

Nicola Thompson Fraser SFM Plan Public Advisory Group Meeting Minutes

April 24, 2014. Merritt Civic Centre

Attendees:

Marsha Spence	Alan Burger	Liis Jeffries	Chris Lepsoe
Dave Dobi	Wendy McKinney	Rick Cooper	Tim Pennell
Bert Parke	Katharine Shewchuk	Norm Hansen	Kathy Crack
Gerry Sanford	Aline Lachapelle	Leona Antoine	Graham Everett
Warren Smith	Craig Hewlett	Jim Baker	Jerry Canuel
Jamie Skinner	Matt Manuel		

Guests: Tom Sullivan

Facilitator: Pat Salm

Introduction, agenda review, safety:

The meeting started at 9:00AM. The meeting began with introductions, meeting room orientation and a review of the meeting agenda. Additional items added to the agenda were included under other business (CSA Standard revision and awareness of the Migratory Bird Convention Act).

Action Items:

There was one action item from April 25, 2013 that was carried forward – the item was a result of GSFP audit results in 2012 and a question was asked regarding logging debris left on site and in piles. In response to the discussion that followed, GSFP offered to include their waste assessor on the fall field trip that they were hosting. The assessor was to explain the process of measuring waste after harvesting was completed. As this field trip was cancelled, the PAG expressed a desire to include a waste assessor in an upcoming 2014 field trip. Aspen is hosting the field trip on June 5th and Jerry Canuel reported that this topic will be covered.

Recent Certification Audits:

Gilbert Smith External Audit held Dec 2-4, 2013. The SAI Global audit report has been posted to the [documents page of the NTF website](#) (all recent external audits can be found here). Craig reported that they had a new auditor and there was general discussion about the differences between auditors, even if within the same auditing firm. Craig reported there were no non-conformances and reviewed the 3 areas of concerns. Good practices and opportunities for improvement were also briefly covered.

Tolko Internal Audit held Feb 24-28, 2014. Nate Ryant was the auditor. Wendy reported that there were no major non-conformances. There was one area of concern related to the planned leave/stub trees. While an adequate number were retained, they were not well distributed through the block as

was desired by the Site Plan. This led to discussion on how a company's Site Plan commitments and expectations were communicated to harvest contractors and if communication and training were adequate amongst all contractors working in the SFM Plan area. Companies reported that this has been and continues to be a focus. Also discussed was how monitoring of forest activities took place – both internal as well as external monitoring. It was agreed that it would be useful to understand in more detail what monitoring of activities occurs and by whom. The advisory group thought it would be a good idea to have someone from Compliance and Enforcement come to the next meeting and discuss what type of activities they are involved in and what type of monitoring/inspections occur on harvest and road construction operations.

Action: Licencees to prepare a summary of the different internal and external forest monitoring that occur within the Plan area.

Action: Ask C&E if they could come to the November 2014 PAG meeting (Rick Cooper).

Review the 2013 SFM Monitoring Report:

Reviewed the Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) process, the tie that the Monitoring Report has to the SFM Plan and how these are aligned with CSA SFM Criteria and Elements of sustainability. The indicators and targets of the Report are aligned with these Criteria and overall performance can then be evaluated. The Monitoring Report provides performance against the targets in the SFM Plan. Reporting is a roll-up of all licencees performance, individual company reports can be found in the Appendix. The targets in the plan were reviewed; the public were asked to stop at any of the targets where they had a specific question or request.

Appendix 1: Detailed Reporting of SFM Targets

Target 2: There was discussion around the mixture of species planted and how the reporting of the average percentage of leading and secondary species revealed a commitment towards tree species diversity. Discussed survey procedures, and changes to species composition over time. It was hoped that the field trip on June 5th would include a visit to a free growing block – where the survey results and block history would also be available. Aspen to attempt to include this.

Target 4: It was noted that there was approximately 1ha net loss out of the approximately 389,000 hectares of Old Growth Management Area (OGMA).

Dave Dobi provided an update on the new Old Growth Order that has been brought into effect for Kamloops through a GAR (Government Action Regulation). This order replaces the LRMP and spatially defines the OGMA polygons. Because there is no real opportunity to replace OGMA (gov't to manage process) licencees will need to look at adjusting how to reporting on this target in future SFM Plans.

Action: Licencees to review OGMA reporting for Kamloops and bring suggested changes to the fall meeting.

Target 6: Discussed this target in conjunction with targets 12 and 13. Target 6 is currently being used in Merritt to demonstrate performance against sites of special biological significance. It differs from targets 12 and 13 as it looks at habitat of red/blue listed species and not rare ecosystems directly.

Habitat for red/blue listed species generally can be viewed as a site of special biological significance, but it generally differs from that of a red listed ecological community. This has been a parking lot item in the SFM Plan for some time. Jerry advised that he would look at trying to develop a target for rare ecosystems in the Merritt TSA, similar to that done in Kamloops and Lillooet.

PAG asked for list of species protected in target 6. Licensees think they already provide it, but Laura-Ann does not roll up and place in the monitoring summary.

Action: Pat to advise Laura Ann that the public would like to see a list of the species referenced in Target 6 reporting (not just the number of species).

Action: Jerry (Aspen) to work on specific target for Merritt rare ecosystems (possibly utilizing new inventory mapping) and bring a suggested target to the fall public meeting.

Target 18: This target has two different targets; less than 6% for Merritt and Kamloops and <7% for Lillooet. Generally less area in permanent roads is better. After reviewing the graph, discussed if the Lillooet target should also be lowered to 6%. Jerry pointed out that there was limited harvesting in the 2012 data and would like to see the 2014 results prior to any adjustment to the target. Agreed to leave targets as they are for one more year.

Target 19: The graph now reflects the volume harvested and the volume available (AAC) for the participating CSA licencees and not the entire TSA. While there can be differences between the two numbers, the chart is a better comparison of harvest allocation vs. cut. Discussed situations and penalties where licencees would not be in balance after their cut control period. The specific legal requirements around cut control can be found in the [Forest Act](#) (beginning with Section 75.1) It was noted that in certain situations, licencees not performing on their licences can result in suspension or cancellation of their licences – there is a [current example](#) of this in the Kootenay region with a licence held by Meadow Creek Cedar.

Target 22: Slides. There were three slides, and in 2 situations no Terrain Stability Field Assessments were completed (see the individual monitoring summaries for BCTS and Canfor).

Target 24: Coarse Woody Debris. Discussion around the small scale salvage blocks and what was meant by stating that the values under the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) were achieved. The target requires conformance with plan requirements (that must at minimum include the legal FRPA requirements). In some cases, the Plan objectives might exceed the legal minimum requirements.

Target 25: Road Inspections and Maintenance. Did not complete all required inspections and maintenance items. Aspen Planers and Canfor provided reasons to PAG. Discussion about deactivated roads, and liability on various categories of roads (deactivated, active, etc). While target not met, licencees felt changes they have made to staffing and systems to track requirements would improve reporting performance.

Target 40: The PAG member survey had an average score of 3.8 out of 5. One question (#13) received less than a score of 3 (2.8) and required discussion at the meeting (refer to Appendix IV or the report). Discussed past efforts. Members may come from a background, but they represent themselves. PAG members not always aware of the interests of individual public members. At the meeting it was

revealed that many of the public members have interests in forest values from fishing and hunting to cross country skiing and hiking. Licensees have self identified themselves, but not public members. Guest speakers may help to encourage recruitment of new PAG members. Some wondered that if the public does not show up, it may be because they don't really have a concern with how forests are being managed. The public is volunteering less and less, and less public members are coming on volunteer boards. There is a tough learning curve for new members of the PAG – licencees committed to spending the time with new members. Some concern rose that the last newspaper ad was not overly welcoming to general public members – this came as a bit of a surprise to licencees. Any further ads will need to be assessed for this.

Target 41: The target number of presentations was not met in Kamloops, Merritt or Lillooet. This was the 3rd consecutive year that targets were not met. Discussed whether the target overly ambitious. Target originally came from Kamloops SFM plan. Was easier to meet in the past when The ILA van was available and presented to many school classes a day. Discussed lowering target, or changing reporting methods.

Action: Licensees to discuss amongst themselves and present a possible solution to the PAG at the fall meeting.

Other Report Corrections/Suggestion for next year: Page 5. The map while improved, should indicate other communities such as Barriere and Clearwater.

Action: Pat to advise Laura Ann of this.

Debris pile retention and conservation of small mammals – presentation by Tom Sullivan

Tom gave an excellent presentation on his research looking at retention of debris piles and windrows and how these structures provided habitat to small mammals. The presentation covered the 4 main objectives of the research:

- 1.Functions + fate of down wood
- 2.Piles and Windrows: red-backed voles and predators
- 3.Windrows and Forest patches
- 4.Recommendations

The research lead to recommendations that retention of debris piles in windrows greatly improves forest habitat for small mammals. The windrows should be away from main roads (fire hazard), be 2 metres in height and 5 metres in width. Positioning the windrows to allow for connectivity (such as between a block edge or wildlife tree patch and riparian) also recommended.

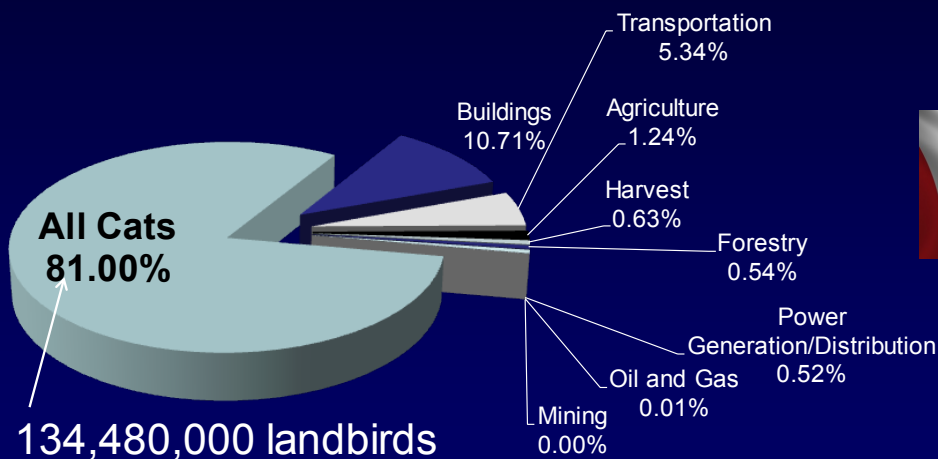
The presentation has been posted to the members section of the website. Advisory group members felt this was an excellent presentation and greatly appreciated the opportunity to hear from Tom. Subsequent to the meeting, Tom provided additional publications on woody debris and wildlife habitat. These have been shared with PAG members.

Other Business

1. 2014 SFM Plan. The edited hard copy version of the SFM Plan (mailed out in early January) seemed to be ok to public members. It was pointed out that the full version is available on the NTF website.
2. SFM Plan parking lot item. As referenced earlier, Aspen to look into a rare ecosystem target for Merritt.
3. CSA standard revision. Standard revised every 5 years. Process is starting again in May and will likely take close to two years. Reviewed the CSA User Group briefing note on changes suggested by industry. Pat mentioned that he was part of the CSA Technical Committee (TC) that will oversee changes to the Standard and advised that public members could channel any thoughts or ideas through him. Pat will be moving to the environment and general interest category of membership and will be identified as being associated with the Nicola Thompson Fraser PAG. Discussed if the PAG was interested in submitting comments – either as a group, or as individuals. Given the timelines it was felt that individual responses were most appropriate ([CSA request for comments and be found at this link](#) – survey deadline is May 1st).
4. Migratory Bird Convention Act, was discussed and brought up as topic for information. The Act requires protection for bodies, nests, egg, shelter of migratory birds and allows for incidental take. Licencees advised that they are aware of the legislation and are working to ensure their operations conform. Subsequent to the meeting, Tolko provided additional perspective of the impact of forest operations on the mortality of all birds in Canada – work published in Avian Conservation and Ecology (see graph).

Recent Publication: A synthesis of human-related avian mortality in Canada

(Calvert et al 2013)



Current DFA Issues, Summary, Wrap-Up

PAG 2014 Field Trips

Reminder that the next field trip is in June where Aspen will be hosting: meeting confirmed for Thursday June 5th, 2014. Active planting and waste assessments will be covered. Pat to send out an email reminder a few weeks prior to the date.

Also decided to set a tentative date for a fall field trip in the North Thompson. Canfor agreed to host, tour date set for October 2nd, 2014.

Fall Meeting

Agreed to a tentative meeting date of Thursday November 2, 2014 where discussions regarding the 2015 SFM Plan will occur. Meeting to occur in Merritt (location tbd - but likely at the Civic Centre). There was a desire to continue to include a guest speaker at subsequent meetings. Someone from Compliance and Enforcement will be contacted.

Wendy reminded public members to submit their mileage claims for travel to the meeting to her directly (wendy.mckinney@tolko.com).

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm.