

Minutes  
**CSA Community Advisory Group**  
**To Western Forest Products**  
**September 10th, 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. Members and guests introduced themselves.

**Review and Acceptance of Agenda**

Agenda was accepted with the addition of the SAI Global Audit update and Jeffered Creek Watershed Block update.

**Review and Acceptance of Minutes**

Minutes were emailed to be reviewed and posted to the web over the summer.

**Correspondence**

Copies of recent correspondence was provided and reviewed

Emails to First Nations

Email from Michel de Bellefeuille re: Percent of Certified Forests by Country.

**Operational Information Map Review**

**Current Activities**

**Harvesting** – LL-012 (inactive), PD-168, PD-421, PD-460, PD-462, PD-465, ST-283, UL-819

Heli yarded blocks (hauling continues): Dianne Valley, ST-018, ST-106, ST-110, ST-119

**Road Construction** – GI-140, GL-021, GL-022, LL-039, ST-103, ST-273, ST-276, ST-820, UL-846,  
WL-042

**Engineering** – BT-915, FH-041, FH-033, PD-306, PD-262, PD-422, PD-467, PD-471, ST-025, ST-028,  
ST-075, ST-116, ST-080, ST-152, ST-288, ST-289, ST-294, ST-298, ST-820, UL-848

**What's New on the Map**

**New Blocks** – PD-469, PD-471, PD-482, PD-530, PD-531, PD-534, PD-538, PD-539, PD-540,  
ST-025

**New Roads** – PD-469, PD-538, PD-539

**Cutting Permit Approved Areas** – None

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*There are no new blocks or roads along the Sunshine Coast Trail.*

**Logging Complete** – BT-659, BT-664, BT-665, BT-658, BT-656, BT-669, GL-657, GL-660, ST-030, UL-818

**Road Construction Complete** – GI-119, UL-820

**Engineered Blocks** – ST-028, ST-076, ST-111, ST-114

**Engineered Roads** – ST-076, ST-111, ST-114

### **Company Updates**

Amanda Welp has replaced Marlene after her retirement in the office.

The annual WFP Forestry Tour will take place on September 27<sup>th</sup>.

### **Geographic Information Systems – Christine Petrovcic, GIS Analyst, WFP**

Christine said that WFP has 8 operational offices and within each office there is at least one GIS professional. In addition their corporate office based out of Campbell River has five full time GIS professionals, one 1-year term person and their supervisor.

What is GIS? It stands for Geographic Information System. Geographic refers to the special location of something and that you can measure or calculated it. When referring to points or polygons, information is referring to the details behind the point. The point could be an eagle tree, a polygon could be a lake or a cutblock. Systems stands for the software, the hardware, the people, the questions that are asked, and the methods used to answer them.

Christine said ultimately they want to turn data into information, information into knowledge, and knowledge into better business decisions.

Christine demonstrated how GIS can be used on Google Maps. She brought up a map of TFL39 and turned on different layers of information such as nest points, blocks, the power line, roads, marbled murrelet habitat ranking, OGMAs, streams, ungulate winter ranges, research plots, growth and yield permit sample plots, and trails. This information is used to make decisions when planning harvesting. Any question you might think of, based on the information available, may be answered. This information is also useful when attempting to co-locate things like ungulate winter ranges and OGMAs.

WFP has a corporate library of databases where the information provided for the map layers resides. Each operation also has their own library. In addition to the information Christine displayed on the maps there is also additional information that they must make management decisions about such as recreation sites, silviculture, and terrain issues. Each operation is able to access the information kept at a corporate level from their location.

Stuart said that before they go out and hang ribbons they go through all of the layers on the map in their office. This ways they can make intelligent decisions before they go out and start designing a cutblock.

*Question: Who does the updates?*

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That depends on the source of the information. A lot of the information comes directly from the government; some comes from the operations' field work.

*Question: How far in to the future do you plan using this?*

Stuart said they work approximately 20 years into the future using the information to develop projections and concepts for future cutblocks.

Christine said operations are typically more on the ground deciding what they are going to harvest on the shorter term and the corporate office is more about timber supply analysis and thinking about hypothetical situations such as if there is more habitat protection required how it will affect the harvest.

They are able to run models using the information in the databases and they can easily make changes to the models to see the different outcomes. They can export a geo-referenced map to create a map for an iPad so the map can be digitally taken out into the field. Some iPads have GPS and you can situate yourself on the map in real time and add map features you may encounter such as a bird nest. This information can then be exported back to be included in the company's databases.

### **Managing for Wildlife – Sue McDonald, Wildlife Biologist, WFP**

Sue is a biologist working with GIS for WFP. She has worked with a number of different species including goshawks, some owl species, frogs, and plants. She does GIS analysis and operational support. If an operation runs into something unusual and biological they may call Sue. Sue works with John Deal, the strategic planning biologist, who deals with many of the Federal and Provincial government initiatives.

Sue said they manage for a number of different species. She explains how they decide which species to manage for, where the species are, and the tools they use to manage with.

There are legal and non-legal definitions of species-at-risk which inform the company's choices about species to manage for. Federally there is the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. They are a body of people that get reports written up on species and then they use the reports to decide if that species should be classified as threatened, special concern or endangered. The reports and the decisions made about them are available to the public. This informs the Federal minister. Federally there is the Species-At-Risk Act. The Species-At-Risk Act lists the species at risk on schedules. Species on Schedule One are deemed at risk and these species get a recovery team and a recovery strategy written up.

Provincially we have the BC Conservation Data Centre. They decide which species are red and blue listed species. Red is threatened and endangered, blue is special concern. Legally there is the Wildlife Act which lists four specific species – the white pelican, Vancouver Island Marmot, burrowing owl, and sea otter. There are also sections of the Act that protect birds and their nests when they are active as well as specific nests like those of eagles and osprey, which are protected at all times. There is also a section about the protection of beavers and beaver dams.

The Forest and Range Practices Act has a category of species at risk that may be put at risk by forest and range practices. WFP uses this list to inform themselves of what to manage for. In addition, there is the Land Act which OGMAs are designated under.

FRPA also has the wildlife habitat areas and ungulate winter ranges designated to protect species.

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In addition to using all of the legal and non-legal definitions of species at risk the company considers what the public might be concerned about. There might be things that are not on the lists. WFP belongs to associations such as CSA which also direct them in their wildlife management.

Sue said the company manages for black bears, grizzly bears, mountain goats, black tailed deer, bats, goshawks, osprey, bald eagles, marbled murrelet, owls, blue herons, red-tailed hawks, coastal tailed frog, as well as a number of other frogs, and endangered plants.

The tools that they have to manage wildlife include parks & protected areas, wildlife habitat areas, ungulate winter ranges, Forest Stewardship Plan areas, and OGMAs.

Question: The smaller companies don't do much in the way of scientific studies. Does this put WFP at risk of having to put up the lions share of the protected areas?

Yes. We have seen this in the past. We are not legally required to report goshawk nests to the government, but we do, so now government has data regarding where goshawk nests are and they are putting the protected areas where they have been reported which is on WFP's tenures. We are being punished for doing the right thing and companies that do not report goshawk nests are not. If you have managed your forest well you may have more of the habitat than the company next door that has not. The government should come up with a way to reward companies that collect data and do studies.

*Question: What is special about the goshawk?*

They are a forest dwelling hawk and when Sue first started working with them they were thought to be old growth dependent. The coastal goshawks are a bit of a sub species in that they have a smaller body shape and they are darker.

Ungulate winter ranges are another tool used for managing forests. There are legal reserves for goat and deer. These have orders written up and some can have operations taking place and others not at all.

There are areas designated as part of the company's Forest Stewardship Plan. These plans have designated areas for such species as marbled murrelet, grizzly bear reserves, and OGMAs. OGMAs are more flexible than the other reserves. They can be moved around a bit as long as they are replaced with the same amount of area with similar attributes.

The other tools they have include the Western Forest Strategy, leave areas, CSA indicators, species data collected, and training. The Western Forest Strategy is an ongoing work. It is meant to have key elements including structure, ecosystems and species. The stand and structure elements have been well developed, it includes variable retention management. The ecosystems element has many reserves established representing ecosystems on the landscape. The species element is still being developed.

WFP has also established leave areas beyond the legally required areas. Some of these areas would be found near goshawk nests, around amphibian ponds, red tailed hawk nests, and rare things on the landscape unit such as bear dens.

CSA indicators address species at risk. WFP does planning to make sure that they meet the targets regarding things like habitat retention that they have committed to in the CSA indicators.

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In the GIS, species data is maintained. This includes models, inventories, features that are tracked, and data monitoring.

Models use the GIS technology. Using existing information kept in the GIS data, like forest cover and imagery, some parameters important to a species can be pulled out. If a species needs cedar leading forest all of the areas showing 300 year old cedar leading forest could be identified. Right now they have models for marbled murrelet habitat, ungulates, and goshawks. Models are used to predict and then people go out into the field to confirm and do inventories. They now have inventories of marbled murrelet habitat using low level aerial survey work. The data kept in the GIS tracks features on the landscape such as nests, bear dens, and bat roost trees. These are point locations.

WFP does a lot of monitoring. They have been monitoring goshawk nests in some places for as long as 10 years. They have seventy territories across their tenure. The monitoring entails going out twice a year and checking on nests. It can be quite costly. They have done surveys of breeding birds, amphibian ponds, and owls in the past. The government does deer and elk surveys and WFP has access to that data.

A big part of Sue's job is training. She goes out to the operations and does species at risk training. They do formal training and opportunistic training (such as going out with a crew person for the day). Staff is encouraged to identify unusual things and ask questions. Staff is often able to send photos with their inquiries.

Sue explained identifying features of the goshawk. They were thought to be very rare, but they are finding them more and more. They are a gray, raven sized hawk and they fly very well under the canopy. They have lines that look like eyebrows over their eyes, speckled bellies, a black crown; they have a long narrow tail that acts as a rudder and shorter wings. Habitat includes both old and second growth. The branches need to be falling off and the canopy has to start opening up. Just as it becomes good goshawk habitat the forest is ready to harvest. They build more than one nest in an area and each nest is about one metre in diameter. Nests are in the lower third of the canopy up against the trunk of the tree. In second growth they have been found in alder. Nests can be often be identified by looking for the mess the goshawks leave under them. WFP has an operating protocol for reporting nests. This information is kept in the GIS. Studies have shown that their alternate nests tend to be within 800 metres of each other so the protocol says that when they have a known nest in a block that is being prepared for harvest they should search for an alternate nest within 800 metres of the known nest. If they are going to harvest during nesting season they have restrictions that they adhere to.

### **Field Trip**

Stuart contacted Sylvan Vale Nursery near Black Creek which is a company that grows many of the seedlings for Stillwater. They would be happy to have the CAG come over and have a look at their operation. The most interesting time is when they are lifting the stock for putting into cold storage for the winter. Either the November 24<sup>th</sup> or December 1<sup>st</sup> weeks would be the best weeks to go. The group is considering December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Jeffered Creek Harvest Area**

Some of LL-039 is inside the Jeffered Creek watershed. During the late summer, Stuart and three other individuals from the Stillwater Waterworks visited LL-039 and the potential stream project. The group discussed moving the stream back into its original channel when the road building is completed. The group was really pleased with this and plans were set in motion to get the stream realignment work completed. Prior to this meeting Stuart went out with a hydrologist and fisheries biologist and made sure the water flow and fish aspects of this stream work would be okay. After the field walk he also met

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with the MFLNRO and the Drinking Water Officer, who were also supportive of the project. This work is now scheduled to take place sometime in the the next couple of weeks.

*Question: Have you spoken to the Jeffered Creek people?*

Yes. They have had their board meeting and discussed the matter.

**Sunshine Coast Trail and ST-820 – Review of Block Plan**

WFP looked at a few different options for road access into ST-820 in order to choose the best route. Stuart walked ST-820 with Eagle Walz and looked at how it would be best to incorporate the trail into the harvest plan for the area. After Eagle and Stuart discussed the potential options, they decided on a plan where PRPAWS will reroute the trail for a short section below the new road construction and two retention areas and several old-growth Cw vets are being retained along sections of the trail to provide for some diversity as well.

**Guest Speaker Ideas**

- Topic regarding laying out of cutblocks including stream protection needs and road requirements
- Marketing and pulp supply
- Health of contractors in coastal communities
- Truck loggers
- Stumpage, export and how the calculation works
- Challenges of finding workers in this market / training program
- New logging equipment and technology
- First Nations Treaty
- Quality control

**Action List Items**

<b>Action Items</b>			
<i>Ongoing</i>	Who	Meeting	<b>When</b>

**Adjourned 9:00 pm**

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**Stillwater CSA Community Advisory Group  
Western Forest Products  
September 10th Attendance**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Member Seat</b>
<b>PRESENT</b>		
Jane Cameron – Chair	Primary	Member at large
Barry Miller	Primary	Environment
Doug Fuller	Primary	DFA Worker
Wayne Brewer	Alternate	Tourism
Colin Palmer	Primary	Local Governments
George Illes	Alternate	Environment
Read English	Alternate	Recreation
Dave Hodgins	Primary	Recreation
Nancy Hollmann	Primary	Tourism
Rory Maitland	Primary	Contractor
Bill Maitland	Primary	Local Business
Laura van Diemen	Alternate	Employment & Education
Debbie Dee	Alternate	Local Governments
9 Seats represented		
<b>ABSENT MEMBERS</b>		
Russ Parsons	Alternate	DFA Worker
Andy Payne	Primary	Employment & Education
Cathy Bartfai	Alternate	Member at large
Paul Goodwin	Alternate	Forest Dependent
Mark Hassett	Alternate	Contractor
Rob Stewart	Primary	Forest Dependent
<b>PRESENT</b>		
Resource – others		
Joseph McLean	Guest	
Sue McDonald	WFP	
Christine Petrovcic	WFP	
Stuart Glen	WFP	
Valerie Thompson	Facilitator/Secretary	