

**CSA Community Advisory Group
To Western Forest Products
May 13, 2009
Minutes
Western Forest Products Boardroom**

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.

Code of Conduct

Code of Conduct for Community Advisory Group was reviewed and additional item was noted.

Welcome and Introductions

Chair welcomed Stuart Glen, Bill Beese, and CAG members.

Review and Acceptance of Agenda

Agenda was accepted

Correspondence

Copies of recent correspondence was provided and reviewed

- Emails inviting First Nations to meetings
- March and April letters to PRPAWS
- Letter from resident Ken Glaze to PPC

Review and Acceptance of Minutes

Minutes from Island Timberlands April 8th meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Action List

Actions 1, 2, 3 and 5 complete.

Action #4 - Stuart to add that CAG does a talk at the forestry tour – ongoing

Operational Information Update

Current Activities

Harvesting – GI-029, GI-032, GI-111 GI-114, GL-636, GL-044, ST-258, ST-324, TM-122B

Road Construction – CH-019, CH-539, GI-032, ST-208, ST-822

Engineering – GI-059, HE-521, LL-057, ST-154, ST-245, ST-247, ST-228, TM-223

What's New on the Map

New Blocks – ST-154, ST-216, ST-245, ST-247, WL-911

New Roads – ST-154, ST-245, ST-247, PD-280 (road change only)

Cutting Permit Approved Areas – GL-044, ST-227, ST-258, ST-324, TM-122B
(Note: CP Approved areas will be identified on June 2009 OIM as approval received after printing date)

Note: ST-245 is adjacent to the Sunshine Coast Trail.

Map Updates

Logging Complete – PD-402, ST-151, TM-245

Road Construction Complete – TM-222

Engineered Blocks – ST-324

Engineered Roads – ST-324

Bill Beese, New Adaptive Management Learnings

Bill presented a slide show called “A Decade of Variable Retention in Coastal BC”. This presentation covered ten important variable retention learnings as listed below.

1. The landscape context determines how much retention is necessary to meet biodiversity conservation goals.

If you have a landscape that has been heavily logged and has little in the way of old growth remaining, what you leave at the stand level is very important for diversity. Areas that have lots of reserves and where there has been little logging are not as greatly affected by what is done at the stand level.

2. It is not practical or necessary to precisely mimic or emulate natural disturbance patterns.

Many believe that natural disturbances must be emulated. The principle is sound, but some take it to the extreme. Bill suggests that nature should be used as a guide, not necessarily a goal.

3. Riparian networks are a governing factor for retention patterns.

They have found that the patterns of the streams and wetlands that are found in the blocks are the starting point and everything else falls in around what is left for the streams and wetlands.

4. Monitoring shows that retention can achieve a “lifeboating” function for some species, with a positive correlation between patch size and species survival.

The following points were presented as an amalgamation of studies from individuals at SFU and UBC.

- Amount of retention generally more important than pattern
- Review of 214 studies: aggregates better for most species
- No negative responses to retention for species abundance
- Group retention beneficial
- Positive correlation to % retention
- Group size important for some
- Less than 15 - 20% retention, benefits decline significantly
- Some sensitive species decline below 35 – 40% retention
- 30% removal: little impact
- Positive correlation between post-harvest abundance and size of retained groups; more important for drier sites
- Amongst the ten species of Gastropods impacts were varied: logging had six negative, two positive, two mixed impacts
- Small snails more diverse than slugs
- Abundance of Ectomycorrhizal (EM) fungi decreased with distance from forest edges
- For dispersed retention, EM diversity increased with tree density and was greater near retained trees
- Species richness and diversity greater in all treatments at 15yrs than pre-harvest
- Edge effects minor
- Species associated with old forest recovering; bryophytes, maintained in patches and shelter wood.
- *Vaccinium* => pre-harvest at 10 – 15 years post-harvest

5. Wind damage is a challenge for dispersing retention, making clear cutting with reserves the most viable for some sites & landscapes

They have been monitoring windthrow for eight years and now have an excellent database. It includes 4648 plots representing 25 metres along the edge of the cutblock into the adjacent forest. From this data they have learned that 11 to 25% (16 avg.) of cutblock edges, 16 to 45% (24 avg.) edges of large patches, and 20 to 45% (39 avg.) of small groups are affected by windthrow. This supports the emphasis being places on larger retention areas.

6. Retention has potential long-term benefits for enhancing structural diversity of forests.

Bill has been working with Dr. Bunnell at UBC and others on a species accounting system. They are using this as a way of tracking what species are doing well or struggling. They have come up with six groups:

1. Generalists, live in many habitat types
2. Associated with broad habitat types (alder stands, older HwCw forest, etc.)
3. Dependent on specific elements (snags)
4. Restricted to specialized, local habitats
5. Patch size and connectivity are important
6. Species not dependent upon forests (not monitored)

Minutes

The objectives of this are to estimate the amount and location of habitat, permit 'scaling up' of monitoring findings, link ecosystem representation and habitat indicators with species, provide trend estimates for species, focus monitoring on greatest uncertainty, and facilitate self-correction with new data.

7. Growth impacts on regeneration increase with greater dispersion of single trees or small groups.

Bill showed a graph that showed that trees regenerate quicker in patches of at least one hectare as the trees growth slows down when they are shaded.

8. Retention can be done safely across a wide range of forest types & terrain using a variety of logging and silvicultural systems.

- Company safety performance improved during phase-in of variable retention
- Over 50,000 ha of the retention system since 1998 by our company
- 43% of all Crown land harvesting 2004-2007 on BC coast used the retention system

9. Costs are a significant challenge in today's marketplace.

10. Public visual preferences conflict with ecological goals and operational needs.

- For a given retention level, people prefer dispersed retention over group retention
- Retention <15% is generally perceived only slightly better than clearcutting

Question: Where does the watershed system fit into this as far as fish habitat?

That is a really good question. As this is set up currently it is land focused other than amphibians. Just because we have buffers on fish streams we can't make the assumption that everything is fine. That may be a good addition for the future.

2009 Audit Review

2009 Audit Summary attached.

Group discussed and decided to discard the VOIT tables from their binders.

Windfiring

Stuart had the group go through the process WFP uses to decide whether or not a block will need to be windfirmed.

A video of heli-pruning was presented to the group.

Stuart mentioned that maintenance has been started on the canoe route. WFP only has funding for this until the end of July at this point in time.

Next CAG meeting – June 10th with IT

Next WFP meeting – September 9th

Meeting Adjourned 9:00 pm

**Stillwater CSA Community Advisory Group
Western Forest Products
May 13th
Attendance**

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