

7.0 Resource

7.1 Introduction

The backbone of the economy of the Cariboo is resource-based industries, with the agricultural and forestry sectors being predominant. According to BC Stats, in 2013 83% of jobs in the Cariboo region were related to the forest products manufacturing industry. This observation conveys the level of economic dependency that the region has on Forestry.

With this in mind, the Cariboo and South Cariboo in particular have experienced substantial impacts as a result of the Mountain Pine Beetle outbreak that swept across the province beginning in 2000. Although the spread of the beetle has subsided, it has left millions of hectares of standing dead pine on the landscape. Changes on the landscape are not only represented by economic changes but other impacts include changes in hydrology, increased fire risk and magnitude, and changes to Annual Allowable Cuts (AAC) throughout pine dominant regions in BC.

MFLNRO relies on aerial surveys to identify overall stand and pine mortality for the BC interior. The South Cariboo region falls into the 100 Mile House Timber Supply Area (TSA), which has seen substantial declines in living pine stands from 1999 to 2014.

The Lac La Hache OCP area has low to moderate mineral potential, low levels of staking and only a few documented occurrences. It is possible that some of these claims may be in the process of active exploration and/or development. At the southern tip of Lac La Hache, near 111 Mile Creek, the Ministry of Energy and Mines has registered a mineral occurrence of Magnesite.

7.2 Objectives

- 7.2.1 Recognize the Lac La Hache resource base as essential to the long-term sustainable economic development of the area.
- 7.2.2 Support sustainable resource management and forest harvesting practices that protect the environment and the visual integrity of the landscape.

7.3 Policies

The Cariboo Regional District Board will:

- 7.3.1 Recognize sand and gravel extraction areas on District Lots 2812 and 2823 as shown on Schedule 'I': Major Road Network and Gravel Pit Reserves.
- 7.3.2 Designate land for the harvesting of natural resources and the extraction of sand, gravel and other minerals as Resource on Schedule 'C': Land Use Designations.
- 7.3.3 Recognize sand and gravel resource extraction opportunities within the Lac La Hache Area but limit those activities to areas designated for such uses in this plan.
- 7.3.4 Maintain a minimum lot size of 32 hectares in order to protect watersheds, encourage the continuation of rangeland operations, and minimize conflict with residential uses.
- 7.3.5 Encourage the MFLNRO to continue referrals of mineral exploration proposals to the CRD for review and comment.
- 7.3.6 Work with provincial agencies and other stakeholders to protect the resource land base and promote sustainable forest operations while balancing recreation and other interests.
- 7.3.7 Encourage forestry operations to implement Best Management Practices, in particular in the areas of water resource, watershed protection and visual integrity.
- 7.3.8 Continue to support a wood friendly culture and support local value added forestry industry.
- 7.3.9 Minimize conflict between land uses on designated Resource land and adjacent uses through the use of zoning, including setbacks and screening.
- 7.3.10 Recognize all mining and mineral exploration activities will be subject to the *Mines Act* and *Mineral Tenure Act*.
- 7.3.11 Recognize that all uses of Crown land within the Lac La Hache Provincial Forest will be in accordance with the provisions of the *Forest Act*, other relevant Provincial acts and regulations.