

**Fort St. John Results Based Pilot Project  
Public Advisory Group Meeting #73**

**September 24th, 2025**

PAG Members Dinner 5:15 pm-6:00 pm  
PAG Meeting (Open to Public) 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm

**Meeting Attendance:**

*Participants*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>
<b>Carmen Anderson</b>	Canfor		
<b>Emily Pollington</b>	BCTS	250-201-5133	<a href="mailto:Emily.pollington@gov.bc.ca">Emily.pollington@gov.bc.ca</a>
<b>Steve Hewitt</b>	LP		
<b>Sarah Curtis</b>	LP	250-261-3451	<a href="mailto:sarah.curtis@lpcorp.com">sarah.curtis@lpcorp.com</a>
<b>Sara Rowe</b>	Doig River First Nation	250-793-0993	<a href="mailto:srowe@doigriverfn.com">srowe@doigriverfn.com</a>
<b>Darrin Hancock</b>	LP		
<b>Lyle Mortenson</b>	Halfway River First Nation	250-784-8001	<a href="mailto:lylemort@telus.net">lylemort@telus.net</a>

*PAG Interest Representatives and Alternates*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>
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Jim McKnight	Environment / conservation	250-785-9758	<a href="mailto:jimk01@telus.net">jimk01@telus.net</a>
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Rod Kronlachner	Energy - Guest	587-777-7694	<a href="mailto:Rod.kronlachner@ovintiv.com">Rod.kronlachner@ovintiv.com</a>
Patrick Smook	Energy		

*Other*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>
Gail Wallin	Facilitator	250-305-9161	<a href="mailto:gwallin@wlake.com">gwallin@wlake.com</a>
Elizabeth Hunt	Advisor Ministry of Forests		
Mark Van Tassel	Advisor/Guest Ministry of forests		

## AGENDA

1. Welcome and introductions [GW] (10 min)
2. Review of meeting agenda and meeting protocol [GW] (5 min)
3. Review of meeting # 72 draft summary, action items, and approval [GW] (5 min)
  - Range wildlife fencing proposals
    - Dave: it's not complete until we have specs for the northeast for wildlife friendly fencing. We are going to stick with the type of fencing that Halfway and I discussed and move from there.
    - Carmen: As for as this group goes, we will close this action, and your work will continue outside this group
  - Two-year range barrier requirement in SFMP
    - The two-year period identified in the target statement is meant to accommodate situations where concerns were raised regarding damage to natural range barriers or developments long after completion of the timber harvest activities where new permits would be required etc. Two years is the maximum, but we aim to resolve damage to range barriers much sooner.
4. Participants' update [EP, CA, SC] (15 min)
  - BCTS
    - Shared the current sales schedule
    - 2025 contracts
    - Staffing update
    - Development update – focusing on planned and already developed blocks that did not sell previously.
    - BCTS recommendations have been released, and the next steps will be to figure out an implementation strategy.
    - Question around FSJ timber sales offered and sold YTD – one sale offered and went no bid.
  - Canfor
    - Harvesting salvage blocks (fire, pine beetle) 98,400 m3 year to date under agreement with NorthPac Forestry group
    - 2025 tree planting 2.5 million trees (1.2 million section 108)
    - 2026 tree planting 3 million (1.4 million section 108)

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- 1005 ha manual brushing contract (no herbicide)
  - Road inspections – retirements, transfers are a focus
  - No update on tenure transfer or mill site
  - Peace woodlands staff 5.5 employees
  - Mill staff 6 people
  - Continued involvement in FSJ Pilot Project
  - LP Peace Valley OSB mill
    - Market conditions are challenging right now but things are still going strong. We are on a 5-2 schedule. Closed on weekends. We are still operating efficiently and surpassed 2025 operational efficiency targets and introduced a new product (Struc-1)
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest cost producer in LP YTD (USA and Canada)
    - 250,000 hours of incident free
    - Crown volume – 62,145 m<sup>3</sup> (all burned salvage)
    - 151,900 m<sup>3</sup> of private volume, 72% BC, 28% AB
    - Integration of peace valley and Dawson creek forest resource division teams
    - Darin Hancock will be the regional manager for both divisions
    - Continuing to prioritize wildfire salvage
  - Halfway River First Nation
    - Halfway has an agreement with LP to manage two HRFN tenures
    - This is the third survey done in the Halfway Watershed to do with Cattle getting into the community watershed and mineral licks and how to prevent them from doing such. They've hired a company called fence first – virtual fencing – no fence needed, the cattle wear a collar
    - Visited Peace River ranch who showed us their virtual fencing and did a field tour there
  - Doig River First Nation
    - Event next week out at Doig River First Nation, Treaty 101 workshops. Free and lunch provided. October 1<sup>st</sup> in the afternoon. If anyone is interested Sara will share the contact info.
5. FSJ Pilot Project SFM Annual Report highlights [SC] (15 min)
- The annual report summarizes the participants' performance
  - October 31 deadline and provided to PAG and government
  - Landscape level strategies
    - Consistent with 4/9 landscape level strategies. Due to impacts from wildfires over the last 2 years.

- Missed:
  1. Timber harvesting 7/9
  2. Patch size, seral stage and adjacency ¾
  3. Riparian management ¾
  4. Forest health management 5/6
  5. Reforestation ¾
- Indicator performance review
  1. Consistent with 59/66 of the performance indicators
  2. 25/30 of the legal indicators
- Indicators with target not met
  1. Forest types
    - a. Largely impacted by the 2023 wildfire which had an impact on the Tommy lakes, Trutch, and Kahntah landscape units. Tommy lakes had the biggest impact with a drop of 9%, bringing it below the 45% target.
    - b. We do have variances which allow us to drop below the target, but it means we must get back up to the % within ten years and we won't meet that, which is why this indicator is being reported as offside
    - c. Question: What does it mean by legal indicator
      - i. The legal indicators address requirements in the regulation and are used to evaluate success of landscape level strategies.
    - d. Question: would you come up with a recruitment strategy for this to meet it?
      - i. We have not considered what happens if we can't meet the target or variance. It's a good idea to discuss. We have recruitment options for seral but not forest types at this time in the SFMP **ACTION**
      - ii. Let's look at this for SFMP#4 and outline what happens when targets are not met.
  2. Seral stage
    - a. We continue to not meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of this indicator because we stopped delineating OFMA's due to the significant landuse changes and we will be moving away from this in the new plan SFMP # 4. We discussed this with government a few years ago and there was understanding it didn't make sense for the

participants to continue towards this target as there's other processes in place doing the same thing (i.e. BRFN PWMB planning), and other Nations don't want to see spatial seral.

### 3. Establishment delay

a. The period from when we harvest and the initial establishment of the future crop. Sets the max timeline. Conifer is 2 years and deciduous and mixedwood is 3 years. BCTS has theirs at 4.2 years and the reason for this is during 2023 the smoke and wildfire impacted and then in 2024 there was a shortage of trees.

b. Sara Rowe and Patrick S: For the new SFMP you need to put BCTS/Canfor/LP all into one group for this analysis and not analyze each group individually. Mark V T: possibly look into a variance. ACTION

c. Sara: Past establishment delay, what's the impact for well growing. You can assume that in 11 years we won't be hitting Well growing. Is that part of that action planning? How to get back on track. ACTION

### 4. Peak flow index

a. This is considered a course filter and if it exceeds, we do a more detailed review of the watershed before more harvest. Peak flow considers the disturbance at higher elevations as having more impact than those at lower elevations. As we did the analysis for FOS 3, we were meeting it at 99%, but when we re-ran the analysis through SFMP #4 and updated the plan, we incorporated the wildfires which pushed us to 81% since we haven't accounted previously for any wildfires. FOS 4 will be revised to ensure consistency.

b. Mark V T: This might be another one where if there's another fire, there needs to be a consideration of salvage and that will push it down further. Lots of learnings from the fires. Carmen: I believe we addressed this in the new plan, or it was already in the current plan.

### 5. AAC partition

- a. There are four indicators, 2 for conifer and 2 for deciduous. There's a planning indicator and a performance indicator. The FSJ partition outlines a core and periphery area. You cannot concentrate all harvest in the core, and of the conifer harvest in the core, 50% must be non-spruce species.
  - b. We were supposed to be under 50% spruce planned harvest in the core area and we are at 65%. The reason for this is due to significant changes to FOS 3 and we've been pushed into certain areas that made it very difficult to meet this indicator. This will change with FOS 4 and the TSR will make a huge difference to this indicator.
  - c. Patrick: suggestions for next time. Can this just be a non-salvage indicator? Remove all salvage blocks. **ACTION**
  - d. Mark V T: The soft partition isn't legally binding and if it's not followed then the chief forester can amend.
  - e. Carmen – would need FOR to approve this change as it's a legal indicator, interesting idea.
6. Salvage
- a. This indicator is about prioritizing salvage in the highest intensity zones, as established in the LRMP.
  - b. We salvaged 1,774 ha
  - c. The majority of what was burned was in moderate intensity zones. The most merchantable timber was in the moderate zones. Which doesn't meet the target.
  - d. A lot of the high intensity management zones are now protected. This is one indicator that we did change for the new plan
  - e. MP – the LRMP is old and doesn't necessarily align with current processes and values. For example, much of the high intensity zone is now covered under BRFN HV1 protected areas. How the LRMP fits into the SFMP today was a key consideration in updating the SFMP #4
7. Maintenance of wildlife and fisheries habitat values

- a. This is an indicator that says you have to meet this list of indicators to pass. Since we didn't meet some indicators, we did not pass this indicator and for the new plan we have turned this into its own strategy instead of an indicator.
  - We did send out the draft and there's lots of changes being made, and a cleaner copy of the draft will be sent soon.
6. Break (15 min)
7. SFMP#4 Focus Session [CA - all] (50 min)
- Review of progress to date, including GIS analyses
    - Analysis Indicators – Current State
      1. Since development of SFMP#3 significant areas impacted by wildfire
      2. Vast majority of fires in Boreal Plains Natural Disturbance Unit
      3. Analysis required to assess potential impacts to indicators, targets, and inform potential revisions
    - The analysis was done by BCTS GIS and had to build new base layers. Fire information with partial VRI updates. Sentinel satellite imagery for validation of assumptions and burn severity mapping. Current status for indicators used the best overall existing disturbance information.
  - Forest Types
    - Related to maintaining relative balance of broad forest type groupings in landscape units
    - The variances will be updated. Propose removing variance statement related to minimum area column since it did not make sense.
    - Tommy lakes conifer type was not met, proposing revision of conifer type targets in these LUs as per variance. 80% of the current status was utilized for Kahntah conifer, Tommy Lakes Conifer and Trutch Conifer.
  - Seral Stages
    - Maintaining a relative balance of old forest. Targets are currently set by NDU and heard from first nations that the scale is too large. For this reason, one of the changes we are proposing to make is to go back to measuring seral by LU by NDU. And every LU will have a target that will have to be met, and this is going back to the first plan how it used to be done.

- Old is defined as (in boreal plains) greater than 140 for conifer and greater than 100 for deciduous all other places 140 for all species
- Dropped the requirement for formal spatial designation of old growth.
- Question: Where did the Landscape units come from?
  1. We didn't designate them. The province did. And they're used in the non-spatial provincial old growth order.
- We did not change the targets that we had, but each LU has to meet that.
- Currently there are four units not being met. The Tommy lakes, Kahntah, Lower Beatton, Milligan
- Patch Size
  - Relating to maintaining relative balance of the distribution of similar aged forest in natural disturbance units
  - Targets set for stands <40 years old (early patch)
  - 100m buffer applied to stands < 40-year-old
  - No changes proposed to the indicator, but we wanted to go over the current state that we got from the analysis.
  - 2023 fires meant large changes in patch distribution in Boreal Plains. Changes in other NDU also due to "aging" inventory
  - Are meeting this target due to the variance allowed for large scale natural disturbance.
- Shrubs
  - Related to maintaining relative balance of shrub structural stage (young VRI). The fires brought us onside for shrubs. Kanatah LU was offside for several years before this.
- Peak flow
  - Water quantity indicator
  - Targets are set for 105 watersheds, within defined watershed groups. Change we are proposing is aligning things to more of what we can control with our cutblocks.
  - 20 of 105 watersheds are showing above their PFI threshold. Which means before harvesting we need to complete an analysis to get a more detailed description of the state of the watershed and if there is any room for additional harvesting.
  - Not all the DFA has targets set which also need a hydrologist to set targets before harvesting.
  - Proposing a revision to the indicator and target statements. Same spirit and intent and no material difference when fully implemented but more succinct.

- Representative examples of ecosystems
  - No changes proposed to indicator or target.
  - Need a full update when FOS is revised.
- Recreation opportunity spectrum
  - This was an administrative change. We could not reconcile the old spatial data for the primitive and semi primitive GIS data from 1996, so we updated the area based on the data that we have today. The target statements will change their numbers. This is based off the 1996 ROS area).
- AAC Partition Indicators
  - The core area will have a max of 56% of the total planned deciduous harvest volume identified in the core
  - Three-year rolling averages utilized. Sarah already reviewed where we're offside for conifer planning, Carmen reviewed the other 3 which were onside.
- Legal Indicators
  - We have made the decision to make indicators that weren't legal, now legal.
    1. Dispersed retention
    2. CWD structure
    3. Sites of Biological Sig
    4. Guidelines for SAR and Species of management concern
    5. Deciduous regen
    6. Coordinate developments and access management
    7. Number of known values and uses addressed in operational planning
    8. Effective communication – FN communities
    9. Incorporation of new land use plans
- Open forum for feedback on draft SFMP #4
  - Rod: How have the indicators been influenced by other industrial activities?
    1. Overall, we do our best to incorporate that disturbance. The one action we had on the fibre processed in the DFA, it's a challenge to know how much volume is from oil and gas so we stated the indicator does not include oil and gas volume harvested. We try our best to work with other industries to ensure the least amount of disturbance to the landscape like sharing roads. Some indicators are directly about activities with other industry (i.e., access management planning), and others exclude these activities as we can only control what we manage.

- Rod: The average of CWD? What is it? Is this deemed good/bad so that we know for our retention on right of ways.
    1. Our target came right from the regs and is a percentage of pre-harvest condition. In the update we added another CWD structural indicator which pertains to creating piles and corridors.
  - Lyle: I am very impressed with Canfor and other licensees for taking our concerns about wildlife seriously.
8. Fibre availability review summary [Mark Van Tassel] (30 min) – Presentation available
- We have been invited to give a presentation about fibre availability in the Northeast and how everything is going on here impacts mills. There have been very significant fires and lots of plans signed like the BRFN Implementation from the Yahey decision and the Treaty 8 First Nations BC Consensus Agreement, the caribou recovery measures, treaty land entitlement and land agreements, all these items have an impact on fibre supply and impact from the mills. Usually, we don't see this much rapid change this quickly. We have done some analysis and have come to bring that information to you today.
  - In the treaty 8 consensus agreement we have things called shared assurance statements. "Including viable oil and gas and forestry sectors"
  - New alignment with the provincial "path to 45" mandate (2025 Ministers Mandate letter). Ensuring a sustainable land base to enable harvest of 45,000,000 m<sup>3</sup> per year while fulfilling our commitment to protect old growth. That's 80% of the AAC for the entire province.
  - We have ongoing planning processes with most of the Treaty 8 Nations for the entire peace district land base, we don't know all the final measures which makes it hard for us to predict what this will look like.
  - We want to ensure there's sufficient fibre volume and species composition to allow for ongoing operation of remaining facilities
    - Work to move West Fraser from 1 shift back to 2 shifts
    - Consider opportunities for availability of additional forest tenure
  - Key principles
    - Ensure sufficient volume for tenure commitment
    - Ensure FSJ sawmill remains an ongoing consideration
    - Consideration for potential future wildfire or forest health impacts
  - Moving forward

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- Continue to model, monitor potential THLB/AAC impacts of planning commitments/approaches
  - Ensure implications are considered in planning processes
  - Consider interim AAC adjustments as necessary (next FSJ TSR 2028)
  - Explore alternate fibre opportunities
  - Future amendment to SFMP is likely required to align with future plans.
- Carmen asked what the difference is between this presentation's numbers – showing a 33% decrease to the AAC and the report's projection which are about twice this amount. Mark responded that the analysis was a bit harsh, and they don't think the implications are as large today as when they originally did the analysis
  - Halfway River expressed the importance around salvage harvesting and the AAC and asked the government to speed up salvage harvesting approvals and encourage / direct salvage harvesting. They reminded that canfor could've been kept open to do site prep and keep the mill open if salvage was quicker to get permits out. Mark indicated it was well received and that they could improve.
9. Wrap-up, feedback on meeting [GW] (5 min)