

West Island Woodlands Advisory Group
June 8, 2005
Regional District boardroom, Port Alberni

Present:

Advisory Group Members:

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

* = attended R = regrets blank = did not attend

Resources:

Steve Chambers - Weyerhaeuser
 Mike Davis - Weyerhaeuser
 Gordon Hartman
 Glynnis Horel

Michelle Colussi - Facilitator
 Ryan Dvorak - Recording Secretary
 Tom Brown

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Safety Orientation
3. Agenda:
 - Diane Medves will attend WIWAG as the liaison for the Island Timberlands Company
4. Minutes of May 12, 2005:
 - Remove Jim Creighton from the attendance list
 - **Minutes approved**
5. Announcements:
 - Under orders from Mike DeJong all permits are suspended and new permits will not be ordered in the treaty lands. This will have an impact of 50 – 60,000 cubic metres on the AAC.
 - Cascadia and Island Timberlands met with committee members this morning. The consensus is that it is still early in the process, but it looks like there will be some short term pain. They stated that Brascan purchased the Coastal area for the private land and that they are looking for 10 – 12% return on capital.
 - It was noted that Cascadia/Island Timberlands will get good community support if they support the community.
6. Letters to Minister of Forests and CEO Island Timberlands:
 - These letters have been sent.
 - **Michelle will forward the final copies of these letter to Steve.**
7. Stream Buffers:
 - Alluvial – can change location of channel
 - Non-alluvial – does not change location of channel

- Stream Considerations:
 - Fish – Non fish
 - Flow: Ephemeral, Seasonal, Perennial
 - Sediment Transport Capacity
 - Risk Management
 - Gradient
 - The role of time is an important consideration when looking at stream behaviour/erosion
 - Carnation Creek demonstrates this complexity after harvesting 1976
 - #1 – Movement of debris and bank erosion
 - #2 – 3 S6 channels filled with debris and sediment blew out into an S3 channel that lodged in a canyon creating 3 large debris jams. Further harvesting in the upper tributaries carried significant quantities of sediment into the main channel.
 - The behaviour of this stream post-harvest outlines the complicated nature of streams.
 - One of the conclusions of these observations was that small tributaries should have been left with buffers.
 - There is more to small streams than fish, there is also water quality, flora & fauna, visuals, etc.
 - Thermal considerations need to be taken into account in clear-cut areas.
 - Streams are very complex systems and need a lot of thought put into planning harvesting around them.
 - The lower/bigger/buffered stream channels are highly impacted by harvesting on the higher/smaller channels.
8. Tom Brown: Stream Presentation
- Port Alberni has 3 seasons when it comes to streams:
 - #1 – Winter storm activity
 - #2 – Summer Dry-out
 - #3 – Fall Storms
 - Fish activity in a system is based on the water levels in a system, fish will utilize channels in the valley walls and off channel habitat to over winter. Thus it is critical to not use water presence as the only measure of fish.
 - Large woody debris is an important asset for fish.
 - Wetland components in alluvial systems are very important, and are sensitive to water level changes.
 - In riparian zones where you have more debris you will find more fish.
 - Gravel bed load movement is very harmful to streams.
 - Stream energy is critical to the ability of a stream to withstand the impacts of logging.
 - Large woody debris creates a storage area for sediments and gravels.
 - Fish utilize large woody debris and rock structures to hide from predators.
9. Glynnis Hovel:
- Processes at the watershed scale are tremendously important.
 - CWAP's are a physical examination of a watershed.
 - Alluvial systems are very sensitive to harvesting.
 - Valley flat alluvial systems should be taken as an entire fluvial unit.
 - Fish habitat in wetlands (toes of valley bottoms) is very crucial to fish.
 - Weyerhaeuser brought in a terrain management code of practice on January 1st.
 - ? – will Cascadia and Island Timberlands adopt this program.
 - S5 Stream – greater than 3 metres in width – non-fish bearing
 - S6 Stream – less than 3 metres in width – non-fish bearing
 - When managing these streams we need to ensure that downstream fish habitat is not impacted.

- It would be helpful to look at S6 streams in areas that have been logged 5, 10, 15, etc. years ago, to observe the impacts on the systems over time.
- Cascadia/Island Timberlands is required to complete an event report for any area impacted over 500 square metres (eg. Landslide) for submission to MoF.
- Steve noted that he doesn't recall having to do this for any S6 streams.
- In a gully assessment procedure there is a terrain assessment completed that provides the potential for a debris torrent in that system.
- "Gully" – 100 metres long or more and at least 3 metres deep.
- S6 streams are mapped and assessments are done by Foresters to look at the potential of debris transportation.
- There is a serious need to look at S6 stream sediment transportation as well as the impacts of roads and culverts in increasing that sediment transportation.
- Weyerhaeusers' Management Code of Practice works to develop standard criteria for terrain instability and sediment delivery potential. A matrix has been created that implements a strategy for harvesting depending on this risk factors of the system. Harvesting plans must meet this test to determine the likelihood of landslides and of sediment delivery.
- We won't see the benefits of this system for 2 years; however, Hayes has committed to re-visiting some of their blocks and applying this matrix to them.
- WIWAG needs to look at the objectives re: how we want the S6 streams to behave post harvest.
- Does Cascadia/Island Timberlands have a system for monitoring S6 streams post-harvest, to identify success or failure on a stream system? – Event reports to MoF.
- There is a need to look at what would be accepted 5 years from now re: sediment/landslides to evaluate prescriptions on S6 streams.
- The 10 – 14 year free-to-grow evaluation captures some of this. The area where management could be improved is in road design.
- It was noted that the approach to cut-block design is not a cookie cutter.
- ? – Is it possible to have industrial forestry and fisheries at the same time. – It is likely, but we will have to haul back on current practices. Sustainability must be looked at as a whole.
- When it comes to fish/farmers have it right. They know that the farm is the resource, not the crop. The impact on fish has resulted from the lack of emphasis on the stream/resource/farm.
- It was noted that large woody debris and the ability of a stream to produce fish are closely linked.
- WIWAG needs to refer the treatment portion to the sub-committee. Michelle will schedule a sub-committee prior to Summer.
- ? – Is Cascadia/Island Timberlands operating to the standard set out in the SFMP re: S4, S5 & S6 streams. – Steve noted that Cascadia/Island Timberlands could not operate to that indicator.
- Thanks to Gordon, Tom and Glynnis.

10. Communications Plan:

- WIWAG agreed to remove the following items from the 2005 communications plan:
 - Public open house and annual report
 - Seminar series
 - Huu-ay-aht/Bamfield
 - Signage on logging roads
 - Attendance at WIWAG meetings is encouraged
- Wayne French will be the on-going liaison with the high school.
- It was noted that it is important to have press releases in the newspaper.

11. End Issues:

- Michelle will organize a breakfast meeting at to finish off the data set.

Next Meetings: June 21, 2005

Location: Barclay Best Western

Time: 7:00am

Action Plans on following page

WIWAG Action Items: May 12, 2005			
	Action:	Completion Date:	Person Responsible:
1.	WIWAG minutes to go out to prime contractors.	Jan & ongoing	Ryan / Michelle
2.	Contact HAYES to follow-up on the Forestry Liaison for the High School	ASAP	Mike Davis
4.	Organize a tour looking more broadly at key aspects of harvest on both crown & private land	Fall 2005	Michelle / Steve
5.	Updates on contractors working on private land	Ongoing	Diane Medves
6.	Use Bamfield private cut block as case study for key indicators in SFMP – from DM memo		Steve or Diane Medves?
7.	Present plans for private land harvest for year	Sept 2005	Diane Medves
SUB-COMMITTEE Action Items: Ongoing			
1.	ALL: Develop a plan for managing private land indicators within the SFMP & present to sub-committees (including CHR's)	Fall 2005	Steve
2.	ECO: Arrange for speakers on old growth levels/biodiversity for whole group	Fall 2005	Michelle
3.	ECO: Collect references on old growth levels	January 05	Phil / Dennis
4.	ECO: Find out how the watershed ranking work from 2003 has defined geographic areas.	January 05	Michelle
5.	SOCIOEC: Develop some agreement with WY mills re: information sharing	To be determined	Steve
6.	FN: Input from Hupacasath, Tseshahat & Huu-ay-aht needs to be discussed & this section of the SFMP revised for 2006	Fall 2005	Tawney / Michelle / Steve
7.	SOCIOEC: We need Cascadia & ITPL policies on hiring, etc.	Fall 2005	Michelle & members

Outgoing Correspondence Outstanding:

Letter to Tom Holmes – Re: Commitment to Certification on Private Lands, etc.
 Letter to Minister of Forests re: private land cert. (June 2)
 Letter to ITPL re: contracting policy & procedures (June 2)

Flagged Items List:

- Private land harvest plans (Diane)
- Steve's case study of private land management against SFMP (from Bamfield memo)
- Group name - change
- Terms of Reference revision
- MoF presentation on compliance & enforcement
- Single stem harvesting presentation and tour
- VQO presentation & discussion
- Define Sustainability
- Postal code search of contractors re: Bamfield employment
- Meet with Michel de Bellefeuille to discuss harvest scenarios and development for input into 2006 plan – include long rotation forestry
- Private Land issues with 3 aspects of the 2006 SFMP: VQO's, FEN's, FN input into CHR's - % of blocks where agreement is reached. This is a sub-committee item.