

Stillwater Timberlands Advisory Group

October 4th, 2000

Minutes

Recording Secretary: Pam Dowding

Attendance: refer to attached sheet

Dinner - 6:00pm

6:30pm – The facilitator opened the meeting and welcomed all members and guests. The meeting this week was held at Snickers instead of the usual venue (Coast Hotel).

Don Benn – Juan de Fuca Environmental Consultants

Mr. Benn referred to the list "*Recreation Inventory Notes*", which was handed out and e-mailed to all members prior to the meeting. The four classes of significance of rating for recreation inventory purposes were explained. *Very high, High, Moderate and Low*. The list of factors taken into account when determining significance were described as follows:

Activity Attraction Capability – ability of feature(s) to attract recreation use

Uniqueness – distinctive or unusual characteristic(s) of feature(s) e.g.: waterfalls etc.

Scarcity – relative occurrence in forest district

Scenic View – views that are important within or outside the polygon

Amount of Current Use – relative to features within a similar setting in the forest district

Accessibility – this may be interpreted as a positive or negative factor

Question on the definition of Recreation was asked.

Answer-Recreation helps wellbeing and quality of life. Leisure time that is filled with opportunities such as hiking, swimming, fishing, hunting are spiritually enhancing activities.

Mr. Benn stated that the fact that the group is meeting and discussing the values of the resources is a positive step. The idea of identifying the economic and non-economic needs of the community was discussed. The list of areas on the last three pages of the handout was described as a starting point. Doug McCormick of Weyerhaeuser dropped off the maps and the group gathered around to discuss important recreational areas.

Question of poor or destroyed access was raised. It was noted that recreation areas where no access is available are still included in the recreation inventory.

Question on the subject of areas for motorized recreation was raised, and it was noted that it is difficult to pinpoint these areas on a map. Accessibility was discussed and Mr. Benn noted that it was not a criteria for evaluating areas of preservation for now and in the future.

Question was asked about what effect the new recreation inventory would have on logging in the area. The inventory is one of the tools that is used to come up with the annual allowable cut (AAC). The decisions are made by the Forest service, the company and the public. Prescriptions for the area always take recreation into account; for example they would acknowledge a potential to develop a campsite.

The facilitator suggested that the avid hikers and back-roaders in the group mark on the inventory list with stars according to the degree of access.

Identification of Recreation Areas

The following areas were discussed and the group provided their input. The following new recreation areas were added to the list (Page 5) at the group's suggestion.

Extreme Northern Areas

Daniels Valley – BIG climbing walls – National significance

Northern Areas

Recreation set-aside at mouth of Bradburn Creek and old growth along creek

North Central Area

Eldred River – climbers campground (Colin Dionne) awaiting application approval.

Add "and others" to West Main Wall

Central Area

Goat Island – coal mines

Trail to Frog Pond Lake and waterfall

South Central Area

Mine shaft at 3 Mile Bay (Schmarge Bay)

Tin Hat Mountain – 4x4 significance, low level or entrance level steep hike

Walt Lake – 4x4

Lewis Lake- Sunshine Coast Trail

101 year old forest

trail around lake

Lake bluffs and trail near Lois Lake Dam (Br-41)

Extreme Southern

Stillwater Point – climbing bluffs

Lois Canyon – climbing

Lois River Bridge – swimming underneath

Heritage Railway Grades

March Lake

Spring Lake

Between Dodd and Nanton Lakes

Outside TFL

Granite Lake – winter recreation, hiking, 4x4ing

Sunshine Coast Trail - VH rating

South Powell Divide - VH rating

Don invited the group to call him with any further information. An invitation to meet the next day was also extended to the group. Mr. Benn noted that he would also meet with members of BOMB squad, sports fishing enthusiasts and others to consult with them regarding recreation areas. Don was invited to sit in on the next segment of the meeting where the maps were reviewed.

Meeting in Nanaimo, Saturday October 14th

The public information meeting will be an opportunity for members of the public to learn more about the Forest Stewardship Council. Weyerhaeuser will pay transportation costs for any members of the group wishing to attend. The group would travel on the first ferry, and arrive before noon at the Coast Bastion Hotel. There would be enough time to get together with other Advisory Group members from North Island and West Island if they attend. The meeting would be 2:30pm to 4:30pm. Any members interested in attending the above meeting should contact the chair, facilitator or secretary. It was suggested that members who do attend, could report back to the rest of the group.

Mapping Exercise Review – Eagle

In order to finalize the document on mapping, which is due to be presented to Weyerhaeuser before Tuesday, October 10th, the group reviewed the document which identified the areas of concern. The purpose of the exercise was explained. The importance of preserving recreation areas for the future, the protection of old growth, Marbled Murrelet and wildlife habitats was discussed. Areas that were identified by the committee and also by PRPAWS were shown on the chart.

A letter from the alternate member for environment was received, and read to the group. The letter voiced concerns regarding priority criteria established for Habitat zones in TFL 39 Block 1. A copy of the letter will be available for the record as part of these minutes. In answer to this letter, it was suggested that Weyerhaeuser could be consulted at the next meeting.

It was suggested that the maps be drawn to show vegetation and Grizzly Bear habitat areas where large portions of the maps are rocky with no timber. Areas are also set aside for wildlife, and should be recognized. Discussion on whether the Grizzly Bears were on the endangered species list. It was noted that each of the six landscape units had to have a certain percentage of old growth retained, and recruitment old growth areas were taken into account. One member voiced his desire to have *one valley* left alone and High Falls within the old growth zone was suggested. The group's recommendation for 100% retention in some area was noted. The group reviewed the chart *Block1 Pilot Project Identified Area of Concern as presented to Stillwater Timberland by Community Advisory Group*. Refer to chart for changes and additions from previous discussions.

Elephant Lake and Mt. Troubridge

100% retention was suggested for this old growth, and Marbled Murrelet habitat area, which is easily accessible by the public.

Down from Troubridge, down towards **Fairview Bay** and Jervis Inlet – habitat zone.

Saltery Bay Road/Trail – added "work to minimize impact until long term solution is found".

SMZ

Canoe Route

Discussion regarding the reserve around the lakes, and it was agreed by an informal vote that **30m** should be the amount of reserve on all of the lake shores and portages. The group recommended that all of Lois Lake and all of Khartoum Lake with a special management zone of 20m would be included in the plan. Also included are Horseshoe, Nanton, Ireland, Dodd, Windsor, Little Horseshoe and Beaver Lakes. Goat Narrows and Nanton Marsh are also included. Question regarding the edge of the marsh and how measured. – Answer - *from high water line* should show on chart.

Question was raised regarding whether the group can vary the designation of the zones. If Lois Lake landscape unit was timber zone, could it become a habitat zone?

Portages

- 100% retention recommended with 30m reserve on each side of portages.

Goat Narrows

- New - Added recreation zone – visual impact concerns – 50% retention in SMZ
30m reserve – 30m SMZ

Smith Range

- No change from previous discussions

BlueRidge

80 or 90 year old forest add-*old growth recruitment* in order to thin out and give remaining trees more space and food – 50% retention within the 30m special management zone on each side of the trail, so that we could find out what it would look like over the years

Walt Hill

100% retention recommended in this area

March Lake

Old growth reserve 100%

March Lake Trail

Old 2nd growth - recruitment - selective logging recommended - leave veterans within 50m of the trail – 50% in SMZ

Spring Lake

Heritage logging camp noted - no changes from previous

Lewis Lake

Forest is 101 years old, mostly Hemlock, some Douglas Fir- all mossy and

very beautiful. Accessible to the public. New Lewis Lake Trail is being built in this area. 100m reserve along south and east lake shores from BCFS Rec site – 30m reserve along north and west lake shores. 100m reserve on each side of Sophia Pond (SCT) (Lac Godeau Trail)

Knuckleheads

Old growth zone – no changes

Upper Lois River

100% Retention – Deer and Grizzly Bear reserve

Powell Alpine Divide

No changes

Emma Lake

Add Triple Peaks trail – 5 trails altogether

High Falls

Old growth zone -group recommends that area should be extended down to

Macmillan creek for better biodiversity zone. Question on whether area could be extended to protect the Grizzly Bear habitat.

Diane Lake

Add Recreation *pedestrian* access corridor

Change Habitat zone to Old growth zone. Concerns regarding recreational access to alpine areas. It was noted that all access has been removed from this area – reference to logging slash. Concerns for the grizzly bears habitat

Heather Main

- 100% retention OGMA and MAMU's

Well Creek and Upper Daniels

100% retention -OG reserve

Goat Island

100% retention – OG reserve

Frog Pond Lake

- Add Recreation and mountaineering to concerns column

50% dispersed retention in 30m SMZ -10m reserve zone10/30m around lake and trail

Sunshine Coast Trail (remainder)

Recreation zone no changes from previous discussion

Haywire Bay/Inland Lake

No change from previous area already dealt with under PAS – Inland Lake established as Provincial Park

Fiddlehead Farm – Giovanni Lake

Add visual impact around trail 10/30m –50% retention in 30m SMZ

Freda Mountain

- Add buffer zone –10/30 - 50% retention in SMZ Two passes – 10m reserve on trail 30m SMZ on trail- Recreation zone

Freil Falls

Add *Special* Recreation area has special legal status. Group will ask Weyerhaeuser at next meeting on features of this area.

Lois River Valley Bridge

Concerns re bridge maintenance. Add – fix road

Mt. Diadem

Recreation zone – No access - 20% retention in SMZ – Two passes - 10m reserve on trail 30m SMZ on trail

To conclude the mapping exercise, the group reached a consensus by a show of hands to accept the finished package to be presented to Weyerhaeuser. One member voiced his disagreement with the whole process and felt that it was a race for Weyerhaeuser to get the old growth. Discussion followed on whether Weyerhaeuser was logging old growth in certain areas. Large clear cuts up in the alpine areas were reported. It was noted that Weyerhaeuser would post notice of the cut blocks on their website. Question was raised whether the public has an opportunity to respond. The feeling of most of the group was that important areas were being saved from logging by their recommendations.

The handout *Gross Area by Zone* was made available to the group.

Stillwater Timberlands Pilot Project -Draft #6

Draft # 6, which was provided by Weyerhaeuser, was discussed. The facilitator explained that the document was confidential and not for mechanical or electronic reproduction. One member expressed a wish to involve an environmental lawyer to look over the document. It was decided that the draft, (which contains the group's input) should be reviewed by the group before being circulated to anyone outside the group. The proposal to form a sub committee to review the draft and compare it with the minutes of the meetings was made. The group agreed by a show of hands to strike a sub-committee. It was noted that according to the Terms of Reference, the document (Draft#6) belongs to Weyerhaeuser and the group. It was agreed that the draft could go to a lawyer after the committee had a chance to look at it. Reference to the Terms of Reference was made and the right to intellectual property was made. A sub committee was struck to perform the job. *Ken Jackson, Janet May, Rita*

Rasmussen, Joanne Cameron-Nordell, Kathleen O'Neil, Michael Conway-Brown/Sally Keays formed the sub committee. Discussion followed on the public review period and the need to have the group agree with the finished product. Suggestion was made that the environmental lawyer could request a copy of the document from Weyerhaeuser. It was also noted that the Community Advisory group was only an *advisory* group, but had a commitment from Weyerhaeuser that they would respond in writing to any concerns of the group.

The report from the sub-committee on the subject of the draft would be scheduled for the next meeting on October 11th. Further discussion followed regarding the confidentiality of the document. The facilitator requested the group's co-operation in respecting the wishes of Weyerhaeuser regarding the confidentiality of the draft.

Next meeting Wednesday, October 11th, 2000 at the Coast Hotel.

Meeting adjourned 10:05pm

Stillwater Timberlands Advisory Group

Oct 4th, 2000

Attendance

Present

Name	Position	Member Seat
Rory Maitland	Primary	Contractor
Bill Duff	Primary	Citizens
Eagle Walz*	Primary	Recreation
Ken Jackson**	Primary	Recreation
George Ferreira	Primary	Recreation
Joanne Cameron-Nordell	Primary	Local Business

Peter Ranger	Primary	Forest Dependent
David Gabelhouse	Primary	Local Govt
Janet May	Primary	Environment
Michael Conway Brown	Primary	Environment
Linda Scheiber	Primary	Tourism
Jim Stutt	Alternate	Recreation
Kathleen O'Neil	Primary	Education/Training
** Chair		
* Vice - Chair		

Absent

Ian Fleming	Alternate	Local Business
Bill Maitland	Alternate	Contractor
Lorne Marr	Alternate	Recreation
Paul Holbrook	Alternate	Forest Dependent
Sally Keays	Alternate	Environment
Rita Rasmussen	Alternate	Environment
Bob Baxter	Alternate	Recreation
Terry Peters	Alternate	Citizens
Mark Desnoyers	Alternate	Tourism
Sonny Rioux	Primary	IWA
Vacant seat		Youth

12 - seats in attendance, 1 - absent

Resource /Other:

Guests – Mr. Don Benn – Juan de Fuca Environmental Consultants

Facilitator - **Cathy Bartfai** - chamber@prcn.org

Secretary - **Pam Dowding** - pamdowding@home.com