

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

Attendance

Present

Jane Cameron - Chair

George Illes

Karen Skadsheim

Paul Goodwin

Colin Palmer

Barry Miller

Ben Berukoff

Mark Anderson

Mark Hassett

Joseph McLean

Tom Koleszar

Wayne Brewer

John Deal - WFP

Darwyn Koch - WFP

Val Thompson – Facilitator/Secretary

Absent

Russ Parsons

Doug Fuller

Andy Payne

Dave Hodgins

Bill Maitland

Rory 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

Operational Information Map Update

New blocks on the Map

New Blocks

New blocks – ST-431 and ST-432

Current Activities

Harvesting – ST-286, GI-134, EL-702, ST-028, WL-948, CH-032, CH-553, PL-004, UL-831, ST-069, ST-341, PD-466, PD-212, ST-391, UL-842, GI141 and WL-953.

Road Construction – ST-055 (postponed), PD-528 (postponed), ST-069, ST-116, ST-344, ST-337, ST-350, ST-391, UL-842, GI-158 and ST-348.

Sunshine Coast Trail

No activity at this time.

Fires/Slides/Spills (YTD):

No New Fires.

No new spills

New slide discovered. At the back end of Dianne Main on EL-669. There is no vehicle access up Dianne Main as almost all the bridges have been pulled. The roads have been water bared. Given that the slide seems fairly well washed and that there is patches of snow in the slide area, I would estimate that this slide is not recent and likely a year or two old.

Safety Stats (YTD):

In April there were no new recordable incidents.

MIR is now 9.55 for the year..

Harvesting Stats (YTD):

As of April 30, 2018 the total amount harvested from the TFL (YTD) is 142,385 m3. The budget target was 137,044 m3.

WFP Forest Strategy and Wildlife Presentation – guest speaker John Deal, WFP

John Deal made a presentation to the group covering forest and biodiversity strategies, the retention silvicultural system, the big tree policy, rare ecosystems, the forest bird plan, and an update on habitat planning.

WFP's forest strategy includes attention to the following proposed components: timber, silviculture, biodiversity, carbon, climate change, water, and public engagement.

The goal of WFP's Biodiversity Strategy is to sustain biological richness and associated values. The key strategies are maintaining ecosystem representation as well as habitat types and elements. The indication of success is maintaining habitat components and structures with which forest organisms are commonly associated. The indicators at the landscape level are: old growth, riparian, forest interior condition, rare forest types, and stand age diversity. Indicators at the stand level are: wildlife trees, big trees, coarse woody debris, and shrubs.

The Big Tree Retention Policy is effective as of June 2016. Over 50% of the largest diameter trees are in the Big Tree Registry. The policy states that where safe to conserve big trees should be retained in stand-level patches. For groves, larger retention patches may be required. Corporately 158 big trees have been retained to date.

Clearcutting as defined by Keenan and Kimmins (Eviron. Rev 1993) states that the removal of “forest influence” for more than 1 tree length is clearcutting

Retention systems consist of three components: distribution of internal retention, trees left for one rotation, and >50% forest influence remains. Retention systems are designed to help conserve biological diversity by: “lifeboating” species and ecological processes after disturbance, enriching by-established forest stands, and enhancing connectivity.

General implementation targets include: retention systems in $\geq 50\%$ of total harvest area over a 5 year rolling average, % harvest area in retention systems will vary by WFS Zone, and stand-level retention will be long term (1 rotation).

Monitoring is annual. Corporately, all targets were exceeded.

Three Criteria are assessed: biological legacies, influence, and stewardship using a non-clearcut approach. The following questions were considered when evaluating retention success:

Criterion 1: To leave a biological legacy of old forest attributes well distributed within each stand. Does it meet the minimum WFP stand-level requirements?

Criterion 2: Can the block be defended as not a clearcut using the influence rule? Does it meet the minimum requirement of 50% influence? Is the retention well distributed across the block?

Criterion 3: Does this block meet the intent as an example of forest stewardship using a non-clearcut approach? Questions that are used to clarify include: Were there safety concerns? Was the block high-graded? Is there unacceptable leave tree damage in the block? Are the portions of the block too open to meet the visual goal? Is there a strategy to deal with mistletoe infected leave trees? Has windthrow risk been assessed and addressed adequately? Was the block laid out to promote harvesting efficiency?

Overall Results: Overall safety and harvesting were done well. Approximately 50% of the blocks assessed were considered as good examples of the retention system for each zone assessed.

Approximately 30% were considered acceptable examples – these usually had large open areas or limited internal retention.

Good examples provide for a mix of structure well distributed within the block. Acceptable examples have met the math, but have some issues such as a lack of internal reserves. Questionable means influence or level of retention (the math) are too close to call.

Key areas for improvement include: identifying the best areas for reserves, leave a selection of trees (often small clumps or individual thin trees blow down limiting their effectiveness. A large tree size class tree would now be retained often in a group), 4 tree heights both for influence and to break up the block would be retained, maintaining biological legacies (“lifeboats”) by keeping the parts in place, and use forest influence to help locate retention internally.

Key actions: training, change forest influence calculation to Weyco equation, and create a LiDAR based tool for a consistent forest influence calculation based on individual trees

Rare Ecosystems

The goal is to ensure all rare ecosystems are represented in high quality reserves

In 2014 WFP had team of 3 expert ecologists review the state of ecosystems on WFP tenures and develop a phased management approach which included the following phases: Phase 1 – evaluate current state, Phase 2 – locate potential high quality occurrences, and Phase 3 – field assessment / air photo review

Process:

Phase 1 completed by the ecologists

Phase 2 drafted by John Deal - Step 1: largest, old patches of an Eco unit in NCLB to meet targets, Step 2: recruitment where required, priority to NCLB, and Step 3: legal UWR, WHA, select OGMA to supplement and LiDAR to check for significant natural disturbance

John explained how high quality element occurrence which is a combination of condition, landscape, and size is ranked and calculated. Values are assigned to each of these elements and the values are added together to create a rank for the unit. Results were analysed to assess the current state and of the land base and what recruitment is required.

Next steps: 2nd Quality Assurance review – 2018 and Phase 3 likely in 2019.

Forest Bird Plan

The current legislation on breeding birds includes:

The Migratory Bird Act (Federal) - "... the harming of migratory birds and the disturbance or destruction of their nests and eggs" has a maximum penalty of \$300K per bird/nest

2. BC Wildlife Act - "a person commits an offense if the person ...molests or destroys (a) a bird or its egg, ... or (c) a nest of a bird ... when the nest is occupied by a bird or its egg. Herons, osprey, and eagle nests are protected year around

The Coast Forest Products Association has contracted Madrone Environmental Services. This company helps their clients manage the environmental effects. The CFPA is working on awareness using the options of avoidance, mitigation, and monitoring.

Their approach started with determining the coastal bird list which includes 297 species of which there are 211 native species breeding on coast. They determine habitat requirements , assign species to habitat groups, identify species of conservation concern and came up with options for avoidance mitigation and monitoring.

Avoidance options include: avoid and buffer known active nests (e.g., eagle, goshawk), plan timing of falling, have seasonal shutdowns, create regional reserves (e.g. parks and protected areas), create landscape reserves (e.g., OGMAs) and stand-level reserves, have wildlife tree retention areas, special management zones, include mature/old forest requirements in VILUP, Great Bear Rainforest ecosystem-based management , and training.

Mitigation options include: a retention silvicultural system, habitat restoration, silviculture, creating opportunities for cavity nesters 3, limited herbicide application, and research.

Monitoring options include: habitat monitoring and species monitoring.

The next steps are a BMP tracking tool, TSA-level habitat analysis, initiate monitoring program, and monitor previously established research sites.

Habitat Planning Update

BC Plans for Marbled Murrelet and Goshawk were released in late February 2018. The goals are: maximize conservation benefit and probability of achieving recovery goals, maximize the likelihood of achieving Federal SARA expectations, and minimize socio-economic impacts.

Draft habitat targets are expected in late May - June for Marbled Murrelet. The SFO will likely be a South Coast priority since TSA has mapped murrelet WHAs. The Stillwater co-location project will map potential WHAs for goshawk and murrelet.

Adjourned: 8:45pm

Action List Items

Action Items	Who	When