

**CSA Community Advisory Group
To Western Forest Products
January 14th
Minutes
Westview Pizza**

Attendance: refer to attached sheet

6:00pm: Meeting called to order
Quorum noted

Safety Review

Facilitator noted fire exits and first aid attendants in case of emergency. Meeting place in case of emergency was noted.

Welcome and Introductions

Chair welcomed Stuart Glen, Steve Gordon, Jeff Ternan, and CAG members

Code of Conduct

Code of Conduct for Community Advisory Group was reviewed

Review and Acceptance of Agenda

Agenda was accepted

Correspondence

Copies of recent correspondence was provided and reviewed

- Letters and email to PRPAWS
- Letter to Jeff Ternan regarding the visuals at the head of Powell Lake
- Emails and formal invitation letters to Sliammon and Sechelt First Nations
- Letters re: IPPs to Minister Neufeld and Senior Lands Officer, Lesley Fettes
- Letters appointing and welcoming Dave Formosa to committee
- Letter from Rudi VanZwaaij re: Pest Management Plan

Action List

ACTION #1 – Include volume cut on the herbicide use table for indicator 16 – ongoing

Review and Acceptance of Minutes

Minutes from Island Timberlands December 10th meeting were reviewed and accepted.

OIM Review

Current Activities

Harvesting – HE-516, ST-340, TM-245

Road Construction – None

Engineering – CH-533, CH-535, CH-539, CH-545, CH-558, ST-287

What's New on the Map

New Blocks – CH-533, CH-535, CH-539, CH-540, CH-543, CH-545, CH-546, CH-547, CH-553, CH-558, HE-521, ST-030, ST-031

New Roads – CH-533, CH-539, CH-540, CH-543, CH-546, CH-547, CH-553, HE-521

Cutting Permit Approved Areas – GI-029, GI-032, GI-113, GI-114, GL-073, PD-434, ST-151, ST-308

Note: No new blocks or roads are identified adjacent to the Sunshine Coast Trail.

Map Updates

Logging Complete – PD-242, PD-246, ST-262

Road Construction Complete – None

Engineered Blocks – PD-290 (previously shown as PD-280)

Engineered Roads – None

Question: Is that old growth up in the block between the Eldred and Jim Brown Creek where the power line is?

Yes.

Question: But it wasn't an OGMA?

No. It is a block that we planned to log, but now have to log because PPC is running a powerline right through the middle of it and if we don't get it this year we will never be able to log it.

Question: Is there just the one block related to powerline construction?

No. There are three blocks that we have been working on with Kiewit to try and log some of the isolated wood as well as get the wood that they might not deliver to the road side. One is at the top of Jim Brown, one is at the bottom of Jim Brown, and the other is at the top of Goat 2.

Internal CAG Communication

Group decided to eliminate paper copies of minutes and correspondence distributed at each meeting. Correspondence will be added to email prior to meeting. Agendas will continue to be distributed and three or four copies of the whole packages will be printed for those members that need printed copies. Hard Copies will continue to be kept in the WFP office and in the public library.

Jeff Ternan – Stillwater Forest Operation Update

Jeff went over the announcement that WFP has shut down harvesting operations at this

Minutes

time at the Port Alberni, Queen Charlotte, and Mainland Coast Forest Operations. The closure is indefinite and depends on the recovery of the market.

Question: How does that affect the five year cut plan?

The company's cut is about 7,000,000 m³ annually. We had planned to cut about five million this year and we are now going to cut about four million. I'm not sure what the rules are now regarding cut control. It used to be that a company had to be within 10% within the five year average.

There was a 50 million dollar rights offering in the paper. This was a share offering to WFP's shareholders to generate cash and the primary shareholder said that they would buy any of the unsold shares. In 2008 we took closures in every operation. The company couldn't do this again in 2009. The company thinks it has now matched production to the available market and will now be able to keep the existing operations running. Stillwater lost two staff members and gained two staff during this restructuring.

Question: Does Powell River get to continue operating because it is a fir operation?

Powell River continues because it is largely fir and because it is one of the lower cost operations. As well, Powell River's second growth is older than most second growth. The volume for 2009 looks like it will be a little higher than last year. WFP was not going to commence operations until January 19th. Powell River went back a week earlier because we have a market for our fir.

Question: Are your logs earmarked for your mills?

Yes. Almost all of our production goes to our own mills.

Question: Is there new product lines?

In December changed our manufacturing strategy to a new hemlock product for the Japanese market. Powell River is starting to produce more of the wood for this.

Question: Can't that come out of the Port Alberni mill?

I don't know which mill it goes to.

Question: Could you describe the product?

No. I'm sorry I don't know. I can find out for you.

ACTION: Jeff to get a description of the new Japanese market product for the group.

Question: Will seniority at the mills be across the whole company or mill by mill.

It will be mill by mill. There is something called preferential hiring that allows the laid off workers to submit resumes to operating mills, that I don't know too much about.

Minutes

Question: Is everything approved and laid out for 2009?

2009 is virtually all approved. We have some road lay out to do.

Jeff thanked the CAG very much for their support over the last year.

Comment: Stumpage is dropping tomorrow.

Yes. That will help.

Question: Is it significant?

The drop is expected to have a measureable impact on the stumpage paid.

Question: What is it now?

The current stumpage is unrealistic given the market value of the wood. The margin just isn't there. Even with some of the drops recently, it is still too high.

Question: Isn't it based on BC Timber Sales?

Yes. It is supposed to be a proper market number.

Question: Are they being bid up?

You should have a topic on that with somebody at one of your meetings, because it should work perfect but it doesn't seem to.

ACTION: Get somebody to come to meeting to talk about how stumpage price is set.

Comment: The market couldn't get any worse than it is.

Question: Is cedar temporarily gone?

We don't know. Over the years the market has been gone and then suddenly come back, but last time it wasn't back for long.

Question: Are the local sawmillers coming to you to purchase? Or has that dried up also?

Not that I'm aware of.

Comment: At the end of each year we usually get to see what the local sales were. Not by value, just by species. Some were looking for old growth.

ACTION: Get local sales numbers for 2008.

Comment: Who owns the debris that accumulates in bag form at the bottom of Powell Lake?

Minutes

PREI. They ask us from time to time if they can tow the bag over, dewater it, and chip it up.

Question: Where do they do that?

At Block Bay. They pulled it out of the water there and last time they set the chipper up right there.

Comment: There are two bags sitting on the beach on Dave Formosa's property at the Shinglemill. As the lake is going down sticks are falling out and it will be floating around again. I am concerned as a boater.

Regarding the independent power projects, Jeff said at present there are three areas that WFP is trying to work with Kiewit on. He feels that they will be successful.

Question: How much of the timber that PPC is supposed to be bringing to roadside is being left?

I understand that Kiewit is planning to leave timber in the woods and not bring it to roadside and that they have been in contact with the forest service regarding this. The wood belongs to WFP and they were supposed to bring it to roadside for WFP to bring out and utilize as a resource. There are three areas that we are working with Kiewit on for salvaging and these are the three areas mentioned earlier. WFP had envisioned that where good wood was cut it would be brought to roadside for loading out.

Question: Could you hire a salvager and send them the bill?

We could do that, but I don't think that we would be successful with billing them.

Comment: The regional board has sent an official letter to Kiewit asking them what they are going to do with that timber.

Question: Can you tell me where any of the areas are so I could get some pictures?

Right now you wouldn't see any of them because they are covered with snow.

I would like to distinguish between wood brought to roadside versus wood not brought to roadside. I take responsibility for all of the roadside wood. Some roadside wood has not been picked up, on Stillwater Main for the most part, because of tight operating constraints last year. I thought I was going to get every stick out before the snow but I couldn't get enough trucks to work because we had to lay them off in September. I plan to get it as soon as the snow moves. A lot of it will go to pulp but we will still get it.

Question: What kind of fire hazard does the wood Kiewit is leaving pose?

I believe they have plans to reduce the hazard by cutting it so it will rot quicker. If it is touching the ground it will rot more quickly than if it is suspended. It is a strategy that will speed up decay, but there will still be a fire hazard.

Question: Don't they get billed for waste?

I imagine they will present what they are going to leave and they will get charged for that.

Question: Doesn't waste go against the tree farm license and doesn't the tree farm license belong to WFP?

Good question. I don't think it would go against our TFL because they have been issued a license to cut as opposed to our cutting permit and the wood hasn't been scaled.

Steve Gordon – Focal Species Habitat Management

Steve thanked group for invitation and explained that he was involved with the pilot project when it first started. He still thinks it was one of the best examples of the approach that should be taken with managing forest resources. He said it is a good example of community involvement and something he is proud of. Steve was the forest ecosystem specialist in Powell River for over ten years in the nineties. He did his masters thesis in upper Powell River watching mountain goats. He then moved to Smithers and was the ecosystem section head in the Skeena region. Most recently he was senior land use planning biologist for the Ministry of the Environment. He was the MoE lead representative on the EBM working group and he has since moved to ILMB.

Steve explained the work he has been doing on identifying wildlife areas on the central coast for grizzly bears, marbled murrelet, northern goshawk, mountain goat, and tailed frogs. The intent is to take it down from the theoretical realm and use practical tools such as air photos, biological expertise, do inventories, and identify values that exist on specific areas of land base. When you are putting reserves in place to try and have old growth or ecological representation, if you have two equal areas you would want to put the reserve where it has the most value for specific focal species with the least impact to the timber harvesting landbase. In that way you are maximizing the benefit to the focal species while you reduce the overall timber supply impact.

The legal orders for the north and central coast for focal species are grizzly bear, marbled murrelet, northern goshawk, mountain goat, and tailed frog. We have these species here on the sunshine coast as well.

Doing wildlife inventories is extremely expensive and labour intensive. The area covers over six million hectares. The project identified key habitat including: estuaries, sedge forage, slide tracks, and forested swamps.

Steve described to the group how habitat was identified for each of the focal species. Ten field biologists from Skeena, Caribou, and Vancouver Island regions were working in the field trying to identify the areas.

The project of identifying these wildlife areas, mirrors what was done in the Stillwater area.

Question: Are you sitting on any committees that are overseeing the independent power

projects?

No.

Question: Have you been asked by the government to look into any of those?

No. There are people from the MoE that are involved and my boss at ILMB is the head of the IPP team.

Question: What about grizzly bears showing up on Vancouver Island?

They have been showing up. One theory is that they have been leap frogging on the fish farms. I don't think the MoE will be managing grizzly bears on Vancouver Island.

Skeena Mountains Mountain Goats Research

Cloven hoof species such as deer, elk, moose, caribou, and mountain goats are one of the most sensitive to disturbance. Heli-skiing and heli supported recreation is becoming an issue across North America particularly during the winter season when the animals are in a marginal state. The objectives of the study are to determine whether the intensity of helicopter activity associated with heli-skiing influences mountain goat distribution or their movements, particularly the rate of their movement. There are studies that show there is an effect, but is it biologically significant? They are hoping that the outcome of this study will provide some strategies to mitigate. Heli-skiing is not going to go away, but there are strategies, such as adjusting drop of location, moving pick up location, or just not skiing right next to an area that has goat habitat.

The MoE originated this study until they could hand it off to UNBC. There is a professor, masters students, and a thesis committee in place to ensure the studies academic and scientific validity. Other partners in the study are a local heli-skiing operator and a heli-skiing association as their cooperation was necessary.

Study sites included areas with good goat density that had not had a lot of heli-skiing activity near them where goats could be safely captured. Steve described the methods used to capture and collar goats to compare their movements to a control group, as well as the difficulties that the group encountered attempting to accomplish this. Heli-skiing is increasing across BC. BC has more than half of the world's mountain goat population so we do have the responsibility to manage them, and there has not been the science to support existing mitigation strategies. The data is needed to develop sound strategies and to see if they are working.

Question: Did you learn what you expected to learn?

The analysis hasn't been done yet on the movement patterns relative to helicopter activity.

Question: Do all grizzly bears on the coast have salmon as part of their diet?

I don't think all of them. Some may live all of their lives up in the alpine or sub-alpine. Most of them would, salmon as a very important food source for grizzlies. Interestingly,

Minutes

northern grizzlies are much smaller and more aggressive. They feed on ungulates which are mammals. We also happen to be a pretty good sized mammal, too.

Question: Isn't there a dispute going on about bear viewing being detrimental to the population?

Yes. There is no end to different elements: there is the viewing and hunting debate and there is the habituation issue. The bear viewing association knows that if they don't conduct themselves properly they will be regulated, which they don't want or if they don't do it correctly the animals will go nocturnal and avoid the areas where the viewing occurs.

Question: Do you have a feeling as to how these endangered species are doing in our area?

None of your species are categorized as endangered. They are threatened or vulnerable. In my first decade here I was a field person so I was able to have field presence up to Phillips Arm. The MoE is doing some work on the Toba mainly on the habitat side to get reserves established. The Sunshine Coast was one of the first to get OGMAs. It was the first to get grizzly bear habitat areas established. We have some protection measures in place, but there is no legal goat winter range protection yet. The issue is timing restrictions based on helicopter logging. A thousand metre buffer would constrain heli-logging. You still have all of the species and the still have about the same numbers, but there is not annual or regulated inventories of their population with the exception of grizzly bears.

Question: How does our TFL compare to the rest of this district with our work to establish OGMAs, deer ranges, goat ranges and the management of those species?

I'm a little biased because I was involved in that, but I still see the Stillwater project as a good example. You need to look both inside and outside a development proposal. You can't just I know this block it is critical habitat. They are all critical habitat. You have to say, if we reserve this then it is probably okay to take that. For instance, in a certain landscape you have two thousand hectares of sub mountain coastal western hemlock retained, but in Steve's view it is better to say geographically where it is located. Not only from an ecological standpoint where you can do a more detail analysis of what you are capturing, but also from an industrial standpoint you have certainties. This is an area we are not going, therefore we have these areas free with certain management constraints such as buffers.

Question: Do you think that this study will have any impact on what PPC and all of the other run of the river projects are doing?

It comes down to social choice. It is a balancing act. Government wants revenue, society wants economic development, and we in BC want to maintain our resources. Even people on the industrial side want to maintain the values that are out there. The literature and prevailing opinion is that it is not the logging, provided it is done properly. It is the issue of the roads, maintaining hydrological patterns, and managing the people. If people get into an area they don't usually do it very much good. There is a concern

Minutes

with the transmission corridors, but it is the balancing act.

Question: How does this TFL compare to the rest of the district?

I do have to commend WFP. They made a commitment to maintain the designations and they did it. The approach taken here I would recommend anywhere. I think it is a good approach, it shows a lot of diligence.

Question: Is it the lack of deer that is causing the influx of cougar near town?

The COs would be the ones most qualified to talk about that, but if there aren't deer out in the hinterland then the cougars are going to move in. There have been a lot of cougar problems and sheep predation on Zilinsky Road and in Wildwood the COs took one of the largest cougars they have ever taken.

Question: Someone told me that they couldn't get access to the Toba Valley with their quad. I told them that PPC claims that because of the industrial activity and safety they don't want people in there. He said they told him it was for environmental reasons. Did you say that they are doing studies?

No. We wouldn't restrict access.

Comment: There is a three year closure right now for construction. There is a thirty three year lease agreement through ILMB that has been approved. The road is controlled for the first three years by Plutonic, with a transfer to the Klahoose at the end of the three years for the remaining thirty.

Next CAG meeting – February 11th with IT

Next meeting with WFP – March 11th

Meeting Adjourned 8:55 pm

**Stillwater CSA Community Advisory Group
Western Forest Products
January 14th, 2009
Attendance**

Name	Position	Member Seat
PRESENT		
Jane Cameron – Chair	Primary	Member at large
Ken Jackson	Primary	Recreation
Dave Rees	Primary	Tourism
Bill Maitland	Alternate	Local Business
Doug Fuller	Primary	DFA Worker
Dave Hodgins	Alternate	Recreation
Paul Goodwin	Alternate	Forest Dependent
Nancy Hollmann	Alternate	Tourism
George Illes	Alternate	Environment
Ron Fuller	Alternate	DFA Worker
Colin Palmer	Primary	Local Governments
8 Seats represented		
ABSENT MEMBERS		
Dave Formosa	Alternate	Local Governments
Wayne Borgfjord	Primary	Forest Dependent
Barry Miller	Primary	Environment
Mark Hassett	Primary	Local Business
Rory Maitland	Primary	Contractor
PRESENT		
Resource – others		
Steve Gordon	ILMB	
Stuart Glen	WFP	
Valerie Thompson	Secretary/Facilitator	