



FORESTRY IN OUR WATERSHED

The **Lesser Slave Watershed Council (LSWC)** is in the process of developing an **Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP)**. This process involves input from government, industry stakeholders, and individuals to address issues and concerns about our watershed, including ecosystem health, water quality, and sustainable water usage. Using the information we collect, the IWMP will assess these concerns and develop appropriate solutions.



SNAPSHOT OF FORESTRY ACTIVITY IN OUR REGION



A strong forestry industry is an important economic driver in our region. However, forestry activities require special care to protect aquatic ecosystems in the watershed.

In addition to overseeing economic and social activities in our forests, forestry companies, the provincial government, and forestry associations all have key roles to play in the stewardship of the land.

Bringing all these interests together, the IWMP will identify strategies to allow for the continued health of both the forestry industry and the Lesser Slave Watershed.

Quick Facts:

- The active zones of forestry companies, and a number of smaller operations, are represented on the map above.





WATERSHED RISKS

- Land clearing for road access increases the risk of runoff and sedimentation into ditches, streams, and rivers, reducing water quality.
- Poorly installed or maintained stream crossings increase the risk of sedimentation into streams and rivers and create barriers to fish movement, threatening fish populations.
- Forest Health such as insect infestations, forest fire, and flooding may negatively impact watershed health.



PRACTICES TO REDUCE RISKS

- Mimic natural disturbance patterns in forest harvesting.
- Ensure reforestation of harvested areas.
- Preserve natural buffers around stream and wetland habitats.
- Work with other industries to minimize disturbances (roads, transmission lines, pipelines)
- Create management plans to help minimize insect infestations.

BENEFITS OF A HEALTHY FOREST

- Home to diverse species of animals and plants.
- Air purification; an average broad-leafed tree absorbs about 10 kilograms of carbon dioxide each year.
- Intact native vegetation protects streams and lakes from pollution and erosion.
- Sustainable forestry practices yield wood products and provide employment.
- Recreational activities (camping, hiking, bird watching, etc.)



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

The health of our watershed impacts the well-being of our environment, plants and animals, and the people who live and work here. The more information we have, the better equipped we are to offer sustainable, effective solutions to issues facing our watershed.

Your opinions and experiences are a crucial part of a successful plan.

We want to hear from you! To talk to us, learn more, or get involved, please call the LSWC at **780-523-9800** or visit **www.lswc.ca**