



Ducks Unlimited Canada
Conserving Canada's Wetlands

Active by nature.

**Louisiana Pacific Strandboard Plant Air Emission Review
Manitoba Clean Environment Commission
July 29, 2009**

Christopher E. Smith
Manager, Industry and Government Relations
Western Boreal Program
Ducks Unlimited Canada

Good afternoon.

Mr. Chairman and members of the investigative panel, thank-you for the opportunity to give this brief presentation today. My name is Chris Smith and I work for Ducks Unlimited Canada as Manager of Industry and Government Relations for our Western Boreal Program. Ducks Unlimited Canada is a private, non-profit conservation company dedicated to the conservation of wetlands and associated habitats that benefit waterfowl, other wildlife and people.

The focus of our work and associated expertise relates to waterfowl, wetlands and associated habitats important to sustaining waterfowl and other wetland dependent wildlife. As such our work does not relate to manufacturing facilities such as the Oriented Strand board plant of LP Canada, air emissions or air emission management. Thus my brief presentation today represents our experience working with LP through our long standing partnership with the Forest Resources Division.

DU Canada's Western Boreal Program is concentrated on the conservation of habitat in the boreal forest of western Canada. This includes the broad band of commercial forest that stretches across the Prairie Provinces which is of key importance to the forest industry. Our approach to conservation across the Western Boreal Forest has been to partner with forward thinking agencies responsible for natural resource management. We then work collaboratively to enhance planning and operating practices to ensure healthy watersheds and associated aquatic ecosystems. It is this common interest that brought Ducks Unlimited Canada and LP Canada together in partnership in 2001. In our search for key industries we established a relationship with LP Canada and determined there was a mutual interest to work collaboratively on activities that would strengthen the conservation of boreal forest wetlands in Manitoba.

Since 2001 DU Canada and LP have collaborated on several projects with the initial focus being on satellite-based habitat mapping and waterbird surveys for west-central Manitoba. This developed into a 5-year Boreal Conservation Partnership with the goal of working on projects primarily in the Duck Mountain area that will result in conservation strategies and improved forest management practices around aquatic ecosystems. Activities to-date have included supporting baseline research on riparian bird communities and conducting an experimental harvest study to help determine the influence of various types of shoreline harvest on bird communities. We have also completed a detailed wetland inventory for the Duck Mountains and conducted extensive waterfowl surveys to identify important wetlands.

Additional highlights include: an invitation by LP to contribute to their 20-year Forest Management Planning process; wetlands training of their forestry staff; wetlands awareness training with their contractors; and joint sponsorship of professional workshops focused on forestry and aquatic ecosystem health. At the more local level, in 2008 LP requested our advice and input into a harvest plan for an area adjacent to the Cowan Bog Ecological Reserve. The information provided assisted LP and Manitoba Conservation in determining a harvest plan for this area.

LP has also been a strong supporter of the DU wetland education program called "Project Webfoot". Since 2004, each year LP has sponsored numerous grade 4 classes throughout their Forest Management License Area and been an advocate for additional local classroom sponsors resulting in hundreds of local children being exposed to outdoor education.

In recognition of the collaborative work undertaken by LP and DU Canada, we recently received the Leadership in Conservation Research Award from the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). SFI is an independent non-profit forest certification program based on the principles and measures that promote responsible environmental behavior and sound forest management.

DU Canada acknowledges and recognizes that the forest industry has an impact on the environment. We are pleased to have the opportunity to work with the forest industry to enhance wetland conservation. In conclusion, our experience to date working on wetland conservation initiatives and education activities with LP has been both collaborative and positive.

Thank You

