

Special Meeting of the West Island Woodlands Advisory Group
October 29, 2002

Regarding Old Growth Management and the Walbran Issue in TFL #44

In Attendance:

Alison Mackenzie	Ed Sanders	Gary Swann
Tawney Lem	Bob Redhead	Ken McRae
Phil Edgell	Rick Avis	Jack Thornburgh
Harold Carlson	Neil Malbon	Steve Chambers
Mike Davis	Chris Vukovic	

1. Welcome and Introductions:

- Welcome to Ed Sanders

2. Meeting:

- Ken Wu highlighted the WCWC's key points in a telephone conversation with Michelle, a formal letter will be sent to the WI WAG Membership when it is received.
- The purpose of this meeting is the following:
 1. Outline the key concerns of the WCWC & Pathways
 2. The context of these key concerns as they relate to the SFM Plan
 3. We will look at Old Growth (OG) by landscape unit and biogeoclimatic zones in TFL #44, and can we identify any particular landscape unit or biogeoclimatic zone where we have concerns over OG and to identify those concerns.

1. Summary of Key Concerns:

- Pathways: They are concerned over (what they perceive to be) an inadequate consultative process with Weyerhaeuser, and are providing input on their views over logging activity in the Upper Walbran
- They see WI WAG as being tied to the company, and while this group may mediate some of the downstream effects of commercial logging the WI WAG is essentially a company vehicle
- WCWC: Ken Wu: A concern is that the CSA standards for certification are not credible standards
- Ken agreed to look at WI WAG's SFM plan and bring any concerns over this document to the groups attention

- They do not see Old Growth Stewardship Zones (OGSZ's) as being appropriate for the Upper Walbran area:
 1. The company can still log &
 2. They are too geographically constrained
- The WCWC will support other organizations to develop/support OGSZ's in other areas
- They have chosen the Walbran area as an area of priority due to connectivity issues, as well as endangered species issues eg. Marbled Murrelet, Goshawk/Biodiversity
- This area is the biggest chunk of Old Growth below the Barclay's
- The Magnificence/Grandeur of the area especially in terms of the low elevation
- The WCWC is not prepared to meet with WI WAG but will engage in discussion

2. Context of WI WAG's SFM Plan:

- The SFM plan has a series of goals that relate to these issues:
 - Maintain representative ecosystems
 - Harvesting reflects natural landscape patterns
 - Forest Management is such that ecological cycles are maintained
 - Variety of habitat supports the production of NTFP's
 - Maintain timber harvest at LRSY as it applies to harvestable land area

Comment: we should look at Old Growth as it relates to connectivity and bio-diversity.

3. Old Growth by Landscape Unit and Biogeoclimatic Zones:

- Tonight is about the distribution of Old Growth and identifying areas of concern – There are maps of TFL #44 by Landscape Unit, Zonation, and Maps of the Walbran Area
- Weyerhaeuser has made a commitment to respond to WCWC in their request to make this area a park, as such Weyerhaeuser will undertake consultation with stakeholders – Would like to urge individuals/organizations from the WI WAG membership (and others) who have a strong view on this to bring their comments/concerns to Weyerhaeuser regardless of the group consensus – or lack of

- The question is does the Walbran area need special protection?
- Another groups concern over an area is forcing us to look at this issue is an area that we don't have the time to deal with
- It is likely that this is only campaign #1 of many as a response to the rolling back of the Forest Practices Code
- It is likely that the new FPC will not change the environmental standards – they may even improve
- Another consideration is that a number of environmental groups are watching this (CSA) process, if we take a stand on this issue in favour of the company then it may raise a red flag over the groups credibility
- WIWAG's mandate is the consideration of the entire TFL this is not the mandate of other organizations with concerns over this area

Maps:

- TFL #44 is comprised of two forest zones, the Coastal Hemlock and Mountain Hemlock Zones
- For ecological purposes there are no Douglas Fir forest types in the DFA
- The maps are broken down by landscape unit
- There are/will be targets for OGMA's in each of these areas
- Old Growth is broken down into productive and non-productive (scrub)
- In TFL #44 272,000 ha are productive forest and there are 316,000 ha in the Defined Forest Area
- This would mean that there is 96,000 ha of Old Growth in the productive forest – or 35%
- How will OGSZ's tie in with OGMA's – There will be a significant overlap of these areas
- There isn't a proportional balance between Hemlock dominated parks vs. Douglas Fir dominated parks
- What are the conclusions of the group regarding Old Growth distribution based on the information in the maps provided:
 - There are a couple of areas where Old Growth recruitment needs to occur such as the area around Port Alberni and towards Sproat Lake – areas of existing Old Growth in these

areas (Dog Mountain & others) will be retained by Weyerhaeuser

- The lands around McLean's Mill would be a prime candidate for recruitment/trade

- This is still a confusing issue, are there any other questions outstanding as a result of tonight's session:
 - Deer Populations are very low currently and those remaining have become highly urbanized - are the impacts on deer populations due to logging practices
 - We need information from outside of the DFA but bordering the area - classified satellite coverage

- Walbran:
 - There has been enough protection in the Walbran area, protection efforts should be focussed elsewhere
 - We should have a reason for protecting Old Growth
 - We need recruitment in the Yellow and Orange areas around Port Alberni

- Where do you want to go from here?:
 - Define "inadequate" Old Growth (from plan goals)
- What other information do you need?:
 - Beyond June 2003 will FEN's be maintained?
 - Do OGMA's maintain connectivity/biodiversity
 - Is there a desire to look at landscape unit by landscape unit to describe the nature of each one? - If we are to look at an area XM1 would offer an appropriate area close to town.
- Is the group still interested in Peter's presentation on age-class distributions and what additional information would you like:
 - Shorter-term age class predictions
 - Is the model he is using theoretical or map-based
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There will come a time when WIWAG will have to deal with the beast called "Old Growth"