

West Island Woodlands Community Advisory Group

October 9, 2003

Regional District boardroom, Port Alberni

Present:

Advisory Group Members:

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

Resources:

Steve Chambers - Weyerhaeuser  
Ryan Dvorak - Recording Secretary

Michelle Colussi - Facilitator  
Mike Davis - Weyerhaeuser

Guests:

Sandy McRuer  
Maureen Sager  
Mike Stini

Reid Robinson  
Judy Carlson

1. Welcome and Introductions:
2. Safety Orientation
3. Agenda:
  - Additions
    - Membership Update
    - Auditors Report
    - Weyerhaeuser's Coastal Vision document
  - Remove
    - Youth Education/Awareness
4. Minutes of September 11, 2003:
  - Remove Action items #6 & #8
  - Approved with the above revision
5. Membership Update:
  - Lisa Gallic will not be joining the group, but Darlene Watts will become a member of the West Island Woodlands Advisory Group on behalf of Tseshah
  - Open House: A member of WIWAG could join the Forest Fest Planning Council - Jim Creighton will attend

6. FDP Primer

- This document is a little dated, but is designed as a tool for First Nation in interpreting and addressing Forest Development Plans
- “Consultation Toolkit” is the current tool utilized by First Nations, and gives a good overview of the process, legal precedent and other materials

7. WIWAG Forest Tour:

- The tour will be held on October 16<sup>th</sup> and the group will convene at 8:30am at Michelle’s
- Phil, Harold, Rick, Gary, Amanda and Darlene will attend
- What areas would the group like to see?
- Proposed FDP openings
- Nahmint
- Park Trade Lands
- VR/Riparian Buffer zones
- The Tour will likely go to the Park Trade area first, back to town and then out to the Nahmint

8. Auditors Report:

- There was a concern expressed over a comment in the report that a WIWAG member should attend Weyerhaeuser’s scientific planning sessions
- This request was denied by Weyerhaeuser’s upper management
- WIWAG should write a letter to Weyerhaeuser to support sending a member – no objections
- Significant issues – Hayes agreement re: SFM Plan, Hayes will provide data

9. Weyerhaeuser’s Coastal Vision Document:

- This report touches on a lot of the issues that WIWAG has been struggling with
- Main issue is that Hemlock/Balsam forms 60 – 65% of the working forest, and those markets have been in a steady decline – this is driving the concept of a new vision for Coastal Vancouver Island
- If WIWAG members would like to discuss specific issues in this vision contact Michelle and she will put it on the agenda for the next meeting in November
- Could WIWAG get a copy of the Vision Video – Ken and Steve will check

*Denied*

10. Alberni East Amendment:

- There is no change to the private land portion
- Activities changed are concentrated in the Klanawa, Corrigan and Sarita areas
- Hayes is managing and compiling this amendment
- Mike will walk anyone through this if they are interested

11. Alberni West Re-submission:

- Weyerhaeuser would like to thank all of those individuals who submitted responses
- This amendment will look more like a Forest Stewardship Plan and in the future WIWAG members will likely be more actively involved in developing the FSP
- Public comments have an impact on the FDP amendment, in this case comments have lead to a significant decrease in the size of the polygons represented in the FDP
- Some of the main issue raised by the public:
  - Rate of cut – the FDP does not set a rate of cut, it determines where a pre-determined (AAC) rate is placed across the landscape
  - Adjacency – there is less of this in the current plan <20%
  - Green-up – need for these requirements is addressed through VR
  - NTFP's – in older 2<sup>nd</sup> growth stands – the opportunities for NTFP's are not static, they move across the landscape

Guest Comments and Responses:

- Concerns over the intensity of harvest in the Nahmint River and Great Central Lake areas
- Concern over sensitive terrain and salmon habitat
- Scenic Loops should be considered eg. Doran lake
- Harvesting in trail areas eg. Dixon Falls and the fishing trail to the lower Nahmint River – Weyerhaeuser indicated that these trails would be factored into the VR distribution
- EMS will fail to protect resources the District Manager has referred to as being protected (Karst Areas)
  - Inventories of Karst areas could be better disseminated
  - If Karst areas are identified in engineering, surveying, etc. they are looked at, assessed, and if appropriate protected
  - The rate of cut is determined by the economy and the AAC
  - Some lake residents (Sproat, Great Central) draw their drinking water from streams, this should be considered when planning harvesting operations in these areas
  - There is no place for public comment on the re-submission - interested parties can get a copy of the re-submission from the District Manager or Steve Chambers from Weyerhaeuser
  - The District Manager will take comments at any point in time
  - In Karst areas there is limited degradation of herbicides – The use of herbicides in this DFA has been in a steady decline
  - There are some examples of Karst features – eg. Blue Moon Cave
  - Has the Ucluelet First Nation been contacted – Yes
  - **Steve and Sandy will meet to discuss trail concerns specifically the Dixon Falls and Lower Nahmint Trails**
  - There is a concern over the impact on the Lower Nahmint re: Cutblocks

*done*

12. Break

13. Sproat Lake Landscape Unit Planning and Old Growth – Mike Davis

- The ecological sub-committee requested a visual picture of Old Growth and reserves in the Sproat Lake Landscape Unit – The idea is to look at potential reserve zones re: OGMA's
- Looking at OGMA's and FEN's – the government changed the legislation retroactively so that FEN's exist until an approved Landscape Unit Plan is in place, areas not captured in current FEN's through OGMA's would be lifted as a constraint
- Plans have a 60 day public comment process re: LUP's and OGMA's
- Currently 64% of the Sproat Landscape Unit is not constrained, of this area, 12,800 ha or 49% is available for harvest
- What portion of the Landscape Unit will be reserved, what are these reserves made up of, and how are they distributed across the landscape re: connectivity
- **Steve and Mike will re-do the math to determine what % of the productive forest will be reserved (approx 23%)**

**Sproat Lake Landscape Unit Constraints Analysis**

Done for WIWAG meeting of October 9, 2003. Numbers determined by Pacific Spatial Systems Ltd..

**Land Cover Type Area (ha)**

**Percentage of Total**

**Landbase 1**

**Percentage of Total**

**Forested Landbase 2**

**Percentage of Total**

**Productive Landbase 3**

Partially Constrained Productive Forest 4 18995 64.3% 71.9% 77.3%

Younger Constrained Productive Forest 2342 7.9% 8.9% 9.5%

Old Constrained Productive Forest 3236 11.0% 12.2% 13.2%

**Total Productive Landbase 24573 83.2% 93.0% 100.0%**

Non-Productive Forest (Scrub) 1852 10.5% 11.7%

**Total Forested Landbase 26425 89.5% 100.0%**

Non-Forest (Rock) 3099 6.3%

**Total Landbase 29524 100.0%**

Water / Swamp 4583 N/A

**Grand Total 34107 N/A**

**Notes:**

1. These percentages indicate % of total landbase in Sproat LU.

2. These percentages indicate % of total forested landbase in Sproat LU (i.e. including "scrub" timber).

3. These percentages indicate % of total productive landbase in Sproat LU (i.e. excluding "scrub" timber).

4. Management Plan 4 estimates that of this 18,995ha, only 12,800ha are available for long-term timber production. The difference is due to partial constraints (e.g. soils, recreation, riparian management zones, WTP's)

that can not be spatially located today and area that may be converted to roads. This would result in

Weyerhaeuser operating on only 52.1% of the total productive landbase or 48.4% of the total forested landbase.

By default, other than the area occupied by roads, the rest will be old growth.  
A Move into Thinking about Sustainable Harvest Levels:

~~INSERT MIKES NEW NUMBERS FROM HIS EMAIL HERE PLEASE~~ then title the next section as a move into thinking about sustainable harvest levels (which is what the next piece is I think?)

- Does the discussion of sustainability look at what has happened before eg. past logging and impacts on the landbase
  - Steve: We need to look at what level and types of reserve zones are going to be necessary to protect resources/interests
  - We are looking at how to integrate values/interests in terms of the harvest of trees
  - Look at sustainability in terms of the Timber Harvesting Land Base
  - Constrained areas need to be spatially distributed, and perhaps more frequent low intensity harvesting may be the way to go regarding sustainability – should look at some of these practices on Landscape Units in the DFA eg. McLean's Mill
  - The issue is how we log
  - CSA standards need to see representative age classes retained
  - Can Sproat Lake reserve levels be expected in other areas?
  - Need to see an age-class distribution guarantee in the un-constrained areas of the LUP
  - Need to look at baseline #'s for what area needs to be reserved for biodiversity – need to bring in experts to discuss this issue
  - Need to look at what, where and how your reserves are placed
  - Looking at reserves on a hierarchical basis – start with species (red & blue listed), biodiversity, etc.
  - Is the cut sustainable? Need to determine:
    - X - % reserve for biodiversity
    - THLB – look at managing the forest
    - Leading to a sustainable harvest level
  - The issue is that the 20 – 40% Biodiversity reserves need to move around the landscape
  - There is a separation between biodiversity and a sustainable rate of cut
  - Need to look at connectivity on a larger picture – eg. adjacent LU's
  - Numbers of constrained areas should be both the productive forest area and the Total area
  - Michelle, Shawn Flynn and Peter Kofoed will produce a handout for WIWAG re: harvest levels
  - Mike will send out information re: LUP review process
13. Public Seminar – Dr. Bunnell could speak to biodiversity
- Laurie Cremsader, Jerry Franklin
  - Could also have Bill Beesc re: SEI

- Timing of the potential public seminar could coincide with the Forest Fest Event/Open House
- Should do this sooner rather than later: ~~November or February~~

14. Carbon Budgets

- Steve Smith of Weyerhaeuser will present on this issue at the next meeting

**Next Meeting:**                    **November 13**

**Location:**                    **Regional District Boardroom**

**3008 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Port Alberni**

**Time:                            5:00pm – Dinner  
5:30pm – Meeting**

**Action Items From the September 11, 2003 Meeting:**

	<b>Action:</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>	<b>Person responsible</b>
1.	Collect data for buffered streams in the Park Trade Area	2003	Ray Bartram
2.			
3.			
4.	Continue to talk to potential members: IWA & Value Added	Ongoing	Michelle
5.	Forward water quality report to Ryan and Deb	ASAP	Steve
6.	Discuss trail concerns re: Dixon and Nahmint	ASAP	Steve & Sandy <i>ds</i>
7.			
8.			
9.	Explore options for a tour/CAC meeting in Bamfield	Spring 2004	Michelle/Dennis
10.	Participate in Forest Fest Committee re: WIWAG Open House activities	Summer 2004	Michelle & ?