

**Fort St. John Results Based Pilot Project  
Public Advisory Group Meeting #74**

**May 6, 2026**

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		Carmen.anderson@canfor.com
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<b>Steve Hewitt</b>	LP		Steve.hewitt@lpcorp.com
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<b>Darin Hancock</b>	LP		Darin.hancock@lpcorp.com
<b>Lyle Mortenson</b>	Halfway River First Nation	250-784-8001	lyle@lrm.ca
<b>Chris Maundrell</b>	Prophet River First Nation		

*PAG Interest Representatives and Alternates*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>
Dave Harris	Range	250-827-3503	<a href="mailto:dharris@pris.ca">dharris@pris.ca</a>
Jim McKnight	Environment / conservation	250-785-9758	<a href="mailto:jimk01@telus.net">jimk01@telus.net</a>
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Shayla Blue	WLRS		Shayla.blue@gov.bc.ca
Lisa Hardy	Saulteau First Nations		forestry@saulteau.com

**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		
Patrick Smook	Advisor - BCER	250-794-5314	Patrick.smook@bc-er.ca
Mark Van Tassel	Advisor/Guest Ministry of forests		
Stephanie Smith	Guest		Stephanie.smith@gov.bc.ca
Stan Troyer	Guest (trapper rep)		Bcfarmer16@gmail.com
Tabatha Bobbitt	Guest (forest workers)		Tabatha.bobbitt@geoterrairs.ca

### **ACTION ITEM SUMMARY**

1. EP - Send a poll for the last two weeks of June for the field visit.
2. EP – Contact the Northern Group for Guide representation - DONE

### **AGENDA**

1. Welcome and introductions [GW] (10 min)
2. Review of meeting agenda and meeting protocol [GW] (5 min)
3. Review of meeting # 73 draft summary, action items and approval [GW] (5 min)
  - Nothing to note – meeting summary approved
  - Action Items
    - i. Reforestation Delay – Why isn't this assessed for all Participants together and what is the impact to well growing?
      1. Comment: We will be doing an amendment to the plan for Reforestation and will carry these forward
    - ii. Salvage Blocks – Can this just be a non-salvage indicator?
      1. Answer: This was related to the partition indicators. We don't have control over changing the partition, but we will carry this action item forward to discuss further.
4. Participants' update [ET, SC, CA] (15 min)
  - BCTS -
  - Halfway River – Continuing to go on helicopter flights and ground visits to view wildlife and see what it is working and what isn't. Working with Julie Robinson who has seen good results with range of fencing studies and collars. Heading down to Okanagan and will relay back what I learned about how previous blocks worked and learnings from them.
  - LP – operating a 5-2 schedule. Exceeding targets. Lowest cost producer at LP for USA and Canada. Crown 95,000m<sup>3</sup> and Private 367,000 m<sup>3</sup>. Sarah is moving to a corporate certification role, and Carmen Anderson will be moving to LP as Planning Superintendent. Developing volume for two HRFN tenures. Wildfire salvage and green volume are being developed.
  - Canfor – harvesting salvage blocks ~31,000m<sup>3</sup> YTD. 2026 tree planting 3 million trees. 1005 ha of manual brushing. Road inspections. No update on the tenure transfer or mill site sale. Continued involvement in FSJ pilot Project.
5. Audits (Canfor internal) [CA] (5 min)

- Internal Audit: no non-compliances or non-conformities, three opportunities for improvement
    - i. Refine site plan language around special tree regulation and chance finds
    - ii. Ensure trespass by third party in Canfor's cutblock is well documented and plans amended.
    - iii. Consider adding "values at risk" to fire hazard assessment form.
  - One best management practice:
    - i. Excellent documentation and inspections of silviculture contractors and safety programs.
6. SFMP#4 Final Update and FOS Analysis [SC] (20 min)
- Highlights
    - i. We have made it to the end of the re-write. Still amendments, but this stage is done.
    - ii. Collaborative approach – 5 PAG meetings, 24 meetings,
  - Submitted draft on November 5, 2025. Technical review and FN consultation comments April 15-21, 2026. Spent a week responding to those comments and updating the plan. Submitted final on April 22, 2026. SFMP #4 approved May 4, 2026.
  - Approval conditions
    - i. Engage with BRFN planning team to align SFMP with WMB and HV1 plans once those are completed.
    - ii. Continue working with HRFN and DRFN and considerations of their plans when they're complete
    - iii. Work with WLRS to develop direct connections, reporting and monitoring strategies linked to indicators site of biological sig. And guidelines for species at risk and species of management concern informing future amendments
  - Additional recommendations
    - i. Develop a strategy and indicator and target that addresses the spread of noxious weeds and invasive species that is not related to the spreading of grass seed
      - 1. We think we have addressed this one with indicator 5.30.
      - 2. Question regarding difference between Noxious weeds and invasive plants – is this redundant?  
Answer: Noxious weeds are defined under the weed act, though there are a lot of invasive species that aren't in the regulation that might be found in a local area. So that is why you see both terms used.

- ii. Work with WLRS to align our water quality effectiveness evaluation to bring the target in line with the current FREP results.
- FOS analysis
  - i. Current state – baseline conditions for SFMP 4 (ran in 2025)
  - ii. Some of these indicators have a FUTURE state (ran in April 2026) we need to look at, this is where the FOS comes in, a minimum of 6 years of planned volume that we put out for public review and comment and we can only get permits approved for blocks that were in the FOS.
  - iii. The future state needs to meet the targets laid out in the SFMP. We take the FOS, look ahead as if we have harvested the entire FOS and answer the question of “are we meeting all those targets after all that”? Our current FOS has 27 years of volume, which is mostly due to the fact that there is less volume allocated in licenses at this point in time. We didn’t remove a lot of volume because there’s lots of uncertainties at the moment and once those decisions/land use plans are completed we can remove volume from the FOS if needed and still be able to have 6 years in the FOS
  - iv. Forest Types – future state
    - 1. We want to ensure that we keep the same forest types over the landscape over time. We are meeting the targets in all the landscape units with FOS 4.
    - 2. When there’s a fire that comes through, does it account for it?
      - a. This is only for forests that are greater than 20 years old. If a fire goes through, it will go to 0 and won’t be accounted for in this indicator analysis.
  - v. Seral stages – future state
    - 1. This is for old forest by natural disturbance units. We have targets that state a min amount of disturbance per NDU. We also included landscape unit for this FOS. Boreal plains are so large NDU that landscape units made sure we have more distribution of the old across the landbase. Old is another over 140 years old. We will be exceeding the targets for FOS 4.
    - 2. Conifer is considered old 140 years and greater and deciduous is considered old after 100 years, that is why they’re split up.
  - vi. Patch – future state

1. This looks at early seral, young forest, less than 40 years old, by NDU. Large greater than 100ha, medium 51-100ha and small <50ha. Our future state shows we are only meeting 6 of 18 targets; however, we have an acceptable variance that states that natural disturbance events that shift the percentages will be accepted. Donnie Creek fire will still be impacting the area for boreal plains upland. Omineca valley and omineca mountains and northern boreal mountains, are within the MKMA where we aren't active, and patch ends up being out of our control in that area.
- vii. Peak Flow – future state
  1. We have 104 watersheds that we run the analysis on. We were offside for a number of watersheds for the current state, offside due to wildfires. In 27 years, all the watersheds that were offside will then be onside. Doesn't mean we will go harvest within these watersheds until we do a more detailed analysis.
- viii. Recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS) - future state.
  1. Based on 3 landscape units. The only change we made is that we redid the spatial data since it was so old. Once re-ran the only change was some of the semi primitive moved, but we are still well within targets.
- ix. Partition indicators
  1. The core area will have a max of 56% of the total planned deciduous harvest volume. We are within the targets.
  2. For conifer, of all the conifer blocks in the core area, only 50% can be non-spruce conifer species, currently at 40%. On target for both
- x. Shrubs
  1. Naturally occurring shrubs in forests are less than 20 years old.
  2. We were above all the targets for the current state due to fires. Future state, however, is offside for the Kahntah and tommy lakes. There was a huge fire in Kahntah which put us on side, but 27 years later we will be offside again due to not much activity there. Tommy lakes same situation, likely due to 30 years

past the fire but still too young to plan blocks in there so no activity.

xi. Ongoing

1. Reforestation strategy discussions have continued, related to how to include more deciduous in conifer managed stands; subcommittee has met five times since January.
2. Inventory label analysis – BCTS – 36% deciduous
  - a. We went back and looked at blocks from the past. For BCTS's data, it shows that within the last 10 years of well-growing surveys (after brushing surveys, and last stage of block) that there's a 36% deciduous in these conifer blocks.
  - b. Canfor blocks are showing 22% deciduous within conifer stands during well-growing surveys. Canfor will continue to see a rise in this number as more data comes in from changes made to silviculture methods.
  - c. Potential path forward
    - i. Introduce content into SFMP that would guide block level decisions for when and where to brush and that would overall decrease brushing of deciduous blocks over the landscape
    - ii. List areas where no brushing will occur
    - iii. Include brushing decision tool that will allow for more deciduous in conifer leading stands
    - iv. Lower reforestation assessment target or introduce variance to cover participants if this equates to us not meeting the PMV% target in future years.
    - v. This path would take advantage of the flexibility of the reforestation strategy.
3. Current research is from the brushing decision tool based on Phil Comeau study. We can have more deciduous with higher spruce leading stands instead of pine. Max deciduous density for heavy spruce stands can have 8000 stems deciduous and not brush it. Anything above that can be considered

competition which MAY result in brushing. See the table for more information.

4. Deciduous, shade intolerant species, falls out of the canopy quickly when it hits 100% canopy closure. If you have spruce trees in there, they will continue in a low light env and will come through once deciduous falls out. And we've been working on determining these thresholds. And now we have standards to what level of deciduous we will brush to.
5. The targets are based on timber cruises of older trees. But we are measuring these stands during the 15–20-year-old period. So, we are unsure if this will work.
6. Naturally occurring and harvested blocks, comparing these to draw a regression on what these stands will look like in the future.
7. We aren't considering birch as competition at all.
8. If we do find ourselves in a situation where we need to brush, we can consider converting the stand to a deciduous stand.
9. HRFN – the reason we support increasing deciduous throughout the district, isn't because conifer isn't important, it's because the history of the peace cleared lots of aspen and sprayed/killed these species in favour of conifer. Now we are getting all these fires, burning in conifer, and need to bring back more deciduous. Pushing to plant burn blocks with deciduous.
10. Question – patrick smook
  - a. At what level are you using the tool? Block but more specifically Standard unit.

7. Break (15 min)

8. Field Trip brainstorm (10 min)

- Restoration
- Wildlife Friendly Fencing / Range
- CWD – coarse woody debris
- Retention
- Fishers
- Shayla – went last summer with Julia Robinson from Range who showed water troughs and learned a lot

- Budd – in years past, with range, we incorporated a couple of different sites, range issues and nearby restoration. CWD has a lot of different perspectives, from pissing people off to being great.
- Rod – some of these topics would hit home for the energy sector. Ecological based ground practices for the energy sector.
- Stan – Fishers are huge right now; we are in a fight with the province for data and where they actually are. It would be a great opportunity to work with forestry here to help and support Fishers.
- Elizabeth – Fishers for sure
- Timing – June before school goes out. Monday to Friday workdays. Send a poll for the last two weeks of June.

9. Guest Speaker BCTS Review – Stephanie Smith (30 min)

- BCTS review, January 2025, the minister announced a review of BC Timber sales.
- Over 300 written submissions for this review. 2 virtual meetings.
- Closed in July 2025. September 2025 the minister sent out the recommendations. 54 total. 50 related to timber sales. 4. Related to the ministry of forests.
- This is a reflection that our industry is changing. The current systems need to be more flexible and locally responsive. One-size-fits-all approach no longer works across diverse regions. Continue to support, healthy forests, safe communities, good jobs and local communities.
- Strong support for earlier and more meaningful First Nations and community involvement. More locally informed forest management. Stronger stewardship and wildfire risk red. Better alignment between forests, communities and the economy.
- Our mandate changed significantly. Our prior goal was to provide credible representative cost and benchmark data for the price and cost of sustainably harvested land in public BC under the principles of it being safe, sustainable and with first nations. Our new mandate:
  - i. BC Timber Sales is a trusted, transparent organization that stewards British Columbia's forests for the long-term benefit of all people.
  - ii. Grounded in public trust and social license, BCTS's operations reflect the diverse values of the people in British Columbia, uphold First Nations rights and title, and support resilient communities through equitable access to forest resources.
  - iii. By enabling predictable access to diverse types of fibre, and fostering innovation, BCTS will create the hosting conditions for a competitive, high valued sector that drives local sustainable economic development
  - iv. Better tools, better practices, more trust, more partnership, more fiber, more revenue.
- New tools:

- i. We initially were directed to supply 10% of sales to value added, and it's been doubled to 20%. Last year we hit 19%.
  - ii. The potential is that we can now purchase developed blocks from a licensee.
  - iii. More tools to partnership with First Nations and take opportunities to sell the TSL and have cost sharing.
  - iv. CAT 5 registration, won't see this up here in the NE. We don't have the volume type.
  - v. MPS70, direction on how we do our bidding process.
  - vi. Auctioning commercial thinning TSLs. We've successfully auctioned two commercial thinning TSLs in the province, the last one in Prince George. Gaining traction. The challenge we have is our tenuring system and contract logging system. Bill 14 came in, and we can now spend money on logging.
  - vii. Wildfire risk and range improvements, more down south, won't be successful up here due to the deciduous coming up.
  - viii. Prescribed fire in conjunction with BC wildfire.
  - ix. Planting climate adapted and native tree species.
- Bill 14
  - i. Strengthens partnership outcomes, improve confidence and public trust, provide leadership in forest management, provide new fiber options, and flexibility.
  - ii. TSM can now wrist clauses in TSLs that will address issues that might not have been addressed in a forest stewardship plan or SFMP.
- The blocks that we have harvested and brought to free growing, we are looking into bring that to full management on those stands till next harvest.
- Area forest management, looking at starting a pilot in the province in order to find out what we need in order to do that work.
- Questions
  - i. Under the prescribed burning, the ministry of forests has been really risk adverse in regard to this, what are they saying is the purpose? Forest or wildlife enhancement?
    1. Site specific. For BCTS, it would be forest enhancement. It would be risk reduction on the site and possibly used as a site prep tool.
    2. And community safety. BCTS and Canfor in the past have been involved in community wildfire harvesting in wonowon and one island.

3. Budd: There is a lot of interest from the community to support this if there's safety involved.
  - ii. Any traction on the upset on the price to reserve bid?
    1. That MPS70 is a response to the no bids we are getting. We are now getting less no bids.
  - iii. Are there going to be more opportunities for smaller mills to log?
    1. Yes, cat 4 value added is a program that started two years ago that shows smaller mills will have the opportunity to bid on these blocks. Contact me for more information [stephanie.smith@gov.bc.ca](mailto:stephanie.smith@gov.bc.ca)
  - iv. Lyle – Halfway would like you to continue to monitor the supervisor of the logging. Canfor would have Halfway out there for the prework. Keep improving in that department.

10. PAG recruitment (Commercial recreation/Labour/Forest Workers) (15 min)

- Labour – union reps from mills
  - i. We don't really have this in FSJ anymore. Could we close this position?
  - ii. In favour of this.
- Commercial Rec
  - i. Has the BC northern group been approached directly?
    1. Emily will take that away as an action - **COMPLETED**
- Trapping
  - i. Stan is replacing Ray

11. Recognition (5 min)

- Elizabeth has been with this group for 25 years and attended the first meeting that was a protest! They were expecting 10 and 15 people, and a large group showed up, over 100, as a protest against the OSB plant. Elizabeth is now retiring. We thank you for your incredible contributions and wish you all the best on your next adventure.
  - i. Personal Highlights
    1. Hats off to you, Gail. You're diligent at keeping us in check and keeping the group together.
    2. I've enjoyed that everyone has supported me as an advisor. It's been fun! I've seen a lot of changes over 25 years, but the plan and the people keep getting better.
- Sarah is also moving on to a new role within LP and will no longer be attending the PAG. Thank you for all the hard work towards the pilot project and PAG
  - i. Personal highlights:

Visit the Fort St. John Pilot Project website - <http://www.fsipilotproject.com/>

1. This has been a very positive experience. Very collaborative. It's been great getting to know everyone.

12. Wrap-up, feedback on meeting [GW] (5 min)

- Stan: good connections, will return, looking forward to strengthening relationships and learning more
- Tabatha: I've been to these meetings before and am hoping to continue attending the new role.