

CSA Community Advisory Group
To Western Forest Products
May, 2012
Field Trip

CAG Field Trip Report – Barry Miller

Barry showed photos of the May 24th CAG field trip. On the way to Block TM-223 the group was shown a provenance study of Western Red Cedar surrounded by fencing meant to keep deer and elk out. In block TM-223 they saw a riparian management system in which 10' stumps of immature second growth are left on either side of a small creek. The crowns were removed to reduce the amount of blowdown which would cause soil disturbance if allowed to happen.

Stuart said that this is the first time that they have tried this. He said he has seen this technique used elsewhere and that it has the additional effect of providing a physical barrier that helps keep workers back from the creek.

The group saw second growth trees that have had helicopter pruning to help avoid blowdown along the edge of the cutblock as well as trees pruned manually by men that swing from tree to tree. The helicopter method is a little less expensive than having men climb and prune trees, although both methods are very expensive. There is less safety risk when using the helicopter.

Piles of residual were shown that will not be burned. The residual wood is piled to increase the available space for planting.

Heading up to the Windsor Lake block they saw an area harvest on a slope. It was grapple yarded. You could not put hoe chucking equipment on the steep grade. There is some dragging when the trees are yarded in depending on the available deflection.

A number of the photos showed a wildlife habitat area for mountain goats. Because this is goat habitat WFP is only allowed to cut a portion of the productive forest area. Depending on the polygon they are either not allowed to cut or are able to cut up to 50%.

The group checked out the resurfacing of the Horseshoe River portage. The whole route will be resurfaced so that it is wheelable, but not to the extent that this portion has been.

They saw an alder plantation at the bottom of Lois Lake that had just been spaced and pruned. It started out as a western red cedar stand, but the elk browsing was too severe so it was decided to manage the area for red alder.