

West Island Woodlands Advisory Group – TFL 44 LP

Held on Microsoft Teams

Minutes – April 8, 2021

Advisory Group Members

Y	Harold Carlson	Forest Recreation	Y	Bill Coates	Logging and Roads Contractor
Y	Barbra Baker (alt)				
Y	Judy Carlson (alt)	Naturalists		Rhonda Morris Jim Proteau (alt)	Forests, Lands Natural Resources Operations
			Y	Tristan Jordan	
	Vacant	Watershed/Fisheries	Y	Solomon Schachner	General Interest
Y	John McNabb (alt)	Alberni Clayoquot Regional District		John Smith	Van. Is. All Ground Riders Assoc.
Y	John Jack		Y	Brigitte Arndt	AV Hill Climbers (alt)
			Y	Len Cherry	
	Darlene Clark	Alberni Fish and Game		Dan Washington Ron Corbeil	City of Port Alberni (Counsellors)
Y	Francois Warren Paul Agnew	Small Business		Jane Morden Mike Stini (Alt)	Environment
	Stefan Ochman	Bamfield Road Safety Association	Y	Ray Bartram	Uchucklesaht FN
			Y	Tristan Jordan	FLNR

Y = attended R=regrets blank=did not attend V=vacant seat
 Quorum Present

Resources Present:

Port Alberni Forest Operations (TFL LP 44)

Erin Badesso – PAFO WFP, Operations Forester
 Jim Muress – WFP General Manager of Alberni Operations
 Nicola Littleton – WFP Field Planner: Recorder for WIWAG

Brad Bayley – WFP GIS

Heather Zenner – WIWAG Facilitator

Welcome and Introductions

- Meeting called to order @ 6:00pm.
- Review of agenda.
- Minutes from February 11, 2021 meeting were adopted (Motion by Barb Baker, seconded by John McNabb).

TFL44LP Operational Update – Jim Muress

- Markets are at an all-time high, but so are costs and stumpage
- Phase 2 of the LP & HFN transaction happening this weekend at the People's Assembly. HFN citizens to vote on acceptance.
- Bamfield Road improvements are in the planning stage; seasonal dust control planned for June.
- Old Growth logging protesters are camped out in the Walbran area which appears to be an extension of the Fairy Creek blockade.
- HFN LP & USW have signed an agreement advancing their desire to log the undercut (portion of Annual Allowable Cut that was not harvested by TFL44LP over the last 5 years) should the government grant them access.

CSA Indicator 2020 Report – Erin Badesso

1. Summary of 2020 Results and Changes to the Sustainable Forest Management Plan (SFMP) shared including:
 - Summary of WIWAG meeting themes in 2020
 - Influence of the Labour Strike on Indicator results
 - A listing of specific Indicators where the Targets and Variances were not met; specifically, Indicator 1.1.1 Ecosystem Area by Type, Indicator 2.1.4 Sustainable Harvest Level, Indicator 5.2.3 Level of Direct and Indirect Employment, Indicator 7.1.1 Understanding the Nature of Aboriginal Title and Rights, Indicator 7.1.2 Respect Communication with Aboriginal Communities to Foster Meaningful Engagement.
2. Presentation of Indicator Results
 - Forty-two of the forty-five indicators were scheduled for reporting in 2020. Indicator results are presented annually to provide evidence to the public and auditors the TFL 44 LP operates sustainably.
 - Emphasis was placed on Indicators that exceed government legislation and contribute to community stability.
3. Indicators that were Highlighted or that Generated Discussion

Indicator 1.1.1: Ecosystem Area by Type

- All targets met by BEC subzone except CWHvh1 which is sitting at 49% (not 50%). Result for CWHvh1 forecast to stay below target until 2023. Variance was met.

Indicator 1.1.4: Within-stand Structural Retention

- First year reporting on the adjustments of this indicator
- Indicator met, target exceeded by 2% (average cutblock retention at 17%)
- TFL44LP cutblock retention exceeds legislated retention targets

Indicator 1.2.1: Habitat Protection for Selected Focal Species

- An important adjustment shifting protected area from **proposed** to **legal** for Northern Goshawk because of four Wildlife Habitat Areas were established in the DFA.
- Indicator results exceed government legislation

Indicator 1.4.1: Protection of Sites of Special Significance

- Eight cutblocks had Archaeological Impact Assessments revealing three CMTs. Two CMTs were avoided by removing them from the proposed harvest area. One CMT was removed and sampled through a Site Alteration Permit.

Indicator 1.4.2: Identified Sites with Implemented Management Strategies

- 56 sites were identified: 41 bear dens, 1 karst site, and 14 Big Trees. This indicator measures factors that exceed government legislation.

Indicator 2.1.4: Sustainable Harvest Level

- Reported every 5 years to complement legislation's 5 year cut control period. Neither the target nor variance was met. 1.5 million cubic meters not harvested resulting from labour and contractual disputes, market factors, and weather conditions. The unharvested volume (undercut) has the potential to be awarded to other interest groups.
- WIWAG Member question: who is the final decision maker on the undercut? Answer: likely a minister/deputy minister because of the undercut magnitude.
- WIWAG Member: what are the consequences to the company in the future? Are there any benefits to the company? Who gets to bid on the undercut? Answer: HFN and USW have expressed interest in some portion of the undercut. TFL44LP will have to be more mindful of the additional businesses operating on the DFA while they harvest the undercut and not negatively affect each other. On the WFP side of the business, they could potentially purchase these logs being cut from the undercut and process them in WFP-owned facilities.
- WIWAG member comment: Most First Nations that had the ability to harvest were awarded portions of the undercut in the past, so it's likely that this could happen again. This is a serious political decision with serious political outcomes. The decision on awarding the undercut is not made lightly.
- WIWAG member question: Could those harvesting the undercut have the freedom to export the log or will they be manufactured here? Answer: Anyone cutting the undercut are subject to the same laws as other Crown tenure holders.
- WIWAG member question: Is export calculated as part of the undercut, or of the total annual harvest? Answer: there are rules that apply to all volume harvested including standalone volume set aside for undercut awards.
- Discussion on upcoming Timber Supply Review for TFL 44 and the newly approved timber type and economic partition at a future meeting.

Indicator 3.1.2: Level of Downed Woody Debris

Woody debris provides many benefits to the ecosystem; legislation requires a certain amount of downed woody debris by size left behind post-harvest. Easier to exceed legislation in old growth than second growth (more second growth trees make it to the trucks—less damage after falling and less rot throughout the stand)

- WIWAG member question: is the dispersion of the debris measured as well? Answer: yes, it is measured in piles, at road side, and dispersed throughout the block (standard waste assessment measurements).

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Indicator 3.2.2: Management Activities Consistent w Prescriptions to Protect Water Features

This indicator exceeds legislated requirements because every cutblock has some level

of retention located around riparian areas.

Indicator 3.2.2b: Community Watersheds

- To ensure zero non-compliance (not following legislation)/non-conformance (not following our own plans) in Community Watersheds. This indicator exceeds legislated requirements because of the non-conformance element. No harvesting conducted in 2020 but harvesting planned in the China Creek watershed in 2021.

Indicator 3.2.2c: S4 Streams

- S4 = smallest fish bearing streams. This indicator measures stand retention associated with S4 streams. TFL44LP exceeds legislation; legislation states that no riparian reserve zone is required.

Indicator 3.2.2d: S5 Streams

- Largest non-fish streams; any non-fish stream >1.5m wide. This indicator measures stand retention associated with S5 streams. TFL 44LP exceeds legislation; legislation states that no riparian reserve zone is required.

Indicator 4.1.1: Net Carbon Uptake

- TFL44LP had net carbon uptake of >300k tonnes in 2020, meaning that >300k tonnes of carbon were removed from the atmosphere after deducting the carbon that was released from TFL44LP operations. This indicator is proposed for an update in 2021. Advice will be requested from WIWAG.

Indicator 4.1.2: Reforestation Success

- This indicator measures the promptness of reforestation after harvest. Performance exceeds legislation.

Indicator 5.1.1: Diversity of Timber and Non-timber Resources Produced in the DFA

- Focus drawn to this indicator to illustrate benefits to the local communities.

Indicator 5.1.2: Respectful Communications with Forest Dependent Businesses, Forest Users and Local Communities to Integrate Non-timber Resources

- Details of communications not shared for privacy reasons, but Erin Badesso assured that the exchanges were predominantly positive in nature.

Indicator 5.2.1: Participation and Support that Contribute to Community Sustainability

- Speaks to local benefits, like shake and shingle cutting, grading roads for forest user access, firewood availability, and local donations.

Indicator 5.2.3: Level of Direct and Indirect Employment

- Due to labour and contractual disputes, the indicator target and variance were not met on a five year rolling average. This indicator must be adjusted in 2021 to better account for variability in the industry.

Indicator 6.1.1: Participant Satisfaction with Public Process

- Most notable were the positive comments regarding company Covid-19 protocols. Questions about local benefits and where indicators exceed government legislation are being highlighted in this meeting.

Indicator 6.1.3: Public Concerns

- Concerns are expressed from various sources and include items such as old growth harvesting, the carbon footprint of forest management, and harvesting in the vicinity of private land.

Indicator 6.2.1: Improve Safety Standards

- MIR increased in 2020, but target still met

Indicator 7.1.1: Understanding the Nature of Aboriginal Title and Rights

- Target not met—no formal FN training held in 2020 but within the variance of missing no more than one year. Training has already happened for 2021.

Indicator 7.1.2: Respectful Communications with Aboriginal Communities to Foster Meaningful Engagement

- Target not met but within the variance. An administrative error occurred in not referring the Sustainable Forest Management Plan (SFMP) but another strategic Plan type has already been referred in 2021.

Indicator 7.2.1: Promoting Capacity Development and Meaningful Participation for Aboriginal Individuals, Communities and Forest-based Companies

- The HFN interest in purchasing majority ownership of the company captures the spirit of this indicator.

Indicator 7.2.2: Using Aboriginal Knowledge to Manage Culturally Important Resources and Values

- Every road/cutblock is shared with applicable First Nations
- Any comments returned are acknowledged and put into action if possible (like archaeological walks/assessments)

Indicator 7.2.3: Management and/or Protection of Culturally Important Practices and Activities

- “Culturally important” can include areas of berry harvesting or areas important to ungulates (deer & elk) as expressed by a particular First Nation.

4. Discussion of Other Items

WIWAG Member question: how are employees being transported and what precautions are taken now with the pandemic? Answer: some pickups have plastic shield dividing front and back of the cab. Many of the tree planters this year have moved to Port Alberni to limit travel, and they tried to hire couples/same households to plant together. Co-workers sharing pickups also wear masks. Wellness checks are performed every morning before starting work.

Announcements:

Erin Badesso announced retirement affective June 30, 2021.

Next meeting - 2021 Calendar

- June 10, 2021

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm

WIWAG Action Items

#	ACTION ITEM AND PROGRESS	Date of request	Recommend Completion	Completion Date	Person Responsible
1	Re-visit potential change to Indicators John presented	May 23 rd	June 11, 2020		Erin Badesso
4	When will the permanent Goshawk reserves be legalized?	May 28 th 2020	Done	Four Wildlife Habitat Areas (WHAs) established in December, 2020	Erin Badesso
6	New target and / or variance required for Indicator 5.2.3	May 28 th 2020	November, 2021		Erin Badesso
7	Investigate the Direct / indirect job creation calculations associated with Indicator 5.2.3	May 28 th 2020	November, 2021		Erin Badesso