

**West Island Woodlands Community Advisory Group
June 21st, 2001**

Regional District boardroom, Port Alberni

Present:

Advisory Group Members:

*	Carlson, Harald	Forest Recreation		McKay, Pat	Independent Sawmills
*	Avis, Rick (alt)		R	McKay, Mike (alt)	
			*	McKay, Jack	Logging Contractors
*	Edgell, Phil	Watershed Committee	R	Powell, Dan	Provincial Government
*	Flynn, Shawn	Small Woodlots	*	Creighton, Jim	Small Business/Chamber
R	Johnsen, Gary	Toquaht	*	Leachman, Greg	Labour
			*	Swann, Gary	Regional Government
	Jones, Neil	Education	*	Thornburg, Jack	Environment
*	Lem, Tawney	Hupacasth			
	Levis, Jim	Bamfield			
*	McIntosh, John	Parks Canada		Mealey, Charles	City Government
		Tourism		Watts, David	Tseshah

Resource/Other:

Mike Davis – Forest Development Planner Weyerhaeuser Michelle Colussi - Facilitator
 Wayne French – Forest Development Planner Weyerhaeuser Ryan Dvorak –Recording Secretary
 Gino Fournier – Infrastructure Team Leader Weyerhaeuser Neil Malbon – Weyerhaeuser
 Connie Miller – Retzer – Forest Ecosystems Specialist MWLAP
 Judy Teskey – Senior Habitat Biologist MWLAP
 Tory Stevens – Ecologist, Habitat Branch MWLAP
 MWLAP = “Ministry of Water, Land, and Air Protection

1. Welcome and Introductions:

?: Each person was asked by Michelle to provide one thing which would indicate that Weyerhaeuser is harvesting at sustainable levels. The results:

- Maintaining the levels of all different organisms in the system
- The company grows more trees than are cut
- The forest is always pleasant to go for a walk in
- Rely on a scientific approach vs. hysteria
- When employment in the sector stabilizes (*2)
- When no longer liquidating old growth to mitigate social concerns
- Leaving the forest in a better condition than that in which it was approached
- When harvest levels are constant for 20 – 50 years
- When there is no downtime in the bush, and all WIWAG members are happy
- That the cut can be maintained indefinitely with a strategic harvest plan (*2)
- When everyone (all species) thrive (*2)
- When the WIWAG group agrees that Weyerhaeuser is harvesting sustainably (*2)
- When there is no net loss of indigenous animal habitat

2. Approve Agenda:

The following changes were made:

- New Business was moved up to accommodate MWLAP presentation on Connectivity and Fragmentation
- Rick Avis will make a brief presentation on “Strathcona and Mt. Arrowsmith Important Bird Areas Conservation Plan”
- Wayne French will discuss cultural awareness training

There were no objections.

3. Approve Minutes of May 17th

The minutes of May 17th were approved with no changes.

4. Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection Presentation:

“Connectivity and Fragmentation, One of the Greatest threats to Biodiversity”

Presented By: Tory Stevens, Ecologist, Habitat Branch, MWLAP

Connectivity is defined as: The potential for movement and population interchange, and the ability to exchange genetic materials.

Ecological process connectivity: dispersal, predation, fire, flooding, etc.

Habitat connectivity: degree to which the landscape facilitates movement among resource patches

Resource Patches: (species level): the specific requirements of species

(ecosystems level): wetland, riparian, old growth, etc.

- Managing connectivity on a species by species basis is very difficult, it should be managed on an ecosystems basis
- At the species level there has to be a large connected geographic area throughout
- Historical reference: the west coast of Vancouver Island was historically highly connected by old growth forest

“NDT” Natural Disturbance Types

Ranked on an ordinal scale of 1 – 4, 1 being infrequent and 4 being frequent (100 – 150 year intervals)

- Research indicates that the Natural Disturbance Intervals for West Vancouver Island can range from 1800 – 3000 years

Biodiversity Emphasis

- Each landscape unit must have a biodiversity emphasis option attached to it; 1 = timber, high of 3 = biodiversity
- In a low biodiversity emphasis landscape plan there only needs to be 4% of the landscape retained in the first rotation

If connecting old growth:

- The forest should be functioning (contain interior forest)
- Should not be replaced until important habitat elements of the old forest are present in the younger corridor
- A corridor's effectiveness will depend on the species utilizing it, also, the corridor should not act as a population sink

Corridor Sizes:

- For an individual: 1-10 metres
- For a species: 100-100 metres
- For an assemblage: 1-10 kilometres

- The width to provide functional old growth corridors is approximately 60 metres

Corridors provide:

- Movement for flora and fauna
- A barrier, semi-permanent across it's width for the moderation of wind, water run-off, and mineral and nutrient run-off
- Habitat
- Environmental and biotic effects

Networks: The reserves and the corridors that connect them.

- Connectivity networks should:
- Link ridge tops and valley bottoms
- Encompass a diversity of habitats
- Encompass a diversity of topographical gradients
- Remain functional after human or natural disturbance
- Link areas of productive forest
- Provide avenues for long distance range shifts

Connectivity of Process:

- Landscape NDT's and natural processes have evolved together
- The effects pattern the dispersal, predation, fire or flooding
- Connectivity corridors become important as remnant old growth patches become a smaller portion of the land base

For Successful Connectivity:

- Must be maintained at multiple scales
- Maintained where they occurred in the recent past
- Maintain continuity of habitats and processes along environmental gradients
- Maintain habitat and movement routes

Considerations for designing or evaluating Connectivity:

- Structural characteristics and spatial patterns
- How well does the connectivity network match the natural matrix
- Distance between patches: size of patches
- Presence of barriers to movement (roads, rivers)
- Potential interference from humans, predators
- Incorporate environmental gradients

Discussion arising from the presentation:

- Old growth is considered as being 250 years +
- Is it possible to come to a number for old growth necessary to ensure connectivity
- **Maps listing the Biodiversity Emphasis Options for TFL 44 should be produced – Steve**
- There should be indicators of connectivity from different levels
- VIR may be an indicator of connectivity at a stand level
- There are two issues: 1. Leaving existing corridors, 2. Restoration of corridors

5. Break: 8:00pm

6. Discussion: SFM plan and its implications to regarding Connectivity

- Connectivity is a value in the current plan
- Goal: to maintain forest connectivity
- There is a need to define connectivity for TFL 44 and its whole range of options and species
- There is a need to also examine existing connectivity
- Maps showing existing connectivity corridors need to be produced
 - ? does the group need to know this
 - ? should this be mandated to the company
 - ? should the group look at the Micro or Macro picture
- The group wants to ensure that the appropriate corridors are functionally maintained
- **Mike will produce maps focusing on connectivity**
- **Sub-committee will bring options to the group**
- **Michelle will bring six copies of the article from Phil**

7. Rick Avis's Discussion: re: Important Bird Areas

- Certain sections of the Strathcona and Mt. Arrowsmith areas have been designated a national Important Bird Area due to the presence of a ptarmigan species
- There are estimated to be only 1000 birds left
- A copy of the summary, as well as the full plan are available

8. Discussion regarding AAC

- There is a need to determine what this group wants to accomplish regarding harvest levels
- ? what is it about harvest levels which is important for sustainability
- Which system does this group want the company to use, AAC, LRSY, LTHL
- ? We don't like AAC because?:
 - depletes old growth in the working forest
- The group indicated that they need to see projections which leave some old growth, and cut the rest
- There seem to be two notions:
 - 1. Looking at the land base by zones with rotations
 - 2. Looking at species and age
- A further question is how much of the old growth in the working forest should be maintained
- There was a question as to whether a sub-committee should be formed
- It was suggested that Peter Kofoed could return to make a presentation which would deal with old growth retention
 - Need to expand the model regarding age class distribution
 - Need a number for old growth levels which can maintain connectivity and biodiversity
 - May have a short course on landscape unit planning including a map segment

- **The scenarios will be forwarded to Peter after being sent to the group for Comment/Clarification: Michelle**

9. Cultural Awareness Training: Wayne French

- Weyerhaeuser employees will undergo cultural awareness training
 - Indicated that Tawney has prepared workshops which could be brought to the group
- It was indicated that the workshops should be portable
- It was further indicated that the group should be a part of the training
- Wayne will present his training module to the group for feedback
- **Outcome: From the Group: Find a program and deliver it with First Nations participation**

10. Media Tour Update: Neil Malbon

- Article appeared in A.V. Times June 12th
- Jim Creighton, Neil Malbon and Michelle Colussi attended, Tawney was interviewed for the article
- There will be other articles generated, and more coverage is forthcoming

11. Six-Month Action Plan – revised

- AAC scenarios need to be looked at immediately
- Scenarios will be confirmed with Peter Kofoed
- Will delay revisions to the plan by a month based on the results
- The company needs the changes by September in order to implement the changes
- Recreation will not have recommendations from their group until Fall
- **The group will provide feedback on scenarios for Peter via e-mail**
- **Michelle needs to revise the 6 month work plan/action plan to reflect the new priorities of the group and get it out by August.**

12. Tawney and Michelle’s report on the session with Robert Prescott Allan

- One of the results of the session was that the company should play a leadership role in developing a plan to overlay CSC standards which are measurable
- Need to urge the company to create a new framework
- R.P.Allan has a framework for overlaying indicators which can identify redundancies and areas which need attention

13. Summer Meeting Schedule

- The group will have to meet at least once
- Scenarios for Peter Kofoed will be communicated through e-mail
- Will meet in August with the FSC people around the 25-27th
- Will look at the data set, and the sub-committee will bring options
- **The group agreed to an August date for the next meeting**

14. Next Meeting

August 25-27

**Location: Regional District Boardroom
3008 Fifth Avenue
Port Alberni**

(Date yet to be set)

Time:

6:00pm dinner

6:30pm meeting

**Handouts: Sustainable Harvest Levels, June 2001
WIWAG Revised Action Plan
Important Bird Areas Conservation Plan**

Actions From the June 21st WIWAG Meeting

	Action:	Completion Date	Person Responsible
1	Prepare Spreadsheet on results of spring monitoring of indicators	See revised action plan	Dennis
2	Prepare Presentation re: Social Sector	Pending	Michelle
3	Talk to Tourism	Pending	Michelle
4	Biodiversity Emphasis Options Maps	Pending	Steve
5	Connectivity Maps TFL 44	Pending	Mike
6	Forward Scenarios to Peter	ASAP	Michelle
7	Revise 6 month work plan/action plan	August	Michelle