

**West Island Woodlands Community Advisory Group**

*September 30, 2004*

**Regional District boardroom, Port Alberni**

**Present:**

Advisory Group Members:

* Carlson, Harold	Forest Recreation	* Carol Cutforth	Independent Sawmills
* Avis, Rick (alt)		R Alison Mackenzie	Logging Contractors
		* Andrew Whittock	Placer Mining
* Edgell, Phil	Watershed/Fisheries	R Creighton, Jim	Small Business/Chamber
* Ken McRae	A.C. Regional District	* Ed Sanders	A.V. Sportsman's Association
Lyle Price (Alt)		* Darlene Clark (alt)	
		* Swann, Gary	S. I. Woodlot Owner's Assoc.
* McIntosh, John	Parks Canada	* Chris Law	Environment
Peter Whyte (alt)		* Amanda Lord	City of Port Alberni
* Dennis Morgan	Bamfield		
* Lem, Tawney	Hupacasth		
Brandy Lauder			

\* = attended      R = regrets      blank = did not attend

**Resources:**

Steve Chambers - Weyerhaeuser  
Tom Holmes - Weyerhaeuser  
Mike Davis - Weyerhaeuser  
Shelly Higman - Weyerhaeuser  
Attila Gereb - MoF

Michelle Colussi - Facilitator  
Ryan Dvorak - Recording Secretary  
Bill Waugh - Weyerhaeuser  
Lawrence Pillon - Weyerhaeuser

**Guests:**

Ed Croteau  
Doug Swanston  
Ken Watson - City of Port Alberni

Fred Boyko  
Keith Whyton  
Guy Cicon - City of Port Alberni

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Safety Orientation
3. Announcements:
  - The Natural Step Framework to a Sustainable Port Alberni seminar will be held Friday October 22. Please register at Echo Centre.
4. Overview of WIWAG code of conduct
5. Introduction:
  - The purpose of this meeting is to address the management of the Private Lands in the Alberni Clayoquot region that used to be a part of TFL #44. WIWAG should look at this meeting as an opportunity to gather information which will be used to formulate a response to Weyerhaeuser by WIWAG.

- ? – do concerns go to the contractor in the area or Weyerhaeuser.

6. Tom Holmes – VP of Timberlands

- There has been an ongoing move to reduce the size of tenures. In TFL #44 there has been and will be a major reduction in the size of the TFL. Historically, with a high of 3.5 million cubic metres of AAC to less than 1 million cubic metres annually.
- It was noted that Ken Matthews of the BCTS has an interest in retaining certification on the 20% take back lands.
- The Forestry Revitalization Act grants licensees the ability to sub-divide tenures.
- Markets demand that the product Weyerhaeuser sells be certified.
- Weyerhaeuser has committed that their private lands will be certified under CSA.
- Weyerhaeuser will likely sell those private lands where there are market opportunities, but will continue to manage the larger blocks of private lands as forest lands. Smaller parcels of private lands may be sold off.
- Weyerhaeuser has offered to negotiate with the Hupacasath FN around harvesting in the private lands.
- ? – Will Weyerhaeuser require re-forestation on private lands.
- Weyerhaeuser intends to harvest 200,000 cubic metres from the private lands in 2005, and commits to re-forest those areas ASAP.
- It was noted that there have been some areas in China Creek that haven't been re-forested. *(Since the meeting the area of concern has been found to be stocked)*
- ? – Will the employees at Sproat Division log the private lands.
- Only the Sproat side.
- ? – What will the differences be between TimberWest and Weyerhaeuser on managing private lands.
- Weyerhaeuser is committed to Variable Retention in areas of Old Growth harvest.
- ? – Will Weyerhaeuser proceed with LUP on the private lands.
- There was concern noted that the private lands should be managed under the CSA standard and the WIWAG SFMP.

7. Bill Waugh – Interim Manager Nanaimo Timberlands

- Weyerhaeuser has a top notch watershed assessment program, and is continuing with Forest Stewardship plans.
- When the private lands were removed from the TFL there were concerns raised by MWLAP over deer and elk winter ranges.
- There are 2,100 ha's of winter ranges in the private lands that will not be touched by Weyerhaeuser. The areas may be moved upon agreement by both parties, but the total area will remain the same. Experts from both organizations will spend 2 years examining and identifying suitable areas for designation.
- There is 1 wildlife habitat area in the private land and it will remain in place.
- ? – Is Weyerhaeuser allowing for a higher population of elk in the Cameron and Nahmint.
- The Cameron firebreak is reserved under the 2,100ha's
- It was noted that the Nahmint area will fall under the control of BCTS.

- ? – What will Weyerhaeuser provide for Marmot sensitive areas.
- Weyerhaeuser is supportive of the Marmot recovery program.
- There are no elk winter ranges in the Klanawa. MWLAP believed that the current riparian reserves would be sufficient.
- It was noted that there are 2 winter ranges in the Museum Creek area, and that the winter ranges are separate from the LUP process.
- Bill Waugh will manage the planning for the private lands in the Port Alberni area, and that the West Island and South Island private lands planning will be centralized.
- It was noted that there was a concern that social impacts resulting from this change be minimized.
- Steve will be the interface between the Private and Crown land managers and WIWAG.
- ? – Where will the public access information, and in what format.
- Cut control as we know it will not apply on the private lands.
- The new AAC for TFL #44 has been determined by the Chief Forester and it will be 1.3 million cubic metres, of which Weyerhaeuser will have an allocation of just under 1 million cubic metres.
- ? – What will the impacts be on biodiversity in the Nahmint.
- The rules on the 20% take back area will not change under the BCTS.
- It was noted that APD and Somass cut 70% certified wood.
- The 20% take back area will not legally be cut from the TFL for between 2 – 3 years.
- For Bamfield, it will be status quo for some time.
- ? - As a proportion, has the AAC gone up or down on the Crown land portion of the TFL eg. AAC = total cubic metres cut/total ha's in the TFL.
- ? – Will there be an adequate fibre supply to keep local mills operating.
- On a local level, Weyerhaeuser has lost 1 in 5 logs from their fibre supply. They will need to bid on fibre along with others in order to supply the mills.
- ? – Does Weyerhaeuser want two standards. One on private lands and one on Crown lands.

#### 8. Lawrence Pillon – Private Managed Forest Lands

- The term managed forest land is a tax classification for private lands.
- Provincially, 5% of managed lands are private and provide 12% of the total harvest.
- Private managed forest lands encompass around 900,000 ha's and about 3 million cubic metres of harvest/year.
- Most of BC's private managed forest lands are on Vancouver Island.
- Private lands are a major contributor to BC's economy.
- Private Forest Land regulations were developed in 2000 to protect key public and environmental values on managed lands, and at the same time protect the landowner's right to manage the lands.
- Private land regulations are more results based, and less prescriptive.
- The new model:

- Principles – results oriented approach to protect key public/environmental values.
- Partnership ethic between government and landowners
- Efficient administrative structure.
- Auditing enforcement and public reporting
- Forest management objectives include: Fish, Wildlife, Soil, Water and re-forestation.
- Weyerhaeuser monitors water quality, and has internal rules to keep pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers out of streams.
- There is no difference between private and crown lands in the application of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers.
- The Jump Creek watershed and the Nanaimo water board are a good model for partnerships between industry and municipalities.
- The rules are more stringent in fish areas and community water intakes.
- Water quality issues are very important under the private land regulations.
- ? – Will Weyerhaeuser use Pesticides, Herbicides and/or Fertilizers in the China Creek watershed.
- That would be an operational decision, but our practice in South Island has been to negotiate this with community water users/managers.
- ? – Would Weyerhaeuser use these products if the community requested that they do not use these products.
- ? – What are the protocols for public notification.
- The requirements are that there is some form of public notification at the access points to the affected areas.
- There is a positive obligation for landowner's to deal with water quality issues.
- The Province has the ability to designate critical wildlife habitat on private lands, that is not found on Crown Lands.
- There is a re-forestation obligation that must be met within 5 years, and the area must reach free-to-grow within 15 years.
- There is a private land council, that includes Government, Landowner's, and an independent 3<sup>rd</sup> party. This council is responsible for Audits, Administration, Inquiry Management, Reporting to Government, Advising BC Assessment and Commenting on Forest Practices Regulations.
- ? – What are the windthrow issues on riparian buffers in private lands.
- Private Managed Forest Lands regulations are designed to achieve the following:
  - Environmental results
  - Maximize accountability
  - Decrease red-tape
  - Increase public confidence
  - Encourage more landowner's into long term forest management
- The Private Managed Forest Lands regulations are available on-line.
- ? – Why would landowner's want to fall under this act.
- It offers an increase in flexibility in operations and freedom from local bylaws.
- It was noted that people would like to see Weyerhaeuser go beyond the minimum in forest management as required by regulations.

- The process doesn't manage for:
  - Wildlife
  - Pesticides, Herbicides and/or Fertilizers
  - Cultural resources
- Timelines:
  - Technical team conducts the resource assessment
  - Key findings
  - Prescriptive process – prescription team develops prescriptions to address key findings
  - Restoration opportunities are examined
  - Watershed management plan is developed which includes; a work plan to implement prescriptions, a monitoring plan, a plan to map products
- What's working well:
  - Increased stakeholder involvement
  - Increased trust and a better working relationship
  - Improved understanding of the Watershed Assessment process by Foresters, Engineers and Production
- Starting Monday October 4<sup>th</sup>, Weyerhaeuser will begin an assessment of the China Creek Watershed with a stakeholder meeting. This assessment will encompass approximately 11,000ha's. The analysts will be Glynnis Horel and Iain Cuthbert
- Schedule:
  - December, 2004 – Assessment report due
  - January, 2005 – Stakeholder meeting
  - March, 2005 – Prescriptive process
  - April, 2005 – Watershed Management Plan completed
  - Summer, 2005 – High-priority work completed
  - December, 2005 – Final Stakeholder meeting
- It was noted that Weyerhaeuser takes the commitments under the Watershed Management Process very seriously
- The consensus process is about having the harvesting in these areas make sense
- Weyerhaeuser has weather and safety related shut down procedures in place for watersheds
- ? – Will Weyerhaeuser limit access on private lands
- There are no changes anticipated for the private lands
- It was noted that there are recreational concerns around the King Solomon's Basin area
- It was noted that access agreement fee concerns and an increase in insurance costs for people wishing to access certain areas were an issue
- ? – Will Weyerhaeuser apply the SFMP as it applies now to their private lands
- WIWAG will need to study that issue. Another issue will be the new standard and implementing Michelle de Bellefeuille's recommendations.
- Thank you to the presenters

**Next Meeting:      October 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Location:            Regional District Boardroom**

**3008 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Port Alberni**

**Time:**

**5:00pm Dinner  
5:30pm Meeting**