

Technical Request Responses - Tolko

1. What types of forest management activities are administered in the watershed and where?

We have planned and historical harvest areas within the watershed. Recent planning maps are available at www.tolkomanitoba.com. We carry management responsibilities for harvested areas including planting, surveying and possibly herbicide treatment to ensure maintenance of the conifer forest.

2. How do forest management activities affect the watershed?

As part of our environmental management system we identified three impacts of our activities that we needed to develop standard operating practices and emergency preparedness plans around, those were related to water, soil and pesticide. Particularly siltation, oil spills and herbicide use close to water. As a result we have standards for fuel storage, spill kits, avoidance of rutting, road and bridge construction and maintenance, planning and herbicide use to minimize the risk of adverse impacts.

3. Does Tolko have a forest management plan or forest sustainability plan? If yes, how and when is the plan updated? How is habitat diversity considered in the development of your forest management plan? Are impacts on water quality considered?

Tolko has a Sustainable Forest Management plan certified to the CSA Z801 standard. It is annually monitored and reviewed and periodically updated as required by the registrar. It included targets and reporting around impacts to water. Most recently we have added targets around limiting the total disturbance (including harvesting and wildfire) on a watershed basis to our plan. Tolko also has a Forest Management Plan and underwent an environmental review by the Province. This plan included modeling for sustainability of wildlife habitat for indicator species. Tolko is signatory to the Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement and is currently working in Manitoba with the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Committee, The Nature Conservancy and Forest Ethics, among others, on action planning for woodland caribou and other species at risk as well as protected areas network design.

4. What types of plans does Tolko have for forest regeneration in the watershed?

Tolko does prompt reforestation for harvest blocks utilizing assisted natural regeneration and planting within three years of harvest. Tolko also monitors performance of harvested areas and uses herbicide (glyphosate) to reduce competition from hardwood where it threatens to cause a shift in habitat from softwood to hardwood dominated stands.