

West Island Woodlands Community Advisory Group

January 8, 2004

Regional District boardroom, Port Alberni

Present:

Advisory Group Members:

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

Resources:

Steve Chambers - Weyerhaeuser
 Ryan Dvorak - Recording Secretary
 Ken Watson - City of Port Alberni

Michelle Colussi - Facilitator
 Mike Davis - Weyerhaeuser

1. Welcome and Introductions: Special welcome to Andrew, Tracy and Darleen as new members to WIWAG and to Ken Watson.
2. Agenda:
 - Additions under New Business:
 - Private lands outside of the TFL
 - Certification watch conference
 - Information on the Log Train Trail society
 - Remove:
 - Stan Coleman

No Objection to the changes
3. Safety Orientation
4. Minutes of November 13, 2003: **Approved with minor wording changes.**
5. Andrew Whittock - Placer Miners
 - In order to develop minerals in B.C. a miner needs a free miner's certificate
 - Landowner's rarely own the mineral rights under the soil of their land
 - A free miner has the right to travel on both public and private lands and can cut trees

- This does not extend to lands with a building, heritage property, reservations, cultivated land, orchards, etc.
6. Stokes Creek Watershed Correspondence:
Weyerhaeuser has received the correspondence regarding concerns over harvesting activity in the Stokes Creek Watershed. The company's response:
- Weyerhaeuser has no plans this year to be involved in harvesting activities inside the Stokes Creek Watershed
 - Weyerhaeuser will consult with the individuals named in the letter should harvesting plans include the Stokes Creek watershed
 - **Weyerhaeuser will draft a letter to the Regional District in response**
 - ? - what does Weyerhaeuser do when operating in Karst areas
 - Weyerhaeuser has maintained a commitment to consult with Karst experts/ conduct surveys/ consult government (Cave/Karst handbook) to provide best practices
7. China Creek Cut-block:
- Michael Bisher would like to gate the following roads:
 - Yellow Creek, Mineral Creek Mainline.
 - He is operating a mine in the area and has significant safety concerns over access to the mine
 - It was noted that the recreation sector has concerns over putting more gates up
 - Bruce Reid is the contact for the Provincial Government's Mines Branch
 - Ken Watson - **To report back to WIWAG on the result of his discussions re: mining and the China Creek Watershed**
8. Private Lands out of TFL #44:
- The rumor mill has indicated that Private Lands currently in TFL #44 will be taken out of the Tree Farm License by March
 - This could have significant impacts on Ungulate Winter Ranges, Access and the City Watershed
 - Ed has contacted MLA Gillian Trumper
 - Steve inquired within Weyerhaeuser and has found that Weyerhaeuser is not aware of this development
 - Ed will dig further and get back to WIWAG
 - ? - why is Weyerhaeuser not planning on logging private lands - If you are looking at a working forest you would want to cut second growth over the long term, therefore, much of the Old Growth on public lands would need to be liquidated
 - ? - if private lands are removed from the TFL what will happen to the DFA - That is unknown at this time, but WIWAG would likely play a significant role in the decision making process
9. Log Train Trail Society:

- A new society has been formed to manage the Log Train Trail, it is called the Friends of the Log Train Trail society
- This group will look at maintenance issues on the trail
- Membership forms are available from Rick
- The Regional District will know the results of insurance/liability soon and make a decision on the fate of the Log Train Trail

10. Certification Watch:

- This years conference is April 1st and 2nd in Vancouver
- The URL for this organization is: certificationwatchconference.org
- If WIWAG members are interested there are scholarships available
- Last year, the advisory groups had a display
- WIWAG will send an e-mail to Dennis Fitzgerald to see if Weyerhaeuser will support a display this year

11. Surveillance Audit:

- QMI will be conducting a surveillance audit May 25 - 28
- Auditors will meet with Advisory Group members if requested
- A surveillance audit is a check on corrective actions identified, and includes a random compliance check on indicators

12. Sustainable Harvest Levels:

- “How do we know that harvesting in TFL #44 is sustainable?”
- Peter Kofoed drafted a document outlining some of the critical issues around sustainable harvest levels
- Any questions arising will be captured and addressed at the next WIWAG meeting
- It would be appropriate to address the issue of Sustainability through a variety of filters:
- Coarse Filter: Forestry is a renewable resource. If you cut a tree down and reforest the site trees will grow back
- Sustainable rate of cut = growth potential
- Potential - the foundation of growth lies in the forest soils
- Assuming a forest where 50% is 2nd growth/immature and 50% old growth (not growing) the potential in the old growth lies in the soils
- Considerations determining a sustainable rate of cut include; growth potential, today’s cutting level, future cutting level
- Sustainability - Land area * area growth = LTHL
- Area - if we could come to the conclusion that all net-downs are sufficient we have a Timber Harvesting Land Base THLB or working forest remaining
- Note - WIWAG indicator looks at the productive forest not the THLB
- Projected growth - Stands reach a point where the volume/biomass of the stand remains stable over time
- ? - Value vs. Volume - relates to age/optimum harvest
- The average telephone pole = one cubic metre of fibre

- The Mean annual increment MAI of TFL #44 = 9.6 cubic metres/ha/year with an average age of standing timber of 80 years
- There is an assumption in the growth model that soil degradation is not taken into consideration
- Fertilization regimes will also have a significant impact on the growth model
- The average age of 2nd growth timber logged in TFL #44 is 65 years
- The land area of the TFL (162,000ha) * MAI (9.6 cubic metres/ha/year) = estimated growth of 1,555,000 cubic metres (or telephone poles)/year
- ? - What will the impact of the 20% allocation be
- ? - What is the current LTHL vs. the projected LTHL
- ? - Are hybrid poplars genetically altered - They are F1 hybrids between native and Japanese poplar
- ? - Are MAI yields of 2nd/3rd/4th growth similar to the current MAI TFL wide - an MAI of 768 cubic metres is the future projection
- ? - How much volume is in the THLB/productive forest (Steve's guess) = 150,000,000 cubic metres
- ? - How much reserve is enough
- TFL #44 Rationale for the AAC determination: This document can be found at www.for.gov.bc.ca/hts/tfl/tfl44/tsr3/rationale.pdf
- Information for February:
 - Impacts on the forest soils over the long term due to potential degradation due to harvesting
 - Are the assumptions re: reserves for biodiversity, biology, etc. considered adequate
 - How do you capture ecosystems over 100+ years
 - What kind of fiber supply will the local mills need to sustain operations
 - Should ensure that reserves are monitored and a mechanism is in place to change the reserve allocations
 - What are the potential impacts on the forest based on a 60 year rotation - Fire, Disease, Insects, etc.
 - Spatial distribution on the landscape of reserves is very important
 - How current and accurate is Weyerhaeuser's inventory of TFL #44

13. WIWAG Woods Tour - Recreation Signage

- A letter has been generated re: recreation signage requesting Steve to pursue this initiative
- Could refer to the recreation map
- No objections to continuing to pursue recreation signage
- Michelle to change the letter to focus on road signs, rather than site signs

14. Forest Education Program:

- Sub-committee - recommending "Gently Down the Creek"

