









## West Island Woodlands Community Advisory Group

June 10, 2004

## House of Huu-ay-aht, Bamfield

**Present:**

Advisory Group Members:

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

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

## Resources:

Steve Chambers - Weyerhaeuser  
Mike Davis - Weyerhaeuser  
Bill Waugh - Weyerhaeuser

Michelle Colussi - Facilitator  
Ryan Dvorak - Recording Secretary

## Guests:

Stephane Olfman - Huu-ay-aht FN  
Victor Williams - Huu-ay-aht FN  
Keith Whyton - Sarita Furniture

Robert Dennis - Huu-ay-aht FN  
Spencer Peters - Huu-ay-aht FN

1. Welcome from the Huu ay aht First Nation
2. Welcome and Introductions:
3. Introduction to WIWAG, the SFMP and CSA
  - The purpose of this group meeting is to see the thoughts and the concerns of the people of Bamfield and the Huu-ay-aht to be brought to WIWAG
  - Special thanks to Dennis Morgan for representing Bamfield on WIWAG
  - Weyerhaeuser is currently certified under the CSA standard, this is a series of certification criteria set by the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers. A public Advisory Group works with Weyerhaeuser to develop local indicators to measure the performance of the company against the standard.
  - The primary role of WIWAG is to advise Weyerhaeuser on the development and improvement of sustainable forestry in their operations
  - The Sustainable Forest Management Plan (SFMP) has 62 indicators that are measured by Weyerhaeuser and audited on an annual basis by an independent third party
  - WIWAG encompasses a broad range of community sectors and has a very strong relationship with Weyerhaeuser
  - It is important to note that all First Nation's in the Defined Forest Area have an open seat on this group
  - It has been recognized that there is a significant value in WIWAG as being a conduit of discussion/concerns to the community as a whole
  - WIWAG is a group working towards "Sustainability"

#### 4. Review of the 2003 results:

- It is important to note that the SFMP has changed/evolved over time, and is not a static document
- The Huu-ay-aht should be congratulated on the system that they use to develop and implement cultural protocols
- The economic increase in contracts and monies paid to the Huu-ay-aht have taken a strong business approach and they should be congratulated for the approach that they have taken in their dealings with Weyerhaeuser
- Riparian management has a strong focus in the SFMP, and has lead to an increase in riparian buffers that go beyond the Forest Practices Code
- The Huu-ay-aht consider S4, S5, and S6 streams as a nursery for fish – side channels, wetlands and fisheries sensitive zones should be considered in planning
- The recreation committee would like to see input from Bamfield residents regarding recreation areas in the Bamfield/Walbran and to seek out any recreation concerns from the people of this area
- **The WIWAG could use the Bamfield community newspaper**
- **One area is the trail to Black Lake (private land issues)**
- Local knowledge on resource levels and access issues are very important to WIWAG – the advisory group is a good venue to advocate for access to private lands
- There was a question about the Recreation Tenures Policy and the use of Crown lands for commercial recreation – MSRM, MWLAP would be the government agencies to consult on this issue
- What about protection of Elk in the Klanawa? The West Coast Wildlife Advisory Committee is working on Elk
- **WIWAG needs further details on the management plan to protect Elk in the Klanawa – Could check MWLAP transplant program and perhaps invite them to a WIWAG meeting to explain the situation in the Klanawa**
- **Should ask MWLAP for a representative at the WIWAG table**
- Economic impacts – there is limited forestry involvement in Bamfield; however, the Huu-ay-aht are increasingly becoming more involved. These are mainly office & management jobs they would like to see an increase in direct-labour jobs for the community of Bamfield and the Huu-ay-aht
- When Weyerhaeuser agreed to contract out the Alberni East side to HAYES there was an agreement that HAYES would hire 5 Huu-ay-aht band members
- A significant amount of the silviculture based around Bamfield is done by the Huu-ay-aht

#### 5. Open Discussion:

- The growing pains of the 80's and 90's between the major forest companies and the Huu-ay-aht (Heart of the people) are disappearing, and a team effort is being developed between all parties, and is showing success
- The Huu-ay-aht territory is an enhanced forestry zone under the code; however, there are **significant concerns over harvesting, 2<sup>nd</sup> growth and visual impacts on the landscape**
- The Huu-ay-aht will **oppose any harvesting of 2<sup>nd</sup> growth** from now on.
- The **targeted harvesting of Old Growth cedar is a concern** as it relates to cultural practices. 2<sup>nd</sup> growth cedar will not get to the age of 200 – 300 years for it to be useful for cultural purposes
- There are **significant concerns over harvesting blocks greater than 40 ha's as well as slides in the Klanawa**

- Previous experience in the Sarita Valley with slides, and the resulting impacts on the estuary should be used as lessons to learn from
- The **current harvest level for the Klanawa is too high** – What does the Klanawa watershed look like today?
- The Huu-ay-aht has developed a good working relationship with Weyerhaeuser; however, the change over to HAYES has not been as smooth and the Huu-ay-aht hope that will change
- The **Sarita watershed needs to remain a priority for restoration work**  
– 35 salmon streams
- The Huu-ay-aht see themselves as a part of the eco-system of the area
- What is harvested must be balanced with what is re-planted
- **Robert Dennis will forward the Guiding Principles of the Huu-ay-aht people to Tawney for WIWAG**
- Steve – Reforestation – Weyerhaeuser is not cutting back on their re-forestation and are planting 2-3 trees for every tree harvested. It important to note that FIA/FRBC funds are decreasing
- Gary – It might be interesting to look at the demographics/health of the Huu-ay-aht people as a measure of how forest management is impacting this region
- Klanawa – The West Fork has sustained severe damage, Chinook went extinct in the early 80's. Currently 80% of the returning fish are from the hatchery. There is a program of transplanting Nitinaht Chum to the Klanawa and 2004 will be the first return of adults from 3million fry released
- **The area continues to be affected through continuing slides, there have been a lot of mitigation plans developed, but the funding has dried up. Priorities with FIA funding seems to lie in other areas**
- **There is an issue over road access to Grappler Creek to perform habitat restoration**
- Sugsaw creek has seen devastating damage. Currently no spawning gravels remains in the creek bed. A hatchery Chum program was developed in 1996, but will have to remain in place for generations to re-establish a fish run
- There was a request made at the meeting that **Weyerhaeuser provide free gravel for habitat restoration projects, specifically Sugsaw creek – approximately 200 truck loads**
- There will be restoration going on in the Sarita estuary (private land issues), the estuary is on Indian Reserve (IR) lands and the Huu-ay-aht have secured \$40,000 to build rock spurs to divert current flow and protect the beach
- **Carnation Creek – a cut-block is planned in that area for 2005, the area has been the subject of a long standing study on the impacts of harvesting around small scale streams. Weyerhaeuser should consider abandoning harvesting plans in this watershed**
- Weyerhaeuser and the Huu-ay-aht have been working on capacity building and developing employment opportunities for Huu-ay-aht people, HFN is now building on all aspects of forestry work
- “When the Huu-ay-aht people hit a bump we scream pretty loud”
- In the past, the Huu-ay-aht people faced 60 – 80% unemployment, today only 5%
- Today, of the revenues received by the Huu-ay-aht 17% is from the government, in the past it was 95%
- The mature forest has been disassembled, with negative impacts on fisheries
- Old Growth cedar is a vital resource for cultural and economic purposes and needs to be protected to ensure a supply for future generations

