

CSA Community Advisory Group
To Western Forest Products
November 14, 2018
Western Forest Products Boardroom

Attendance

Present

Jane Cameron - Chair

Wayne Brewer

George Illes

Joseph McLean

Mark Anderson

Tom Koleszar

Andy Payne

Barry Miller

Ben Berukoff

Paul Goodwin

Nancy Pezel - WFP

Darwyn Koch - WFP

Patrick Brabazon - PRRD

Val Thompson – Facilitator/Secretary

6:10 pm: Meeting called to order

Quorum met.

Absent

Russ Parsons

Mark Hassett

Dave Hodgins

Doug Fuller

Cindy Elliot

Bill Maitland

Rory Maitland

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. Indicator action item list replaced (and saved for December's meeting) by survey of group interests.

Review and Acceptance of Minutes

Minutes were accepted.

Welcome and Introductions

Chair welcomed group and guest speaker Nancy Pezel.

Correspondence

Copies of recent correspondence were provided and reviewed

Emails to First Nations

Letter to PRPAWS

Operational Information Map Update

New blocks on the Map

New Blocks - ST-012, ST-307, and BT-661.

Current Activities

Harvesting – PD-466, PD-212, UL-842, GI-141, ST-095, ST-096, ST-344, GI-158, ST-116, ST-271, and ST-108.

Road Construction – ST-060 (postponed), ST-347, PD-528, ST-289, ST-076, GI-012, and GI-138.

Sunshine Coast Trail

No activity at this time.

Fires/Slides/Spills (YTD):

No new Fires.

No new spills

No new slides.

Safety Stats (YTD):

In October there was one new recordable incidents. MIR is now 6.12 for the year.

Question: What happened?

Nancy said it was another chainsaw incident during brushing. It was the same type of incident that happened the week before in the same block with the same contracting company. It was heartbreaking. Both of the individuals were long time experienced brushers.

Question: After a situation like that do you emphasize some kind of safety training with crews?

Nancy said when they do their investigation they have a bunch of recommendations. We have made a couple of recommendations as well. On our end we will be looking at the blocks a little more closely as to what really needs to be done and looking at the possibility of some different tools. If the block is herbaceous and not woody perhaps other tools could be used that did not involve cutting.

Harvesting Stats (YTD):

As of October 31, 2018 the total amount harvested from the TFL (YTD) is 380,488 m³. The budget target was 372,277 m³.

Company Update

Nothing new to report.

Silviculture Reports 2017 & 2018 – Nancy Pezel
Planting

	2017		2018	
	Hectares	Seedlings	Hectares	Seedlings
Initial	484.4	469705	582.2	601157
Replant	113.7	49440	167.4	87065
	598.5	519145	749.6	688222

We planted approximately 100 hectares more area and 131,000 more seedlings in 2018 over 2017. They are not sure why but partly it is they are narrowing up the window of planting as close to the year that it was logged as they can. Also, they replanted approximately 50 hectares more in 2018. In 2017 heli-blocks accounted for 28 hectares of their initial planting and in 2018 they planted 29.7 hectares of heli-blocks and replanted 14.9 hectares of heli-blocks. Thankfully their planters sustained no reportable injuries while working on these scary looking areas. They fertilized 3349,000 seedlings (or 67% of the seedlings they planted) in 2017 and a similar number (which was 50%) in 2018. They mostly do fertilizing so that seedlings can get well established and above the brush so they are not impeded by the brush and hopefully so they don't need to do any brushing. Another reason is because of root disease. They have root disease come from the nurseries and it cannot be seen at the time of planting. If they fertilize at the time of planting it helps the weak roots.

Question: When you plant stock that has root disease does it infect the soil?

No. It is just transferred from root to root. It stays in the seedling plug.

Question: Is it just one year?

No. It has been a few years. Fortunately, ours have not been as bad as Mid Island. Finally, the nursery admitted it is a problem and Mid Island got a number of free trees but they still had to pay to replant them.

Question: How many?

It is hard to tell because the trees are needing to be replanted because of a combination of root rot and drought.

Question: Have they figured out why the trees are getting it?

Nursery practices. Not cleaning the styrofoam trays properly and rotating the crop.

Question: Is it a fungus?

Yes. Hopefully, the nurseries are now doing a better job. It does seem less significant in the last year.

Year	Ba	Cw	Yc	Fd	Hw	Pw	Dr	Ss	Misc.	Totql
2018%	0.0	38.2	0.6	59.7	0	0.5	1	0	0	100%
2017%	0.0	34.6	2.1	59.9	0.1	0.7	2.5	0	0.2	100%

The misc. item in 2017 in the above chart is noble fir which was not allowed according to the indicator so Nancy did not plant any in 2018. The indicator will be revised to include all of the species in the company's FSP so noble fir could be used in the future. This gives more flexibility.

Brushing

	<u>2017 Hectare</u>	<u>2018 Hectares</u>
Manual	103.8	67.4
Girdle/Cut	79.6	196.4
Herbicide	105.6	48.5
Total	289.0	312.3

In 2017 the manual brushing included creating plantable spots for alder trees in 4 blocks for a total of 17.9 hectares. This was done for required replanting of alder. They had to site prepare an area because alder blocks have lots of salmon berry and other brush. The rest was regular brushing of things like bracken fern. In 2018 they did a little more spot creation for one more alder replant.

Every year the total of all of the brushing methods comes to around 300 hectares which uses all of the money allocated.

Girdling as a late in the life cycle of the plantation treatment. The trees have to be 3 cm and bigger to be girdled. Anything smaller would be cut. Cutting is less desirable because of resprouting.

Question: What kind of a tool is used to girdle?

It is a small tool with a bowed knife edge. They wrap it around the tree and scrape the bark off.

In 2017 they started contracting some brushing work to the Tla'amin Reforestry crew. They were given 6.2 hectares of manual brushing including knocking down bracken and fireweed with hockey stick like tools. They were able to do this work during the high fire hazard times because they didn't need chainsaws. They had experience with this kind of treatment. They were also given 16.8 hectares of girdling which they had no experience with. It worked out well and in 2018 Tla'amin formed relationships with Brinkman Reforestation to provide them with a working foreman. Prior to that their foreman was just supervising. The new fellow works with them and it is working well. They also formed a relationship with Klahoose First Nation which provides them with additional workers and additional area they can treat in the Klahoose territory. In 2018 they did not do any manual treatment with them but their portion of the treatment areas increased to 78.8 hectares and Nancy plans to use them again in 2019. It is working out very well.

The do need to use herbicides. They do minimize the use whenever possible but they do need to use it to treat maple and cherry copices. Other treatments are much less effective. If it is cut it resprouts and multiplies. Only a single stem is sprayed not the foliage. IT is very controlled. There are 10 metre pesticide free zones along streams and ditches flowing into streams. A one metre pesticide free zone is established along other ditches. In 2018 the hectares treated were significantly reduced. In 2017 36.5% of the treatments were herbicide use and in 2018 only 15.5% of brushing was done with herbicides.

Surveys

	2017 Hectares	2018 Hectares
Survival(within 1 yr of planting)	780.6	402.4
Regen Plot/Walk	663.2	534.3

Stand Assessment	624.1	403.3
Free Growing	451.7	435.6

The above are the 4 main types of surveys. The number of surveys varies from year to year based on the life cycle of the blocks and how many additional surveys they need to do due to replanting or other issues. If they have to replant they may have to do a second survival survey on a block or if there are issues they may need to check on a block to see if the issue remains resolved. If they don't get a survey done because of manpower issues they can always do it the next year. They do most of the survival, regen walks and stand assessments themselves with students, filed planners and Nancy. They do the free growing surveys themselves but they are mostly done by air.

In general they find very little natural generation in the coastal western hemlock (cwh) dm (dryer areas) so good survival of the planted seedlings is very important. They do get a little bit of natural fill in if there is a good cone crop or if there are good cones on the trees that are felled depending on the timing of when the harvesting occurs and if there is adequate soil disturbance you get better natural seeding. If a lot of brush comes right away there are not a lot of places for the seeds to land a germinate.

In the cwh vm1&2 (slightly higher elevation) we get a lot of western hemlock and some Amabilis fir filling in. So there is quite a bit of natural regeneration that might have been there already under the existing forest. Hemlock seed flies quite a long distance and grows fast.

In areas of high dwarf mistletoe which is a disease that effects hemlock (they hopefully log to an edge that does not have any dwarf mistletoe) they plant ecologically suitable species such as fir, balsam or cedar which are not susceptible to the disease.

In areas with poor survival and low natural fill in they plan a replant. If seedlings are struggling due to drought or suspected root disease they have to schedule another regen survey or walk through later on to make sure they seedlings are overcoming any of those kinds of issues. Other issues include seedlings being eaten by elk or other critters like a pika.

Within six years of the harvest start date they must legally declare to the government that a block has met the minimum stocking requirement for regeneration. They try to plant within a year so that they can get there sooner than that. They make there regen declaration usually at the survival stage.

Stand assessment surveys are generally carried out 6 – 8 years after harvesting to assess the crop tree growth and fine tune any brushing treatment that might be necessary before the block is declared free growing. They typically do these surveys themselves, but 2017 they contracted out 493.2 hectares of stand assessment to a company that uses drones. They did this for a number of reasons. First, it is safer than having to walk through these older plantations. Second, it is hard to see as you are walking through to see all of the potential brush treatments needed and the aerial shot makes it clear where brushing is needed. You also get a good overview of if there are any root disease issues from the aerial shots. They were really happy with the results from 2017 so they hired the company again in 2018 for another 340 hectares of stand assessments and free growing surveys.

The last surveys they have to complete are the free growing surveys. They are legally required to declare a block free growing within 20 years of harvest. Free growing is defined as the minimum number of ecologically acceptable crop trees that are free of brush competition and meet a minimum height. There are different height requirements dependent on whether it is a rich or poor site. For example; on a rich site of fir the trees must be 4 metres tall at free growing and on a poor site it would only need to be 2 metres tall. In addition there must be 600 trees per hectare that are free growing with a minimum distance apart and free of brush competition. The 600 trees have to be 1.5 times the height of the competing vegetation. Cedars are a slower growing species so they would only have to be 1.5 metres tall (and 1.5 times taller than competing brush such as cherry or alder).

In Stillwater they can often achieve free growing within 10 to 15 years. The sooner they can declare a block free growing the better because it is then no longer a liability to the company. If there were a fire or disease in the plantation after it has been declared free growing the government is responsible.

Smoke Management and Hazard Abatement

In the fall of 2016 the Sunshine Coast Resource District received approval for a September 2016 to April 2018 Fuel Smoke Management Plan. They just received an extension to April 2019. Each licensee submits a burn plan that builds on the Sunshine Coast District plan> It allows them to burn outside the open burning smoke control regulation requirement of only being able to burn on good venting days. The number of good venting days in a year are very very low so the government decided that if they had a strip along populated areas that extended 10 km from the highway or the edge of town into the bush within that strip they would still follow the open burning smoke control regulation requirement of good venting on day one and fair or better on day two, but behind that where there is low sensitivity to smoke they are allowed to burn on less strict venting. This gave them more flexibility and they were able to do some burning. They had not been able to burn in 2015 or 2016. In the spring of 2017 they were able to burn 229 piles in 12 blocks. In the fall of 2017 they burned 1521 piles out of 2032 in 25 blocks. In the spring of 2018 they were unable to burn due to poor weather. On November 9th they started burning and their optimistic plan is to burn 4000 piles in 82 blocks. As time goes by the piles deteriorate. The fine fuels disappear and they are no longer burnable. They become less of a fire hazard because there is nothing left to burn.

They currently have 8 blocks planned for firewood cutting permits because in the 10 km strip of high smoke sensitivity they would prefer not to burn. They try to get as many firewood blocks as possible.

Question: Is there consensus amongst foresters that the debris piles are a hazard?

Yes. In our recreation areas there is a higher hazard with fuels along the edges of the roads. Also, some of the piles take up considerable area as well so we lose productive ground. Not on the roadsides because they are often shot rock where nothing would grow. Even in blocks where we do burn piles we don't burn all of the piles. Some of the piles would be too close to the timber edge, or not the correct materials so there are still piles out there for the animals that aren't a fire hazard.

Question: What do you do about piles that you burn where you have already planted?

We will go back in and plant where the piles were.

On every block we do a hazard assessment and most of the time we do recommend getting rid of the piles.

Darwyn said piles that have been sitting for 5 years are rotten and cannot be burned. You would lose a couple of places to plant crop trees but there is a benefit to leaving the pile there from a nutrient perspective.

8 people will be required to meet quorum at the next meeting.

Adjourned: 8:00pm

Action List Items

Action Items	Who	When
Bring back definitions of independent and dependent contractors for next meeting.	Darwyn	September 19/18 – Darwyn to report in December

