

West Island Woodlands Advisory Group - Island Timberlands Limited Partnership
Thursday February 9, 2012 Final Minutes Held at the ACRD Boardroom

Advisory Group Members:

R ✓	Harold Carlson Barbra Baker (alt)	Forest Recreation	✓	Stefan Ochman	Bamfield
✓ R	Rick Avis Judy Carlson (alt)	Naturalists	✓	Keith Hunter	Multiple Goods & Services
	Rick Avis (acting)	Watershed/Fisheries	✓	Jim Creighton Neil Malbon	Small Business/Tourism
R	Glen Wong John Jack	A.C. Regional District	✓	John Smith Phyllis Francoeur	AV Hill Climbers AV Hill Climbers (alt)
✓ ✓	Jane Morden Mike Stini (alt)	Environment	✓	Jack McLeman	City of Port Alberni
✓	John McIntosh	Parks Canada	R ✓	Darlene Clark (alt) Bob Czerenzia (alt)	Alberni Fish & Game
✓	Lee Blais	Alberni Valley Riders			

✓ = attended R = regrets blank = did not attend V = vacant seat Q = Quorum

Resources Present:

Morgan Kennah – ITLP

Ally Gibson – ITLP

Mary Toews, BIT – Strategic Forest Management Inc.

Wayne Wall, RPB, Strategic Forest Management Inc

Erin Badesso – WFP

Jennifer Dyson – Facilitator

Marusha Taylor – Recording Secretary

Guests

Randy Taylor

Dave Jarrett

Gail Horvath

Libby Avis

Kim ---?

Welcome and Introductions @ 5:30 – 5:40pm

Safety Orientation

Jennifer reviewed safety procedures.

Action Items

Jennifer reviewed action items.

Minutes of the December 8, 2011 meeting approved by consensus

Action Item #1: December 8, 2011 Minutes to be posted to website

WFP – Harvest – Underwood Cove, Erin Badesso

Background: In 2008, committee approached to see if WFP would support inlet trail. WFP did so with the condition that they would like to continue timber harvest. Government granted Section 57 approval to build the trail. WFP cutblock was placed adjacent to trail, with informational signs posted to alert public of trail closures. Company wants to complete this area of activity first to avoid future interaction with public; safety is first concern.

Discussion: Possibility of putting a spotter out to restrict flow during some operations? Cutblock is about 30 metres from trail at its closest point. Cooperation needed among different user groups to communicate. There will be future interactions with the trail; this will be discussed with the group. There is an eagle nest tree present in the area.

Question: where are all the other wildlife going as harvesting proceeds?

EB: They move for a time, then come back; there are stands of trees left for habitat.

ITLP – Harvest – Underwood Cove, Morgan Kennah

Looking at posting closures at trail head, communicated through local paper, on blog, on ACRD website; possibly will do an article as well regarding China Creek crossing,. Plan closure from the end of February until May 1 (approximate). ITLP block is situated further north of WFP block; smaller with partial removal, but will cross the trail. Tripartite sign at trail head has a lot of info about operations and safety. May look at putting out maps on the trail per suggestion by Keith Hunter. There are plans to do a flight overhead to find eagle nest trees, will restrict harvest accordingly.

LIDAR – Ungulate Winter Range Project - Island Timberlands - Morgan Kennah

Ungulate Winter Range Assessment Project – Mary Toews, Biologist-in-Training, Strategic Forest Management Inc.

Wayne Wall, Registered Professional Biologist, Strategic Forest Management Inc

Overall project goal is to model change in blacktail deer winter habitat as the result of single tree and moderate retention harvest using LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging). Deer require snow interception cover; thermal and security cover; forage areas. This project focuses on the first element. LIDAR is used to generate canopy closure maps, taking into account dominant and co-dominant species.

Methodology: (1) assess current canopy closure from moosehorn readings using LIDAR; (2) develop winter range suitability model based on physical characteristics and species composition in area; (3) model habitat change based on proposed harvest; (4) post harvest field assessment by measuring actual canopy closure in the field. The first two steps have been mostly completed; currently working on the model. LIDAR can be used to model by removing data sets for harvested trees.

Discussion: This is the first known instance where LIDAR is being used to model ungulate winter habitat. Information on understory species is also being collected, and could be incorporated with data collected by mushroom pickers on the ground.

Action Item # 2: Keith and Morgan to discuss the idea of incorporating data collected by mushroom pickers.

Project is working with UVIC on how to get canopy width based on size and number of stems; predict effects of various scenarios of tree removal. Method can be used to decide how to

harvest in areas with other values. Deer surveys aren't within the scope of the project; habitat suitability is the greatest factor in determining survival.

Sproat Lake Area Plans and Discussion – Morgan

Plans underway for a single main road with a few small spurs through the area, with three cut blocks in the next few years. There is a good neighbour policy in place; did door-to-door letter service for direct neighbours, resulting in some email and phone requests for more information. An orientation was done for a new resident. ITLP will need to use different harvesting methods to respect proximity of residents, but harvest plans aren't done yet; trying to minimize road construction and clear cut. Some Green Tree harvesting has been done along Stirling Arm already. More extraction being done in some of the reserve zones, but has to meet criteria that allow further modification. Harvest will be done during third to fourth quarter; design may be discussed at next meeting.

Discussion: (GH) Different cut pattern needed to minimize visual impact as seen by residents and tourists at the lake.

(KH) Cougars are being displaced, more sightings on reserve; what is being done to preserve their habitat? Impacts are different from 80 years ago; issue of safety for community, not just workers.

(MK) At higher levels this is factored in; there is not enough info on movement of cougars, but sightings are recorded. There are cumulative effects of changes in population density and harvesting operations. ITLP looking at key corridors, larger scale design to support wildlife.

(Kim) There are still issues with clearcut on lake; not seeing same number of wildlife; trees blowing down.

Ward Lake – Morgan

Proposed road, cut block border and retention zone have been mapped. There is some community concern in the area, flags have been removed. An open house for ratepayers is an option, but was not successful when attempted previously.

(RA) noted that Teodora Trail goes through this area.

Cold Creek Main road plan presentation –Morgan

LIDAR map of area provided by Keith. Roads lay the groundwork for how harvesting is done. First need to identify control points where road needs to be (eg, creeks, property lines); then create a range where work can be done. No field work done yet. Location of rock quarry will take into account proximity of neighbours, no blasting will be done near them. \$700,000 cost forecast.

Recreation Access Inventory Discussion - Morgan

A six-page table of roads exists now, updating names, conditions, and the features that they access. Users are the experts on values. Another committee meeting will be held after table has been updated, in a month or so. Maps showing ITLP roads are not likely; this presents a liability issue. Question: There is heavy logging in Valley; trails essential for tourism and future of the area; how much input does the public get?

(MK) ITLP trying to balance other values with their business; dialogue important to the company as evidenced by participation in WIWAG.

Question: is any education done in schools on ATV safety on logging roads?

(MK) BC Forest Safety Council does play a role.

(JS) AV Hill Climbers has an education program.

(KH) Has done presentations at middle school; what about forest safety workshops for tourism sector, Chamber of Commerce? Should go beyond local education, assess risk and be proactive.

(MK) ITLP has property in a lot of communities; a program would have to be done in a lot of places.

(Kim) Search & Rescue does training on survival if lost; could incorporate other training.

Action Item # 3: Investigate options for forest safety training for public use.

Announcements

- ITLP needs to do detailed bridge inspection at Bamfield Main Bridge; all-day closure on Saturday, May 10 from dawn to dusk
- ITLP Blog – offline status review Jan 13-Feb 6 done by Morgan – she finds that it's been working each time when accessed

Next Meeting(s)

Recreation Meeting date TBD

Western Forest Products Meeting; March 8, 2012

ITLP Meeting: May 10, 2012

WFP Meeting June 14

Meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm

ACTION ITEMS

Action Item	New Action Items	Date of request	Projected Completion Date (Progress)	Person Responsible
1.	Posting of previous ITLP Meeting minutes on WIWAG website	After minutes approved		Jennifer
2.	Examine how information on understorey species could be incorporated with data collected by mushroom pickers on the ground	February 9, 2012		Keith and Morgan
3.	Investigate options for forest safety training for public use	February 9, 2012		All?
4.		February 9, 2012		
5.				
6.				

All Completed Actions see file [Actions completed\ITLP Complete tracking.doc](#)