

Stillwater Timberlands Community Advisory Group

July 14th 2004

Old Growth Sub-Committee Meeting

Weyerhaeuser Office

Attendance:

Doug McCormick

Ken Jackson

Paul Holbrook

Paul Goodwin

Pam Dowding – Recording Secretary

10.10am

Meeting called to order

Welcome

Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed members.

Review of Minutes

Minutes from last Old Growth meeting (February 5th, 2004) were provided.

Discussion on old growth availability

Wood for the future

Short term supply and needs for today

Track - old growth that's available for local sales
old growth that comes from salvage operations

old growth destinations from Block 1 and Block 5

What's available to local business? Are we taking out all the old growth that's available through salvage?

How can communications be established?

Members agreed that what is needed is long-term viability for old growth in the future. Member noted that price is not an issue; local businesses need first quality old growth with fine grain. If this wood was available, there are lots of opportunities for jobs and finished products are of superior quality.

Member noted that CAG cannot make jobs here at the expense of jobs elsewhere. It was noted that the original legislation for the TFL 39 Block 1 was supposed to provide jobs in this area, but Doug noted that the government has since removed those clauses.

Two areas of supply for old growth were noted – One from salvagers and one from harvesting by company.

Salvage Portion

– Old growth available from salvagers but is not usually sold locally

Salvagers are supplying their own mills or selling to log buyers

Certain amount of grades, and agreements usually include all (Buyer must take the whole bundle)

Question – Does salvaged wood represent mostly cedar?

Answer – Yes, mostly cedar but it is changing to include alder and maple

Member noted a need for high grade Douglas fir. It was noted that lots of mills need cedar and recruitment program is needed for the future.

Local Sales figures show nothing but old growth cedar in 2001, with some fir and utility grade and premium grades sold 2002. It was noted that alder is also being salvaged by local contractors. Fir is in short supply.

Member suggested that maybe small businesses could approach salvagers – maybe there is more fir out there to be salvaged?

Member suggested that it might be possible for the value added people to cut their logs within block 1&5.

Doug noted that he would check into the possibility

ACTION – Doug will check into the possibility that value added businesses could look for and cut their own logs.

Future Supply

Member noted that it is important to get a commitment for old growth for the future.

There are old growth recruitment and no-cut zones already enshrined in the Pilot project. Retention areas will be there for many years to come.

Suggestion – Would a helicopter get salvaged old growth fir from this area?

Answer – Possible, but don't need salvagers, there is a high volume of old growth going through the sort now, but it may not be there in two weeks. Mills are crying out for wood at present and may run out because of harvesting shut downs due to dry conditions.

Doug suggested that if community businesses want old growth, they should get from the sort soon as there is a supply there now.

Companies need to deal with the sort to find out what's available and go to the sort to get it.

Member asked whether Doug could track sales and find out if local volume is adequate and to establish what volumes are available, including hemlock, balsam, and yellow cedar.

ACTION - Member asked for a sort history of the volume of old growth at the sort for first meeting in September

Grades of logs

Member noted that grades differ and sometimes lower grades are mixed in with higher grades – making it difficult to get consistently high quality logs.

Doug noted that customers should go to the sort to choose their own logs but have to pay the price. Wade Jensen is the new contact person for the sort. Customers should phone ahead to make appointment. Doug noted that the log supply people have said that they have the best fir for a long time at the sort today.

Exporting

Member noted that Weyerhaeuser sawmills are not getting enough wood for their own use, but wood is being exported off private lands.

Doug agreed that it is exported from private lands wherever it makes the best dollar.

Other Species

Member suggested that contractors could look for other species. Weyerhaeuser has trouble supplying its own mill with alder, as it is the up and coming species. All species flow through the mills – hemlock, fir, cedar and now maple. It would be ideal if it were not all sent to the sort. Now other wood is available from other locations at the sort – from Phillips Arm and Port McNeil.

Tracking

Member asked for tracking of

current old growth available for local sales from salvage operations

current old growth available from Blocks 1 and 5

Businesses are growing

Member noted that the opportunity for businesses to grow depends on future supplies of the right grade of old growth

Doug asked what type of volumes would be needed.

ACTION - Member will do some research and get back with answers on volumes of old growth needed in future.

Member noted that there are 14,000 hectares of old growth with 40 years left. Forty years is not long enough and needs to be extended beyond that time. High quality fir is running out in 20 years.

Land Base is changing

Doug noted that it is difficult to give answers until land base agreements have been settled. 10% has gone from the 20% and meetings are planned with Sliammon to discuss 50,000 cubic metres under the AIP. Decisions may be made by September. Timber supply analysis will be available after that.

Suggestion – When land base is settled, member suggested that there might be an opportunity for salvagers to approach First Nations for salvage of old growth

Search for Other Species

When land base is 20% less, Doug noted that they would go back and look for old growth balsam, hemlock etc.

Member noted that TFLs with rotation of 70 –80 years should be leaving some connecting zones. There may be some great quality old growth in second growth stands, and there may be an opportunity to get that old growth that's out there in the second growth stands. There could be hundreds of cubic metres of old growth fir to be salvaged, and could be obtained from the sites instead of the sort.

ACTION – Members will talk to First Nations and small businesses about salvage and report back to CAG

ACTION - Member will check into volume and species and grades needed

ACTION – Doug will check into current old growth available from salvagers

Doug noted that there will be swings from year to year, and that second growth stands will have a few old growth patches. Old growth from ST-270 Lois Lake is at the sort now.

Doug noted that local contractor that was in old growth is now using second growth. Weyerhaeuser is an old growth company. Stillwater has more than 50% second growth. Volume is in old growth hemlock and balsam, but there is more demand for second growth cedar.

Pine and alder combinations have been tested for a white wood product.

Weyerhaeuser has license for 75,000 cubic metres of beetle killed wood and is hauling from Kamloops to Ashcroft for processing.

Members will discuss issues on old growth again at first meeting in September.

Meeting adjourned – 11:30am