

CSA Community Advisory Group
To Western Forest Products
April 16, 2018
Western Forest Products Boardroom

Attendance

Present

Jane Cameron - Chair

George Illes

Rory Maitland

Doug Fuller

Colin Palmer

Barry Miller

Ben Berukoff

Mark Anderson

Joseph McLean

Tom Koleszar

Wayne Brewer

Janet May – Guest

Darwyn Koch - WFP

Val Thompson – Facilitator/Secretary

Absent

Russ Parsons

Karen Skadsheim

Paul Goodwin

Mark Hasset

Andy Payne

Dave Hodgins

Bill Maitland

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 accepted.

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

Letter to PRPAWS

Terms of Reference Review

Under Goals 2.8 some language was clarified. Some contact names were updated. It was noted that the TOR speaks to the groups obligation to communicate with both WFP and the community and how it is a forum for dialogue related to CSA issues. There is a responsibility for the group to keep informed with the help of the company. The document also speaks to the need for the group to make decisions based on consensus.

Freda Mountain Trail – Janet May

Janet presented slides and maps showing the J Branch trail leading up to Freda Mountain through old growth forest. This fall she noticed that there is logging planned for the area. The new road comes up from the north up a gradual route and winds its way around. There are several large blocks planned for this area. Janet has spoken to individuals at WFP who showed her the map and the blocks to be harvested. She believes after the road goes through most of the hikers will no longer hike up from the bottom of the trail and will instead drive up and access Freda Mountain starting at the old growth meadow higher up on the J Branch trail. She is representing the outdoor users group (ORUG) and other recreational users groups. She spoke to the her groups and they agreed that they would like an old growth hiking trail to access Freda Mountain and are asking WFP to accommodate with their logging plans to create an old growth recreation experience hiking to Freda Mountain. Janet believes some of the old growth in BC is of more value to the people standing and this is one of those situations. The technicians seemed to think there would be the ability to change boundaries.

Darwyn agreed that they could likely move boundaries or move the trail to find something that works.

Janet said the other concern was that the road might be deactivated after the logging is complete.

Darwyn said they no longer automatically deactivate everything like they did in the '90s. If there is a need to keep it open they will keep it open. Plus, there will be second pass opportunities in the area in 15 years as well. They will make sure to plan the changed boundaries or the moved trail so that it will not be affected in 15 years either.

Operational Information Map Update

New blocks on the Map

New Blocks

None.

Current Activities

Harvesting – ST-286, GI-134 (postponed), EL-702 (postponed), ST-028 (postponed), WL-948 (postponed), CH-030, CH-032, CH-305, CH-553, PL-004, ST-288, UL-831, ST-069, ST-341 and WL-953.

Road Construction – ST-055 (postponed), PD-528 (postponed), UL-831, ST-069, ST-341, ST-116, ST-344, and WL-024.

Sunshine Coast Trail

ST-288 Road construction: Road construction Completed. Harvesting Started. Trail is not affected by the harvest.

Fires/Slides/Spills (YTD):

No New Fires.

Spill at DLS: April 13, 2018. The Beaver Swifter Barge sunk off at the Dry Land Sort. The barge was tied up to the barge. Investigation is underway by Olympic and we should know soon what the suspected cause was. We estimate that 200-300 litres of diesel spilled into the ocean. The crew did a great clean up job using booms to contain the spill and absorbant pads to clean up any diesel sheen on the water.

No New Slides.

Safety Stats (YTD):

In March the were 2 new recordable incidents.

1. Lost time incident where a log truck driver fell while trying to adjust a trailer stake.
2. Lost time incident with a tree planter falling forward injuring his wrist.

MIR is now 6.75 for the year.

Harvesting Stats (YTD):

As of March 28, 2018 the total amount harvested from the TFL (YTD) is 96,028 m3. The budget target was 96,149 m3.

SFMP Review

Darwyn highlighted changes and explained them to the group. The main changes to the introduction include the addition of Aboriginal to the title Public Involvement. “This process is open, inclusive and responsive” was added to the section about the local advisory group meetings. And all indicators regarding First Nations have been moved to Criterion #7 in the SFMP. “The expected response of each indicator in relation to the target shall be described. Where analytical forecasts were used, the methods, assumptions, and limitations used for making the forecast shall also be described” was added to the section “Setting Local DFA-Specific Performance Requirements”. This is to ensure that the targets and variances are still relevant to the indicator, objective and value. The process by which the WFP CoC is maintained by WFP Fibre Supply and no longer the responsibility of the Timberlands so the reference has been removed.

Changes to the Glossary include: “Forest Plantations: tree stands established by planting or seeding often with one or few species, intensively managed exclusively for wood production, and which lack most of the key characteristics of natural forests” because they now refer to “Forest Plantations” rather than “Plantations” in the new standard. “WFP manages plantations utilizing native species that meet BEC and legal requirements” was also added to clarify what is meant by plantation. And “Wetlands: areas that are seasonally or permanently waterlogged and characterized by vegetation adapted for life in saturated/flooded conditions. Wetlands can be treed, shrubby or open and include bogs, fens, swamps, marshes and shallow open water areas. Some wetlands are stagnant systems (e.g., bogs), slow flowing (e.g., fens, swamps), or have fluctuating water levels (e.g., marshes, shallow open water).” (2016, p.17 CSA Standard)” was also added.

Indicator 1.1.1 Ecosystem area by type

SFO met the variance for 2017 but not the target. The numbers change for this indicator every year as WFP gets updated and better data. When they go to LiDAR they will change again and will be going from stand to tree inventory. The dm is where the fires took place and consequently there isn't much old growth in these areas. They are mostly second growth.

Indicator 1.1.2 Forest area by species composition

SFO Met 2017 Variance. The categories Other Species and Yellow Cedar did not make their targets. All of the other species did. This could be because the volumes for those two categories are so insignificant and a very small amount of harvest can throw this off.

Indicator 1.1.3 Forest Area by Seral Stage or Age Class

SFO Met 2017 Target

Indicator 1.1.4 Degree of within-stand structural retention

This indicator is based on a 5 year rolling average. Where possible, SFO will develop blocks in 2018 for retention. The exception to this will be steep blocks with prescribed cable harvesting. SFO did not meet the target or the variance for 2017.

Indicator 1.2.1 Degree of habitat protection for selected focal species, including species at risk

SFO Met 2017 Target

Indicator 1.2.2 Degree of suitable habitat in the long term for selected focal species, including species at risk

SFO Met 2017 Target

Indicator 1.2.3 Proportion of regeneration comprised of native tree species

SFO did not meet the 2017 Target. In 2017 WFP planted 0.2% noble fir and there was no variance in the indicator so they did not meet it. This was a trial to test its suitability with climate change. The auditor said the FSP allows noble fir so the variance should allow for it.

Indicator 1.2.4 Percent of Area within Deer Winter Ranges that is consistent with Management Strategies

SFO met both targets for 2017 with the exception of DMR-MA-03. There is no planned harvesting in DMR-MA-03 until such time there is <20% of the productive forest < 20 years old

Indicator 1.3.1 Percent of trees planted that are GMOs

SFO Met 2017 Target

Indicator 1.4.1 Protection of Sites of Special significance

SFO Met 2017 Target. There have been zero found over the years. The reason for this is that most of the DFA burned and if there was anything there before it would have burned up. They have a management system in place for when they find something. There were some carved out canoes found on Goat Island recently. They will be going out to investigate them with Tla'amin soon. Kevin has seen them and believes they are from Japanese or Chinese work camps not First Nations. They have gunwales and nails.

Indicator 1.4.2 Proportion of Identified Sites with Implemented Management Strategies

SFO Met 2017 Target

Indicator 2.1.1 and 4.1.2 Reforestation Success

SFO Met 2017 Target

Comment: When I was at the WFP Saanich seed facility they said that although hemlock will regenerate naturally if you stock it, the seedlings provided have better gains and are better stock so it pays off to do so as the difference is significant at 10 – 25%. I thought this was really interesting.

We try to plant them. It is our goal.

Indicator 2.1.2 Proportion of regeneration comprised of native tree species

This indicator is a repeat of Indicator 1.2.3

Indicator 2.1.3 Additions & deletions to the forest area

SFO Met 2017 Target

Indicator 2.1.4 Proportion of the calculated long-term sustainable harvest level that is actually harvested

SFO is trending towards the target

Indicator 2.1.5 Proportion of identified biotic and abiotic factors (fire, wind, insects, and wildlife) with implemented management strategies

SFO Met 2017 Target

Indicator 2.1.6 The amount of area treated with herbicide is used for brush control on the DFA

SFO Met 2017 Variance but not Target

Question: Are budget constraints a reasonable excuse for not performing on an indicator?

Nancy had her forestry budget cut in the latter part of the year which impacted her ability to do manually brushing which would have lowered the percent herbicide use. She had treatments planned for the fall which couldn't be done due to budget constraints.

Comment: So she was not able to convince the people making the budget decisions that this is an important indicator.

Yes. The budget got cut as well as the engineering budget. It tends to happen at the end of the year.

Question: What can we do to ensure that kind of thing doesn't keep happening?

Budget cutting? That's pretty tough. You would have to speak to the top management.

Comment: It is a priority for us.

It is going down.

Comment: Maybe the issue is that it is a local indicator. Perhaps we should find out if the other groups have indicators regarding herbicide use and if they all did maybe it would have more clout.

Now that we are going into the brushing season I will have that conversation with Nancy and see what her plans are and see if we need to make any adjustments.

Action: Darwyn to speak to Nancy regarding herbicide use.

Election

Chair, Jane Cameron, 1st Vice Chair, Dave Hodgins and 2nd Vice Chair, Wayne Brewer were nominated and elected.

Adjourned: 8:45pm

Action List Items

Action Items	Who	When
Speak to Nancy regarding herbicide use	Darwyn Koch	April 16, 2018