

Total Resource Plan

Anahim Timber Supply Block

Submitted by:

Ulkatcho First Nations
In Collaboration with the
Anahim Round Table
And Stakeholders

To:

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
200 – 640 Borland Street
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Executive Summary

The BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) entered into an Agreement on March 21, 2016 with the Ulkatcho First Nations (UFN) providing funding for the development of a Total Resource Plan (“TRP” also known as “the Plan”) for the Anahim Timber Supply Block (ATSB).

The ATSB is located on the Chilcotin Plateau within the Williams Lake (WL) Timber Supply Area (TSA). The ATSB extends from the Kleena Kleene in the south to the WL TSA boundary to the north and from Tweedsmuir Park on the west to the eastern watershed boundaries of the Dean and Klinaklini Rivers including the upper Blackwater. The total area of the ATSB is 569,008 hectares (ha).

Through delivery of funds in support of UFN’s proposal to FLNRO for the development of the TRP, the Province sought to realize the following outcomes:

- 1) Develop a TRP with industry stakeholders ensuring a coordinated approach to operational issues surrounding Northern Caribou recovery and other resource values in the ATSB
- 2) Increase stability and continuity of forest resource development on the land base
- 3) Provide for an accommodation for the potential adverse impacts of ongoing forest resource development on any established or asserted aboriginal rights, including aboriginal title, of UFN
- 4) Increased opportunities for UFN’s participation in forest resource development, and
- 5) Enhanced social, economic and cultural well-being of UFN’s communities.

UFN are a Dalkeh First Nation including Carrier, Chilcotin and Nuxalk First Nations members located at Anahim Lake, BC, which is situated approximately 316 kilometers west of Williams Lake. The community is comprised of 1,050 members of which approximately 639 UFN members live on-reserve and some 411 members live off-reserve or on other reserves. UFN is governed by a Chief and five Councilors, all who are elected for a two-year term. The Nation is responsible for governance of 22 reserves and land within UFN’s Traditional Territory, which encompasses 2,883,903 hectares.

Three main communities are located within the ATSB – Anahim Lake (population 360 people), Nimpo Lake (120 in winter and doubles in summer) and Charlotte Lake (between 100 and 150 people in the summer). Other small rural areas include Kleena Kleene, Precipice and Towdystan.

UFN retained Rick Publicover, Registered Professional Forester (RPF), of RPRM Consulting Ltd. (the “Consultant”) to assist UFN in the development of the TRP and established a working group consisting of Anahim Round Table (ART) representatives (two community associations, a natural resource association, resource user associations (cattlemen, guide outfitters, and range tenure holders), forest licensees, tourism operators and associations, an independent small-scale salvage logger, and UFN Natural Resources Department representative), area resident representatives, and UFN Elders, other UFN members and forest technicians to assist in the TRP development.

The Consultant held nine separate meetings with UFN members in advance of the full TRP Planning Table meetings to facilitate increased dialogue on the TRP planning process with UFN members, allow an opportunity for greater participation of UFN members to contribute to the TRP in a proactive and collaborative manner, allow a forum for UFN members to discuss confidential resource, land and traditional values and interests, and, determine how resource and land information and traditional

knowledge that may be sensitive in nature could be conveyed to the broader Planning Table for inclusion into the TRP. A total of eight meetings were held with the full TRP Planning Table commencing in August 2016 and concluding in June 2017.

The ATSB TRP incorporates some of the land use planning principles completed under the auspices of the 2000 ART Plan. The TRP addresses new concerns raised regarding resource and land interests and values identified by UFN, communities and stakeholders since the formation of the ART Plan due to the effects of two Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) infestations that have killed extensive areas of pine forests. As a result, forest licensees have accelerated harvesting rates to salvage as much of the estimated 13 million cubic meters of remaining MPB killed timber that exists within the ATSB.

A hierarchy of legislation including the Canadian Constitution, federal and provincial laws, regulations and guidelines govern how forest and range practices may occur on the landbase. In addition, the Cariboo-Chilcotin Land Use Plan (CCLUP), a provincially declared higher-level plan, and *Cariboo-Chilcotin Land Use Order* also govern forest and range practices within the ATSB. UFN members exercise their Aboriginal rights within UFN's Traditional Territory which includes the geographical area within the ATSB.

The ATSB TRP is not a legally binding plan under the *Forest and Range Practices Act* or the CCLUP. The TRP provides direction, guidance and management strategies regarding best management practices to address resource and land values and interests at the landscape level for forest licensees and others to use in planning operations at the landscape level and in the formulation of Forest Stewardship Plans (FSPs) and other operational plans such as cutting and road permit applications. The ATSB consists of 25 landscape units including Alplands, Atnarko, Beeftrail, Big Stick, Chilanko, Christensen Creek, Clearwater, Colwell, Corkscrew, Crazy Creek, Eliguk, Entiako, Holtry, Hotnarko, Klinaklini, McLinchy, Middle Lake, Nimpo, Palmer/Jorgenson, Punky Moore, Puntzi, Telegraph, Tusulko, Upper Dean and Upper Klinaklini.

The intent of the TRP is to be a living plan that provides for regular review and update to reflect changes in legislative requirements and policy and to amend guidance, direction and management strategies as warranted.

The ATSB TRP direction, guidance and management strategies compliment a number of other external processes to the TRP including caribou and moose management and recovery, Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC), old growth management and wildland/urban interface fire initiatives.

As part of the TRP planning process, forest licensees identified harvest priorities by landscape unit and estimated projected timber harvest volumes over the next five-year period so that Planning Table members had an understanding of where harvesting would be focused.

TRP Planning Table members identified the need to ensure that harvesting planning and operations respected other resource and land values and interests. Planning Table members commented on improved forest licensee communication and relations with communities, UFN and local stakeholders that had occurred over time. Table members wanted to ensure that protocols pertaining to the current forest licensees' improved level of consultation and engagement with Table members regarding the preparation of FSPs, other operational plans and harvesting and silviculture field practices were documented for future reference in the event of forest licensee ownership or staff changes. Table members also wanted to establish specific licensee commitments, strategies and protocol in light of the accelerated harvest rate resulting from the MPB epidemic. The challenge remained as how to maximize

the harvest of the MPB killed pine stands to recover the remaining economic value of the timber while ensuring other resource and land values and interests were fully considered in a meaningful way and that guidelines related to resource development were clearly set-out in the TRP.

The TRP Planning Table developed a comprehensive digital layered map in a PDF format that is available for use by communities, general public, government, Planning Table members, resource users, UFN and its members. The layered map identifies resource values and interests along with timber values and access so that the map user can determine overlapping interests by turning on and off layers at the click of a mouse. In addition, FLNRO developed access management maps that identify licensee tenured and non-status roads (NSRs) by landscape unit that will assist in the development of a Coordinated Access Management Plan (CAMP) identified as a need under the TRP.

The Plan includes a review of resource and land values and interests including wildlife (furbearers, large mammals and ungulate species); avian (bird) species including forest dwelling, alpine, migratory, raptor and waterfowl species; fish species; special features and interests; First Nation and residential interests; resource users interests (range and range tenure holders, guide outfitters, lodge owners and trappers), recreation and tourism interests (backcountry recreation, cabins, trails and visual quality), vegetation (rare, food and medicinal plants and mushrooms), water (lakes and riparian, rivers, springs, streams and wetlands) and mountains based on input from Planning Table and UFN Elders, other UFN members and forest technicians.

The TRP provides direction, guidance and management strategies for use by ART, FLNRO, forest licensees, and UFN. The direction, guidance and management strategies are categorized by type of strategy (i.e. general or specific). General management strategies may apply to some or all of the landscape units and specific management strategies may only apply to a specific resource or land value or interest within some or all of the landscape units. The guidance, direction and management strategies are intended to improve planning and identify best management practices for planning at the landscape level, and in FSPs and other operational plans such as cutting and road permit applications. The guidance, direction and management strategies are also intended to improve collaboration with other land management processes including trail management, caribou and moose recovery initiatives, wildland/urban interface wildfire reduction strategies and other.

The TRP has been endorsed by ART members, FLNRO, forest licensees and UFN and all organizations agree to follow the guidance, direction and management strategies outlined in the TRP.