

Management Plan No. 2

Valemount Community Forest

Community Forest Agreement

K2T

Date of Submission:
August 2017

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Jay Greenfield-name of RPF completing TSR work in part B

I confirm that the Management Plan submitted is consistent with the Community Forest Agreement dated _____, all relevant forestry legislation, any applicable Higher Level plans under the *Forest and Range Practices Act* and any commitments agreed to by both parties to this agreement.

Ainslie Jackman, RPF	Craig Pryor, RFT
RPF signature	Company representative signature
Date	Date

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Executive Summary

The proposed Management Plan provides direction for the management, wise use and conservation of the land and forest resources under the Community Forest Agreement. The plan allows the community to participate in the operation of the Community Forest Company and to help set strategic direction to balance the forestry/tourism and other needs of the community, residents and other stakeholders.

Broad management goals for the proposed Community Forest areas are grouped into social and economic goals followed by resource goals with corresponding management strategies identified for each goal and objective.

Social goals are intended to promote community stability and quality of life. Economic goals are intended to enhance the economic well-being of residents and promote economic development and diversification of businesses in Valemount. The social and economic health of the community are interrelated and often inseparable. Resource goals are intended to maintain and enhance the health of forest ecosystems by using an ecosystem based management approach. They are also intended to protect all forest resources as well as the resources that the community has identified as having priority values such as air and water quality.

A number of guiding principles form the basis for the Valemount Community Forest Company Ltd. These principles have evolved over time as changes occur with respect to the community forest size and location and new projects that are approved within the community. Public meetings held from 2006 to the present were used to solicit the values, objectives and priorities of the community and these shaped the current guiding principles.

The most recent report commissioned by the Village of Valemount updates earlier community consultation and is entitled *Valemount's Future - Integrated Community Sustainability Plan*. New input from the community was solicited in 2012 and five priorities for the future of Valemount were identified. Although that report covers far more than the forest resource alone, three of the five priorities directly relate to the goals identified in this management plan including:

1. strengthening community well being (social)
2. growing economic opportunities (economic)
3. protecting and enhancing our environment (resource)

Many of the strategies proposed to attain those goals and priorities in the Valemount's Future Report are incorporated into this management plan. The Valemount Community Forest was actively involved in the process and was recognized in the report as an example of a great success for the community.

The acquisition of the old mill site in 2014, now called the Valemount Industrial Park (VIP), has allowed the VCF to meet more of the social and economic goals of the community by attracting new resource businesses to locate at the site. This has created more local jobs. The CF is most anxious to attract some form of production plant that would utilize waste from local mills and CF harvesting. Such a plant would help improve the air quality in the valley by eliminating the need for the beehive burner at Tete Jaune and the annual slash burning of waste piles on the logging blocks around the valley. It would also provide a way to utilize tree species not currently being used. The CF continues to work to attract new businesses to the VIP to complement existing ones.

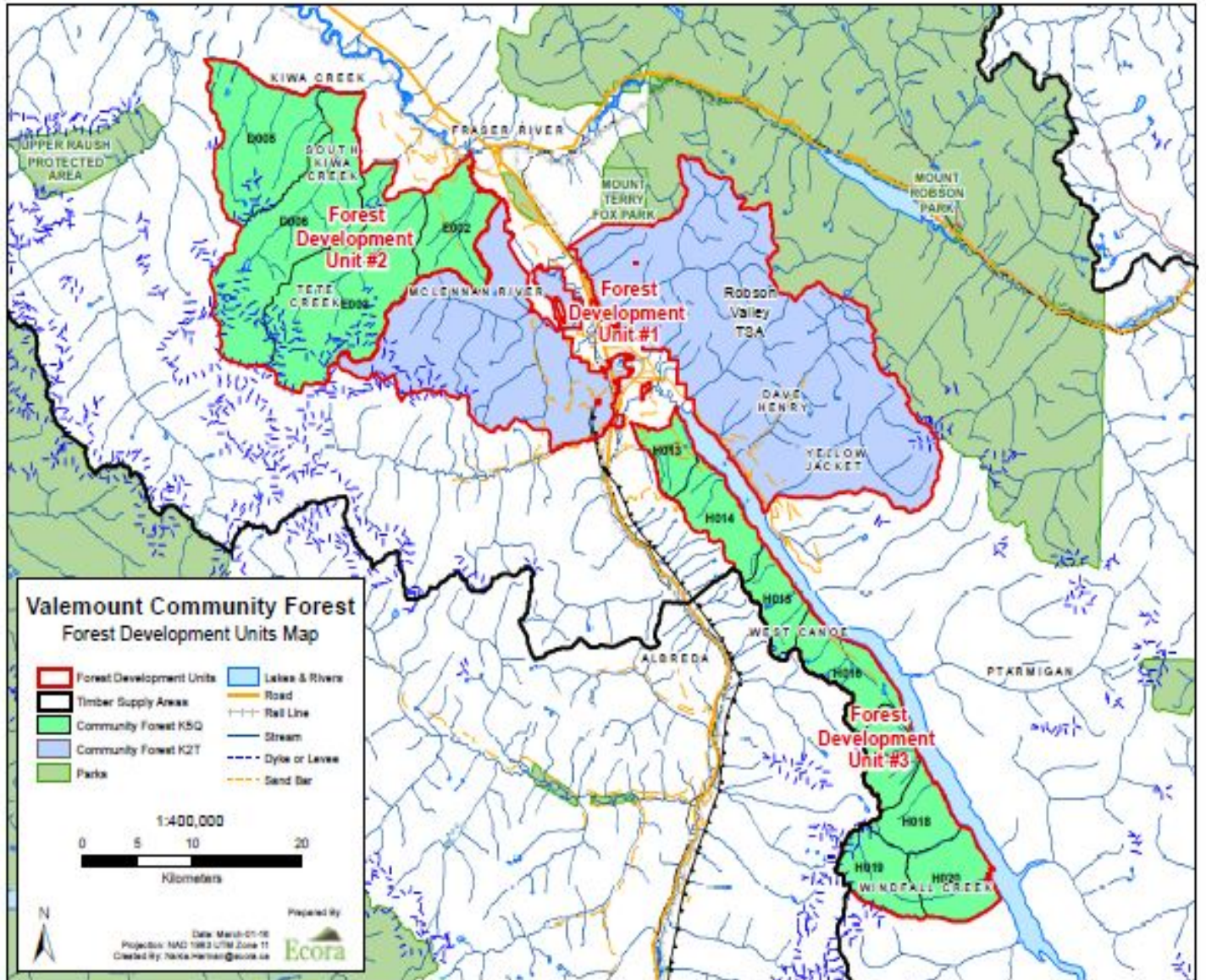
Background to the TSR

The Valemount Community Forest (VCF) was awarded this CFA in December 2007 with an associated Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) of 40,000m³. An uplift to 105,000m³/yr was granted from 2010-2016 to deal with the mountain pine beetle epidemic. That epidemic has now passed and the AAC for the VCF is now 33,000m³. In 2015, the company hired Ecora Engineering & Resource Group Ltd. (ECORA) to fly the CF area to collect and prepare information for determining a new AAC, post beetle, using new and better inventory information in the form of a Vegetation Resources Inventory (VRI) and Ecosystem Mapping (VRIEM). This Management Plan reflects that new information and it is included in Part B 1.

In 2014, VCF purchased a second license which was converted to a CFA, approved as K5Q. The Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) calculated and approved an AAC of 35,209m³ for that license. The VCF intends to update that TSR with a new inventory and ecosystem mapping and new flight data procured in 2015.

CFA Description

The management area of the of the VCF licenses K2T and K5Q stretch from Tete Jaune Cache at the junction of Highways 16 and 5, south east along the Rocky Mountain Trench just south of Valemount and as far as Dawson Creek on Kinbasket Lake. The map on the following page illustrates the three Forest Development Units (FDUs) that make up the original CF (K2T) as well as the expansion area (K5Q). FDU #1 is K2T and FDUs #2 and #3 are K5Q.



VCF Forest Development Units Map

Part A: Linking Community Values to the Management of the Community Forest

1. VCF Mission Statement and Guiding Principles

Mission Statement:

To develop and strengthen the economic diversity of the community while promoting the social well being of the residents in and around Valemount.

To use the community forest resources in ways that are sustainable, environmentally respectful, fiscally and legally responsible.

Guiding Principles:

1. Manage the Valemount Community Forest (VCF) for the long term benefit of the community, protecting and enhancing resource values that contribute to the social well being of residents .
2. Collaborate with others to diversify the use of and benefits from the CF including recreational users, tourism based companies, local businesses, volunteer organizations, educational institutions and First Nations.
3. Manage the company in a responsible, profitable manner, providing a source of revenue to the community and the Province.
4. Responsibly manage and conserve all of the CF resources using the principles of environmental stewardship, complying with all legislative, regulatory and legal requirements of the license.
5. Communicate regularly with the public to solicit and incorporate the values and priorities of the public into the management strategies for the CF.
6. Respect and communicate regularly with First Nations, soliciting their knowledge of the forest and seeking their participation in preparing strategies that protect cultural heritage sites and traditional use areas.
7. Foster innovation by creating new economic opportunities and sources of revenue for the local workers and the community; incorporate innovative practices into all aspects and phases of resource management and seek innovative solutions to minimize negative impacts on the resources.
8. Prioritize safety for all.

2. Provincial Goals of the Community Forest Program (CFP)

This form of tenure is intended to provide new opportunities for community management of Crown forest land. The Province of British Columbia has stated 8 goals for the community forest program.

By providing communities with greater flexibility to manage local forests, government seeks to:

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
8. advocate forest worker safety

3. Linkage of Community Forest Program Goals to VCF Management Goals

This management plan provides a linkage between the VCF guiding principles and the Provincial CF Program goals. For the VCF, the social and economic goals are intrinsically connected as the economic health of the community enables and promotes the social health of the community and both are best achieved when all resources are protected and managed sustainably. The VCF goals and objectives are derived from guiding principles and public consultation and their input.

Table 1. Goals, Objectives and Strategies and Referencing Links to Government's 8 Goals for the CF Program

Broad Goals	VCF Goals and Objectives	Strategies to Achieve Objectives	Related Gov't Goal #
<p>Social and Economic</p>	<p>Promote long term community stability while protecting and enhancing resource values that contribute to the <i>social</i> well-being of residents Enhance the <i>economic</i> well-being of residents by providing employment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage and conduct forest and land resource operations in accordance with approved Plans and Agreements in ways that are sustainable, respectful and fiscally and legally responsible. • Strive to maintain a sustainable timber supply for the benefit of stabilizing the forest economy for the long term. • Hire qualified local staff, contractors, operators and service providers and the most qualified consultants for each project. • Develop and maintain recreational resources and infrastructure within the CF to ensure accessibility for residents to enjoy the physical and spiritual benefits of a community forest. • Continuously seek out new markets and related business opportunities that lead to job creation. 	<p>1, 2,3</p>
	<p>Collaborate with other users to diversify the uses of and benefits from the CF including recreational users, tourism based companies, local businesses, volunteer organizations, educational institutions and First Nations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote partnerships with recreation user groups and tourism operators as well as local business groups and First Nations. Identify ways to enhance existing infrastructure and to develop new attractions to draw people and businesses to the area. • Manage road and trail system access for the recreational enjoyment of residents without compromising safety or wildlife goals. • Protect the land resource for resource related businesses such as trapping, cattle grazing and guide outfitting. • Manage and harvest the timber profile to provide the most diverse range of products to increase profitability and attract new businesses. • Provide grants to volunteer groups and residents in need. 	<p>1,2, 3, 5</p>

	<p>Manage the company in a responsible, profitable manner. Ensure financial self sufficiency.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage the timber profile to provide a diverse range of products sending the right log to the best market. Sell timber competitively to seek maximum value for the logs produced. Make fiscally responsible decisions but not at the expense of the commitments to the community at large. (break even harvesting that creates employment may be preferable to a choice of no harvesting if not profitable) 	<p>1, 3</p>
	<p>Provide social and economic benefits to the Province</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social benefits are derived from stable jobs and the participation in various aspects of a successful community forest including the recreational and spiritual enjoyment a forest can provide. Increasing economic opportunities and jobs for the community directly translate to increased revenues for the province in the form of taxes. Attracting more people to live in Valemount increase revenues for the local government as well. 	<p>3</p>
	<p>Increase the public's knowledge and understanding of forest management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the schools and other interested local groups to organize field trips and classroom educational events to help the community understand and appreciate the forest resource and the opportunities it holds for employment and enjoyment. Create and maintain employment , training and mentoring opportunities related to forest resource management • Place articles in the local newspapers that describe and promote VCF operations. Distribute newsletters and develop a website. • Regularly invite dialogue and input from the community concerning their values and priorities. 	<p>2, 5</p>
	<p>Generate revenue for local community volunteer groups</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use existing VCF grant programs to distribute a portion of profits to aid volunteer groups and local in need. Raise that level of donation when financially able. 	<p>1, 3</p>
	<p>Respect and communicate with First Nations having claims in the VCF area to strengthen relationships</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with, talk to and share information with First Nations having claims in the VCF area. Work with First Nations when collecting archaeological and cultural heritage resource data for planning purposes to ensure the protection of the resources and continued traditional use. Discuss opportunities for collaborative business opportunities. 	<p>6</p>

	Foster innovation - economic and resource based	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively seek new businesses to locate to the VIP to complement existing businesses. New businesses could include a small specialty mill, a waste fibre plant, a geothermal plant and greenhouses, to name a few. Continue to explore new markets and ways to supply them including the use of deciduous species and undesirable coniferous species such as hemlock. This site currently has a value added Cedar mill, log sort yard and a rock sales yard. The company enables the manufacture of special forest products (post and rail) Promote value added opportunities in the community. 	7
	Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep informed about climate change and how it is predicted to impact the weather and ecosystems in the Robson Valley. It is thought that this valley will experience wetter weather leading to more of the forest becoming part of the Interior Cedar Hemlock biogeoclimatic zone. Trees traditionally growing to the south of the valley will now survive farther north and lower elevation limits will rise with warmer weather. This will impact the reforestation choices and planting prescriptions that the VCF makes. 	7
	Prioritize safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to use the Environmental Management Systems in place and practice continuous improvement to keep management, workers and the public safe. Comply with <i>WorkSafe BC Regulations</i> and the <i>Workers Compensation Act</i>. 	8
Resource Goals	<p>Responsibly manage and conserve all <i>resources</i> of the CF area based on the principles of environmental stewardship</p> <p>Resources include soils, timber, recreation, visual quality, water, fish and fish habitat, wildlife and wildlife habitat, water and riparian areas, forage and plant communities including invasive plants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage qualified professionals to work as a team to guide the operations of the VCF. Follow the legislation of the Forest Range and Practices Act and Regulations to ensure protection of all resources. Manage to a higher level within the Swift Creek Watershed as per regulation to protect the water resource specifically. Build a strong silviculture program that responds well to the forest ecosystems and to predicted climate change models. Be proactive in identifying and managing invasive plants using measures outlined in Forest Stewardship Plans. 	4

	Protect the biological diversity of the forest and landscapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage biodiversity consistent with the biodiversity emphasis option for each landscape unit and natural disturbance type at the landscape and stand level. • Plan resource development to minimize forest fragmentation and connectivity. • Enhance seral stage distribution across the landscape and incorporate practices to retain structural and species diversity. 	4
	Protect the priority values of clean air and clean water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find ways to dispose of wood waste that do not compromise air quality by attracting companies focussing on biomass use with environmentally responsible disposal. • Continue to protect the Swift Creek Community Watershed and all water bodies within the CF including the Swift Creek Spawning Grounds by employing sound forest practices. 	1, 4
	Employ the principles of integrated resource management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult with and work collaboratively with other resource users and stakeholders by meeting regularly. Stakeholders currently include the local recreation groups: the Yellowhead Outdoor Recreation Association (YORA), the Valemout and Area Recreation Development Association (VARDA) which includes the 5 Mile Mountain Bike Park , the Valemout Marina Association and Valemout Glacier Destinations (VGD). • Develop access management plans to reduce conflict among users. 	2, 4
	Maintain opportunities for energy/mineral resource exploration and development within the CF area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and assess potential opportunities to develop these resources to generate revenue by providing further employment opportunities for the local economy. Exploration and development activities will be conducted in an environmentally sensitive manner. 	2
	Manage forest health and other negative events to minimize unrecoverable losses to the long term timber supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pro-actively manage for forest pests and negative natural events such as blowdown and fire. • Identify and carry out projects that reduce wild land interface risk. • Continue training of workers with the S100 fire course and encourage the continuous education of staff and sub-contractors in fire management strategies. 	7, 8
	Assess, quantify and mitigate timber supply losses to other sources (new licensees, expanding licenses to cut)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the proponents of the VGD ski resort and the transmission line expansion proposed by Kinder Morgan. 	1, 6

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with these license holders to minimize timber supply reductions by potentially managing the forest resource within the project areas for these companies to benefit the local community. 	
	Gather the best inventory information possible to make good resource management decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have completed Vegetation Resources Inventory (VRI) and Ecosystem Mapping (VREIM) for K2T . • Consider Lidar for higher resolution maps when affordable. • Work with government agencies when they analyze the land base for potential species at risk and other protected wildlife conflicts. (including Ungulate Winter Range and Wildlife Habitat Areas) • Use the best practices available to manage these resources using the inventories. 	4

4. Botanical Forest Products

The Valemount CF will *not* be harvesting or managing Botanical forest products at this time.

5. Consultation with other Forest Users

User	Measures to Identify	Measures to Consult
Trappers	Current maps show the license numbers and areas of all trappers within the VCF. The company has a list with contact information for each of these licensees	An annual meeting will be held to discuss the harvesting and road construction plans of the VCF with the trappers. Their concerns are solicited and discussions are held to identify ways the VCF can help them with their operational concerns. Prior to harvest, trappers will be contacted with details of the planned cutblocks.
Guide Outfitters	Current maps show the license numbers and areas of all guide outfitters within the VCF. The company has contact information for each of these licensees	An annual meeting will be held to discuss the harvesting and road construction plans of the VCF with the guide outfitters. Their concerns are solicited and discussions are held to identify ways the VCF can help them with their operational concerns.
Range Tenure Holders	Current maps show the license numbers and areas of all range tenure holders within the VCF. The company has contact information for each of these licensees	An annual meeting will be held to discuss the harvesting and road construction plans of the VCF with the range tenure holders. Their concerns are solicited and discussions are held to identify ways the VCF can help them with their operational concerns.
First Nations	Current maps show the Band names associated with the VCF land base. The company has contact information for each of these First Nations Bands who have asserted a claim to areas of the VCF or who have requested the courtesy of consultation regarding development plans	At the start of each new FSP period and for each new cutting permit First Nations are contacted initially by mail. Phone calls follow, to ask for their concerns. The Simpcw First Nation has an ongoing relationship with the Manager of the VCF and they are informed on an ongoing basis of the operations and plans of the VCF. Face to face meetings are held several times each year to facilitate the exchange of ideas and proposals. Currently, there is a seat on the board for First Nations but it is not being used.

Community Members	The VCF has a list of all community groups including recreational societies and other non-profit societies who make use of the grant program.	The VCF office is open during regular hours so that people can stop by to discuss issues. Monthly board meetings are open to the public. The AGM is another opportunity for the community to talk to staff about VCF development plans and any operations that the public is interested in. VCF staff will endeavour to produce a newsletter outlining past achievements for distribution at least once a year to residents and local businesses. VCF communicates regularly with the local recreational societies. Staff are currently working on a website to be operational in 2017 or 2018.
Local Government	The Village of Valemout has two councillors on the board of directors	Monthly meetings keep the councillors informed and they report back to the Village. The VCF Manager is in regular contact with the Mayor.
Government Agencies Ministries	Ministry of Forest Range and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) Ministry of Environment (MOE) Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO)	Staff at the VCF are in regular contact with FLNRO as they apply for new licenses and permits and discuss higher level issues. VCF communicate with MOE on air quality issues with the DFO as required

6. Reporting

The VCF reports to the community in a variety of ways. The office of the VCF maintains an open door policy. Staff are available to discuss public concerns year round. The monthly board meetings are open to the public and are often attended by people expressing personal concerns or soliciting the board's input on various project proposals they have for the community.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is another opportunity for the community to talk to staff and the board of directors about development plans and any other operations that they are interested in. At the AGM the Manager presents his Overview of the Past Year. This includes:

- major announcements, changes to the CF
- financial summary including the audited financial reports available for the public
- highlights including harvesting, road building, silviculture achievements, inventories completed, number of contractors employed - local and non-local

- recreation- including new projects and access to sites
- grants - received by the CF and grants given out to the community -how much and to whom
- Valemount Industrial Park news

After the General Manager's report there is an opportunity for a questions from the public. Maps are available for review. At the conclusion of the AGM, the VCF solicits feedback on the performance of the VCF and its success at achieving community goals and objectives from the Management Plan including broad social, economic and resource protection goals. This feedback is used for the company's continuous improvement.

The VCF Community Newsletter summarizes current achievements and future projects. It is distributed at least once every two years to each resident with a post office box. The intent is increase production to once per year to help keep the public informed. The newsletter is also distributed to businesses in town, local offices, the Library, the Learning Centre, First Nations, the BC Community Forest Association and to the Village of Valemount.

Besides having the VCF Management Plan and Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) available for the public year round, the VCF has developed a Companion Document to the FSP that spells out, in layman's terms, how the company manages the forest resources. The Companion Document summarizes the results and strategies that the company uses to meet the required government objectives and is a useful way to describe what the company does day to day. Often the public seek assurances that the company is obligated to protect the resources and that they are doing so.

The VCF is currently working on a website and expect that it will be available to the public by the end of 2017. This will be an effective tool for the public to access information year round.

Part B. Establishing the Annual Allowable - Cut for K2T

1. Proposed Allowable Annual Cut

The allowable annual cut (AAC) for CFA K2T is 48,706 cubic meters

2. Allowable Annual Cut Rationale

The VCF and Ecora modelled various sensitivity analysis scenarios. VCF is accepting the base case calculation presented in the enclosed Timber Supply Analysis Report.

3. Timber Supply Review

Provided by Ecora

4. RPF Declaration

I, Jay Greenfield, RPF # _____ declare that the TSR has met the requirements of section 6.02 (c)(i) and (d) of the Community Forest Agreement document.

Signed _____ Date _____

References

Valemount's Future - Integrated Community Sustainability Plan
March 2013
Prepared by:
Centre for Sustainability, Whistler

Technical Report 097 - Climate Patterns, Trends and Projections for the Omenica, Skeena and Northeast Natural Resource Regions, British Columbia 2016