

**Fort St. John Results Based Pilot Project
Public Advisory Group Meeting #31**

**March 12, 2009
1800 to 2100hrs**

North Peace Cultural Centre, Fort St. John BC

Meeting summary

Meeting Attendance:

Name	Interest	Phone	Email
<i>Participants</i>			
Dawn Griffin	Canfor	787-3607	Dawn.Griffin@canfor.com
David Menzies	Canfor	787-3613	Dave.menzies@canfor.com
Mark Van Tassel	BCTS	784-1209	Mark.vantassel@gov.bc.ca
Andrew Tyrrell	Canfor	787-3665	Andrew.Tyrrell@canfor.com
Darrell Regimbald	Canfor	787-3651	Darrell.Regimbald@canfor.com
Don Rosen	Canfor	788-4379	Don.Rosen@canfor.com
Wes Neumeier	Canfor	787-3645	Wes.Neumeier@canfor.com
Reg Gardner	Canfor	787-3641	Reg.Gardner@canfor.com
Brian Farwell	BCTS	262-3337	Brian.Farwell@gov.bc.ca
Andrew Moore	Cameron River Logging	789-3621	Andrew@taylordunnage.ca
Walter Fister	BCTS	262-3328	Walter.Fister@gov.bc.ca
<i>PAG Interest Representatives and Alternates</i>			
Oliver Mott	Environment /Public interest	785-9508	ogmott@hotmail.com
Fred Klassen	Forest contractors/workers	787-1429	Klassen@intpac.ca
Jack Trask	Range		Jack.Trask@pennwest.com
Dale Johnson	Range	262-3260	dkjohnsonranch@xplornet.com
Natalie Clarke	FSJ Trappers	263-8252	nclarke@urban-systems.com
Ron Wagner	labour	787-0172	rojwagner@telus.net
Karen Goodings	Local Rural Communities	262-1558	Kgooding@pris.bc.ca
Rod Kronlachner	Oil and Gas	219-1760	Rod.Kronlachner@encana.com
<i>Advisors</i>			
Elizabeth Hunt	MFR	784-1203	Elizabeth.Hunt@gov.bc.ca
Roger St Jean	Oil And Gas	787-3234	Roger.Stjean@gov.bc.ca
Rod Backmeyer	Integrated Land Mgmt	787-3236	Rod.backmeyer@gov.bc.ca
Joelle Scheck	Ministry of Environment	787-3393	Joelle.Scheck@gov.bc.ca

Observers

Stacy Gibbons	Canfor	787-9168	Stacy.Gibbons@canfor.com
Jeremy Beliveau	Canfor	787-2751	Jeremy.Beliveau@canfor.com
Jon Gibbons	Canfor	787-3629	Jon.Gibbons@canfor.com
Jeff Beale	Encana		

Facilitator

Gail Wallin	Facilitator	305-1003	Gwallin@wlake.com
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1. Welcome and Introductions

- Introductions round table
- Point made by PAG to ensure that those members without email access are sent meeting material by FAX or mail
- Oliver Mott prefers to have correspondence sent by mail

2. Review of Meeting agenda

- Draft agenda reviewed and accepted, no public presentations were tabled

3. Review of meeting summary and outstanding actions

- Action #1: Completed
- Action #2: Completed
- Action #3: Outstanding, Clarify trails and dates
- Action #4: Outstanding, to be circulated after meeting via e-mail
- Action #5: Completed
- Action #6: Completed
- No revisions suggested to last meeting summary – accepted as presented

4. Proposed updates to CSA Matrix (copies of CSA matrix distributed)

- No changes proposed by either Working group or public advisory group
- **Question from Facilitator to Participants** - What indicators in the CSA matrix do you want to change if any over the next year?
- **Comment from Participants** – None. At this point, since it's our 6th year of our planning horizon, there would be little value in updating, therefore we have no new suggestions for annual revisions to the CSA matrix.
- **Question from Facilitator**- Can you explain to the rest of us about the 6-year planning horizon because you deal with both the pilot project regulation and the CSA standards.
- **Response from Participants** - The SFM plan is for a 6-year term and coming up to the 6th year. The SFM plan expires March 31, 2010. The new term for the SFM plan starts April 1 2010. Canadian Standards Association is reviewed

- periodically and revised. CSA is expected to announce revisions to the SFM standard in March or April 2009. CSA SFM registrants will be expected to revise existing SFM plans to conform with the revised CSA SFM standard.
- **Question from Facilitator to PAG** - What indicators in the CSA matrix do you want to change if any over the next year?
 - **Response from PAG** - None

5. Presentation - Methods for sustaining biodiversity – (Dr. Fred Bunnell)

- Dr. Fred Bunnell gave a presentation on the work he has been doing to identify a coarse and fine filter method for managing for biodiversity. He presented an overview of the “Species Accounting System” and how it could be used to approach biodiversity conservation in north east BC.
- **Question from PAG**- Your study seems to assume a constant background, environment, climate etc., what about climate change?? It’s huge.
- **Response**- It is already fairly well documented that the temperature in the boreal forest has gone up significantly and one of the consequences is that it’s going to shift more towards hardwoods from conifers, but I only pursue two broad notions. One is this whole monitoring thing and how to raise the bar and the other one is climate change, and our climate change work is probably the first to show where we’re going. It won’t be a big problem here, but further south the big problem is with the wetlands. We’re just going to lose the wetlands. Up here there is so much permafrost you’re going to have wetlands where you never had them before. The changes are real and they are happening fast.
- **Question from PAG**- What kind of contingency plans do we need to make for a sustainable forest and a sustainable world?
- **Response**- What we have here are the habitat type species that are responding and effective ways of monitoring them. What I’m doing in the climate change grant is trying to predict how those species mix with change. So right now we’re trying and that’s all I can say. I’ve got no advice other than you know its going to be different because there are so many existing targets that were based on a historical natural disturbance that is never going to occur again.
- **Question from PAG**- So how do you get down that path?? How do you deal with it?
- **Response**- One thing is, don’t feel comfortable with your current targets. Accept the fact that you may be harvesting more hardwoods. I don’t know the extent. They did spectrum scanning up here and that’s excellent. You can’t do much more. The north eastern divisions are fairly well positioned to combine data on some immediate management decisions.
- **Question from PAG**- Given climate change is happening at a rapid rate, what is your opinion on the amount of money the province is spending on trying to save mountain caribou?
- **Response**- I fought for 7 years trying to get that conservation framework into place, and I thought we were finally given the freedom to allocate resources, but once something like a WHA is established, it’s going to stay. There are several WHA’s in the province.

- **Question from PAG-** Do we have any of these immediate concerns up here on this side of the rocks?
- **Response-** No, I don't think so. The concern I have up here is the MOE is so close to going bankrupt that they can't do anything. Up here most things center around listed warblers, and there is a lot better way of handling it than establishing WHAs, but they are trapped. They have to go from this step to that step, because they don't have much resources to do much else.
- **Question from PAG-** What would be the approach you suggest for effectiveness monitoring of stub trees?
- **Response-** In BC there has only been one decent study that followed up and it was done in the Okanagan, so the chances of it applying to up here are slim. Because your poking right into operational activities, and operational activities are planned, but they don't always go as planned, so it's hard to link the research to operational activities. It's a fairly expensive procedure, and your hoping to get something out of it. Intuitively you may know you are getting some benefit, but you don't know how much.

6. Presentation - Review of Audit Results (Mark VanTassel, Darrell Regimbald)

BCTS ISO external audit findings:

- No new major or minor non conformances were found. One previous non conformance remained open around internal audit procedures.
- 7 opportunities for improvement, 4 primarily for FSJ. These 4 were: procedures for when surveys are conducted, procedures for incident tracking system, how they are describing their data and wording around their environmental management plan
- Audit was conducted by CSA on ISO 14001 Environmental Management System for the entire Peace-Liard district.
- It was a joint audit with the certification audit for sustainable forest initiative certification in Dawson Creek TSA

Canfor & BCTS external re-certification audit:

- was done by KPMG in August and September of 2008
- The objective was to evaluate the FMS and CSA system
- The results were: No major or minor non conformances. 8 good practices identified, and 4 opportunities for improvement
- Canfor was not required to submit action plans but chose to do so at their own discretion
- The 4 opportunities for improvement were: WQEE indicated that there were incidences where it did not correspond, the effectiveness of the annual report could have been enhanced, a field component would of improved the results, and concerns with a BCTS planting block with regards to planting quality
- The overall results of the audit were that the participants are certified for another 3 years

Canfor internal FMS & CSA audit

- The 2009 internal FMS & CSA audit was conducted in February 2009

- The objective was to evaluate the SFM system, its implementation, effectiveness and conformance to CSA standards and to the ISO 14001 requirements and selective requirements of the FSJ pilot project regulation
- The results were: No major non conformances identified, one minor non conformance identified, 8 good practices and 4 opportunities for improvement
- Opportunity #1 and the minor non conformance were linked
- The minor non conformance issue was that a trespass issue was not adequately addressed and opportunity #1 was to conduct root cause analysis when looking at non conformance issues
- The other opportunities were: There is a weakness in harvesting contractor operators awareness of Canfor's work instructions, the fuel management guidelines had references to non-existing appendices, and site level plans wording around snag retention wasn't consistent with Canfor's snag implementation procedure
- Review of selected sections of the FSJ pilot project regulation revealed no issues and were found to be in compliance with the requirements of the regulation
- **Question from PAG-** You mentioned there was a problem with water quality. First off, what were the issues that you had, and secondly, was that inside or outside of a grazing area?
- **Response-** It was a minor data analysis issue and not an actual field problem. No impact on any grazing area.

7. Presentation: Update on Pilot Project Review Draft Report – (Dave Menzies)

- Copy of Executive Summary from Pilot Project Review Draft Report distributed. Dave discussed the highlights of the Pilot Project Review Draft Report.
- **Question from PAG-** What effect does the general downturn in the economy have on objectives in the field?
- **Response-** It doesn't have an effect on the pilot project at all
- **Question from PAG-** It sounds like a positive report. Are we just waiting to see what they pick from the options?
- **Response-** Basically yes. There are a lot of good things in the pilot project that work really well in FSJ, but they may not work everywhere, and that is one of the concerns so, there is no point in trying to enforce it everywhere. We also have a lot of oil and gas interactions, that don't happen in other parts of the province. Wait and see what the government decides regarding fate of the Pilot Project.

Action Item #1 – PAG to provide comments to Dave Menzies by March 13

8. Presentation: Update Future SFMP direction and PAG input opportunities- (Darrell Regimbald)

- Current SFM plan expires March 31, 2010
- Need to schedule meetings to review and revise legal indicators and CSA indicators as required. Goal is to produce a revised SFM plan, developed with PAG input, by December 31, 2009.

- This will necessitate additional PAG meetings
- **Question for PAG-** What does the PAG feel in regard to a preference for a meeting format for when we should meet for these discussions about what the plan should look like? Does the PAG prefer evening meetings, daytime meetings, weekend meetings or a combination of the above?
- **Response-** Various comments were shared, some PAG members prefer evening meetings only. Others expressed no real preference. It was decided that the next 2 meetings would be set as evening meetings (after calving season) and the option to go to one or more day meetings would be considered for subsequent meetings. It was decided that no meetings would be held during the summer (July and August).
- Next meeting is **tentatively** set for May 28, 2009.
- Recognition of PAG's efforts was made

Action Item # 2 – meeting preparation materials to be forwarded to the PAG in advance of the next meeting.

9. Review PAG Membership

- Follow up on whether or not Stanley Gladysz is staying active as recreation/environment representative
- Natalie Clarke will remain an alternate for FSJ trappers, but Duane Salmond is still an active member
- Follow up on Wayne still being an alternate for environment/conservation
- **Question from the facilitator-** Any recommendations for the recreation/conservation side?
- **Response-** none
- Follow up on Orland still being active for urban communities
- Larry Houley from rural communities is stepping down. Follow up on Karen Gooding taking his place.
- **Question from the facilitator-** Is there an alternate that we want to recommend for forestry contractor?
- **Response-** None
- **Question from the facilitator-** Is there an alternate that we want to recommend for commercial recreation?
- **Response-** None

Action Item # 3 – participants to follow up this discussion and confirm PAG interest representatives and alternates

10. No Public Presentations

11. Feed Back on Meeting

- Went very well

- Positive presentations
- Not a lot pertains to Range, but still interesting and provides a different perspective
- Very effective and on track

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- Action #3: Outstanding, Clarify trails and dates
- Action #4: Outstanding, to be circulated after meeting via e-mail
- Action #5: Completed
- Action #6: Completed
- No revisions suggested to last meeting summary – accepted as presented

4. Proposed updates to CSA Matrix (copies of CSA matrix distributed)

- No changes proposed by either Working group or public advisory group
- **Question from Facilitator to Participants** - What indicators in the CSA matrix do you want to change if any over the next year?
- **Comment from Participants** – None. At this point, since it's our 6th year of our planning horizon, there would be little value in updating, therefore we have no new suggestions for annual revisions to the CSA matrix.
- **Question from Facilitator**- Can you explain to the rest of us about the 6-year planning horizon because you deal with both the pilot project regulation and the CSA standards.
- **Response from Participants** - The SFM plan is for a 6-year term and coming up to the 6th year. The SFM plan expires March 31, 2010. The new term for the SFM plan starts April 1 2010. Canadian Standards Association is reviewed

periodically and revised. CSA is expected to announce revisions to the SFM standard in March or April 2009. CSA SFM registrants will be expected to revise existing SFM plans to conform with the revised CSA SFM standard.

- **Question from Facilitator to PAG** - What indicators in the CSA matrix do you want to change if any over the next year?
- **Response from PAG** - None

5. Presentation - Methods for sustaining biodiversity – (Dr. Fred Bunnell)

- Dr. Fred Bunnell gave a presentation on the work he has been doing to identify a coarse and fine filter method for managing for biodiversity. He presented an overview of the “Species Accounting System” and how it could be used to approach biodiversity conservation in north east BC.
- **Question from PAG-** Your study seems to assume a constant background, environment, climate etc., what about climate change?? It’s huge.
- **Response-** It is already fairly well documented that the temperature in the boreal forest has gone up significantly and one of the consequences is that it’s going to shift more towards hardwoods from conifers, but I only pursue two broad notions. One is this whole monitoring thing and how to raise the bar and the other one is climate change, and our climate change work is probably the first to show where we’re going. It won’t be a big problem here, but further south the big problem is with the wetlands. We’re just going to lose the wetlands. Up here there is so much permafrost you’re going to have wetlands where you never had them before. The changes are real and they are happening fast.
- **Question from PAG-** What kind of contingency plans do we need to make for a sustainable forest and a sustainable world?
- **Response-** What we have here are the habitat type species that are responding and effective ways of monitoring them. What I’m doing in the climate change grant is trying to predict how those species mix with change. So right now we’re trying and that’s all I can say. I’ve got no advice other than you know its going to be different because there are so many existing targets that were based on a historical natural disturbance that is never going to occur again.
- **Question from PAG-** So how do you get down that path?? How do you deal with it?
- **Response-** One thing is, don’t feel comfortable with your current targets. Accept the fact that you may be harvesting more hardwoods. I don’t know the extent. They did spectrum scanning up here and that’s excellent. You can’t do much more. The north eastern divisions are fairly well positioned to combine data on some immediate management decisions.
- **Question from PAG-** Given climate change is happening at a rapid rate, what is your opinion on the amount of money the province is spending on trying to save mountain caribou?
- **Response-** I fought for 7 years trying to get that conservation framework into place, and I thought we were finally given the freedom to allocate resources, but once something like a WHA is established, it’s going to stay. There are several WHA’s in the province.

- **Question from PAG-** Do we have any of these immediate concerns up here on this side of the rocks?
- **Response-** No, I don't think so. The concern I have up here is the MOE is so close to going bankrupt that they can't do anything. Up here most things center around listed warblers, and there is a lot better way of handling it than establishing WHAs, but they are trapped. They have to go from this step to that step, because they don't have much resources to do much else.
- **Question from PAG-** What would be the approach you suggest for effectiveness monitoring of stub trees?
- **Response-** In BC there has only been one decent study that followed up and it was done in the Okanagan, so the chances of it applying to up here are slim. Because your poking right into operational activities, and operational activities are planned, but they don't always go as planned, so it's hard to link the research to operational activities. It's a fairly expensive procedure, and your hoping to get something out of it. Intuitively you may know you are getting some benefit, but you don't know how much.

6. Presentation - Review of Audit Results (Mark VanTassel, Darrell Regimbald)

BCTS ISO external audit findings:

- No new major or minor non conformances were found. One previous non conformance remained open around internal audit procedures.
- 7 opportunities for improvement, 4 primarily for FSJ. These 4 were: procedures for when surveys are conducted, procedures for incident tracking system, how they are describing their data and wording around their environmental management plan
- Audit was conducted by CSA on ISO 14001 Environmental Management System for the entire Peace-Liard district.
- It was a joint audit with the certification audit for sustainable forest initiative certification in Dawson Creek TSA

Canfor & BCTS external re-certification audit:

- was done by KPMG in August and September of 2008
- The objective was to evaluate the FMS and CSA system
- The results were: No major or minor non conformances. 8 good practices identified, and 4 opportunities for improvement
- Canfor was not required to submit action plans but chose to do so at their own discretion
- The 4 opportunities for improvement were: WQEE indicated that there were incidences where it did not correspond, the effectiveness of the annual report could have been enhanced, a field component would of improved the results, and concerns with a BCTS planting block with regards to planting quality
- The overall results of the audit were that the participants are certified for another 3 years

Canfor internal FMS & CSA audit

- The 2009 internal FMS & CSA audit was conducted in February 2009

- The objective was to evaluate the SFM system, its implementation, effectiveness and conformance to CSA standards and to the ISO 14001 requirements and selective requirements of the FSJ pilot project regulation
- The results were: No major non conformances identified, one minor non conformance identified, 8 good practices and 4 opportunities for improvement
- Opportunity #1 and the minor non conformance were linked
- The minor non conformance issue was that a trespass issue was not adequately addressed and opportunity #1 was to conduct root cause analysis when looking at non conformance issues
- The other opportunities were: There is a weakness in harvesting contractor operators awareness of Canfor's work instructions, the fuel management guidelines had references to non-existing appendices, and site level plans wording around snag retention wasn't consistent with Canfor's snag implementation procedure
- Review of selected sections of the FSJ pilot project regulation revealed no issues and were found to be in compliance with the requirements of the regulation
- **Question from PAG-** You mentioned there was a problem with water quality. First off, what were the issues that you had, and secondly, was that inside or outside of a grazing area?
- **Response-** It was a minor data analysis issue and not an actual field problem. No impact on any grazing area.

7. Presentation: Update on Pilot Project Review Draft Report – (Dave Menzies)

- Copy of Executive Summary from Pilot Project Review Draft Report distributed. Dave discussed the highlights of the Pilot Project Review Draft Report.
- **Question from PAG-** What effect does the general downturn in the economy have on objectives in the field?
- **Response-** It doesn't have an effect on the pilot project at all
- **Question from PAG-** It sounds like a positive report. Are we just waiting to see what they pick from the options?
- **Response-** Basically yes. There are a lot of good things in the pilot project that work really well in FSJ, but they may not work everywhere, and that is one of the concerns so, there is no point in trying to enforce it everywhere. We also have a lot of oil and gas interactions, that don't happen in other parts of the province. Wait and see what the government decides regarding fate of the Pilot Project.

Action Item #1 – PAG to provide comments to Dave Menzies by March 13

8. Presentation: Update Future SFMP direction and PAG input opportunities- (Darrell Regimbald)

- Current SFM plan expires March 31, 2010
- Need to schedule meetings to review and revise legal indicators and CSA indicators as required. Goal is to produce a revised SFM plan, developed with PAG input, by December 31, 2009.

- This will necessitate additional PAG meetings
- **Question for PAG-** What does the PAG feel in regard to a preference for a meeting format for when we should meet for these discussions about what the plan should look like? Does the PAG prefer evening meetings, daytime meetings, weekend meetings or a combination of the above?
- **Response-** Various comments were shared, some PAG members prefer evening meetings only. Others expressed no real preference. It was decided that the next 2 meetings would be set as evening meetings (after calving season) and the option to go to one or more day meetings would be considered for subsequent meetings. It was decided that no meetings would be held during the summer (July and August).
- Next meeting is **tentatively** set for May 28, 2009.
- Recognition of PAG's efforts was made

Action Item # 2 – meeting preparation materials to be forwarded to the PAG in advance of the next meeting.

9. Review PAG Membership

- Follow up on whether or not Stanley Gladysz is staying active as recreation/environment representative
- Natalie Clarke will remain an alternate for FSJ trappers, but Duane Salmond is still an active member
- Follow up on Wayne still being an alternate for environment/conservation
- **Question from the facilitator-** Any recommendations for the recreation/conservation side?
- **Response-** none
- Follow up on Orland still being active for urban communities
- Larry Houley from rural communities is stepping down. Follow up on Karen Gooding taking his place.
- **Question from the facilitator-** Is there an alternate that we want to recommend for forestry contractor?
- **Response-** None
- **Question from the facilitator-** Is there an alternate that we want to recommend for commercial recreation?
- **Response-** None

Action Item # 3 – participants to follow up this discussion and confirm PAG interest representatives and alternates

10. No Public Presentations

11. Feed Back on Meeting

- Went very well

- Positive presentations
- Not a lot pertains to Range, but still interesting and provides a different perspective
- Very effective and on track