

Minutes
CSA Community Advisory Group
To Western Forest Products
February 19, 2014
Western Forest Products Boardroom

Attendance: refer to attached sheet

6:00 pm: Meeting called to order
Quorum met.

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.

Welcome and Introductions

Chair welcomed members and introduced guests. Members introduced themselves.

Review and Acceptance of Agenda

Agenda was accepted.

Review and Acceptance of Minutes

Minutes reviewed and accepted prior to the meeting and posted to the website.

Correspondence

Copies of recent correspondence was provided and reviewed

Letter to PRPAWS

Emails to FNs

Email thanking Clint Williams, Craig Galligos and John Hackett for their December 2013 meeting presentation.

Operational Information Map Review

Current Activities

Harvesting – BT-649, BT-658, BT-659, BT-664, BT-665, BT-656, BT-667, BT-668, BT-669, FH-035, LL-010, LL-012, PD-168, PD-421, PD-460 (PD currently inactive), TM-256, UL-827, UL-838
(some blocks inactive due to snow)

Road Construction – CH-018, LL-038, ST-030, TM-260, UL-819

Engineering – FH-041, WL-009, GI-064, ST-103, ST-104, ST-820, UL-830, VC-002

What's New on the Map

New Blocks – FH-033, GI-129 (was part of GI-131), ST-076, ST-111, TM-263, UL-830, VC-002

New Roads – FH-033, ST-076, ST-111, TM-263, UL-830

Cutting Permit Approved Areas – BT-656, BT-664, BT-665, BT-667, BT-668, BT-669

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FH-033 is located along the Sunshine Coast Trail.

Logging Complete – ST-296, ST-327, ST-329

Road Construction Complete – BT-656, BT-669, ST-070, TM-123, TM-256, UL-817

Engineered Blocks – LL-037

Engineered Roads – LL-037

Company Updates

Next week all of the WFP planners get together. They are going to share their experiences with the Forest Practices Board audit and SCT investigation. Both reports reflected very well on Stillwater and the Stillwater planners are going to share their learnings.

Goat Island Visuals – Andrea Rietman, RPF – WFP planner

Andrea said that one of her jobs as a WFP planner is to develop cut blocks. There are three cut blocks on Goat Island that she has been working on. These blocks are within one of their visual polygons. One of WFP's objectives in their FSP is for visual quality. It ensures that the forest landscape within a scenic area that is altered as a result of logging falls within specified levels of alteration. Most of their visual polygons are marked partial retention areas. The characteristics that they are trying to attain are: easy to see, small to medium in scale, natural and not rectilinear or geometric in shape. Each polygon is assigned viewpoints that the blocks should be assessed from. WFP will sometimes pick out viewpoints that are not written in the FSP because these points will look at the worst case scenario. Across the lake are the Fiddlehead cabins so they chose a viewpoint that matches what the cabin owners will be looking at and they also picked a viewpoint that matches what it will look like coming up the lake in a boat. When Andrea gets a block to lay out it is usually a preliminary projection that has been drawn on a map in an office. She goes out in the field and plans the roads and runs deflection lines to make sure they can yard everything safely. Andrea projected her first rendering of the hillside that was produced part way through the process for the group to see. It did not meet the visual quality requirements they were looking for because it had big square looking openings. They made five more renderings before they came up with cut blocks that met their visual quality requirements. They had a lot of operational challenges. It is a very steep hillside with very few bumps and grooves to hide things in. In the end they reduced their cut plans in order to obtain visual quality that they could be happy with. There is still one of the polygons that is somewhat angular, but due to operational and safety constraints this is the optimal design that was achieved. Both sides of the road are being harvested, the timber can be felled safely, and timber is not being isolated that is accessible.

Annual Silviculture Review – Rudi van Zwaaij

Rudi presented a slide show of photos from the WFP archives of logging history.

2013 Statistics (2014 Plan in brackets)

- Harvest Area: 723 ha (650 ha)
- Harvest Volume: 503,000 m³ (456,000 m³)
- AAR: 862 ha (800 ha)
- Declared Free Growing: 455 ha (450 ha)
- 5433 ha being managed as of December 31st
- Planted: 763 ha (796 ha)
- Brushed: 440 ha (429 ha)

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- Surveyed: 2654 ha (2500 ha)

2013 Planting

Spring: 586 ha, 530,866 seedlings 76% Fdc, 19% Cw, 4% Dr, 1% Hw

Summer: 177 ha, 151,045 seedlings 33% Fdc, 45% Cw, 18% Yc, 4% Ba

Total: 763 ha, 681,733 seedlings Fertilized 300,000 healthy seedlings

Rudi said that fertilization makes a notable difference on the health of newly planted seedlings. Fertilizer is used on the richer and brushier sites to help the seedlings keep ahead of the brush competition. Rudi explained that fertilizer use on other sites would also show a noticeable difference.

2014 Planting Plan

Spring: 547 ha, 507,000 seedlings 64% Fdc, 28% cw, 8% DR

Summer: 250 ha, 228,000 seedlings 63% Fdc, 35% cw, 2% yc

Total: 796 ha, 735,000 seedlings Fertilize 300,000 healthy seedlings

Question: What is the relationship between elevation and fertilization?

There isn't any relationship between fertilization and elevation.

Question: The trees from 9 mile up past Horseshoe River on Stillwater Main look anemic. Is that because of the soil?

Yes. It is a very shallow area of soil there. Those sites have salal competition as well. That indicates that it is a poor site. It is shallow and dry so the salal actually takes the moisture and nutrients away from the seedlings. At 12 mile there is a stand that has been fertilized several times for the same reason. With all of the extra nitrogen that they have put on the site the foliage has increased and has shaded out the salal and the stand is on its way.

2013 Brushing

Girdling: 131 ha

Manual: 128 ha

Herbicide: 181 ha

Total: 440 ha

2014 Brushing Plan

Girdling: 257 ha

Manual: 94 ha

Herbicide: 78 ha

Total: 429 ha

Rudi spoke to the group regarding the use of herbicides over the years and Indicator 2.2.3 which addresses herbicide use. The indicator uses a rolling average to allow for fluctuations over the years. Although there has been increased use over the last couple of years the plan for 2014 is forecast to be 19%. Well below 41% in 2013. The fluctuations in usage are dependent on the areas logged. Some areas are more prone to problem species.

Pest Management Plan

Stillwater is in the process of reviewing the Pest Management Plan (PMP). The current PMP expires in June 2014. They have advertised twice in the paper for the new 5 year plan. The public consultation

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period closes on February 25th and the First Nations consultation period closes March 21st. The CAG and the Regional District also received notification. The new PMP which expires in 2019 is virtually unchanged from the previous PMP. They are still trying to minimize the amounts of herbicide they use. Rudi presented a map showing the area covered by the PMP. On an annual basis WFP sends notification to the Ministry of Environment regarding which blocks were treated.

Question: Is there some kind of compensation for the reforestation you are still doing on the areas that have been part of the take back from the TFL?

No. It is just a liability that comes with the logging until the area is declared free growing which is usually about 13 years.

Survey Program

2654 ha were surveyed in 2013. Surveying is the most important part of forestry. You must be familiar with your blocks and you must go back and check on them and possibly adjust their prescriptions. It is the cornerstone of the silviculture program.

Stuart said Rudi walks all of the 2654 ha which is one of the reasons he manages the detail to the level that he does. This gives Rudi the knowledge to make the best decisions.

Powell Forest Canoe Route

This year in April WFP will deal with the driftwood on Horseshoe Lake. They will be working with the Ministry to boom it in one of the bays. It is too expensive to remove all of the wood.

2013 Ministry funding was low and 2014 funding is expected to be low. Luckily they worked with PRESS (Powell River Educational Services Society) for the first time this year at Mowatt Bay. The students worked on cleaning up the trail. It is a good opportunity for students to develop supervisor skills, self esteem and other outdoor skills. They are hoping to continue and expand the program.

Question: Is there any statistics regarding how many people use the canoe route?

We don't have good statistics, but we do get feedback and we know that several thousand people use it each year. 95% of the feedback is extremely positive. They do get the occasional comment that someone would not have come if they knew there was logging.

Powell River is hosting the Coastal Silviculture Committee summer workshop on June 18th and 19th. The last time Powell River hosted this event was 2003. Blake Fougere is the chair. Rudi and Stuart will be involved with this two day workshop. They expect 80 – 100 foresters to attend.

Stuart and the group thanked Rudi for all of his work and wished him well in his retirement.

The Marbled Murrelet Recovery Strategy – Bryce Bancroft

The Species at Risk Act has enacted a number of issues that will be company wide. It is important that people in all of the different units understand a little bit about what is going on. It is a legal process and there are some steps that they will follow. The Marbled Murrelet is the species they will be focusing on. They will also be dealing with a couple of others coming down the road. The Northern Goshawk is another species that is considered threatened and there will be a recovery strategy presented for it this summer.

The Species at Risk Act is a Federal law. There is also a Provincial law that dovetails with it. These species have gone through the Federal approach and there is a committee on the Status of Wildlife

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which recommends whether or not a species is being threatened or endangered. The species Bryce is going to talk about are considered threatened. There is historical information regarding population and distribution. The process looks at whether the historical population and distribution can be maintained. Another consideration is critical habitat. In the past there were a lot of big trees that would have been considered really good habitat for Marbled Murrelets. There is now less of this kind of habitat. The Marbled Murrelet is a chubby robin-sized seabird. They have a short neck and tail. They fly and swim like a bullet. They live on the ocean and eat small fish and other little sea creatures like shrimp. They come inland to breed. They fly inland at dusk and come back out at dawn. They can fly quite far inland to find a place to nest, but they don't actually build nests. They find platforms like a cliff or a tree with large branches that has moss growing on it and they will use that as their nesting platform. Everyone agrees that we would like to see our species maintained as best we can. It is a fragile planet and it is important to keep healthy and vibrant populations of as many species as we can. Different countries around the world have created the Species at Risk Act and from that they have steps to be taken to determine whether a species is at risk and if it is what should be done to follow up on that. The first step of the recovery process is the recovery strategy. Within the recovery strategy there is a content section which talks about the bird, where it lives, and the data that we know about why it is the way it is. The consultation step goes to stakeholders that have to work in and around the species at risk so that they can provide input of their knowledge of the situation – this is where WFP is involved heavily. There is also First Nations involvement and there are specific timelines that have been set within the law. The last time there was an assessment of this species and a status review was about 2005 and they were supposed to have a recovery strategy within a year. The Federal government had a lot of other priorities and they didn't do it so there are a number of environmental groups that have told the Federal government that they are not following their own rules and that they needed to come up with some kind of recovery strategy. So, they went through a court case in early January that pointed out that they were behind their timelines. The judge said that the Federal government needed to get on with it. The concern over the impact of the big pipelines and the environmental processes was the impetus behind the court case and judgment.

Once the recovery strategy is created there is an action plan which is the second step. It is due within five years of the recovery strategy. This gives companies like WFP five years to create an action plan. During the five years they are going to start looking at what you are identifying as critical habitat protection and the safety net. When you get into the world of bureaucracies you realize there are lots of layers. There is the Federal government layer which doesn't have jurisdiction over a lot of our land and management, but they are the big overseer and if they do not believe you are living up to what is required to maintain a species they have a safety net and they can enact their own rules over and above what you are doing. Even on private land, if the Federal government thinks you are not living up to the intent of maintaining these species as they have been described through the recovery strategy and action plan they can throw the safety net.

The way the legislation reads is they were supposed to have a period of consultation with stakeholders as they create these draft recovery strategies which are made by people that have a good understanding of the critter, the issues and how they see it evolving. From WFP's perspective they didn't get the amount of time that they felt necessary to comment on this version of the recovery strategy, because it was fast forwarded through the courts. It is now gone into the next phase which is the 60 day public comment period which ends on March 8th. WFP is working on a submission while going through the original draft to look at using best available science. At this point it is all about the bird, which is considered, threatened. They want to know if the best information is being used; the status of its population, what studies have been done, are they sighting all of the references that have done the work, and other questions of this nature. This group would also have an ability to comment if desired. The final will be posted on April 7th. People are saying that this is an unusually short time period for this process. It will be interesting how they take in all of this input and then revise their recovery strategy.

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The strategy has a population and distribution objective so they will look at some history and they will have data based on studies done in the past to get a feel for what the population was. They would not have long term data on a critter like the marbled Murrelet so they will go to the First Nations people and talk to them for pre-industrial data. They use all of the data they collect as a base line. This as well as information about where the critters are found helps define the recovery strategy. They have found that overall they need about 70% of the 2002 potential nesting habitat. The amount of good habitat has been dropping and as it decreases the bird has less area to nest. They have found that the birds do not clump up and use the areas left behind the bird population just declines. This does not bode well for the future of the birds. What they are suggesting is 70% coast wide conservation. There are six different conservation regions in BC and each has a different conservation percentage required – it is suggested that the Powell River region requires 85% of the 2002 potential nesting habitat. The fire history in this area is a big part of the reason for this greater need – there is less old growth.

The government has a recovery strategy that describes habitat that is necessary for survival and recovery. People have gone out and surveyed and come up with lines on a map showing what they think are good nesting habitat areas. They have also identified 200+ known nest sites. They are a difficult bird to follow. They can use radar detectors to track them and as time goes on technology will allow for better tracking methods. The birds require old, tall trees, less than 900m elevation and within 30 km of salt water. They need mossy platforms on large branches. The wording in the document is that harvesting habitat, harvesting adjacent to habitat, and building roads into habitat may result in “Destruction of Critical Habitat”. Sometimes it might be useful to harvest adjacent to habitat because the bird likes gaps (but not too many) so that it can use the space to approach its nesting area. Big gaps allow predators’ easy access to their eggs.

Stillwater area was fortunate in that low level aerial surveys were done. Suitable habitat has been mapped out. The government is using a model that just looks at forest cover, elevation and distance from saltwater so they have added that information on top of the good data covered by the low level aerial surveys. The model data they are using is from 2002 and much of the area that they consider good nesting areas based on this old data could already have been harvested

There will likely be an impact on the DFA and other licensees from the recovery process. It is unknown at this point what the impact will be. There is not enough information to know exactly what constitutes suitable habitat. It is not known if they will use the BC model or if they will use the low level surveys, or if they will use both. The Federal government’s involvement stops at the Recovery Action Plan.

Who will do the work has not yet been decided. It has been suggested that the companies take care of it. They know their areas, they know which blocks have the characteristics required for habitat, and they also know if an area cannot be logged for other reasons such as limited access. It makes more sense for the companies to draw the lines. It would still be all about the bird, but it would be the efficient and logical. Previous to the present corporate structure numerous industry partners went out looking for and identified a number of nest sites in this jurisdiction. Many adjacent land owners may not have been as energetic which means that more of the retention will be in WFP’s jurisdiction than potentially will be in the neighbours. It is somewhat unfair because these people were trying to do the right thing for the bird. One thing that should be done is some kind of fairness be built into the plan. The next steps will include: the finalization of the Recovery Strategy by April 7th, they will try to address the schedule of studies to complete critical habitat ID, Recovery Action Plans will be created, and the Province will be involved with the Management/Implementation once the recovery strategy is finalized. Once the Recovery Strategy is in place the Federal government will review the program to achieve the recovery strategy every 180 days to make sure the strategy is being followed. If the federal government do not think that goals are being achieved they will take over responsibility of both private and provincial crown land.

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Bryce commented that members may consider recommending removing the BC Model from the geographic location description where better habitat mapping is available because the model adds confusion and uncertainty and it is not the best available information.

Question: We push for buffers around lakes. Would these buffers help the birds?

They should. It has taken a long time to identify critical habitat because there is no one answer. They do like corridors, they don't like really dense forest, they will go up rivers or creeks. There really is a need for balance. They need to go far enough into the forest to reduce the predation of crow type birds that work the edges of forests, but they don't want to go too far in because the little chicks are tiny and they can't go too far to get to the ocean when it fledges.

Question: Here on the coast there are many OGMA's. Does the habitat needs have any correlation with the existing OGMA's?

Yes. A number of the OGMA's will be well placed, others maybe not. It puts a finer filter on how these areas have been laid out. At the end of the day they may have to move some OGMA's. Strategic operational planning is what it boils down to. It forces you to look at the attributes of your land base and using them in the most efficient way you can. This forces you to do that. It goes from needing to leave 12% to needing to leave 12% or more likely more than 12% with these attributes.

Stuart said that quite a few of the nests that they know about in the TFL are actually on rock cliffs – presently up to six have been located. He also said that when they are going to amend an OGMA they pull up the low level flight information to make sure they are not changing an area that currently has higher ranked marbled Murrelet habitat for something that has lower ranked habitat. They have done this for a number of years.

Question: There are local people that walk the woods in this area all of the time. Could there knowledge not be used instead of bringing someone in to learn about the area?

That is a really good point. Perhaps there is an opportunity for people to fill out some kind of a questionnaire or survey.

Question: Is there enough data out there?

The way that the Species at Risk Act works is it looks for the best information, but it also has a precautionary principle that says that if there is not enough data they will err on the side of caution. The more data you have, the better the information, the less caution has to be built in.

Stuart asked if the low level flight data was the best available data you could get and Bryce agreed that it is.

Stuart went out with the biologist who flew the entire TFL in a helicopter. They flew low over the trees and looked at branch sizes and other attributes. This information was ranked from 1 to 5. One is as good as it gets and five is not good. The whole TFL now has polygons ranked from 1 to 5.

CAG Saltair Field Trip

A slide show was presented showing the CAG trip to Saltair mill. There were seven CAG members, Stuart, two contractors, and two guests in attendance. The plant was built in 1972, closed in 2006 and reopened recently. \$28,000,000 was invested in the upgrade and another \$10,000,000 was later invested

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based on the success of the operation. It is the largest single line mile on the BC coast. They ship wood to Canada, USA, China, Japan, Australia, and Belgium. It produces a million board feet per day with a crew of 125. They work 8 hour shifts, they have a short lunch break and no coffee breaks. The operators are mostly just watching and making necessary adjustments on the computer. They have 3 gas fired kilns and they turn out 4,000,000 m³ kiln dried wood per month. They process cypress, western red cedar, Douglas fir, and hemlock in both metric and imperial. Some of the wood comes from the outer coast. Japan requires their product to be very precisely milled using metric measurements. The Japanese keep in inventory of one to one and a half months. The mill has to be continually shipping to Japan. The mill takes in 10 logs per minute and it takes four minutes for the log to reach the sorter.

Annual Contractor Safety Conference

At the start of every year WFP has a safety day with all of their contractors. They run through safety conversation. There was a focus on slips, trips and falls. There was good discussion about this topic. There was a representative from the Saltair mill that spoke about their success with safety.

Action List Items

Action Items

<i>Ongoing</i>	Who	Meeting	When
Speak to Shannon Janzen about Indicator 5.1.1 and 5.2.1	Stuart	Dec 13	

Adjourned 9:00 pm

**Stillwater CSA Community Advisory Group
Western Forest Products
February 19th Attendance**

Name	Position	Member Seat
PRESENT		
Jane Cameron – Chair	Primary	Member at large
Ken Jackson	Primary	Recreation
Andy Payne	Primary	Employment & Education
Doug Fuller	Primary	DFA Worker
Mark Hassett	Alternate	Contractor
Wayne Brewer	Alternate	Tourism
Colin Palmer	Primary	Local Governments
George Illes	Alternate	Environment
Read English	Alternate	Local Business
Dave Hodgins	Alternate	Recreation
Nancy Hollmann	Primary	Tourism

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Rory Maitland	Primary	Contractor
9 Seats represented		
ABSENT MEMBERS		
Bill Maitland	Primary	Local Business
Laura van Diemen	Alternate	Employment & Education
Russ Parsons	Alternate	DFA Worker
Paul Goodwin	Alternate	Forest Dependent
Cathy Bartfai	Alternate	Member at large
Barry Miller	Primary	Environment
Rob Stewart	Primary	Forest Dependent
Debbie Dee	Alternate	Local Governments
PRESENT		
Resource – others		
Bryce Bancroft		
Walt Cowland	WFP	
Andrea Rietman	WFP	
Stuart Glen	WFP	
Rudi van Zwaaij	WFP	
Russ Brewer	Guest	
Patrick Brabazon	Guest	
Valerie Thompson	Facilitator/Secretary	