

CSA Community Advisory Group
To Western Forest Products
November 20, 2017
Western Forest Products Boardroom

Attendance

Present

Jane Cameron - Chair

Dave Hodgins

Andy Payne

George Illes

Colin Palmer

Barry Miller

Paul Goodwin

Ben Berukoff

Mark Anderson

Joseph McLean

Tom Koleszar

Wayne Brewer

Doug Fuller

Blake Fougere - MFLNO

Darwyn Koch - WFP

Val Thompson – Facilitator/Secretary

Absent

Russ Parsons

Karen Skadsheim

Read English

Rory Maitland

Bill Maitland

Mark Hassett

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.

Review and Acceptance of Agenda

Agenda was amended and accepted. SFMP review will be delayed until next meeting.

Review and Acceptance of Minutes

Minutes were accepted.

Welcome and Introductions

Chair welcomed group.

Correspondence

Copies of recent correspondence was provided and reviewed

Emails to First Nations

Letters to PRPAWS

Operational Information Map Update

New Blocks on the Map

ST-344

Current Activities

Harvesting – ST-286, GI-206, ST-067, GI-134, GI-142, EL-702, ST-028, WL-948, ST-087

Road Construction – ST-055, ST-095, ST-096, GI-141, UL-831, LL-041, ST-288, WL-953

Sunshine Coast Trail

ST-249 Block Harvesting: Harvesting underway. Trail re-routed.

FH-044 Block Harvesting: Harvesting underway. Trail re-routed.

ST-288 Road construction: Road construction started. Trail re-routed.

Fires/Slides/Spills (YTD):

No New Fires.

No New Spills.

1 rock slide. 23.5 Mile goat Mainline – October 17th, 2017
On October 17th following a severe wind and rain event a large rock slide occurred at approximately 23.5 mile on the Goat Mainline. This area was cleaned up within a few days and traffic resumed following a preliminary assessment. A follow up assessment was completed by Michael Cullen Geotechnical Professional Engineer. Michael has made some recommendations for WFP to implement that will help reduce exposure time in this stretch of the road for crews and the general public.

Safety Stats (YTD):

Stillwater Timberlands as of October 31, 2017:

#of incidents = 0. TIR 0.00

#of recordable incidents = 0. MIR = 0.00.

#of lost time cases = 0. LTR = 0.00

#of lost time days = 0. SR = 0.00

Stillwater Contractors as of September 31, 2017:

#of incidents = 12. TIR 14.40

#of recordable incidents = 4. MIR = 4.80.

#of lost time cases = 3. LTR = 3.60

#of lost time days = 326. SR = 391

TIR = Total Incident Rate

MIR = Medical Incident Rate

LTR = Lost Time Frequency Rate

SR = Lost Time Severity Rate

Harvesting Stats (YTD):

As of October 31, 2017 the total amount harvested from the TFL (YTD) is 335,072 m3. This number is approximately 42,000 m3 short of the budget projection.

Blake Fougere, MFLNO – FREP update and Invasive Plants

Blake's area is the Sunshine Coast Forest District which runs from Bute Inlet down to Howe Sound. The TSA is about 81% of the District, Tree Farm Licenses (TFL) – TGL43 and TFL39 make up 8%, BCTS has a little piece about 1%, and community forests make up about 10%. The total area= 1,937,013 hectares.

There are 25 landscape units in the Sunshine Coast Forest District. This encompasses two TFLs, 5 Community Forests, 12 woodlots, 9 forest licenses, and 8 timber licenses plus BC Timber Sales. In addition the Powell River office takes care of 24 special use permits, 9 occupant licenses to cut, 17 forestry licenses to cut, 4 non-replaceable forest licenses, and 99 road permits. Plus over 1500 land tenures including docks, over 200 float cabins on Powell Lake, and communication sites.

Question: Do the Klahoose up Toba have their own lands?

That is one of the 5 community forest agreements.

The Sunshine Coast Forest District First Nations Interests include: Homalco, Tla'amin, Squamish, Shishalh, Snaw-Naw-As, Kwiakah, Qualicum, Ulkatcho, Tseil-Waututh, Lil-Wat, and Nanwakolas. Each of these First Nations has different needs and ways of doing things.

FRPA Resource Evaluation Program (FREP)

One of the pillars of FRPA was to do evaluations of forest practices on the ground to see if things are working and if they aren't to make suggestions to legislation, policy or procedures. FRPA monitors 11 different values including: riparian, stand level biodiversity, water quality, visuals, stand development monitoring. Coming soon there will also be wildlife plus cultural and heritage.

Question: Does culture and heritage just refer to First Nations interests?

Yes.

Question: How could we get other heritage sites such as old corduroy roads, the WWII interment camp and the old trappers cabin protected? They are mostly on BCTS lands and luckily mostly in riparian areas.

Good question. I'm not sure.

Darwyn said he sees a lot of heritage features here on the Sunshine Coast. In Chippewa in the new cutting permit there is a big old trestle still standing and about 15 feet off the ground. They put it in a wildlife tree patch because we didn't want to disturb it.

Doing things like WFP just did spares it for now.

Question: A friend of mine involved with heritage has asked that WFP could contact him before they disturb a heritage area so that he can go in and rescue anything worth saving.

Comment: I would like to see the stuff stay where it is if possible because that is where the history is.

Comment: There is a problem with people scavenging.

Question: Back to Stand Development Monitoring – do you sample every free standing block?

No. We just do about 10 and extrapolate from that. Probably something around 25 or 30 years old.

Question: what will you be doing for wildlife?

I don't know. That value hasn't come out yet. The preliminary protocol was piloted and some people came up and went into younger blocks looking for deer signs and elk rubbings to see what kind of use was happening. But I don't know what will be the final decision.

The values that are most common to monitor are riparian, stand level biodiversity, water quality, and visuals. Water quality refers mostly to getting water off the road quickly. Stand level biodiversity looks at attributes that have been left such as slash or things located in a wildlife tree patch. Riparian has to do with the functionality of the streams. They have been monitoring these things for 10 – 12 years and they basically get a random list from Victoria every year that tells them to get out to 10 of a particular 12 blocks. The toughest is stand level biodiversity because the stand has to be old enough that you can't drive to it any more and a helicopter budget is high.

Question: How do you choose the block?

It's random. We have checked twenty streams over the last 10 or 12 years and they are all over the district.

Question: TFL too?

Yes. Everyone. TFL, woodlots, community forests...

In the case of riparian they would go out to a given cutblock and mark off approximately 200 metres of a stream and set up stations and ask a series of questions looking at 15 different things to do with the streams health. A team created each of these 15 topics to have a bunch of questions with a yes or no answer and ultimately they want all of the answers to be yes overall. Blake showed a number of graphs created by the answers to these questions asked about 20 streams over the last 10 years.

Every year they have tried to summarize their findings such as with the graphs and look for some opportunities for improvement. For example a couple of years ago they had about 80 foresters here looking at the high stumping that WFP was trialing as a method of protecting streams from being accidentally logged over. It is little innovative ideas like this that help create positive change.

Comment: FREP is a gold star internationally of research on how forestry and development is impacting the environment. The outcomes from these tests are not to be interpreted as not complying with the laws. FREP is intended to provide good rigorous research on the ground which it is doing now and informing all of the forest managers possibly to create new laws or to come up with good ideas like high stumping.

Yes. FREP has been going for 10 or 12 years now and will be extended out for hopefully another 40. It is a good method of looking for opportunities for improvement. It encourages forest managers like Darwyn to look at how they are doing things and come up with new ideas. Basically we are out in the bush every year, doing random samples looking at how forest practices are working on the ground and how they are affecting the key values of FRPA. I haven't seen the final figures for this year but there won't be anything earth shattering. In the case of water quality, if Darwyn were to ask me what they could do to improve, I would say get the water off the road quicker, pick up the berm, and use a little more grass seed on exposed soil. That's about it. And actually our water quality numbers are very very good. Provincially they are good, our district is really good, the TFL is very good and the Community Forest is awesome.

Comment: and they are logging beside Haslam Lake.

So they should be and they are.

Question: What are they doing right?

The things I listed.

Question: Is the funding still coming?

It is. It is getting watered down a little bit because we are having to do more values. Some of the helicopter ones have so many things that we can't do it in a day anymore so we either have to take more crews or do it over two days.

Question: Is there a statistician that checks for validity and determines how many samples are to be taken on a provincial basis?

Yes. The whole FREP program is very statistically sound. It has been proven and is recognized as such. The samples are random and given to us. We have to do at least 10 and there are 20 on the list. We are allowed to do more but must do at least 10. You have to do the first 10. If we are unable to do the first block on the list you can keep working through the other blocks but until that first block on the list is done none of the other samples count. The nature of the program is that you have to work through the first 10 at least. They don't have to do them in order but by the end of the season they must all be done.

Invasive Species

The Coastal Invasive Species Committee (Coastal ISC) partners represent diverse stakeholders throughout Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands and the Sunshine Coast. Their mission is to take a leadership role to reduce the negative impacts of invasive alien species by: outreach and education which includes working with community members, local government, First Nations, industry, land managers, and others to exchange information and raise awareness about the impacts from, and management of, invasive alien species. They promote efficient, cooperative management, provide advice and build capacity and provide services to manage invasive alien species. They are seeking funding and other support to achieve the vision. They are one of 17 regional weed committees throughout the province. The Ministry has one person that works in Nanaimo that might have the task of working with invasives. All of the other invasive work is off to the side of somebody's desk. Blake feels it is important at certain times of the year it takes a bigger chunk of his time. He has staff and it has become part of their desk as well. Blake has been quite passionate about invasives since he discovered their impact.

The committee gets funding from the Ministry, BC Hydro, other Ministries, regional districts, cities, and they pool the money to do things like hire contractors to deal with different invasive targets. Some key species targeted include: broom, Japanese knotweed, giant hogweed. There are areas around Cowichan that are now broom free. It took them ten years to eradicate it but they did it.

Question: What do you do with areas like the south side of Savary? It is covered with broom but everyone says you can't remove the broom because the erosion will get way worse.

That is where you decide to pick your battles so that area isn't even on my radar. Apparently there is one hogweed on that bank and I'm going to find and get that.

Question: What do you do with ivy?

Just physically chop it off.

Some people from south of town had their back yard taken over by hogweed. This is the giant weed that has phototoxic sap. If you get it on you and go in the sun you get burns. We had a summer student that was suited up get a little on him when he was washing his gloves and it gave him a third degree burn.

Question: How did it get here?

Some gardening enthusiasts would have found it in an exotic plant catalogue.

Question: Ivy and broom are sold at nurseries. Why are we allowing them to sell this stuff?

One of the mandates of the committee is to work with the nurseries. Places like Walmart just get what they are sent so it is difficult. The good thing about hogweed is it is relatively easy to get rid of. Knotweed is really difficult to get rid of. It can get into drains and wreck foundations. Locally someone had a mortgage turned down because the house they were wanting to purchase had knotweed in the yard. I've heard that in some areas you have to have your property knotweed free before you can sell it. A tiny little piece the size of your fingernail is enough to start a big patch in a few years.

Question: Can individuals buy roundup?

Yes. You don't need much. For all of the work we do all summer it took about 7 litres.

Question: How would you deal with a knotweed shrub?

Cut it down and burn it. Let the plant sprout and then go back in the fall and quick spray it. The stems are too small to inject.

Comment: Once the Regional District gets the burner you will be able to burn what you cut, right?

Yes. Just the tops but we still have to treat the roots. We stockpiled broom on dump hill and the fire chief used it for training exercises.

The Regional District just passed a bylaw that says that if people have certain invasives on their land and they don't take care of their removal the Regional District can come in and remove them and then add the cost to your taxes the next year. They have a Weed Officer that has something behind him when he goes in to talk to someone. For years they have been talking to people and they would say where do I take it and there wasn't anywhere but now with the new burner (which is mobile) there is now a good disposal method. It will be kept at the new resource recovery centre. It is free to take it to the burner.

Other items that the office has been busy with includes: cutting and road permits, check cruising, waste audits, FSP reviews, landscape unit planning (Haslam and Texada LU's), biosolid proposals, deer tags, firewood permits, Christmas tree permits, bough collection letters, marine salvage, and forest health.

Action List Items

Action Items	Who	When