9C B.C. Fish Species Codes. March 27th, 2015. From:
<https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hts/risc/pubs/aquatic/fiss/fiss94-17.htm>

400m and limits activities that remove shade and coverage for streams that flow directly into Pinkut Creek. Removal of dead pine stands has been permitted in the past as the dead pine pose a threat to falling over and introducing siltation into the streams. Chinook's strategy will be to work with DFO and the outlined best management practices (appendix D) when developing within the OIC area.

6.8.2 Ungulate Winter Range

Within the Lakes TSA under FPPR Section 7 objectives for wildlife, there is an approved ungulate winter range (UWR) notices for moose and deer¹⁷. The "Notice – Indicators of the amount, distribution and attributes of Wildlife Habitat required for the winter survival of ungulate species in the Lakes Timber Supply Area", outlines the requirements for UWR. Chinook will be consistent with this notice.

6.9 Soils

The OSBG for soils are in FPPR Section 5, which is *"without unduly reducing the supply of timber from British Columbia's forests, to conserve the productivity and hydrologic function of soils"*.

Chinook will be consistent with the results and strategies listed in FPPR Section 35 and 36 for soil disturbance, permanent access structures and rehabilitation strategies. Where necessary specific measures on a site by site basis will be outlined in the Site Plan for each cutblock.

Other strategies that may be employed, but not limited to:

- Operations on frozen soils to minimize impacts;
- Machine free zones around sensitive soils;
- Locating skid trails instead of roads to minimize construction; and
- Minimizing lengths of roads or skid trails over sensitive soils.

6.10 Water

The overall water management objective will be to minimize the effects of forest activities that may have detrimental impacts on the quantity, quality and/or timing of flow of water supplies to water users. Currently, there are no community watersheds within the CFA. Strategies that Chinook may employ, but are not limited to:

- Classification of streams, lakes or wetlands applicable to the cutblock area during development stage;
- Using existing stream inventory and sampling data to determine classification;
- Riparian management areas around classified streams, lakes and wetlands will be managed as required under the FPPR; and

¹⁷ <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/frpa/notices/uwr.html#nif>

- The use of further guidance from the Forest Practices Code Guidebook.

6.11 Community Wildfire Protection

Effective wildfire suppression in the area for the past several decades has created a build-up of fuels compounded by the MPB. Wildfire is natural and common within the Lakes TSA but can be a risk to balancing other resources as it holds no boundaries (e.g. TSAs, wildlife habitat, OGMAs). Chinook will prioritize fuel reduction strategies and harvest priorities across the CFA area by identifying fuel loaded sites (e.g. heavily attacked and dead forest health affected timber). Some of the strategies that Chinook will proactively use to manage the risk of wildfire are, but not limited to:

- Assisting land owners where practicable, to employ fire protection on their adjacent forested properties;
- Promote the usage of wildfire educational material already available such as Fire Smart¹⁸ principles;
- Harvesting priorities focused on the removal of dead pine in and around communities; and
- Reducing ladder fuels and fuel loading where feasible to use partial cutting techniques.

It is important to note that these strategies may not prevent wildfires from occurring, but will help in the reduction and risk of ignition, the spread rate and severity of fires if and when they should occur and create access and critical evacuation routes for fire fighters.

Chinook will work towards collaborative strategies with the province's Wildfire Management Branch (WMB) and Lakes Fire Management Planning (LFMP) Coordination team when operating within a 5 kilometers of private residences or public buildings and infrastructure. This landscape management planning for wildfire risk through LFMP will provide Chinook the opportunity to work with WMB to identify higher risk fuel types across the CFA to be higher in harvest priorities for fuel removal. The LFMP team is currently identifying high risk areas through the Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis process within the Wildfire Urban Interface areas of the Lakes TSA¹⁹ within the CFA. This collaboration with WMB will allow Chinook to be consistent with provincial objectives for managing wildfire risk around communities²⁰.

¹⁸ <https://www.firesmartcanada.ca/resources-library/protecting-your-community-from-wildfire>;
<https://www.firesmartcanada.ca/resources-library/becoming-a-firesmart-community>

¹⁹ Meeting with Jeff Walsh, Wildfire Management Branch, Burns Lake. February 17th, 2015.

²⁰ <http://bcwildfire.com/Prevention/PrescribedFire/docs/BCWFMS.pdf>

6.12 Trappers, Guides and Range

To manage the trapper, guide and range resources within the CFA area, Chinook will share information with tenure holders during the planning stage and prior to harvesting to minimize the impact of operation on these tenures (i.e. road building and timber harvesting). Chinook will have an “open door” policy on working with the resource users during all stages of development.

7.0 Resource Inventories

Many of the resource inventories are digital and are readily available on government websites or by request from FLNRO. The 2010 Lakes Timber Supply Analysis and Review packages uses inventories available through the Geo-Data BC website²¹ and BC geographic warehouse and Data BC website²². Digital inventories and spatial information such as VRI, parks and protected areas, predictive ecosystem mapping (PEM), Old Growth Management Areas (OGMAs), ungulate winter range (UWR), landscape connectivity matrix and biological ecosystem networks (BENs), Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification (BEC) riparian, roads and cutblocks. Chinook will collect an internal database of these inventories, which will be used in the future timber supply analysis for the CFA.

7.1 Vegetation Resource Inventory

In 2012, the Lakes TSA was flown for an updated inventory of orthophotography (orthos) and are available for purchase through FLNRO. With the new orthos, the Lakes TSA is currently undergoing a re-inventory of the Vegetation Resource Inventory (VRI) for the entire TSA. When completed, Chinook will use this as the base for determining timber inventories within the area and the VRI will be used in the future internal timber supply analysis. How this VRI information was used for the CFA can be found in the Timber Harvesting Land Base Inventory section below.

7.2 Timber Harvesting Land Base (THLB) Inventory

Using the THLB inventory provided by FLNRO, the following Table 8 is a description of the timber by age class and species. It is grouped by three different age class combinations to show what the potential is for harvesting in the short, mid and long term ranges over the consolidated CFA blocks. Table 9 shows the THLB information that was derived from FLNRO’s timber supply analysis for the CFA and was used to determine the annual allowable cut (see section on AAC for details).

²¹ <http://geobc.gov.bc.ca/>

²² <http://www.data.gov.bc.ca/dbc/geographic/download/index.page?>

Table 8 - THLB Inventory by Age Class and Species

Age Classes	Age Range
1	0-20
2	21-40
3	41-60
4	61-80
5	81-100
6	101-120
7	121-140
8	141-250
9	251+

Species	Age Class	Total (hectares)	Percent of Total Inventory
Pli	1 - 3	15,387	23.2%
	4	9,166	13.8%
	5 - 9	18,008	27.2%
		42,561	64.2%
Sx	1 - 3	2,759	4.2%
	4	1,196	1.8%
	5 - 9	9,357	14.1%
		13,312	20.1%
Bl	1 - 3	941	1.4%
	4	72	0.1%
	5 - 9	1,750	2.6%
		2,763	4.2%
Deciduous		133	0.2%
Other		7,498	11.3%
Grand Total		66,267	

Table 9 - THLB Gross Area Net-downs²³

THLB NetDowns	Area (hectares)
Gross Area	88,806
Balsam > 250 yrs	405
Deciduous	6,405
Non-Forest	6,557
Non-BC Forest Service	1,048
OGMA	7,421

7.3 First Nations Cultural Heritage

The following are several sources of archeological and culture heritage digital inventories that may be used in the management of Chinook’s CFA.

- Lakes Archeological Resource Project (LARP)
- Consultative Area Database (CAD)
- Remote Access to Archeology Data (RAAD) – FLNRO database reviewed during the information sharing process
- Information Sharing from First Nations groups
- Provincial Archeology Branch - requesting provincial data
- Local knowledge of cultural heritage importance

7.4 Recreation

An inventory of the recreation sites within the CFA was provided by the RSTBC. These sites are included in Table 10 below.

Table 10 - Recreation Trails, Sites & Reserves²⁴

Block Number	Site, Trail or Reserve	Name	REC Number	Partnership Group
2	Site	Taltapin Lake	REC0502	LORS
4	Site	Co-Op Lake	REC0501	LORS
5	Site	Indian Bay	REC0552	LORS
5	Site	Ootsa Lake (Landing)	REC0544	LORS
2	Trail	Walkadab Trail	REC6472	
3	Trail	Houston Snowmobile-Dungate Trails	REC06912	HSC
2	Reserve	Pinkut Spawning Channel (Taltapin-Anderson Creek)	REC0681	N/A / Undeveloped

²³ Provided by Nadina Forest District Netdowns to calculated THLB area.

²⁴ Information provided by Ben Heemsker (PAG) at RSTBC, Smithers, BC. March 24th, 2015.

5	Reserve	Uncha Lake North	REC0968	N/A / Undeveloped
2	Reserve	Day Lake	REC0512	N/A / Undeveloped
2	Reserve	Bulkley Falls	REC0575	N/A / Undeveloped
2	Reserve	Taltapin Lake NW	REC0718	N/A / Undeveloped

Recreation opportunities within the CFA include, but are not limited to:

- Camp sites;
- Hiking trails;
- Guiding;
- Backcountry Lakes;
- Horseback riding;
- Snowmobiling;
- ATVing; and
- Fishing and Hunting.

7.5 *Wildlife and Fish*

Management tools that are currently used for Wildlife and Fish include protected areas and old-growth management, wildlife habitat areas and ungulate winter ranges, wildlife tree patches, Order in Council for fisheries sensitive streams (e.g. Pinkut Creek and Nadina River) and landscape seral-stage targets.

7.6 *Silviculture*

There are many openings within the CFA that are already harvested and in various stages of silviculture and free growing status. The majority of the current silviculture activities from other tenures' obligation within the CFA should be found in the Reporting Silviculture Updates and Land status Tracking System (RESULTS) database. RESULTS is then used to update VRI on an annual bases.

Silviculture requirements for Chinook will be to reforest harvested area and conduct stand tending as required for young stands to assist them to a free growing status. For areas harvested by Chinook, silviculture surveys will be conducted to determine forest health, stand densities and species are reasonably meeting the reforestation obligations under the FSP and FRPA. Silviculture activities will be tracked in RESULTS and updated as required for activities completed within openings in the CFA area. It is important that Chinook continues to frequently update RESULTS to insure the database accurately reflects the new inventory updates.

7.7 Guiding, Trapping and Range Tenures

Currently, the following Table 11 lists the guiding tenures that exist within the CFA:

Table 11 - Guiding Tenures

Block Location	Guiding Tenure Certificate
Block 1	601003, 601013
Block 2	601012
Block 3	601013, 600667
Block 4	601012
Block 5	601013, 601049, 600355

Currently, the following Table 12 lists the active range tenures that exist within the CFA:

Table 12 - Range Tenures

Block Location	Range Tenure Forest File ID
Block 1	RAN075810, RAN075803, RAN076044, RAN076669, RAN076042, RAN074402, RAN075005, RAN075969, RAN074911, RAN074396, RAN074014, RAN074571
Block 4	RAN075811, RAN076039, RAN074907, RAN075791
Block 5	RAN075809, RAN075318, RAN076041, RAN074164, RAN074885, RAN076028, RAN074891, RAN073682, RAN076138, RAN074041, RAN074152, RAN075220, RAN075220, RAN074908, RAN075317, RAN073117, RAN075807, RAN076043, RAN075984, RAN075802, RAN075014, RAN074378, RAN076038, RAN075809, RAN075808, RAN074160, RAN076047, RAN075805, RAN074162, RAN074912, RAN076045, RAN075980, RAN075221, RAN074913, RAN074860, RAN074160

Currently, the following trapline tenures exist within the CFA and are listed in table 13 below:

Table 13 - Trapline Tenures

Block Location	Trapline Tenure Area Identifier
Block 1	TR0604T033, TR0605T011, TR0606T009, TR0606T010, TR0606T012, TR0608T001, TR0608T002, TR0609T001, TR0609T002
Block 2	TR0606T005, TR0606T007
Block 3	TR0604T032, TR0609T001, TR0609T064
Block 4	TR0605T004, TR0695T006, TR0605T007
Block 5	TR0602T004, TR0604T010, TR0604T014, TR0604T015, TR0604T018, TR0604T019, TR0604T020, TR0604T035, TR0604T036

7.8 *Planned Resource Inventories*

Within the first five years of operations after the issuance of the CFA, a landscape level review of other resources and inventories may be required to be collected and compiled.

- Quality and quantity of infrastructure;
- Important wildlife areas and/or habitat;
- High non-timber forest use values; and
- Operational challenges such as steep slopes, excessive moisture.

8.0 *Access Management*

The area under the CFA will remain accessible to the public. Chinook will manage the roads within the CFA area under road permit, and will continue to provide the public with safe and easy access within the tenure area.

8.1 *Road Systems*

The majority of the CFA is well roaded and various classes and standards of roads exist. Therefore there will most likely be limited requirements to build any new major road systems. Challenging ground such as steep terrain may require innovative road layout for safe access to timber.

8.2 *Construction, Maintenance and Deactivation*

New road development is considered an investment for future timber access. Roads will be maintained and/or deactivated as required. Chinook's objective for newly developed roads in the CFA are:

- to construct maintain and deactivate roads in a manner that is consistent with FRPA and the FPPR;
- to ensure structurally sound and safe construction and maintenance; and
- to minimize the impact on the land base and other resource values, such as water or timber productive areas.

The following strategies maybe implemented for roads on a site by site basis and where practicable (but not limited to these strategies):

- deactivate road sections and/or rehabilitate sections (decompress soils and plant) that do not access timber beyond the harvested area;
- deactivate road sections that are required for access management purposes;

- minimize road lengths during layout and harvesting phases;
- winter harvest which requires less road surfacing and minimizes soil compaction;
- construct roads with widths that are minimal but can be safely navigated (e.g. 4.5 to 6 meters wide); and/or
- follow the measures listed in FPPR section 82 and 83 when deactivating a road. This may include but is not limited to, removing bridges and culverts, cross-ditching for water management, barricading the road and posting signage for deactivations.

Chinook will develop an access management plan within the first five year term of the license once the road assets are transferred. This plan will include:

- identifying key road systems and main access routes which will be vital for the movement of fiber and scheduling maintenance activities;
- determining which roads and road permits are not necessary and deactivation and retirement of these roads; and
- identifying infrastructure such as culverts and bridges.

9.0 Annual Reporting

Chinook CFA commits to producing an annual report in its 1st year of operations and every subsequent year of active operations thereafter. The annual report may be delivered in the form of a newsletter, advertisement, presentation at a meeting or electronically distributed as requested. The report will provide information to the public which will include the following:

1. Outlining how the Provincial CFA Program Objectives will be managed for;
2. Include the agreement holder's guiding principles;
3. Contain the social, economic and broad resource management goals proposed for the CFA;
4. Information on active forest management activities, and
5. Include a financial report for the term of the report.

The Chinook CFA commits to holding at least one annual general meeting or open house for the public each calendar year and will have an open door policy on any inquires relating to the CFA.

10.0 Annual Allowable Cut (AAC)

Chinook accepts the province's base AAC as described in the RED's letter with a commitment to redo the analysis within five years following the issuance of the CFA.

FLNRO's Forest Analysis and Inventory Branch (FAIB) completed the Timber Supply Analysis and determined an AAC of 150,000 m³ per year for a period of three years, followed by an AAC of 65,000 m³ per year for a period of two years. The AAC completed by FAIB used the Lakes TSR4 (2010) assumptions and considered:

1. Inventories within the proposed selected area;
2. Timber specifications proposed for the timber resources in the CFA area;
3. Reductions that are necessary to facilitate management and conservation of non-timber resource values (e.g. visual quality, biological diversity, soils, recreation resources, cultural heritage resources, range land, wildlife, water and fish habitats;
4. Silviculture practices and forest health factors that may impact on timber production;
5. The anticipated impact of the reductions to the productive portion of the Community Forest Agreement area due to permanent roads, landings, pits and trails;
6. Any other factors that may impact on the allowable annual cut during each year; and
7. Any directions of the Regional Executive Director or District Manager.

11.0 Consultation and Information Sharing

Chinook's objective for the consultation process will strive to identify and consult with persons using the agreement area for purposes other than timber production and harvesting of prescribed products. Chinook will follow the requirements under FPPR Section 21 and any requirements communicated by the Nadina Forest District. Users and tenure holders such as range, guides, trappers, mineral and exploration rights will be identified prior to forestry activities and information sharing will be publicly available that may impact rights or other tenures. This management plan already identifies the majority of tenure holders; however, there may be unforeseen rights and tenures that may require consultation or information sharing in the future. Chinook will have an "open door" policy (measure) on receiving new information identifying and consulting with persons, other agreement holders or community members using the agreement area for purposes other than timber and harvesting of prescribed products.

11.1 First Nations

Chinook will follow the First Nations information sharing requirements and processes within the Nadina District. Chinook's entity is made up of six First Nations groups and two local government bodies that may sanction all activities within the CFA and help adjudicate the information sharing process. Currently within the district, consultation occurs, but not limited to, the following nations and bands:

- Cheslatta Carrier Nation;
- Lake Babine Nation;
- Burns Lake Band;
- Wet'suwet'en First Nation;
- Skin Tye Nation;
- Nee Tahi Buhn Band;
- Office of the Wet'suwet'en;
- Stelat'en First Nation;
- Nadleh Whut'en Band;
- Ulkatcho Band; and
- Yekooche First Nation.

11.2 Range, Guides, Trappers, Other Agreement Holders

The Forest Stewardship Plan for the CFA will be referred to:

- licensed trappers,
- guide outfitters,
- commercial recreation licensees,
- other users that have shown past interest in specific development, and
- forest tenure holders sharing a common landscape unit.

12.0 Forest Certification

Chinook is committed to reach and maintain forest certification within five years after the effective date of the tenure agreement.

13.0 Provision for Revisions

If Chinook deems that this management plan requires revisions to address new objectives or enhance current ones, then the plan may be revised and submitted to FLNRO's DDM for approval.

14.0 Plan Signatures

<p style="text-align: center;">Preparing Forester</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“I certify that the work described herein fulfills the standards expected of a member of the <i>Association of British Columbia Forest Professionals</i> that this work was performed to an acceptable standard.”</p> <hr/>	<p style="text-align: center;">Daniella Oake, R.P.F. Planning Supervisor</p>
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Applicants' Signatures

<p style="text-align: center;">“I certify that the work described herein fulfills the requirements for the Chinook Community Forest and that this work was performed to an acceptable standard.”</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Signature</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Name</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Organization</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">“I certify that the work described herein fulfills the requirements for the Chinook Community Forest and that this work was performed to an acceptable standard.”</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Signature</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Name</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Organization</p>
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Appendix A – Government Correspondence Letters

A1: Regional Executive Director's Letter of Invitation January 8th, 2015



Ministry of
Forests, Lands and
Natural Resource Operations

File: 19460-25 K4R

January 8, 2015

<p>Chief Dan George Burns Lake Band Box 9000 Burns Lake, BC V0J 1E0</p> <p>Chief Richard Peters Cheslatta Carrier Nation Box 909 Burns Lake, BC V0J 1E0</p> <p>Chief Raymond Morris Nee Tahi Buhn First Nation 47805 Olson Road Burns Lake, BC V0J 1E4</p> <p>Chief Rene Skin Skin Tyee Nation Box 131 Southbank, BC V0J 2P0</p> <p>Chief Karen Ogen Wet'suwet'en First Nation Box 760 Burns Lake, BC V0J 1E0</p>	<p>Chief Wilf Adam Lake Babine Nation Box 879 Burns Lake, BC V0J 1E0</p> <p>Mayor Luke Strimbold Village of Burns Lake Box 570 Burns Lake, BC V0J 1E0</p> <p>Bill Miller Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (Area B) Box 820 Burns Lake, BC V0J 1E0</p> <p>Eileen Benedict Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (Area E) Box 820 Burns Lake, BC V0J 1E0</p>
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Dear Chiefs, Directors, and Mayor:

This letter serves as your formal invitation to apply for Community Forest Agreement K4R (Chinook Community Forest).

You must submit two copies of your application, which must be received no later than March 30, 2015. If substantial progress can be demonstrated on your application, I may consider an extension of this date. Please deliver your application package to the Nadina Natural Resource District Office at the following address:

<p>Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations</p>	<p>Skeena Natural Resource Region</p>	<p>Mailing Address: PO Box 5000 – 3726 Alfred Ave. SMITHERS BC V0J 2N0</p>	<p>Telephone: (250) 847-7260 Facsimile: (250) 847-7556</p>
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Chinook Community Forest Proponents

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
Nadina Natural Resource District
183 Highway 16 West
Box 999
Burns Lake, BC V0J 1E0

Attached to this letter is a map entitled "Exhibit A CFA #K4D", which shows the legal boundaries of your future Community Forest Agreement. The coloured map entitled "Chinook Community Forest Tenure Area" is for reference and display purposes only, and has no legal bearing.

Your application package should be in the form described in the provincial document entitled "Community Forest Agreement (CFA) Application Requirements", which is also attached. Please pay careful attention to the management plan requirement listed in section 8.2.

For the purpose of section 8.2 (e) and (f):

At your option, your management plan can include a detailed analysis describing the inventory and growth and yield conditions found in your new community forest agreement, and propose an Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) for ten years. This process is in the industry termed a "Forest Analysis Data Package" and a "Forest Analysis Timber Supply Review". If you wish to defer this option for a period of five years, your Community Forest Management Plan must state that your AAC will be 150,000 cubic meters (m³) per year for a period of three years, followed by an AAC of 65 000 m³/year for a period of two years. Before the end of the five year period, you must have completed the data package and analysis report so as to provide information for a decision maker to set your new AAC.

In addition to the requirements set out in the provincial package (please also refer to the legislation and attached sample license document), because of the size and scope of the Chinook Community Forest, the following items must be included in your application package:

1. A statement confirming that the tenure holder will be managing all the roads within the CFA area under road permit, and will continue to provide the public with safe and easy access to its tenure area.
2. For all recreation sites within the CFA area, a plan and a commitment pertaining to how the tenure holder will develop and maintain these sites and encourage other recreational use with the CFA area.
3. For all areas within five km of private residences or public buildings and infrastructure, a plan that addresses and minimizes the wildfire risk to these assets.
4. A commitment to monitor the growth and yield of trees and forests within the tenure area, and a plan on how the licensee plans to carry out this task.
5. A commitment to collaborate with the appropriate provincial government ministry to ensure that sufficient habitat is available to support key wildlife and that wildlife populations within the tenure area are appropriately monitored.

Chinook Community Forest Proponents

6. A commitment to reach and maintain forest certification within five years of the effective date of the tenure agreement.

For the purpose of Attachment B to the application requirements, I am satisfied that the area selected by the district manager is appropriate, and that the analysis completed by Forest Analysis and Inventory Branch illustrated that this area will support:

- (a) An AAC that will mirror the Lakes Timber Supply Area AAC over time, and
- (b) the initial harvest level until 2017.

The analysis was conducted using the assumptions that were used in the last published AAC determination rationale for the Lakes Timber Supply Area.

If you have any questions concerning your application please contact Josh Pressey, District Manager, Nadina Natural Resource District, at 250-692-2200.

I wish you luck in your new Community Forest Agreement.

Sincerely,



Eamon O'Donoghue
Regional Executive Director, Skeena Region
Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

pc: Josh Pressey, District Manager, Nadina Natural Resource District

A2: Government's Commitment Letter September 11th, 2012



September 11, 2012

Ref: 191337

Steve Zika, CEO
Hampton Affiliates Limited
200-9600 Barnes Road SW
Portland, Oregon

Dear Mr. Zika:

The explosion and fire at Babine Forest Products sawmill was a tragedy that brought loss of human life and economic hardship on a scale that threatens the economic sustainability of the affected communities. We are gradually seeing fibre issues emerge that effect a much larger area as well as other communities.

The province convened a Special Committee on Timber Supply that has now submitted its report "Growing Fibre, Growing Value" which emphasizes the importance of a timely response to the situation in Burns Lake and the larger challenge in the interior.

It is my understanding that the owners of Babine Forest Products, Burns Lake Native Development Corp (BLNDC) and Hampton Affiliates (Hampton) are seeking an expression of government's intentions to manage timber supply in the Lakes TSA prior to finalizing a capital investment decision to rebuild the mill. I appreciate that Babine Forest Products and its owners are committed to rebuild and continue the mill in operation for a minimum of 15 years if it can secure an adequate timber supply.

Consistent with the report of the Special Committee, the Government of British Columbia will commit to taking the following actions to assist the owners of Babine Forest Products in their decision regarding potential rebuilding of the Babine Forest Products sawmill.

Securing Timber Supply to support a facility in Burns Lake

I am prepared to adjust the existing apportionment in the Lakes TSA¹ to create a significant new Community Forest Tenure that would:

- Have a current AAC of approximately 150,000 m³;²

¹ There would be no changes to the volume available for existing Forest License holders or NRFL commitments. BCTS would be maintained at 20% of the long term apportionment which is required to support a competitive market system.

² This would be converted to an area based tenure.

Page 1 of 3

Ministry of Forests, Lands and
Natural Resource Operations

Office of the Minister

Mailing Address:
PO BOX 9049 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Tel: 250-387-6240
Fax: 250-387-1040

Website: www.gov.bc.ca/for

Steve Zika, CEO

- Be made available to a community partnership that includes one or more of the Six Nations and would support a manufacturing facility in Burns Lake.

I am prepared to revise the bioenergy offer that has been made to the Six Nations and issue a new offer that would:

- Have an AAC of up to 380,000 m³ from low volume stands; this volume is sawlog grade located throughout the Lakes TSA⁴;
- Include additional bioenergy volume (i.e. non sawlog grades) found in these stands which would further improve the economic viability of harvesting these stands; and
- Would be required to support a manufacturing facility in Burns Lake.

I am also prepared to move forward immediately with volume offers to local First Nations under the First Nations Forestry Program. These offers will provide approximately 64,000 m³ of long term volume that would support the creation of First Nations Woodland Licenses or other long term tenures. This volume would be available for the First Nations and at their discretion may support negotiated fibre supply agreements to support a manufacturing facility in Burns Lake:

Increasing fibre supply during the mid term

In addition, the government will take the following steps to manage and potentially increase the timber supply during the mid-term:

- Reconvene a Lakes TSA planning committee by the end of this calendar year to review the land use objectives in a manner consistent with the report "Growing Fibre, Growing Value";
- Take steps to secure financial resources required to sustain a program of fertilization in the Lakes TSA. Staff will undertake a review of stands that could provide a sound business case for return on investment and increased cut allowance;
- Complete a Type 4 Silviculture Strategy for the Lakes to ensure investments result in the maximum overall benefit;
- In order to reduce the harvest of the non-pine stands, implement a partition regulation in the Lakes TSA stands as soon as the amount of pine harvested falls significantly below the partition set by the Chief Forester;
- Complete a re-inventory of the Lakes TSA as soon as possible (the project was initiated this year).
- Direct the Chief Forester to review the AAC as soon as information from the inventory or monitoring indicates that a review will assist in safeguarding the mid-term timber supply. Direct the Chief Forester through a letter expressing the social

³ The 380,000 m³ offer will be adjusted downwards due to the issuance of First Nations Woodlands Tenures and Community Forest Agreements.

⁴ Some of this volume would become part of area based tenures in the Lakes.

Steve Zika, CEO

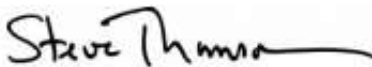
and economic objectives of the Province and emphasizing the importance of timber in the economic recovery of the area.

- Based on the recommendations of the Timber Supply Committee regarding conversion of volume based licenses to area based licenses, we will bring legislation to the House at the next session. Conversion of Babine Forest Products licenses will be one of the first priorities for implementation under any resultant legislation. Babine has submitted a proposal for an area based tenure in historic Babine operating areas and we would expect a portion or portions of this area to be included in the area based licence that would be offered to Babine. The total area that would be offered will be commensurate with the proportion of cut held by Hampton.
- Remain open to the movement of existing licensees to other timber supply areas where mutually agreeable arrangements can be reached.

I believe that together, these steps will help us restore the health of the forest in the Lakes TSA and help us to optimize the timber supply. The specific timing of the various steps will be worked out as we move forward but our overall goal will be to provide an orderly and timely transition that is transparent, inclusive and maximizes business certainty so that you and others can make informed decisions. Clearly, we intend to work closely with your company, local First Nations and the community in moving forward. As soon as we have some indication from you of the workability of the above, we will need to enter into significant discussions with the aforementioned groups.

I look forward to a positive response from Hampton Affiliates on your decision to rebuild the Babine Forest Products mill.

Sincerely,



Steve Thomson
Minister

pc: Doug Konkin, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Forests, Lands and
Natural Resource Operations

Appendix B

B1: Overview Area Map

B2: Sub-unit Area Maps

Map 1: Chinook Overview Blocks 1 and 3

Map 2: Chinook Overview Blocks 2 and 4

Map 3: Chinook Overview Block 5

Appendix C - Chinook Area Calculations Procedures

Chinook Areas:					THLB VQO						
Block	Gross	THLB*	SBS (THLB) NDT 3	ESSF (THLB) NDT = 2 Except **	R	PR	M	OGMA (Gross - outside of THLB)	FTA Active Tenure (THLB)	FTA Pending Tenure (THLB)	Mineral (THLB)
1	31,034	14,256	14,255	1	563	2,924	821	1,687	222	136	29
2	8,876	7,492	7,259	233	1,003	2,074	350	790	1,151		
3	11,948	8,051	1,677	6373**		1,644	832	1,570		7	879
4	9,984	7,527	6,882	644		1,296		103	428	95	35
5	68,402	28,946	28,897	49	875	5,614		3,629	260		69

*THLB based on layer provided by MOF (did not complete netdown myself).

**15ha is ESSFmcp NDT 5.

Chinook Area Procedures:

Used data layers provided by MOF:

- Chinook_units_2015_01_08.shp
- Lakes_THLB_2013.shp

To create a general base THLB I dissolved on the field attribute 'THLB_D' in the THLB layer called this 'Chinook_THLB' and was used for all other overlays.

All other values we created by running an intersect between the Chinook THLB layer and the layer of interest (except OGMA overlay as this was done with gross area). This result was then dissolved based on Block ID and whatever attributed we were interested in. The field 'Calc_ha' was then added to the attribute table and area calculate using 'calculate geometry'.

Notes:

BEC layer was downloaded from LRDW in 2013

VQO layer was from after the 2010 updates and the field EVQO_CD was used, I do not believe there has been any changes since.

The tenures layers are all from the tenure data provided by MOF at the same time as the Chinook data- January 2015.

Appendix D – DFO Pinkut Creek OIC Best Management Practices



File: OIC #876090

April 16, 2012

BEST PRACTICES FOR MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE PINKUT CREEK ORDER-IN-COUNCIL

Management activities should not result in a detrimental impact upon the fish habitat within the OIC. If any resource use activity is applied for within this OIC area, licensees are requested to comply as a matter of professional reliance in order to support the primary OIC value which is the fisheries resource, including water temperature, water quality, etc.

Send a copy of any proposed permit or development to DFO (now Fisheries and Oceans Canada) as the referral agency for review and comment. Licensees should make efforts to comply with DFO recommendations.

DFO contact: Patty.Menning@dfo-mpo.gc.ca 250-847-9185 Smithers
Alternates (cc to): Joy.Hillier@dfo-mpo.gc.ca Brad.Thompson@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
George.Chandler@dfo-mpo.gc.ca



Forest Harvesting

Within the OIC area the overall goal will be to maintain an amount, type and distribution of forest cover that is sufficient to sustain natural hydrological and fluvial processes by implementing the following practices:

- For S1-S5 streams there should be no removal of vegetative cover permitted within 1.5 times the height of the dominant trees unless there is no practicable alternative.
- In areas where some or all of the forest has been previously altered or harvested, tree height will be estimated based on climax species in adjacent similar sites.
- In areas where some or all of the forest has been previously altered or harvested, recruit functional riparian forest in that reserve zone.
- Harvesting for the purposes of salvage should not be permitted in the reserve areas as these trees are still providing for attributes of fish habitat such as food and litter fall as well as future contribution of LWD.

Road Building and Maintenance

Within the OIC area the overall goal will be to maintain high quality aquatic habitat by managing direct sediment input to all water courses by implementing the following practices:

Page 1 of 2

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Nadina District

Location:
185 Yellowhead Hwy,
Burns Lake, BC

Mailing Address:
Box 999
Burns Lake, BC V0J 1E0

Tel: (250) 692-2200
Fax: (250) 692-7461

Pinkut Creek OIC Best Management Practices

- All existing roads, trails and landings within the OIC should be deactivated, re-contoured and vegetated such that incremental sediment input from all disturbed areas will be minimised or eliminated.
- No new roads or access to be constructed within the OIC unless there is no practicable alternative.

For further questions, please contact Troy Larden, Senior Ecosystem Biologist, Resource Management, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Skeena Region at (250) 847-7203 or Troy.Larden@gov.bc.ca.