

# 2021 – 2026 Operating Plan

## Tolko Industries Ltd., Meadow Lake OSB Division

### Term Supply Licence

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December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020

Prepared for:

Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment  
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*This plan was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Code, the Forest Operating Plan Standard (Nov 2012), the Forest Operations Standard (July 2020), the Tolko Industries LTD. Meadow Lake OSB Division Term Supply Licence (TSL) Sept 2014 License #A-TOLKO-ML-02, the approved Forest Management Plan for the Tolko TSL including the Harvest Volume Schedule and associated utilization standards.*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michelle Young".

Michelle Young, R.P.F.  
Woodlands Manager, Forestry, Tolko Industries Ltd.

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# 1 Introduction

This Operating Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Forest Operating Plan Chapter and Standard of the Saskatchewan Environmental Code, and the Tolko Industries Ltd, Meadow Lake OSB Division (Tolko) Term Supply Licence (TSL) for the area. It is also aligned with a strategic 20-Year Forest Management Plan (FMP) for the TSL area, which was prepared in accordance with the Forest Management Planning Chapter and Standard of the Environmental Code and came into effect on April 1, 2018.

The plan is being submitted by Tolko, as the Licensee, to gain approval for consumptive and non-consumptive activities on the TSL area. These activities include, but are not limited to, harvesting, road construction, road maintenance / reclamation, tree planting, scarification, and surveying. The operating plan covers the period April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2026. Approval is being sought for year 1 activities. Future years are shown to illustrate intent and inform stakeholder engagement.

The Tolko Term Supply Licence was extended to September 1, 2024. Tolko is in discussion with the Ministry of Environment (MoE) regarding transitioning the licence from a Term Supply Licence to a Forest Management Agreement (FMA) prior to the expiration of the current licence.

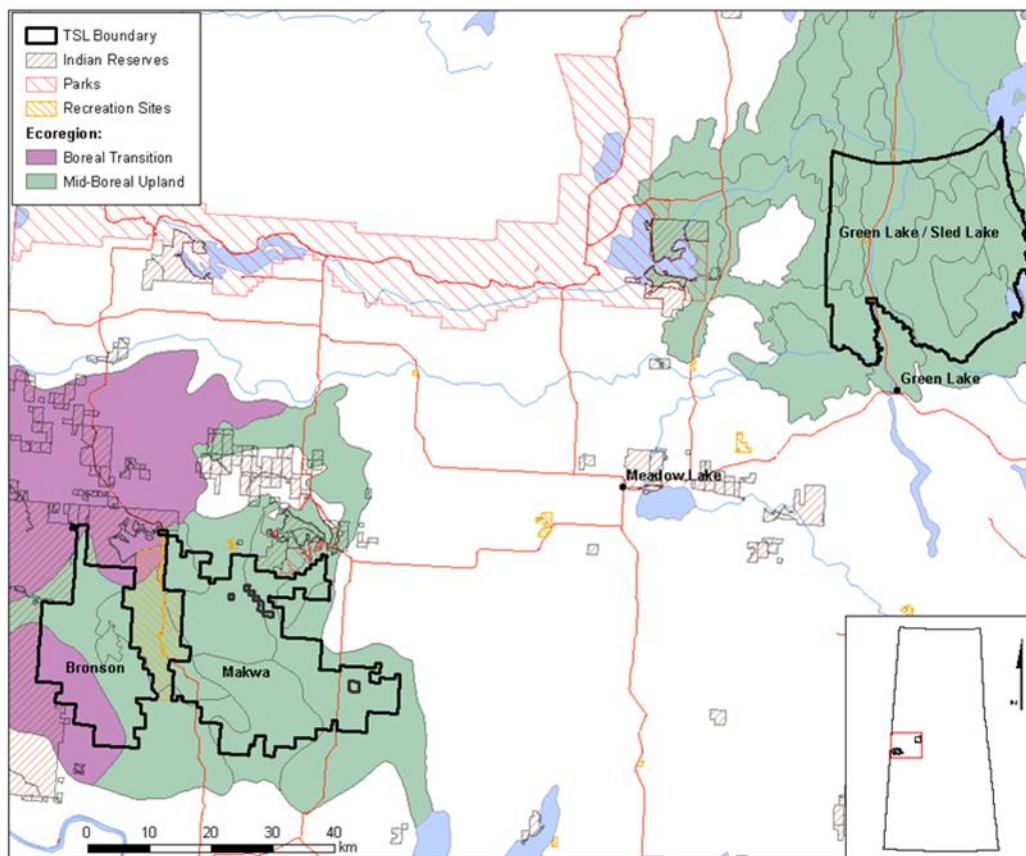


Figure 1 Tolko Term Supply Licence Area

## 2 Variances from the FMP, Operating Plan Standard, Licence, HVS

### 2.1 Variances from FMP

This operating plan is aligned with the 2018 Forest Management Plan (FMP) for the Tolko TSL area which came into effect on April 1, 2018. Operating plan variances from approved FMP strategies and commitments are monitored, reported on, and reviewed annually by an FMP Management Implementation Team (MIT).

A list of FMP variances to report on in this operating plan under section 1-3(1)(b) of the Forest Operating Plan Standard was also developed by the Forest Service, and that report follows.

<b>1. Proposed blocks occurring outside of tactical plan (TP) areas (FMP Indicator 13)</b>
<p>There are 328 ha in 17 operating plan blocks that fall outside of the FMP tactical plan area boundaries with 2 times the expected harvest volume included in the plan. The FMP allows for up to 15% of the actual harvest area to fall outside of tactical plan areas. This area represents 4.04%. The FMP Annual Report will continue to track progress towards this target.</p> <p>The blocks and areas in hectares are listed in Appendix A. The reasons for the variances include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Onsite conditions have resulted in operational adjustments. For example, significant rainfall in the TSL area has resulted in alterations to planned harvest areas.</li><li>- Most of the area planned outside the tactical plan area is due to inventory errors (example shown in Appendix A). As per the Tolko FMP, “The target can be exceeded only where approved salvage harvesting is required, or where the inventory data used to create the tactical plan blocks was incorrect and harvesting is following the intent of the plan (these instances do not count toward the target).” The hectares harvested and not included in the FMP tactical plan as a result of inventory error will be excluded in the FMP Annual Report.</li></ul>
<b>2. Proposed blocks with old seral deferral areas (OSD) (FMP Indicator 2) located within.</b>
<p>There are 397.4 ha of old seral deferral areas that are located, to some degree, within 37 proposed operating plan blocks. Those blocks are listed in Appendix A. The OSD areas within harvest blocks will be excluded from logging and be incorporated into retention patches or replacement areas will be found and reported in the FMP Annual Report.</p> <p>Modifications to the deferral areas can be made under the circumstances described in Indicator 2 and will be managed and tracked during the operating year. The FMP Annual Report will summarize any areas impacted by harvesting or road building, and any impacts from natural disturbances. It will also summarize any offsetting additional reserves put in place.</p>

<b>3. Deviations from the FMP approved utilization standard being requested in operating plan.</b>	
	No deviations are being requested in the operating plan.
<b>4. Planning units with potential to exceed the 5-year maximum harvest area targets by planning unit and species grouping. (Indicator 24)</b>	
	<p>Planned areas summarized by the 8 stratum (4 species groups in each of 2 geographic areas), are shown in Appendix A.</p> <p>It is difficult to assess this indicator at the Operating Plan level as the planned areas will likely always exceed FMP annual harvest targets. Reasons for this include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The indicator is reported on actual harvest area, not on planned area.</li> <li>- The planned blocks amount to 2 times the expected harvest volume and include planned harvest blocks for winter harvest 2021 (i.e. those where volume has been zeroed).</li> <li>- The planned blocks are maximized in the high value areas (most desirable wood sources) to their sustainable limit.</li> <li>- The planned blocks are weighted towards summer ground to provide options for summer harvesting.</li> <li>- The planned blocks do not remove targets for retention or other non-timber values (e.g. stakeholder commitments, old seral deferrals, riparian buffers...).</li> <li>- The limits in the Green / Sled area may be exceeded some years in order to accomplish the goal of good event design (i.e. get in / get out).</li> </ul> <p>The harvest distribution targets will be managed for throughout the operating year. A post-harvest evaluation of performance against them will show the actual variances and be included in the FMP Annual Report.</p>
<b>5. Blocks occurring in the Green / Sled Caribou Habitat Management Area (Indicator 7c).</b>	
	None
<b>6. Blocks occurring in an event that will cause event to go beyond 10 years (Indicator 3).</b>	
	There are none to report at this time. Harvest events duration will be reported in the FMP Annual Report.
<b>7. Blocks with forest health concerns preventing insular retention (Indicator 4).</b>	
	There are no blocks with salvage mistletoe (SM) identified in the plan. When mistletoe is identified a request for an amendment will be submitted to declare the block as a salvage mistletoe block.
<b>8. Identify if operating plan is expected to result in variance greater than 20% of the annual limit (20 ha) of Managed Forest Land Base (MFLB) converted to other land uses (Indicator 10).</b>	

	<p>The roads identified in this Operating plan do not exceed the annual limit of conversion of MFLB to other land uses (i.e. roads, gravel pits...). The annual limit is &lt;20 ha, with a 20% variance (&lt; 24 ha).</p> <p>There is 6.3 km (6.3 ha) planned construction in 2021-2022. Hectares are calculated using the distance of the road multiplied by the running and ditch surface distance of 10 m (as detailed in the FMP).</p>
<p><b>9. Identify blocks within a natural disturbance event &gt;100 ha that is salvage harvested (Indicator 12).</b></p>	
	<p>No salvage harvest blocks are planned in this operating plan.</p>
<p><b>10. Identify blocks within the traditional territory of an Aboriginal community where an opportunity to review operating plan has not occurred (Indicator 26).</b></p>	
	<p>None. Advertising and letters about the opportunity to review draft forestry plans reached all areas within and adjacent to the Tolko TSL area.</p>
<p><b>11. Identify blocks where a known culturally significant aboriginal site exists but was not given consideration under the operating plan (Indicator 27)</b></p>	
	<p>None.</p> <p>Known gravesites identified by Ministry of Environment were put into the GIS system however are not shown on the maps for privacy concerns. In addition, known cultural sites were identified during field visits with Elders and are mapped (i.e. camp site, birch gathering area).</p>

## 2.2 Variances from Forest Operating Plan Standard

Alternative solutions to requirements in the Forest Operating Plan Standard (FOPS), used in preparing this operating plan, are listed below. These alternatives were agreed upon between the Forest Service and the forest industry as acceptable alternate solutions for the 2021-2026 Operating Plan submission. Long term changes are to be addressed through revision of the Forest Operating Plan Standard (FOPS).

### Alternative solutions:

#### Map Requirements (FOPS 1-1(3))

- As opposed to submitting a complete paper copy and digital copy of this plan at time of submission digital copies of all required maps at all scales will be submitted at time of submission. After a cursory review of the submitted plan, paper copies will be submitted for 1:200,000 and 1:50,000 scale harvest maps. Once the plan review nears completion (by March 15, 2021) only maps in which changes were made will be resubmitted in paper copies at all scales (1:200,000, 1:50,000 and 1:15,000). Only changes identified in the roundtable review would be approved.

- The License Area map is not submitted as per the scale required in the standard (1:250,000 or 1:300,000). It is submitted at 1:200,000 which better illustrates the TSL area.
- As per a request by the Forest Service, shape files for approved blocks will be provided within 2 weeks of plan approval.

### **Transitional Blocks (Expected to be harvested in the current operating year)**

Maps submitted initially will show blocks that are intended to be harvested in the current operating year, that may however, not get completed and carried over into the 2021-2022 operating year. Those blocks will be shown using a lighter grey depletion colour and the planned block boundary. The volume tables will show zero volume for those blocks.

Any of those blocks not anticipated to be fully harvested by March 31, 2021 will be changed to show as planned blocks on updated maps, and the volumes remaining will be added back into tables, for submission by March 15, 2021. Completed blocks will be changed to normal grey depletion. Blocks with similar volumes will be removed from the updated maps and volume table, to keep volumes within the maximum of two times the HVS. At this time, the harvest volume tables and maps will be resubmitted. All other plan information will remain as per original submission.

### **Volume Estimates**

- Planner estimates of planned block volume will be used (instead of inventory volumes) where there is justification to do so.
- Volumes in tables will be reduced by 9% to reflect retention being left. They will be submitted in excel format to facilitate analysis by the Ministry.

### **Volume by Species (FOPS section 1-3 (1)(k)(ii)(C))**

Instead of summarizing total volume planned by species, the harvest area will be summarized by the planning units and species groupings used in FMP Indicator 24.

### **Planned road reclamation (FOPS Section 1-6(c)(vii))**

Planned road reclamation for class 4 roads is not displayed on the 2021-2026 Operating Plan maps. All class 4 roads are planned to be reclaimed as per the Forest Operations Standard (July 2020). As per the Alternate Solution approved by the Forest Service (November 2020), any class 4 roads not being reclaimed or those not being reclaimed to the standard will be identified either on maps or in a table (as agreed upon with the area forester).



### **Reclaimed roads and surface water crossings (1-6 (c) (viii))**

Reclaimed roads and reclaimed surface water crossings are not shown on operating plan maps. This information will be submitted in accordance with the Data Submission standard.

### **2.3 Variances from TSL and HVS**

This operating plan is aligned with provisions of the Tolko TSL and the approved HVS (Table 4). Specifically, planned area at 2 times volume is consistent with the HVS in the approved FMP and the Tolko TSL Licence.

### **3 Engagement and Information Sharing**

Resources on the TSL support the various activities of other forest users. The forest plays an active role in people's lives including trapping, outfitting, grazing, sawmilling, tourism, fishing, hunting, farming and outdoor recreation. In preparation for the submission of the 2021-2026 Operating Plan, Tolko has met on a regular basis and documented feedback received from rural and urban municipalities, First Nations and Métis communities, trappers, outfitters, and other stakeholders, including third-parties. Stakeholder input was received through community open houses (last held in Dec 2019), one on one meetings, phone calls, email communication, mail outs and field tours. In addition, internet-based communications such as the Tolko webpage and the Tolko Facebook page are utilized by stakeholders.

Section 1-3 (1) e) of the Forest Operating Plan Standard requires a schedule of public and First Nation and Métis community information sessions to be conducted during the period of the operating plan development. In order to continue to receive input and address concerns, Tolko had to adapt to Covid-19 restrictions and adapt its engagement efforts. Rather than offer community open houses / information sessions in 2020, a "Virtual Open House" was offered. Stakeholder letters and emails were sent on December 8<sup>th</sup> directing individuals to a newly created website where simplified stakeholder maps were uploaded. A sample letter is provided in Appendix B. As well, newspaper (online and paper) and radio ads in Meadow Lake, Lloydminster and Green Lake provided information regarding the Virtual Open House.

Stakeholder engagement mechanisms are continually being modified and adjusted to meet people's needs and expectations, and legal requirements. The goal is to reach interested people and communities in whatever manner is most effective.

Tolko documents engagement in the form of a Stakeholder Database which summarizes the engagement with stakeholders. With this submission, the Commitment and Communications Report, as of December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, has been provided to the Ministry in digital format. In preparing this plan, Tolko has accommodated other forest users where possible. Commitments and changes made to the plan, if spatial, are identified on the 1:15,000 and 1:50,000 scale maps as a Stakeholder Commitment. In addition to the Stakeholder Commitment layer on the operating maps, Tolko also created an additional GIS layer to further inform the planning and engagement process. This is the Active Stakeholder Trail layer which identifies known active trails to ensure that this or similar access is retained upon completion of harvest. Many of these trails were identified through field tours and communication with local stakeholders.

#### **3.1.1 Trapping and Outfitting Maps**

Custom made maps are being mailed to the chairs of trapping fur blocks and outfitters, for their applicable areas, in mid-January 2021.

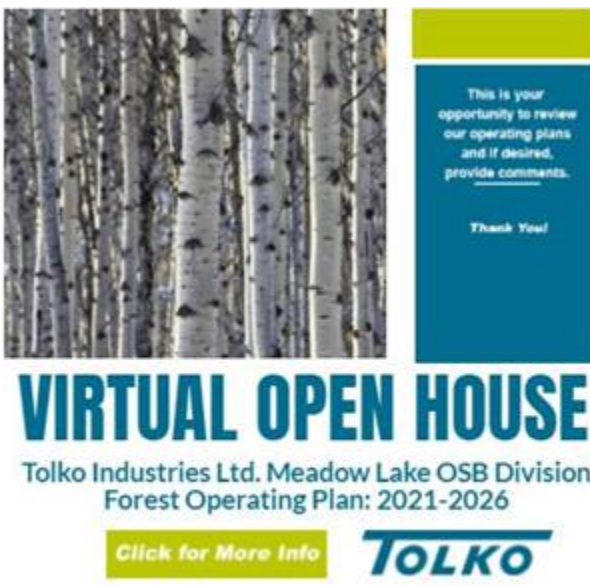
Only trapping or outfitting boundaries, proposed blocks, and landmarks like lakes and roads will be shown on the maps to make it very clear to outfitters and trappers if there are any plans in their areas.

### 3.1.2 Advertising

The general public was reached through advertising efforts. Information about the opportunity to review draft forestry plans was spread through radio ads, newspapers, online news sites, community bulletin boards, and the Tolko website. All advertisements directed individuals to Tolko's website for information and instructions for viewing and providing input on the draft operating plan maps. Details of the advertising include;

- Northern Pride Paper, Thursday December 23 and Thursday January 7
- Green Lake MBC Radio ad spots during the weeks of December 21 and January 4
- Northern Village of Green Lake, poster posted on community bulletin board starting December 21, 2020
- Lloydminster Meridian Booster, Thursday December 23 and Thursday January 7
- CJSN Meadow Lake Radio, 2 ads per day, 6 days per week for the weeks of December 21 and January 4
- Box ad on Meadow Lake NOW, 2 ads per day, 6 days per week for the weeks of December 21 and January 4

An example of the online advertising is shown below. When clicked, the person is taken to the Virtual Open House page.



### 3.1.3 Virtual Open House

The Virtual Open House went live on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The website link is <https://tolko.com/responsibility/managing-our-forest/prairies/meadow-lake-woodlands>. The Meadow Lake Woodlands site is a page within Tolko's overall corporate website. This also provides interested stakeholders with the opportunity to explore other Tolko sites such as products, divisions and indigenous partners. As well, there is a link to the current 20-Year Forest Management Plan. A poster is displayed which details the process and includes an email ([sk.tolkowoodlands@tolko.com](mailto:sk.tolkowoodlands@tolko.com)) for comments.

#### View of the Website poster and Maps:

## VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE

2021-2026 Operating Plan  
MEADOW LAKE, SK



### VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE

Tolko Industries Ltd.  
Meadow Lake, SK  
S4R 1R6  
Canada  
Forest Operating Plan 2021-2026  
This poster is for informational purposes only. It is not intended to be used as a substitute for the Forest Operating Plan. For more information, please visit [www.tolko.com](https://www.tolko.com).  
If you have any questions or would like to comment on this plan, please email us at [sk.tolkowoodlands@tolko.com](mailto:sk.tolkowoodlands@tolko.com).

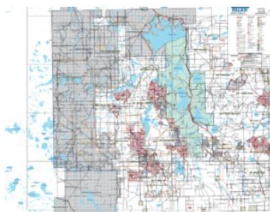
[www.tolko.com](https://www.tolko.com) 

*Click the image to open the poster (PDF)*

The maps on the Tolko website (shown below) were tailored to be more readable and more easily downloaded. All information other than landmark features such as roads and lakes, recent harvest blocks, and proposed harvest blocks was removed.

## MAPS

*Click on the maps below to view their PDF.*



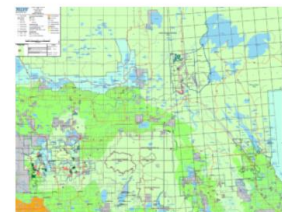
Bronson Forest map (PDF)



Green-Sled Forest map (PDF)



Makwa Forest map (PDF)



Term Supply License map (PDF)

### 3.2 First Nation and Métis Communities

It is the duty of the Government of Saskatchewan to consult, and if appropriate accommodate, First Nation or Métis if the actions contemplated by the Government could adversely affect Aboriginal rights. Tolko also has an obligation to engage with First Nations and Métis communities where proposed operations could adversely affect Treaty or Aboriginal rights and carry out traditional uses. Tolko attends Duty to Consult meetings when invited.

Tolko engages with First Nations on a regular basis through letters, emails, phone calls, field tours, and meetings.

Examples of engagement with First Nations and Métis Communities in the development of this plan include;

- Makwa Sahgaiehcan First Nation – in person meetings held in 2020 include: Jan 14, Feb 10, and Feb 26. These meetings were held with Chief and Council to discuss harvest plans and receive input on future operating plans. Due to Covid-19 concerns and restrictions, recent communication has been primarily via text and phone calls. A Zoom call was held with Chief Ron Mitsuing and Councilor Dean Mitsuing on December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020. Items discussed included current operations, the 2021-2026 draft Operating Plan, and employment opportunities. An additional meeting is scheduled for January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
- Makwa / Lake Métis – a field tour occurred on August 31<sup>st</sup> with the Local President Alex Morin and several members. The Line Lake road development was discussed as well as future harvest plans, riparian buffers, and forest renewal.
- Green Lake Co-Management Board – although no meetings have been held, Tolko remains in contact with the Board and its new chairperson Dale Hounsel.
- Onion Lake First Nation – a meeting was planned on September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 however was cancelled due to Covid-19 concerns.

In addition to communication throughout the year, Tolko sent registered letters communicating the opportunity to view draft maps on the Tolko website to each of the First Nation communities and Métis locals listed below.

#### First Nation Community

Onion Lake First Nations

Makwa Sahgaiehcan First Nation

Canoe Lake Cree First Nation

Thunder Child First Nations

Flying Dust First Nation

Ministikwan Lake Cree Nation

#### Métis Local

Beauval Sipishik (#37)

Dore/Sled Lake (#67)

Green Lake (#5)

Makwa / Loon Lake (#32)

Brightsand (#118)

Pierceland (#71)

## 4 Proposed Forest Operations

The operational activities that will be carried out under this operating plan involve:

- Forest harvesting (including felling, skidding, processing, log hauling and staging of wood)
- Road construction, maintenance, and reclamation
- Forest renewal

### 4.1 General

#### 4.1.1 Harvesting and Hauling

The primary method proposed for harvesting blocks within the Tolko TSL follows an even-aged silviculture system using a modified clear-cut with variable retention harvesting technique. Snag recruitment (dead standing and/or low utilization trees), diversity and stand structure features (clumps, islands, patches) will be provided by retention of coniferous understory, immature commercial deciduous species and representative trees.

Harvesting will be mechanical using feller bunchers, grapple skidders and processor. Trees are processed mainly at roadside. Once processed and piled roadside, the trees are loaded onto primarily B Train 8 axle trucks and brought to the destination mill.

#### 4.1.2 Bush Staging and Stockpile Sites

Tolko is proposing to stage wood roadside in harvest blocks within the TSL area and to stage wood in two stockpile sites. Staging roadside in harvest blocks and in stockpile sites is a critical strategy to manage moisture content within the Meadow Lake OSB mill.

Focusing on managing dry and green wood in the mill has proven to substantially improve production. The strand dryers are the bottle neck in the mill and feeding the right mix (50/50 green and dry wood) is essential. The most critical time for the mill to have the proper mix of green and dry is October through to April, when aspen is at its highest moisture content. The mill requires an adequate supply of dry wood during the winter period to keep up with the dryers. Without the supply of dry wood (roadside staged from the previous year) the mill production drops substantially.

Tolko requests approval for the 2021-2022 operating year to:

- exceed the 90-day time frame and allow for all forest products to be removed from harvest areas anytime throughout the operating year until March 31, 2022, as per Section 39(1) of the Forest Resources Management Regulations, and
- leave wood in staging and stockpile areas listed in Table 1 beyond March 31, 2022. The list presented in Table 1 will be amended by March 15<sup>th</sup> 2022 as locations required for staging and stockpiling of timber in the forest beyond the end of the operating year are more certain.

Within the TSL approximately 80,500 m<sup>3</sup> of hardwood and 10,500 m<sup>3</sup> of softwood harvested in the 2021-2022 operating year is to be left roadside in harvest blocks or in stockpile sites and hauled by March 31, 2023. Tolko is requesting permission to leave harvested volume in the areas identified in the Table 1. This represents Tolko's current proposed plan for in bush staging and stockpiling.

Table 1 Proposed Bush Staging and Stock Pile Locations

Area Name	Description	Estimated Volume Swd (m <sup>3</sup> )	Estimated Volume Hwd (m <sup>3</sup> )
G7 - Cowan River South	In bush stage	500	3,000
G5 – Hillyer North	In bush stage	500	5,000
G7 - Cowan River South (T04-06-613)	Stockpile	500	12,500
G1 – Stewart Lake	In bush stage	500	5,000
M4 - North Tower	In bush stage	1,000	15,000
M4 - North Tower (Km 4-10 Makwa IWR)	Stockpile	1,000	5,000
M3 – Shack Lake	In bush stage	1,500	5,000
M5 – Berry Lake	In bush stage	500	5,000
M16 – Exner Lake	In bush stage	500	5,000
B21 – Bronson Lake N	In bush stage	2,000	10,000
B18 – Pipestone Creek	In bush stage	2,000	10,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>10,500</b>	<b>80,500</b>

### 4.1.3 Ribbon Colour Scheme

Tolko equips harvesting contractors with Global Positioning System (GPS) units for the feller bunchers to facilitate ribbonless boundary harvest. The maps used in the bunchers also highlight sensitive features such as water, stakeholder commitments, old seral targets, and known trails. The use of GPS equipped bunchers is a significant technological advancement in the forest industry and recently incorporated as a practice in the Forest Operations Standard (July 2020).

There may be times where boundaries and other features with flagging tape will be marked. In those cases, the following table lists the standardized flagging tape colors that will be used.

*Table 2 Standard Flagging Tape Colours*

Ribbon Colour	Use
Pink "Harvest Area Boundary"	Harvest area boundary locations and sensitive sites where harvesting will not occur
Orange "Road Line" or "Road Centerline"	Road location
Day-glo Green "Machine Free Zone"	Areas where equipment is not permitted to travel
Yellow "Special Management Zone"	Areas with special management conditions (i.e. no harvest zones in riparian management areas)
Yellow	Planting boundaries

### 4.1.4 Temporary Work Camps

As per section 1-1 (2) of the Temporary Camp Standard (July 2020), Tolko requests a blanket Temporary Work Camp Permit (TWCP) to cover all forestry activities carried out on the TSL area during the 2021-2022 operating year. Temporary work camp locations will be provided to the inspecting officer 24 hours prior to installation. In addition, all requirements identified within section 1-1 (2) (b) of the Temporary Work Camp Standard (July 2020) will be provided prior to camp establishment. Harvesting camp locations will be kept updated in the Weekly Operations Report made available to the Ministry of Environment Area Forester and Inspecting Officer on an ongoing basis.

### 4.1.5 Heritage Resource Surveys

Maps and operating information, including pre-harvest site prescriptions, will be provided to the Heritage Conservation Branch (HCB) of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport, for all areas included in Year 1 of this operating plan. HCB screens all proposed harvest areas and roads for heritage resource potential based on location, topography, known heritage resource information and professional judgement. Each site is rated for heritage potential. A qualified professional archaeologist is contracted to carry out field surveys on sites where the heritage potential is moderate or high and the roads or renewal methods involved are expected to exceed specified minimums for ground disturbance. If heritage resources are found during the survey planned forestry activities are modified to avoid disturbing the sites.

In addition to the HCB annual review sites of archaeological or cultural significance may be identified



during the operating plan consultation / engagement process or during forestry activities. They will be reported to the HCB in accordance with provincial requirements and appropriate management actions identified.

## 4.2 Harvesting

### 4.2.1 Utilization Standards

The utilization standards approved in the 2018 Forest Management Plan, shown in Table 3, will be followed in this plan.

*Table 3 Utilization Standards in 2018 FMP*

Product	Stump Height (cm)	Minimum Top Diameter inside Bark (cm)	Log Length (m)
SWD Sawlog	30	10	2.6
SWD Pulp (ws/other)	30	8	n/a
Swd Pulp (jp)	30	10	n/a
Hardwood	30	8	n/a

\*n/a log length variable (min 2.4 m to max 5.0 m)

### 4.2.2 Proposed Year 1 Harvest Volumes and Attributes

The plan includes 572,450 m<sup>3</sup> of softwood and hardwood combined. This represents just under 2.0 x the annual allowable harvest specified in the licence in addition to the 16,978 m<sup>3</sup> allocated to the Northern Village of Green Lake (total of 297,201 m<sup>3</sup>). The volume of wood is to provide operational flexibility, allow for changes in markets, accounts for potential volume overestimates, and stakeholder concerns identified after plan submission. Table 4 details the approved harvest volume schedule (HVS) resulting from the 2018 Forest Management Plan and the allocations to Tolko and the Village of Green Lake.

Appendix C details the location of the complete list of proposed harvest areas and their volume summaries.

*Table 4 2018 Forest Management Plan Harvest Volume Schedule*

Description	Softwood Sawlog (m <sup>3</sup> /yr)	Hardwood Volume (m <sup>3</sup> )	Softwood Pulp (m <sup>3</sup> )
2018 FMP HVS	91,000	197,000	12,000
Tolko Licence	74,500	195,800	9,824
Village of Green Lake Allocation	15,000		1,978

### 4.2.3 Silviculture Systems and Stand Level Retention

The silviculture systems used will be modified harvest with retention.

Consistent with the currently approved Forest Management Plan, at least 9% (a range of 3 – 15% by block) of a harvested event area will be left as insular or proximal retention.

### 4.2.4 Riparian Area Harvesting

Harvesting and silviculture activities in riparian areas will comply with requirements in the recently updated Forest Operations Standards (July 2020) for riparian management areas.

### 4.2.5 Visually Sensitive Areas

Visually sensitive areas were identified during development of the 2018 Forest Management Plan. Currently these include Highway 26 and Highway 21 in the Makwa / Bronson area as well as the Beaver River in the Green / Sled area. New areas can be identified through the development of the operating plan.

There are no year 1 blocks in the Makwa / Bronson which include these identified VSAs

In the 2021 – 2026 OP the Hillyer North area has blocks adjacent to the Beaver River. There are no other VSA areas affected. The plan for this area is as follows;

#### Hillyer North – G5

Hillyer North blocks T04-05-001 and 002 are adjacent to the Beaver River. Generally, VSA objectives will be achieved through the 90 m hard buffer required on the river. There are not expected to be any areas where more than 90 m is required for visual quality reasons.

## 4.3 Roads and Crossings

### 4.3.1 Proposed Roads and Watercourse Crossings

Proposed year 1 road construction and watercourse crossings are summarized in the tables provided with submission (location of files detailed in Appendix D). In total 341 km of road is shown in the 2021-2022 Operating Plan (Table 5). The roads and crossings have been planned for 2 times the expected harvest volume and exceed what is expected to be constructed.

*Table 5 Summary of Proposed Year 1 Road Construction*

Sum of Road Length (km)	
Road Class	Total
Class 1 Major IBR	0.0
Class 2 Minor IBR	6.3
Class 3 Bush Road	140.6
Class 4 Bush Road	194.1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>341.0</b>

## Class 2 Minor Improved Bush Road (IBR) Construction

There is 1.9 km of Class 2 IBR road construction planned in the Line Lake area. This is in addition to the 5.1 already constructed and submitted as an amendment to the 2020-2025 Operating Plan.

There is 4.3 km of Class 2 IBR road construction (in 2 separate segments) planned in the Pipestone Creek (2.1 km) and Bronson Lake South (2.2 km) areas. The Bronson South IBR development was designed to connect the existing Bronson Road to the Canoxi Road and will be a main artery for hauling timber out of the Bronson Forest. The planned Bronson South IBR partially utilizes existing infrastructure including the original Bronson South IBR (built in 2007) and oil and gas roads.

Sum of Road Length (km)			
Road Class	Operating Area	Road Name	Total
Class 2 Minor IBR	B18 - Pipestone Creek	Bronson South	2.1
		IBR	
	B19 - Bronson Lake South	Bronson South	2.2
IBR			
	M8 - Line Lake	Line Lake IBR	1.9
<b>Class 2 Minor IBR Total</b>			<b>6.3</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>6.3</b>

### 4.3.2 Road Closures

Temporary and permanent road closures align with provincial resource protection methods. They are used to restrict vehicle access to help prevent overfishing or overhunting of an area, protect road infrastructure, and reduce liability. Road closures proposed for installation in Year 1 are provided in the submission documents (see Appendix D for file location and name).

The ability to install some short-term, temporary closures that don't block access to a large area may also be requested, particularly in the fall during hunting season. The purpose of those closures would be to help secure camps and equipment from vandalism and theft and prevent damage to newly developed roads.

Tolko requests approval to access any closed roads within the FMA area to conduct approved forest management activities. Once those activities are completed the roads will be closed again.

### 4.3.3 Road Reclamation

Roads no longer needed for forest management purposes are generally reclaimed and returned to productive status. Road reclamation will be carried out in the manner specified in the Forest Operations Standards (July 2020). In-block roads (Class 4) are reclaimed within two years of harvest completion. Inter-block roads are reclaimed at the same time if no longer required.

There is no planned reclamation of any Class 1 or 2 roads in the Operating Year.

#### **4.3.4 Area Specific Wildlife Concerns**

##### **North Tower and West Muckingham Lake**

The area south of Muckingham Lake (M4-North Tower and the western portion of M7-Muckingham Lake) has been identified by stakeholders and in previous Operating Plan reviews as an important elk area. Tolko, in consultation with MoE and local stakeholders, has developed strategies to mitigate concerns with respect to the construction of the Makwa South IBR and forest harvest activities which include;

- Access Control. There are currently many access points into this area for primarily quad access but occasional truck access in dry years.
- The completed Makwa South IBR has 4 gates installed to control access into the area. There are 2 gates on both ends of the road. There are also 2 gates that are located on creeks to ensure access control from vehicle traffic (i.e. half tons). All gates will be closed during periods of inactivity.
- Access Control. Inblock roads will be reclaimed in a timely fashion or blocked off to minimize public traffic in newly harvested blocks.
- Log Haul Restrictions. Tolko has committed to curtail log haul during elk calving period (April 15<sup>th</sup> to June 15<sup>th</sup>). This specifically relates to the Makwa South IBR in North Tower and West Muckingham Lake areas.
- Hunting Pressure. To minimize sight lines into newly harvested blocks from the Makwa South IBR, a combination of strategies is proposed. These include utilizing natural land topography, roadside retention concentration, strategically place retention patches, and occasionally buffers.
- Block Design. In this area, blocks are designed to ensure retention of mature forest structure. This does result in a more traditional cut and leave pattern along the proposed Makwa IBR. Block T01\_04\_217 was redesigned to exclude the eastern portion of the block. This removal from the plan will be part of a larger wildlife travel corridor connecting the farmland in the south to the forested Muckingham area in the north. Tolko has agreed to not harvest in this corridor until the adjacent cuts have regenerated to a sufficient height (to be determined by a joint Forest Service / Tolko discussion). Another Elk travel corridor was identified at the 2020/2021 open house in St Walburg. This travel corridor contained 3, year 3-5 blocks, that have been removed from this Operating Plan. These blocks 01\_07\_006, 007, and 008 will be added back into the Operating Plan at a future date once regeneration in the Berry Lake event areas have become established.

##### **B 18 Pipestone Creek**

- A local stakeholder provided us with the GPS location of a bear den located within 02-18-005 after reviewing maps online in the Virtual Open House. A 90 meter no harvest zone was placed on the den to ensure its protection.

## **Green / Sled Lake**

Generally, caribou concerns are addressed largely through planning, specifically avoiding planning any harvesting on the eastern portion of the TSL. The eastern and northeastern portions of the TSL contain the most attractive caribou habitat. This area was identified as a Caribou Habitat Management Area in the Tolko 2018 Forest Management Plan. There are no blocks planned within this area. The draft Range Plan for Woodland Caribou in Saskatchewan (SK2 West) was released in December of 2019, and the Tier 1 area in the Green Sled TSL is captured within this avoided eastern portion. The Tier 2 area also appears to be mostly captured within this area. There are no blocks planned in this Tier 2 zone. The operating area here is S3 – Sled South, and harvesting is completed in this area.

All harvest blocks planned are in previously disturbed areas with patchworks of previous harvesting events, established linear corridors, and varying degrees of existing disturbance. Other than G7 - Cowan River South, all blocks are relatively close to the highway and major roads (Stewart Lake Road). Virtually all the proposed blocks are in areas with significant hardwood components identified as 'low value' caribou habitat by the MoE.

The Cowan River South area has been planned to minimize the number of years of active operations in the area. These areas are previously disturbed with an existing right of way through them and dozens of existing cut blocks throughout the area. The area already has a network of trails through it, is dominated by hardwood and mixed wood stands, and is actively used by deer outfitters who use baits to attract deer. Considering all these factors, this area is unsuitable for caribou and is already heavily disturbed and very attractive to moose and deer, and therefore predators.

### **4.3.5 Third Party Operators and the Northern Village of Green Lake**

There are no blocks being submitted on behalf of Third-Party Operators in this operating plan.

The Northern Village of Green Lake has an allocation of 15,000 m<sup>3</sup> per year of sawlogs on the Tolko TSL. This volume has been considered in the development of this plan. If this volume is required, the Northern Village of Green Lake will obtain a Forest Products Permit from the Ministry.

## 4.4 Renewal

### 4.4.1 Planned Year 1 Renewal Activities

Tables that identify blocks planned for initial treatment (leave for natural, scarify or plant), are included in the submission documents and the file location is provided in Appendix E. There are no blocks requiring retreatment.

In the 2021-2022 operating year, 326,640 seedlings are planned to be planted and there is 87 ha of planned scarification. In addition, there is 1,783 ha of hardwood leave for natural areas planned. The renewal activities include areas harvested by other operators on the TSL area including areas where volume was delivered under the Village of Green Lake's allocation.

There are 3 blocks where initial renewal treatment remains unfinished from previous operating seasons. These blocks are listed below. The Cache Lake South blocks will be field checked to verify treatment and the Berry Lake block is planned to be planted in the spring of 2021. A lack of trees prevented completing this block in the spring of 2020.

Operating Area	Harvest Year	Block Number	Planned Treatment	Planned Area (ha)
M1-Cache Lake South	2018/19	T01-01-114	LFN-SCAR	71
M1-Cache Lake South	2019/20	T01-01-116	LFN-SCAR	16
M5 - Berry Lake	2017/18	T01-05-001	Plant	25

No site preparation for tree planting, herbicide or insecticide treatments are planned for the 2021-2022 operating year.

### 4.4.2 Regeneration Assessments

Regeneration assessments to be completed in 2021-2022 involve:

- Establishment surveys on areas harvested in 2014-2015, by Tolko or third-party operators.
- There are no Free to Grow assessments to be completed this year.

Tolko proposed to complete establishment regeneration surveys on blocks 13-04-200 and 13-04-201 through use of drone footage in the 2018-2019 Operating Plan. Multiple attempts have been made to complete this project. These blocks were once again flown in the summer of 2020, in consultation with Ministry forest renewal staff. The footage was reviewed with Ministry staff in August 2020 and it was determined that additional footage was required. Attempts were made to re-fly the area however high winds hindered results. It was subsequently agreed that these blocks would be added to Tolko's regeneration survey projects for the 2021–2022 operating year.

Tolko continues to work with the Forest Service on an Alternative Solution to regeneration surveys of hardwood leave for natural (LFN) areas. In consultation with Ministry renewal staff, dependent on an analysis of the results from the past 3 years, this solution may be applied operationally. Determination will be made in collaboration with MoE.

## **5 Forest Protection**

### **5.1 Fire Protection and Suppression**

The Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency (SPSA) is a Treasury Board Crown Agency responsible for: provincial emergency management, fire safety and wildfire management in the province. Responsibilities include the prevention, detection and suppression of forest fires where identified values, including tracts of valuable timber, are at risk. The Wildfire Act and Regulations provide legislative requirements for industrial and commercial operators related to wildfire preparedness and response. Tolko will submit a Fire Protection and Suppression Plan by March 31, 2021 to the Vice President of Operations of the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency (SPSA) (formally Executive Director of the Wildfire Branch). A copy will be provided to the Forest Service.

### **5.2 Insect and Disease Protection**

At a provincial level, the surveillance, monitoring and management of insects and disease are completed by MoE. At the time of preparing this plan, there are no significant insect and disease concerns on the Tolko TSL area.

Efforts to control the spread of jack pine dwarf mistletoe are focused on reducing the chance of current infestations becoming established in new regenerating stands. Strategies used include ensuring retention (including in riparian areas) is made up of species not susceptible to mistletoe and sanitizing areas adjacent to the block. There are no mistletoe control blocks planned in 2021-2022. If identified during harvest operations, activities will align with the Forest Operations Standard (July 2020).

## **6 Reporting and Self-Inspections**

### **6.1.1 Activities Reporting**

The following reporting will be done during the implementation of this plan:

- Active Operations. A weekly Operations Report detailing the locations and status of active operations will be submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Area Forester and Inspecting Officer. This report will also include all camp locations.
- Crossings. A monthly crossings report outlining where active construction or maintenance work on crossings has occurred is emailed to the Area Forester.
- As per the AHPP 4 days notification will be given to the Area Forester and the Forest Ecosystem Protection Specialist before the start and completion of any in-stream work including construction, maintenance and reclamation of crossings except ephemeral and intermittent courses. Notification for ephemeral and intermittent will be given prior to work starting.
- Forest Data Submission. A Report of all activities completed in the 2019-2020 Operating Year will be submitted by February 15th, 2021 as agreed to by the Ministry of Environment and in accordance with the Forest Data Submission Standard.

- As per the Temporary Work Camp Standard (July 2020), notification of construction will be provided to the Area Forester prior to construction and will include information as per section 1-1 (2) (b). Removal and reclamation of camps will be reported within 10 days.

### **6.1.2 Self-Inspection and Reporting**

Section 32(e) of the Forest Resources Management Regulations requires Tolko to self-inspect landbase activities.

- Prior to operations beginning, a pre-work Form is completed with the contractor. This form details requirements of how each harvesting block is to be developed and any approval commitments. This form is completed digitally in Tolko's online environmental management system (EMS) site.
- An EMS Monitoring Completion Form is completed following completion of each harvest area. This form is completed digitally and stored in Tolko's EMS.
- Non-compliances will be reported either verbally, by e-mail or by letter to the Ministry of Environment, Area Forester or designate as soon as practical after they are discovered and verified. The notice will contain the location and the specifics around the non-compliance as well as the Action Plan to be taken to correct the issue if applicable.
- EMS documentation (pre-works and inspection reports) will be made available to MoE upon request.

## **7 Amendments**

Request for amendments to this operating plan will be submitted by email or letter to the Area Forester. Where it's deemed there may be impact to stakeholders, engagement will normally be done before the request is submitted and information about the outcome of the discussions will be included with the amendment request. If this is not the case, the submission will indicate this.



## Appendix A Variances from FMP

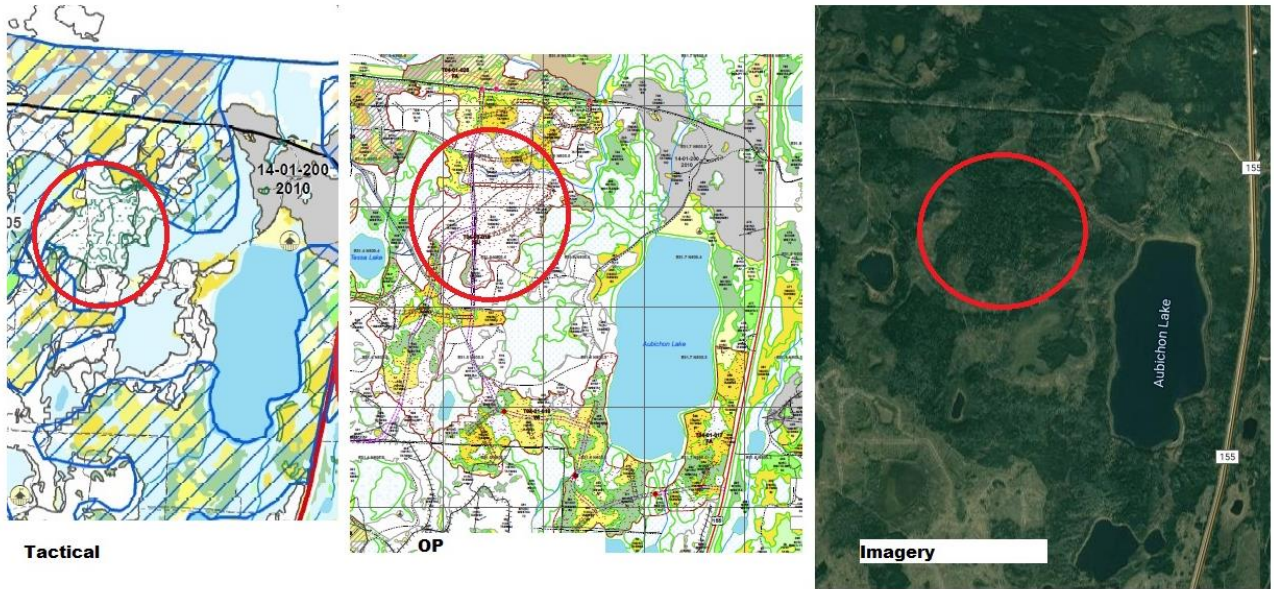
### Proposed blocks occurring outside of tactical plan (TP) areas (FMP Indicator 13)

Block Number	Block Area (ha)	Area Outside TP Blocks (ha)
T01-03-111	249.5	0.7
T01-04-208	430.4	0.9
T01-05-009	25.6	8.4
T01-05-010	72.6	6.2
T01-05-011	228.1	45.4
T02-18-007	148.1	4.2
T02-18-008	55.2	2.0
T02-18-012	15.1	2.2
T04-01-018	188.2	6.7
T04-01-019	361.5	134.2
T04-01-026	300.7	2.6
T04-01-030	93.4	1.0
T04-05-018	49.4	15.4
T04-06-613	97.4	22.5
T04-06-616	16.6	16.6
T04-06-617	22.8	4.6
T04-07-720	54.7	54.7
		<b><u>328.3</u></b>

Note – blocks with less than 0.5 ha were removed. These were edges / slivers of blocks.

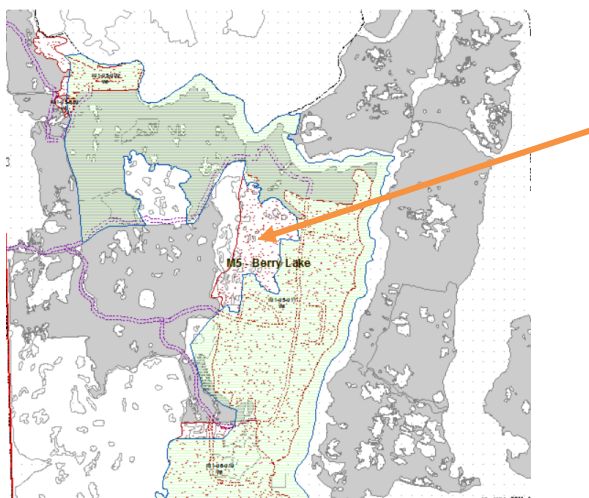
**Example of inventory error resulting in blocks proposed outside of tactical plan – block T04-01-019**

Block T04-01-019 represents 134 ha (41%) of the 328 ha reported to be outside the tactical plan. This area is shown as an historical depletion so was not included in the tactical plan, however past harvest (pre-Tolko) did not identify the area correctly. Only some of the softwood was harvested and merchantable timber remains and is planned for harvest.



**Block T01-05-011**

This block represents 45.4 ha (14%) of the 328 ha planned to be outside the tactical plan. It was part of an event harvest being conducted at the time of drafting of the Tactical Plan and it was assumed that it would be completed. As a result, the block was not shown in T1 or T2 of the tactical plan. The orange arrow points to the area within the block outside the tactical plan (green is within tactical plan).



## Proposed blocks with interior old seral deferral (OSD) (FMP Indicator 2)

Block Number	Block Area (ha)	OSD Area within Block (ha)
T01-03-111	249.5	27.9
T01-03-113	145.5	34.4
T01-04-208	430.4	6.4
T01-04-209	53.4	5.1
T01-05-009	25.6	0.6
T01-05-010	72.6	3.2
T01-05-011	228.1	1.5
T01-08-003	338.3	1.7
T01-16-002	48.0	0.2
T01-16-003	264.7	0.9
T01-16-004	62.7	1.1
T02-18-007	148.1	0.8
T02-18-011	203.6	0.1
T02-18-013	95.4	1.9
T02-18-015	628.8	1.2
T02-19-006	188.4	17.3
T02-19-009	3.2	0.4
T02-21-007	177.1	10.0
T02-21-010	99.0	21.6
T04-01-002	121.5	8.4
T04-01-017	61.4	5.8
T04-01-019	361.5	91.9
T04-01-020	163.6	15.2
T04-01-025	48.4	6.6
T04-01-026	300.7	4.9
T04-01-029	40.9	0.4
T04-01-030	93.4	7.3
T04-05-001	432.4	20.5
T04-05-017	157.3	1.1
T04-05-018	49.4	8.7
T04-06-613	97.4	16.4
T04-06-614	24.6	2.4
T04-06-615	40.8	1.6
T04-06-616	16.6	8.7
T04-07-711	49.3	1.9
T04-07-712	32.0	3.6
T04-07-719	147.9	55.8
	<b>5701.6</b>	<b>397.4</b>

## Profile Analysis - Area (ha) by Species Association by Management Unit

	Species Association				Total
	WS	BS or JP	SH	H/HS	
<b>Makwa / Bronson</b>					
OP Area	338	137	218	4,148	4,841
FMP Annual Target	100	50	70	1,405	1,625
<b>Sled Lake / Green Lake</b>					
OP Area	84	455	475	1,760	2,774
FMP Annual Target	30	120	135	290	575

## Appendix B Engagement and Information Sharing

Stakeholder Letter:



460 South Industrial Drive  
Prince Albert, SK  
S6V 7L8

December 9, 2020

**Re: Opportunity to Review Forestry Plans**

Tolko, Meadow Lake OSB has a Timber Supply License (TSL) for the Bronson/Makwa and the Green/Sled Forest areas. We will be submitting an operating plan to the Ministry of Environment, Forest Service for this TSL covering the period 2021 to 2026. The plan focuses on the first year of harvesting (April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022) in detail, and plans for years 2-5 are outlined more generally.

We are contacting individuals, businesses, groups, communities and First Nations that we feel may be interested in the operations outlined in our plan. In past years we have held community open houses as a means to view the draft operating plan. Due to current safety concerns, as a result of Covid-19, we have had to adapt. The maps will be available for viewing on the following website <https://tolko.com/responsibility/managing-our-forest/prairies/meadow-lake-woodlands> on December 15th.

Please take the time to review the maps, and contact us at [sk.tolkowoodlands@tolko.com](mailto:sk.tolkowoodlands@tolko.com). We can then determine the best way to meet with you, options include;

- ✓ a one-on-one phone call or online meeting
- ✓ an online meeting with a small group
- ✓ a small field tour with the following restrictions:
  - Maximum of 10 people, including the Tolko reps
  - Tolko cannot provide transportation
  - Adhere to social distancing, mandatory masks, and hand sanitizing
  - No food/beverages supplied, or shared

If you have difficulty viewing the maps online, please contact us at [sk.tolkowoodlands@tolko.com](mailto:sk.tolkowoodlands@tolko.com).

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michelle Young".

Michelle Young, RPF  
Woodlands Manager, Forestry

## Appendix C Harvest Areas and Volumes

**See files or folder titled:**

File location:

AOP / 2021\_2022 / Tables

File Name:

Tolko TSL Planned Harvest 2021 Volumes December 18, 2020.xls

## **Appendix D Roads, Watercourse Crossings, Closures**

### **See files or folder titled:**

#### File location:

AOP / 2021\_2022 / Tables

#### File Name:

Tolko TSL Proposed Closures 2021 December 18, 2020.xls

Tolko TSL Proposed Crossings 2021 December 18, 2020.xls

Tolko TSL Proposed Roads 2021 December 18, 2020.xls

## Appendix E Renewal Activities

**See file or folders titled:**

File location:

AOP / 2021\_2022 / Tables

File Name:

Tolko TSL Reforestation Plan 2021 December 23, 2020.xls