Summary of the Long-Term Management Direction

Pineland Forest 2021-2031 Forest Management Plan

April 2020

Contents

Introduction

This document summarizes the preliminary Long-term Management Direction (LTMD) for the 2021-2031 Forest Management Plan (FMP) for the Pineland Forest. The Pineland Forest is located within the Chapleau and Timmins Districts of the Northeast Region of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) (**Figure 1**). The MNRF administration of the forest is led by the Chapleau District office. Under the terms of the Sustainable Forest Licence (SFL), EACOM Timber Corporation, on behalf of the Pineland Timber Company Ltd. is responsible for all forest management activities, including forest management planning, the functions of harvesting, silviculture, renewal, delivery of fibre, proactive management of policy issues and key relationships with forest stakeholders. Pineland Timber Company Ltd. is also responsible for monitoring and reporting on compliance and gathering information for the area covered by the license in accordance with the current Forest Information Manual. The shareholders of Pineland Timber Company Ltd. have delegated all responsibilities for the management and supervision of Pineland Forest Company Ltd. To EACOM Timber Corporation (EACOM).
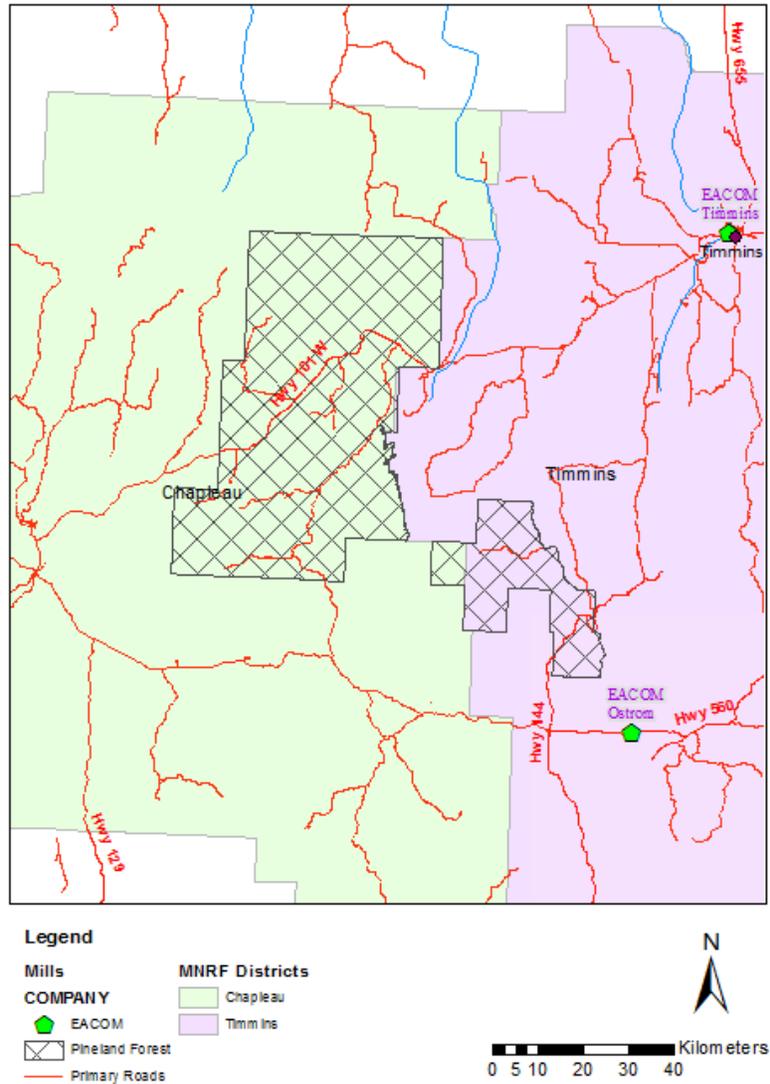
Figure 1. **Management Unit Map of the Pineland Forest.**

The 2017 Forest Management Planning Manual (FMPM) requires that to facilitate review, this LTMD summary should include:

1. Text to describe the assessment of objective achievement with rationale for indicators that are not moving towards the desirable level, the preliminary determination of sustainability, the risks to implementing the proposed LTMD, and the rationale for the preferred areas for harvest;
2. FMP tables for objectives and assessment of objective achievement (FMP-10) and available harvest area and volume (FMP-8 and FMP-9); and,
3. A summary map that portrays preferred and optional harvest areas for the 10-year period, primary road corridors and new alternative primary road corridors.

The LTMD summary along with other information will be available for the 30-day public review period associated with Stage Two of Public Consultation for the Pineland Forest 2021 FMP.

Desired Forest and Benefits

During the development of management objectives for the 2021 Pineland Forest Management Plan, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Chapleau district manager hosted desired forest and benefits meetings (DFBM) for the Pineland Forest planning team, plan advisors and Local Citizens Committee. These desired forest and benefits meetings were held to inform participants of the background information and provide a forum to share their respective interests in the management of the Pineland Forest. Break-out sessions allowed for focused conversation on the desired forest and benefits that participants wanted to see in the following categories: Forest Cover & Diversity, Silviculture, and Social & Economic.

The information gathered at the meetings provides input to the development of the forest management plan objectives, indicators and desirable levels and targets. Comments can also be used in the development of other sections of the management plan.

Due to the difficulty in scheduling a Desired Forest and Benefits session with First Nation and Metis communities, a unique approach for obtaining community comments regarding desired forest and benefits was utilized in the development of this forest management plan. Each of the communities had provided a summary of forestry concerns and interests as part of their Background Information Report. In addition, the First Nation and Métis communities were approached about utilizing the same comments they had provided during Desired Forest and Benefits sessions held for adjacent forest management units involved in developing 2020 and/or 2021 forest management plans.

Plan Objectives, Indicators and Targets

Results interpreted from the DFBMs were used to develop FMP objectives. Pineland Forest FMP objectives are summarized in Table FMP-10. The complete set of management objectives were presented in forest management process terminology and classified into categories specified in the Forest Management Planning Manual (FMPM) (MNRF, 2017, Page A-35, Figure A), and included the following:

The Crown Forest Sustainability Act (CFSA) requires each FMP to contain management objectives relating to: (a) Crown forest diversity objectives, including social and economic objectives, including harvest levels and a recognition that healthy forest ecosystems are vital to the well-being of Ontario communities; (c) objectives relating to the provision of forest cover for those values that are dependent on the Crown forest; and (d) silviculture objectives for the harvest, renewal and maintenance of the Crown Forest.

The planning team developed 14 indicators of objective achievement resulting from the Desired Forest and Benefits Meetings, in addition to the mandatory objectives identified in the FMPM and the Forest Management Guide for Boreal Landscapes (the Landscape Guide). At least one indicator of sustainability was developed for each qualitative management objective. The direction presented in Table 3 of the Forest Management Guide for Boreal Landscapes Guide was followed in the analysis of objective achievement for applicable objectives.

A target level and timeframe for the achievement were also developed for all indicators. Many indicators are time-dependent, and the assessment of achievement may occur at different stages of FMP development. Some targets are assessed at the LTMD stage of plan development while others may be assessed after LTMD approval (e.g., final plan, year 5 annual report). The timing of assessment for all targets is identified in table FMP-10.

Strategic Forest Management Model (SFMM) was used to balance the achievement of management objectives over time to develop a sustainable management strategy.

Strategic Analysis (Proposed Long-term Management Direction)

The proposed LTMD represents a balance in achievement of management objectives. This balanced management strategy was determined through a series of iterative investigations developed to project how the forested land base is expected to develop under a variety of constraints and management scenarios. Results were assessed over a 160-year planning horizon. Outputs from the model are summarized in the Analysis Package as well as Tables FMP-6 Projected Forest Condition for the Crown Productive Forest, FMP-8 Projected Available Harvest Area by Forest Unit, FMP-9 Projected Available Volume by Species Group and Broad Size or Product Group, and FMP-10 Assessment of Objective Achievement.

The proposed LTMD was presented to and reviewed by the Planning Team. The LTMD was presented to the Local Citizens Committee (LCC) for review and comment on February 24th, 2020.

Preferred and Optional Harvest Areas

A set of criteria was developed for the selection of preferred harvest areas. The preferred harvest areas were identified by the following criteria:

1. Forest unit/age class criteria identified by SFMM;
2. Management considerations (operability of forest stands, stand age);
3. Past management history; and
4. Spatial arrangement and distribution (proximity to existing and proposed roads).

In addition to the eligibility criteria identified above, the selection of preferred harvest areas also considered direction from the FMPM and the Landscape Guide. The FMPM provides direction regarding the amount of preferred harvest area that can be identified as well as the requirement for the preferred harvest area to be consistent with proposed primary road corridors. The landscape guide provides direction regarding the spatial distribution of mature and old, and young forest across the landscape.

Approximately 27,769 ha of preferred harvest area is identified for the 10-year FMP period. The preferred harvest area is portrayed on the *Pineland Forest 2021 FMP – LTMD Summary Map*. The preferred harvest area exceeds the Available Harvest Area (AHA) by approximately seven percent. This allows for flexibility during the selection of harvest bocks. The preferred areas will be refined and balanced during Stage Three (operational planning) of the forest management planning process. The refinement will include consideration of identified values, management objectives and development of areas of concern prescriptions. The total area selected for harvest will not exceed the approved AHA. Optional harvest areas are also identified on the *Pineland Forest 2021 FMP – LTMD Summary Map* and include all forest stands that meet the minimum operable harvest age. Optional harvest areas may also be selected for harvest.

Projected Harvest Area

The AHA by forest unit was identified during development of the LTMD. The projected AHA is 26,140 ha and is summarized by forest unit in Table FMP-8. The AHA will be selected from the preferred and optional harvest areas portrayed on the LTMD summary map.

Projected Harvest Volume

Projected harvest volumes are identified in Table FMP- 9. Wood supply commitments were used as minimum volume targets in SFMM. Current commitments are documented in the Sustainable Forest Licence and the MNRF Available Wood Report. The harvest volume projected for the 2021 FMP is approximately 3,027,725 m^3.

Preliminary Determination of Sustainability

As outlined in the FMPM 2017, the following section will consider the collective achievement of objectives using the assessment of objective achievement, spatial assessments, social and economic assessment, and risk assessment, and whether the proposed LTMD provides for the sustainability of the Crown forest on the management unit.

Assessment of Management Objective Achievement

Several objectives were assessed during development of the LTMD. The following section summarizes details of the assessment of objective achievement. In addition, Table FMP-10

provides more detail regarding plan start levels and LTMD projections for each objective assessed.

Crown Forest Sustainability Act (CFSA) Objective Category - Forest Diversity; Forest Structure and Composition

Management Objective # 1: Move towards the predicted range of natural variation for young, mature and old forest landscape pattern.

This objective was developed with direction provided by the Boreal Forest Landscape Guide. Pattern indicators were developed to assess the spatial distribution of mature and old and young forest across the landscape. The Landscape Guide outlines the pattern indicators that must be assessed. Mean values for each of the pattern indicators was provided by the MNRF.

Indicators: texture of mature and old forest (500 ha), texture of mature and old forest (5,000 ha) and distribution of young forest patch sizes.

Desired Levels: Move towards mean Simulated Range of Natural Variation (SRNV)

The preliminary assessment of pattern indicators was completed to compare the plan start levels to the mean SRNV. Since, the desired level is to move towards the mean SRNV, the projected plan start levels will be considered when selecting harvest blocks. These indicators will be assessed during LTMD, draft plan, and final plan submissions.

Management Objective # 2: Move towards and maintain the predicted range of natural variation for landscape structure and composition

This objective was developed from direction provided by the Boreal Landscape Guide. The Landscape Guide provides directional statements and milestones for achievement specific to the Pineland Forest. Measurable targets are developed from the milestones based on the Inter Quartile Range (IQR) for each indicator.

The indicators for this objective replace the habitat requirements for selected wildlife species used in the 2010 FMP and address concerns received at the DFBM regarding the amount of habitat for specific species.

Indicator: Landscape Classes

Desired Levels: To be within the IQR

- Immature and older pine
- Mature and older upland conifer

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- Immature and older hardwood and immature mixed
- Mature and older mixedwood
- Mature and older lowland conifer

Target Levels: Move towards or maintain within the IQR range for each Landscape Class

Assessment: It is possible to show movement towards or achieve all Landscape Class IQRs.

- Immature and Older Pine – Achieved

  o The intent of the milestone statement for this indicator is to reach the IQR by T11.

  o Under the preferred management strategy, the Immature and Older Pine Landscape Class is projected to reach and remain within the IQR from T5 to T13 and from T15 to T16.

- Mature and Older Upland Conifer – Achieved

  o The intent of the milestone statement for this indicator is to reach the IQR by T3 and maintain within the IQR.

  o Under the preferred management strategy, the Mature and Older Upland Conifer landscape class is projected to reach and remain within the IQR from T3 to T6. The indicator decreases slightly below the IQR in T7 by 1,078 ha. The indicator is then projected to remain within the IQR from T8 to T16.

- Immature and Older Hardwood and Immature Mixedwood – Achieved

  o The intent of the milestone statement for this indicator is to remain within the IQR in the short, medium and long term.

  o Under the preferred management strategy, the Immature and Older Hardwood and Immature Mixedwood landscape class is projected remain within the IQR for the entire planning horizon.

- Mature and Older Mixedwood – Achieved

  o The intent of the milestone statement for this indicator is to reach the IQR by T11.

  o Under the preferred management strategy, the indicator is projected to remain within the IQR throughout the entire planning horizon.

- Mature and Older Lowland Conifer – Achieved

    o The intent of the milestone statement for this indicator is to maintain within the IQR throughout the entire planning horizon.

    o Under the preferred management strategy, the Mature and Older Lowland Conifer landscape class is projected to remain within the IQR in all but one term. In T7 this indicator drops below the lower IQR by 1,580 ha.

Indicator: Old Growth Forest

Desired Levels: To be within the IQR

Target Level: Move towards or maintain within the IQR range for Old Growth Forest

Assessment: Under the preferred management strategy, the Old Growth Forest indicator is projected to remain within the IQR during the entire planning horizon.

Indicator: All Ages Red and White Pine Forest Units

Desired Level: Increase the amount of red and white pine by an average of 10 ha per year by planting.

Target Level: The desirable level for All Ages Red and White Pine forest was based on maintaining an area above the 1995 level. This direction is consistent with the Old Growth Policy for Ontario's Crown Forests (OMNR 2003). Increase the amount of red and white pine by an average of 10 ha each year by planting.

Assessment: Milestone statements aren't required for Red and White Pine forest indicators. Red and White Pine area will be tracked outside SFMM based on how much area is planted and deemed Free-To-Grow during the FMP period.

Indicator: All Ages Conifer

Desired Levels: To maintain within the IQR

- Pine Conifer PJ1 PJ2
- Upland Conifer SF1 SP1
- Lowland Conifer SB1 LC1

Target Levels: To maintain within the IQR.

Assessment:

- Pine Conifer (PJ1 and PJ2) – Achieved

  - The intent of the milestone statement for this indicator is to maintain within the IQR throughout the entire planning horizon.

  - Under the preferred management strategy, the amount of Pine Conifer remains within the IQR throughout the entire planning horizon.

- Upland Conifer (SF1 and SP1) – Partially achieved

  - The intent of the milestone statement for this indicator is to maintain within the IQR throughout the entire planning horizon.

  - Under the preferred management strategy, the amount of Upland Conifer is elevated above the Upper Range and is not able to fall within the IQR until T11, where it remains stable for the rest of the planning horizon.

- Lowland Conifer (SB1 and LC1) – Not achieved

  - The intent of the milestone statement for this indicator is to maintain within the IQR throughout the whole planning period.

  - Under the preferred management strategy, the current amount of Lowland Conifer is far below the IQR and is never able (nor expected) to reach the IQR.

  - Lowland Conifer forest units consist most commonly of low, poorly drained sites which cannot be created by silviculture. Lowland conifer forest units generally succeed to the same forest unit over time. Lowland conifer sites cannot be converted to another non-lowland type. Therefore, the projected area of lowland conifer is consistent over time and meets the intent of the milestone statement.

Indicator: Young Forest

Desired Levels: To maintain within the IQR

Target Levels: To maintain within the IQR range.

Assessment: Milestone statements aren't required for young forest indicators. Young forest levels are monitored to observe changes over time.

CFSA Objective Category – Forest Diversity and provision of forest cover, habitat for animal life

Management Objective #3: To provide forest conditions that are similar to the conditions moose prefer and would encounter in a natural forest ecosystem to emphasize moose habitat.

Moose habitat indicators will be assessed upon completion of Operational Planning, Plan start, and 10 years. The following indicators, desired levels, and target levels describe more about how moose habitat will be evaluated.

Indicator: Area of Pineland Forest Managed as Moose Emphasis Areas

Desired Levels: At least 10-15% of Pineland managed as MEAs > 2,000 hectares with a preference for areas greater than 10,000 hectares

Target Levels: At least 10-15% of Pineland managed as MEAs > 2,000 hectares with a preference for areas greater than 10,000 hectares

Indicator: Structure and composition of individual Moose Emphasis Areas: Browse - producing habitat

Desired Levels: 5-30% of each selected MEA is browse-producing habitat

Target Levels: 5-30% of each selected MEA is browse-producing habitat

Indicator: Structure and composition of individual Moose Emphasis Areas: mature conifer-dominated habitat

Desired Levels: 15-35% of each selected MEA is mature conifer-dominated forest

Target Levels: 15-35% of each selected MEA is mature conifer-dominated forest

Indicator: Structure and composition of individual Moose Emphasis Areas: hardwood/mixedwood-dominated habitat

Desired Levels: 20-55% of each selected MEA is hardwood-dominated or mixedwood forest

Target Levels: 20-55% of each selected MEA is hardwood-dominated or mixedwood forest

Indicator: Individual Moose Emphasis Areas: Road Density. Current number of kilometers of SFL responsible roads (primary, branch, operational) within individual MEA's

Desired Levels: Reduce the number of kilometers of SFL responsible roads (primary, branch, operational) that are within individual MEAs by 5%.

Target Levels: Reduce the number of kilometers of SFL responsible roads (primary, branch, operational) that are within individual MEAs by 5%.

1 *CFSA Objective Category – Social and Economic; long-term harvest levels, community well-being*

2 **Management Objective #5: To provide a continuous, predictable, and economical supply of**
3 **quality timber products required by wood processing facilities that receive wood from the**
4 **Pineland Forest.**

5 *Indicator:* Managed Crown forest available for timber production

6 Desired Levels: 303,210 ha

7 Target Levels: N/A

8 Assessment: The Managed Crown forest available for timber production meets the desirable
9 level in the short (303, 210 ha) and medium (302,687 ha) terms but is below it in the long (300,
10 368 ha) term.

11 *Indicator:* Long term projected available harvest area by forest unit

12 Desired Levels:

Forest Unit	Area (ha)/10-year term
TH1	0
BW1	1,500
LC1	300
LH1	0
MW1_c	1,500
MW1_h	1,300
MW2_c	1,250
MW2_h	1,500
PJ1	561
PJ2	2,900
PO1	2,000
PRW	336
SB1	3,409
SF1	3,000
SP1	6,584
PR1	0
Total	**26,140**

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Target Levels:

Same as Desired Levels.

Assessment: The preferred management strategy identifies 27,769 ha as the preferred harvest area. More preferred harvest area was identified to allow for flexibility during the selection of harvest blocks (Stage 3 Operational Planning). The preferred harvest area will be refined and balanced during Stage Three (operational planning). The selected harvest areas identified during operational planning will not exceed the total AHA by forest unit. Refinement of the preferred harvest area will include consideration of known values, management objectives and AOC prescriptions.

Indicator: Long-term projected available harvest volume by species group.

Desired Levels:

Species Group	Volume (m³)/10-year term
SPF	1,900,000
Bw	351,432
Po	545,875
PwPr	49,285
OCon	71,733
Ce	107,527
OHwd	1,874
Total	**3,027,726**

Target Levels:

Same as Desired Levels.

Assessment: The selection of harvest blocks occurs during operational planning. There are three FMP tables (i.e., FMP-13, 14 and 15) that summarize the harvest volume expected from the areas selected for harvest. Harvest volume summary tables will be available for review during Stage 3 and at Draft Plan.

Indicator: Long-term projected available harvest volume by broad size or product group

Desired Levels:

Product Group	Volume (m^3)/10- year term
Other	180,791
Pulp	1,609,013
Saw	1,168,902
Veneer	69,019
Total	**3,027,725**

Target Levels:

Same as Desired Levels

Assessment: Under the preferred management strategy the projected 10-year harvest volume is 3,027,725 m^3. The selection of harvest blocks occurs during operational planning. There are three FMP tables (i.e., FMP-13, 14 and 15) that summarize the harvest volume expected from the areas selected for harvest. Harvest volume summary tables will be available for review during Stage 3 and at Draft Plan.

CFSA Objective Category - Silviculture

Management Objective #12: Continue to develop a vegetation management program that judiciously uses herbicide where necessary and investigate viable herbicide alternatives

Indicator: Complete LTMD scoping and sensitivity analysis of herbicides use in SFMM silviculture operations

Desired Levels: There is no desired level for this indicator

Target Levels: Completed relevant scoping/sensitivity analysis

Assessment: The maximum amount of extensive treatments that can be applied to the landbase while still being able to achieve Boreal landscape guide targets is approximately 75%. In other words, if less than 25% of the harvest area is renewed through intensive treatments, landscape guide targets won't be achieved. For the modelling purposes, intensive treatments were considered to include herbicide application in every instance. The preferred management strategy intends to have 25% of intensive treatments on the forest. Refer to section 6.4.2 in the Analysis Package for more information.

Boreal Landscape Guide Pattern Assessment

A preliminary assessment of Landscape Guide pattern indicator achievement was completed on the preferred harvest area. The purpose of this assessment was to project how the distribution of 2021 preferred harvest area may affect the achievement of landscape guide pattern indicators. Since harvest blocks aren't finalized until after LTMD approval (i.e., during operational planning) it is difficult to accurately assess the achievement of pattern indicators at the LTMD stage. The Planning Team completed the preliminary spatial assessment on preferred harvest areas. The final assessment of achievement will be completed after harvest blocks have been selected. The results of the preliminary assessment indicate that 9 of the 19 indicators were achieved or showed movement towards the mean SRNV.

There are many factors that affect the achievement of mature and old and young forest pattern indicators:

- The current forest landscape pattern is a reflection of past forest management activities and natural disturbance and succession. The Planning Team can't change how past management activities were conducted on the Forest.

- Past FMPs applied direction from the Forest Management Guide for Natural Disturbance pattern Emulation (Boreal Forest criteria) to plan the size and frequency of harvest on the Forest.

- Based on the AHA (forest unit and age class criteria) required to meet structure and composition indicators, it may be difficult to increase or decrease the size of harvest blocks. For example, it's not economically or logistically feasible to have lots of small harvest blocks spread throughout the entire Forest. It's also not practical to select a small number of extremely large harvest blocks (i.e., several large blocks that amount to AHA).

- Working to achieve young pattern targets may affect the ability to achieve mature and old targets, and vise versa.

- The current distribution of forest units on the Forest may not be conducive to the achievement of pattern indicators.

Operational and Economic Assessment of the Preferred Harvest Area

The FMPM requires that the projected distribution of harvest over the first four FMP periods (i.e., the next 40 years) be assessed for:

- Feasibility of the spatial distribution of the harvest (e.g., operational, accessibility, other land use decisions); and,
- Economic feasibility of the harvest (e.g., balancing wood cost).

On the LTMD summary map (Preferred and Optional Harvest and 20-year Primary Road Corridors Pineland Forest 2021-2031 Plan Period) the preferred harvest area is evenly distributed across the landscape. Where existing access is limited, new primary road corridors have been proposed. For forest management planning purposes, two Strategic Management Zones (SMZs) were delineated on the Forest; East and West.

Historically, wood has been harvested from across the entire productive landbase. The processing facilities that source wood from the Forest are distributed throughout the northeast region. In addition to EACOM facilities, there are also hardwood processing facilities located east and north of the Forest. The distribution of processing facilities requires that wood be harvested from throughout the entire management unit. Wood deliveries to individual mills can fluctuate regularly in response to changes in demand. Throughout FMP implementation, wood will flow to mills as required.

EACOM will consider the following factors when allocating forest unit area between zones and across the Forest:

- The amount of eligible forest unit area within each zone;

- The amount of eligible forest unit area within each zone;

- Terrain and topography;

- Distance to mill(s);

- Marketability;

- Harvest contractor availability;

- Individual mill requirements and consumption:

- Wood flow may be adjusted as markets and facility demand fluctuate; and

- Historical utilization.

In SFMM, the AHA is projected by forest unit and age class. SFMM may project an even split of PJ2 between both SMZs, however, the distribution of age classes within each zone may be such that it's not feasible to create operable harvest blocks to meet a 50/50 split. Refer to Table 59 and 60 in the analysis package for more information regarding the distribution of AHA by zone.

Figure 2 portrays the total AHA distribution by zone during the first four FMP terms. Overall, the total harvest area is evenly distributed between both zones during the first four FMP terms. The West Zone is approximately 82% and the East Zone is approximately 18% of the entire management unit.
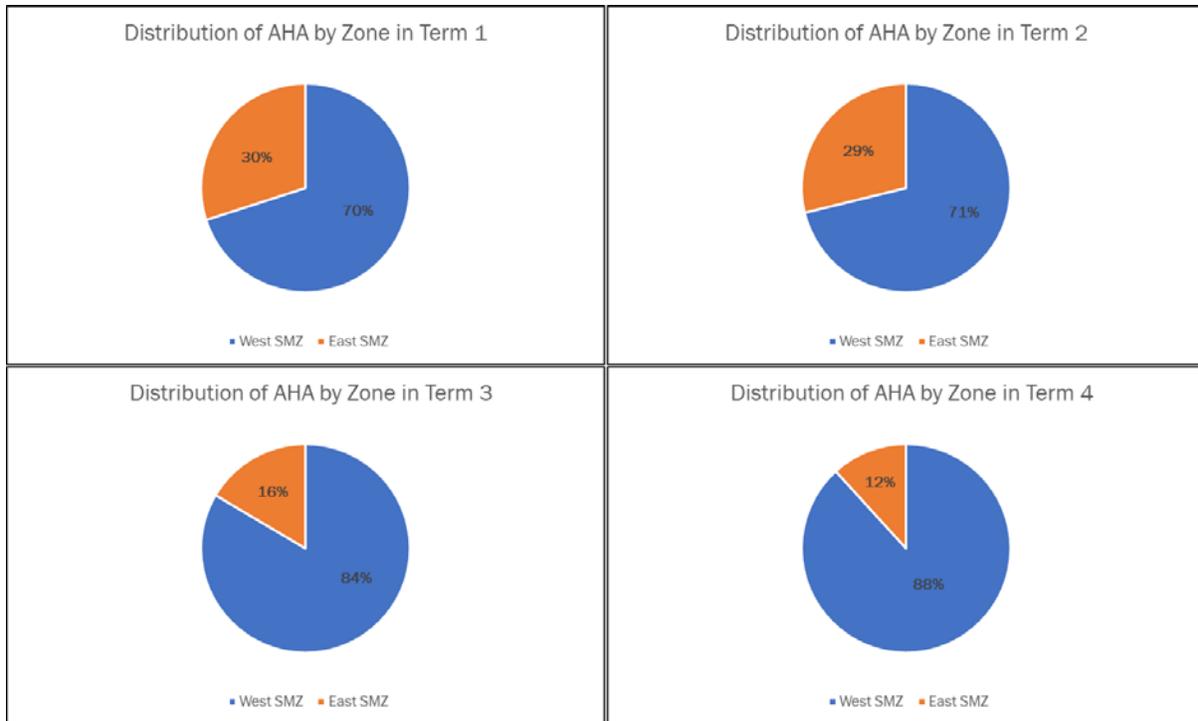
Figure 2. Total AHA Distribution by Zone in Term 1, Term 2, Term 3 and Term 4.

Based on the preliminary spatial assessment, the Planning Team is satisfied that the management objectives assessed during the LTMD have been achieved.

Social and Economic Assessment

The social and economic assessment will identify the expected social and economic impacts of implementing the LTMD. The assessment will examine how the quantity of harvest volume supplied to wood-processing facilities and silvicultural investment requirements may affect the communities, forest resource processing facilities and the other industrial and non-industrial users of the forest identified in the social and economic description.

The Social and Economic Assessment will be completed by the MNRF and the LTMD will be updated with the results. It is expected that the proposed LTMD of the 2021 Pineland FMP will have no notable effects on the social economics.

Risk Assessment

This section discusses the risks associated with the achievement of the proposed LTMD. Many objectives are area-based and assume full utilization of the AHA. There are risks that could impact the achievement of management objectives during FMP implementation. These risks could impact the future forest condition and desired benefits. Impacts on management objectives may affect environmental, economic and social values in the short and long term.

The following is a short discussion of each of the identified risks associated with achievement the proposed LTMD.

Hardwood Marketability

The most significant and immediate risk is the underachievement of the full available harvest area. The utilization of intolerant hardwoods, mainly poplar and white birch, has been low on the Forest during the current and previous FMPs. If current market conditions continue into the 2021 FMP, and result in the underachievement of intolerant hardwood and mixedwood AHAs, there could be issues achieving certain landscape guide indicators. Intolerant hardwood forest units (i.e., BW1 and PO1) and hardwood-prominent mixedwood forest units (i.e., MW1_h, MW2_c and MW2_h) represent approximately 48% of the total AHA.

A SFMM scoping scenario (PLF_516_HwdMark_2021) was completed to investigate the potential impacts that could arise if BW1, PO1, MW1_h, MW2_c and MW2_h AHAs are underutilized. Refer to PLF_516_HwdMark in the Analysis Package for more information.

Results of the scenario:

- Lack of Immature and Older Pine, Mature and Older Mixedwood and Upland Conifer in T4, T5 and T6 – inconsistent with milestone statements.

- Overabundance of Upland Conifer and All Ages Upland Conifer from T11 to T16 – inconsistent with milestone statements.

Lack of Forest Disturbances

Low levels of forest disturbances that are favourable for mature old forest but may lead to a reduction of young forest and early successional forest types and species such as jack pine, poplar, and birch. The risk of reduced harvest levels could also lessen the chance of achieving the ideal mix of habitat for wildlife. Moose and deer for example, rely on deciduous saplings as a source of browse which can be created through harvest activities.

Spatial Distribution of Harvest

There is an emphasis on the importance of an even spatial distribution of harvest across the forest. An even spatial distribution of harvest across the forest is important for wood supply sustainability and achievement of landscape composition and texture objectives. Forestry activities have been relatively even across the management unit. Historically, forestry activities have avoided certain areas because of terrain, operability, marten cores and Remote Tourism Lakes.

Contractor Availability

Contractor availability is another important factor that could restrict full utilization of the planned harvest area. It can be challenging to find and retain enough contractors to carry out planned operations. Contractor availability may influence and be influenced by other factors.

For example, if hardwood markets are available but contractors are limited, harvest levels may also be limited and vise versa.

Species at Risk

Species at risk (SAR) policy poses a risk to achievement of management objectives related to forest harvesting and renewal. There is uncertainty of the how the Endangered Species Act (ESA) will be applied to the FMP. A primary concern regarding the implications of the ESA is the unknown restrictions or effects on the timing of harvest and renewal activities.

Forest Management Planning is currently under an ESA exemption when conducted in alignment with the required guides. The current plan is written in alignment with the direction provided in the guides working under the current ESA exemption. Although the recent extension of the Endangered Species Act exemption to 2021 provides some degree of stability to forest management with respect to managing species at risk (SAR), there remains uncertainty over the longer-term impact, should the exemption expire. MNRF is developing approaches to address the exemption expiration and the new FMPM contains provisions to enable a plan to be designated as a Section 18 Overall Benefit Instrument under the Endangered Species Act in the future

Conclusion on the Sustainability of the FMP

Results from the assessment of achievement of objectives, the spatial assessment and the risk assessment suggests that a balanced, sustainable management strategy can be achieved that meets the direction required by the FMPM and the Landscape Guide while providing a continuous and predictable wood supply.

The applicable management objectives were assessed, and it can be concluded that they move towards or achieve desirable levels. The remaining objectives that were not assessed at this stage will later be assessed, as outlined in FMP-10.

The even distribution of preferred harvest area across the forest and by management zone has been deemed feasible. The achievement of pattern indicators will be completed several times throughout the operational planning process as harvest blocks are selected. The final assessment of achievement will be completed after harvest blocks have been selected.

The Planning Team determined that the risks associated with implementing the proposed LTMD outlined in the Risk Assessment section above are acceptable. The overall benefit to the forest and the management objectives outlined in FMP-10 positively outweigh potential negative consequences.

In conclusion, the assessment of objective achievement, the social and economic assessment, the risk assessment and the proposed LTMD provide for sustainability of the Pineland Forest.

Primary Road Corridors

New primary roads are required to carry out proposed forest management activities. Primary road corridors are planned for a 20-year horizon and must be consistent with the projected harvest distribution for the next four planning periods.

There are nine primary roads (i.e., where new road construction is required) proposed for forest management purposes over a 20-year horizon. The primary road corridors will allow for access to areas of the Forest that currently have limited access. Of the nine new primary road corridors, three are being proposed as an upgrade from operational roads status. There are two primary road corridor approved in the current 2011 FMP that is being proposed to bring forward for the 2021 FMP. There are three corridors that are existing primary road and there is one corridor that will be constructed from scratch. These corridors may require upgrades to existing roads (e.g., realignment), maintenance (e.g., brushing and grading) or new road construction within the corridor.

Moose Emphasis Areas

The Wildlife Task Team is in the process of reviewing candidate Moose Emphasis Areas (MEAs). Moose Emphasis Areas will be finalized after the LTMD, during operational planning.

Conclusion

This concludes the development of the Long-term Management Direction for the 2021 Pineland Forest FMP. The next stage in the FMP process will involve refinement of operational planning. The strategic intent described in the LTMD and in this summary will be maintained.

Preferred and Optional Harvest and Primary Road Corridors
Pineland Forest 2021-2031 Forest Management Plan LTMD