

Minutes  
**CSA Community Advisory Group**  
**To Western Forest Products**  
**February 1, 2016**  
**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 guest speakers and members introduced themselves.

**Review and Acceptance of Agenda**

Agenda was accepted.

**Review and Acceptance of Minutes**

November minutes accepted by email and posted on website.

**Correspondence**

Copies of recent correspondence was provided and reviewed

Letter to PRPAWS

Emails to First Nations

Email thanking Will Sloan

Email thanking Zac Whyte

**Operational Information Map Review**

**Current Activities**

**Harvesting** – TM-263, LL-037, ST-298, ST-063, ST-075, GI-130, GI-062, GI-063, GI-064, ST-065, ST-066, ST-294,

**Road Construction** – WL-014, BT-915, GI-117

**Engineering** – FH-044, WL-043, WL-009, GI-115, GI-150, GI-134

**What's New on the Map**

**New Blocks** – No New Blocks

**New Roads** – No New Roads

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

**Cutting Permit Approved Areas** – No New Cutting Permit Approved Blocks

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**Logging Complete** – No Completed blocks

**Road Construction Complete** – No Completed Roads

**Engineered Blocks** – GI-115, GI-150, changes: ST-281, PD-287, ST-249

**Engineered Roads** – GI-115, GI-150

### Company Updates

WFP has been discussing doing PAG two day workshop in Port McNeil if there is interest. The dates they are considering are September 22 and 23. A number of members of CAG expressed interest.

*Comment: The representatives from that area really loved the PAG workshop that took place here and have been looking forward to hosting one there.*

### SCT Update – ST249 Field Walk with PRPAWS – Kevin Giles

Kevin went out to ST-249 with Eagle Walz on January 14 and 16. They considered several options for how to best manage the trail in this area. Eagle felt strongly that he would like the trail to be relocated to cross between two existing OGMA's and this was the option that was selected. This option does have a higher potential for windfall which has been explained to PRPAWS. WFP will be wind firming the trees that are being retained along the trail.

Stuart said the interesting thing is that they could have harvested the block without being along the trail in the short term, but in the future there would have been a significant overlap. This is a good example of looking at the whole picture and coming up with the best long term plan for the trail considering future as well as current harvesting.

### John Deal: WFP Strategic Planning Biologist – Implementation Plans for Northern Goshawk and Marbled Murrelet

John has been in the forest industry since 1989. He started in Nova Scotia and moved to Woss in 1992. He was in Woss for 12 years where one of his roles was inventory on non-game animals. From there he became involved in Sustainable Forest Management and led the PAG until he left in 2004 for Prince George to work for Canfor. He dealt with tenure from Fort Nelson in the north to Radium in the south and Grand Prairie in the east to Houston in the west. This land mass was about 20% of BC. He was in a support role for the PAGs on the wildlife and biodiversity side and heavily involved in caribou. He started working on the coast for WFP in 2007. Since then he has been working with Northern Goshawk and Marbled Murrelet.

Marbled Murrelet is mostly an old growth dependent species. Its Federal status is threatened which triggers the recovery planning process at the Federal level. The estimated population in BC is around 100,000 birds. It is a sea bird. They only spend the breeding season in forests. A few of these birds do nest on cliffs and the frequency of this increases as you travel north. About 5% of the south coast nests are on cliffs and about 50% are on cliffs on North Coast.

Northern Goshawk is a forest raptor. It feeds mainly on squirrels and some small birds. It requires mature and/or old growth forests. Its Federal status is also threatened and the estimated population in BC is around 1400 birds.

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The goal of recovery strategies is to prevent species from becoming extinct as a result of human activities.

The first thing that happens at the Federal level is there is a species assessment. This is done by an independent scientific body. The scientists do what is called a designation and they send that to the Federal government and the government will decide at that time whether they will or will not list a species. There are very few cases when a species has not been listed. Once a species has been listed as endangered or threatened a recovery strategy is triggered. When a recovery strategy is triggered the population and distribution objectives must be clearly defined. Critical habitat, habitat which is necessary for the survival or recovery of a species, must be identified. In many cases critical habitat is not known but the courts have said that even if critical habitat is unknown they must act in a precautionary way. The Species at Risk Act only applies to Federal land, but everyone is required to show effective protection. This has not yet been defined even though the act has been out since 2003. There is a 'Safety Net' order within the act that comes into effect if a Province decides they are not going to manage a species that the Federal government has listed. In this case the Federal government could issue a Safety Net Order and take over control of Provincial crown land. It is unlikely that would happen if the province is doing something but the provision is there.

BC's response to the Federal Recovery Plan is an Implementation Plan. The Province treats the Federal plan as advice so they may decide to follow it or they may decide to deviate from it. It is up to the Province, but whatever they do is at risk of not meeting effective protection. They do keep that in mind. Overall the Province sets the strategy for the species.

The recovery strategy for the Marbled Murrelet was made final in June 2014. They are expecting to see an amendment to this recovery strategy in 2016. The main reason for this is the original recovery strategy was rushed because of a Federal court case. Marbled Murrelet was one of four species named in a court case where the Feds were really late in producing a recovery plan. They are fixing a few things that slipped through. In the West Vancouver Island region the amount of critical habitat will be decreased but in this area it is likely to stay the same.

There have been two recovery strategies set for the Northern Goshawk sent to stakeholder reviews. WFP commented on it in 2012 and 2014. It will be posted as soon as it is approved by the Prime Minister's office which should be soon and it should be finalized by the end of this year.

First Nations and stakeholders will have the opportunity to provide input on the proposed Implementation Plan. The meetings to discuss the proposed Implementation Plan will be taking place here at the Ministry office on February 10<sup>th</sup>. They will be meeting with the forest sector in the morning and community and First Nations in the afternoon.

*Question: Does government approve the Implementation Plan?*

After the engagement the Provincial people have to pull together all of the comments and go back to cabinet. Cabinet then makes a decision. There will be the original option plus a few others on the table. Cabinet will decide which way to go and at that point the Provincial people will start working on the implementation. It should go before cabinet in June 2016.

*Question: After it gets government approval will it be defined by law?*

We expect a Land Act Order to protect a certain amount of potential nesting habitat. The reason it goes to Cabinet is because of the potential impacts.

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BC's proposed solution will engage First Nations and stakeholders and it will complete land use planning. This would mean legalizing the Old Growth Management Areas. Haslam would be affected by this case. The new Landscape Reserve Designs for the central coast would also be completed. They would also like to complete and legalize priority Wildlife Habitat Areas (WHAs). Some of these might be on the Sunshine Coast. By 2017 they want to protect a certain amount of habitat. John is not sure how this will be done although he thinks it would be likely accomplished through a Land Act order. They want to employ a spatial and aspatial approach. A spatial approach would be defining a WHA on your landscape and an aspatial approach would be just saying that you need 100 hectares but I don't care where it is or how it is configured.

BC's proposed solution for the Northern Goshawk is to establish the long term population goal of 411 home ranges. The short term goal is 95 new 200 hectare WHAs across the coast. 30 will be on the South Coast, 30 on Vancouver Island, 30 on the North Coast and 5 on Haida Gwaii. They are going to leave foraging areas as is and revisit this issue in 5 years. Goshawks move their nests a bit each year and the chicks need an area of about 500 metres radius around the nest to learn to hunt. The area around all of the nests in a given area is referred to as the breeding area. This works out to about 200 hectares and that is what the WHAs will be based on. The breeding home range for the adults could be upward of 5 km from where the nests are. The impact on the South Coast will be approximately 4000 hectares removed from the Timber Harvest Land Base (THLB).

BC's proposed solution for Marbled Murrelet is to preserve 70% of the 2002 suitable habitat on crown land only. Critical habitat will be on private land as well so they will also be talking to the government. There are disproportional regional target being applied with the South Coast and Vancouver Island having resulting in the greatest impact. This area will have 85% of the 2002 suitable habitat targeted and East Vancouver has 90%. The rest of the regions will have 68% applied.

*Question: What about First Nations land?*

Treaty settlement land will be dealt with by the Federal government.

There is confusion surrounding the impacts because the numbers have been changing ever since WFP was first engaged compared to now. The Goshawk number has changed from 16,600 to ~14,000 ha. The impact of the Marbled Murrelet was originally estimated at 27,700 hectares and is now estimated at 15,500 hectares for a total coastal impact of 29,500 hectares. This proposed plan does have some socio-economic impacts for BC coastal communities.

*Question: Why will the South Coast and Vancouver Island be disproportionately impacted?*

Generally there is a higher proportion of habitat in the Timber Harvesting Landbase. The harvest and fire history of the South Coast resulting in higher retention targets being applied in a report prepared for the marbled murrelet recovery team in 2002

*Question: When the trees get too old in this area the Goshawks will move. Are they going to lock these areas up in legal boundaries that can't be adjusted or moved?*

Very good question. Birds move up to 2 kms away from the previous year's nests. The males hold the areas and we think when a male dies another male will move in but doesn't want to be right in the previ-

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ous male's territory. What we would like to see is the reserve to have the ability to move with the nesting area. Ask the government people at the meeting.

WFP on a whole does manage a lot of territories. We are at 80 throughout the company now and that is why we are concerned that WFP will be disproportionately affected.

The coast wide target of 411 home ranges for the Northern Goshawk is based on a population analysis so it is difficult to propose any alternate options. The only possibility would be to manage it as a BC population instead of a regional one. There is no scientific rationale for conservation regions for either Goshawk or Marbled Murrelet.

The option that BC is currently engaging for Marbled Murrelet exceeds the BC target of 60,000 hectares. The reason for this is there is surplus habitat in the EBM (Ecosystem Based Management) areas but because of the disproportional regional targets you cannot use the 60,000 hectares from the EBM area to offset for this area. The alternate option would be to manage to the BC habitat target (not regional) and use surplus habitat to offset impacts. There would still be approximately 11,000 surplus habitat left.

Lower impact options do exist and should be explored.

*Question: Is there no harvesting at all in a WHA?*

No. They don't even want any wind throw pruning.

*Question: How do they decide where to put the polygons?*

For Goshawk they are based on existing nest sites.

*Question: If there are no known nest sites there is no habitat?*

No. Government spends quite a bit looking for them, but industry provides most of the information on nest sites.

Communities need to know how the plan will affect local harvest levels and local jobs and the economics of the community. The BC option is not the only option and they would like to encourage BC to explore lower impact alternatives. Socio-economic assessment must be done for the BC option as well as other options. Local forest companies should have the option to plan reserves for their tenure to maximize co-location with other values.

*Question: What is the food supply going to come from?*

Part of the amendment that is coming for the Murrelet is marine foraging habitat. Goshawks are quite opportunistic. They will take whatever is around them. They eat squirrels, song birds, and blue grouse. Current forest management on WFP tenure retains ~40% of foraging habitat without doing anything special. The Federal recovery strategy may be looking for 45%.

*Question: What does the Tree Farm Licence allow for in terms of impacts?*

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It depends. When doing the AAC models the land base can absorb a certain amount of impact and at some point it cannot absorb any more impact and you see a decline in cut. You have to look at all of the other factors such as a powerline to see what that means in terms of cut.

*Question: Isn't there an amount the government can do before compensation?*

Yes, 5%.

There are compensation provisions under the Federal Species at Risk Act. I'm not sure how it will play out, but if a company or employees are impacted theoretically they can apply for compensation. I don't believe that it has been tested yet.

Stuart said that the key is being clever in their planning. Goshawks are important. People should be looking at what is out there and where things are best located and recognizing that things change over time. For instance, they should consider things like moving an OGMA to where a Goshawk nesting area is situated. This would take care of the Goshawk and biodiversity needs at the same time. They need to be clever and locate things properly on the land base. People that manage these things every day are the best people to make these decisions because they really know the land.

John encouraged members of the group to attend the session government is putting on February 10<sup>th</sup> at the Sunshine Coast Natural Resource District office in Powell River.

### **Timber Harvest Land Base**

They did a pilot of a Timber Harvest Land Base (THLB) stabilization project with 196,000 hectares on Northwestern Vancouver Island. There is about 26,000 hectares of park, WFP has about 47,000 hectares, and BC Timber Sales has about 24,000 hectares. They did work on this plan jointly with BCTS. The original Old Growth Management Plan was approved in 2005. Since that time there is lots of new data. There is new Marbled Murrelet habitat information and lots of new information from First Nations. They looked at all of the values and layering them one on top of the other. They considered First Nations values, old and mature forests, interior forest (forest greater than 100 metres from an edge), recreation, visuals, Goshawk, and Marbled Murrelet as well as other values. They used a Geographic Information System (GIS) to put these values all together and looked at what they had with the old plan and what they have with the new plan and they made a better plan.

Government will soon be looking for proposals to do a THLB project (not pilot). They are looking at 3 projects on the South Coast or Vancouver Island. Stillwater is one that John has been looking at for a long time. Stillwater has a lot of unique opportunities for a project like this. It is not saying that the old Old Growth Management Plan is bad, it just means that there is new information available. They will be preparing a proposal for Stillwater when they are invited and John expects that to happen within the next month.

### **Management Plan #9 Update**

Management Plan #9 was submitted in 2014. The Chief Forester and her entourage were in Powell River December 10 and 11 to look around and make their determination on the AAC. They are currently writing the AAC Determination Rationale. The new AAC number is expected to come out March 2016. The current Block 1 AAC contribution is 408019 and the new Block 1 contribution WFP proposed is 474500. They do not know what the government will decide. 474500 is what the Management Plan showed the AAC could be. In 2015 the volume harvested was 401622 plus residue (which is 10%). This year the current plan is 440000 (plus residue).

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### **Road Info Hotline**

*Comment: Zac did a wonderful presentation last meeting about the new website including the Road Info website. The problem is the last couple of messages on the Road Info website where the staff wishing everyone Merry Christmas on December 23 and one a tweet saying 'I heard mile 30 on Goat Main was washed out'. So, from December to now those were the only comments with regards to Powell River. You have to scroll a bunch of other communities to get to Powell River. I find it very frustrating and most people were comfortable with using the phone line here in Powell River. It wasn't broke so why fix it. If you need to replace it please have the same content and reliability that we had in the past. People in this community do not necessarily use Facebook or websites. People are not aware of the website and they do not use it.*

Stuart said their phone system at the Stillwater office is breaking down and to purchase a new system would be about \$25000 and they would need it fixed to run the phone Road Info phone.

*Comment: We have organizations subscribe to our website and we put out notifications that are emailed to them using Mailchimp (which is a free newsletter) and the organization forward it to all of their members.*

**Action:** Fix road hotline

### **Action List Items**

#### **Action Items**

<i>Ongoing</i>	Who	Meeting	When
Fix Road Hotline	Stuart/Zac	February 2016	
Look into having the website send emails regarding updates to subscribers	Stuart/Zac	January 2016	

**Adjourned 8:25 pm**

### **Stillwater CSA Community Advisory Group**

#### **Western Forest Products**

#### **February 1st Attendance**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Member Seat</b>
<b>PRESENT</b>		
Jane Cameron – Chair	Primary	Member at large
Mark Anderson	Alternate	Member at large
Wayne Brewer	Alternate	Tourism
Colin Palmer	Primary	Local Governments

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George Illes	Alternate	Environment
Doug Fuller	Primary	DFA Worker
Dave Hodgins	Primary	Recreation
Karen Skadsheim	Alternate	Local Governments
Read English	Alternate	Recreation
6 Seats represent- ed		
ABSENT MEM- BERS		
Nancy Hollmann	Primary	Tourism
Barry Miller	Primary	Environment
Mark Hassett	Alternate	Contractor
Cathy Bartfai	Alternate	Member at large
Russ Parsons	Alternate	DFA Worker
Bill Maitland	Primary	Local Business
Joseph McLean	Alternate	Local Business
Rory Maitland	Primary	Contractor
Paul Goodwin	Primary	Forest Dependent
Andy Payne	Primary	Employment & Edu- cation
<b>Resource – others</b>	<b>Resource – others</b>	
Stuart Glen	WFP	
Valerie Thompson	Facilitator/Secretary	
John Deal	WFP	
Nancy Pezel	WFP	
Kevin Giles	WFP	



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