

Nicola Thompson Fraser SFM PAG

May 19, 2010 3PM Ashcroft River Inn

Facilitator: Pat Salm

Attendees:

Bert Parke, Graham Everett, Gerry Sanford, Elizabeth Solomon de Friedberg, Katharine Shewchuk, Francis Vyse, Jan Stadey, Aline Lachapelle, Wendy McKinney, Mike Bragg, Jerry Canuel, Rick Cooper.

Reviewed agenda.

Wendy forgot her agenda AGAIN! Pat had extra copies.

No additions or changes made to the agenda.

Reviewed minutes.

Reviewed agreements and action items from previous meetings. Aline handed out 2 maps of DFA for PAG to look at. Discussed the PAG's desire to have a map that showed the three TSA's and the areas that participating companies traditionally operate within.

Action Item: BCTS to produce hanging map of DFA with operating areas for 3 TSA's.

Discussed the name of this PAG. Brought up Cascades/Kamloops, based on forest districts, or Thompson Nicola Fraser based on major rivers in the Defined Forest Area (DFA). After some discussion agreed to use rivers to define the DFA and the combined PAG

Agreement: DFA to be referred to as the Nicola Thompson Fraser DFA.

Reviewed the Terms of Reference to ensure all proposed changes are acceptable. Name of DFA needs to change, other changes noted are fine – agreed to ToR.

Agreement: ToR is acceptable to PAG with name change to Nicola Thompson Fraser DFA.

Had a broad conversation around the discussion items – how they would be reviewed during PAG meetings. Articles provided a lot of information and opened a lot of thoughts for PAG members. Some members may have felt overwhelmed by the volume of information.

Pat handed out summary page showing agreed to values, objectives, indicators and targets. Discussed the concept of showing a one page summary of agreed to values, indicators, and targets in bold once included in the meeting summary and agreed to at the subsequent meeting.

Agreement: A summary of values, indicator, targets (Appendix 3 – Plan Matrix) will be updated every PAG meeting, then reviewed and approved. Approved items identified in bold font.

Appendix 3 Plan Matrix Discussion (for items to be shown in bold at next meeting)

Indicator 1.1.1: Target refined. Representative area wording removed. New Target wording “Maintain the presence of Biogeoclimatic zones to the subzone level with the plan area.

Discussed 1.1.2- discussed the word ‘area’. Was it a cutblock area, or a timber supply area, maybe a more accurate word is needed. The word area was chosen instead of cutblock to allow for reporting on the Standard unit. Quite often licensees report on the standard unit instead of the area.

Discussed 1.1.3 target related to age class distribution- reviewed last meeting discussion. Each TSA had different forest age class distributions, with different targets. Pat has found a common data set that can be used for all TSA’s. We will report each TSA separately, but can use the same target of 8.5% for each TSA. None of the TSA’s will fully meet 8.5% in all age classes in the next 50 years because of different gaps in the age groups. Each TSA has a different gap, reflective of natural disturbances that occurred in each of the geographies. Agreed to this approach and the proposed revision to the target.

Discussed 1.1.3 target related to old growth - PAG looking for clarification on this target. Area is spatial based on which point of time. When was the area of old growth decided we wanted to preserve? Problem with OGMA’s; originally defined without a lot of ground truthing. Need to have a replacement procedure in case original OGMA was not representative of old growth attributes which we are trying to protect. Agreed to amend the target to “maintain the existing old growth management areas (no net loss)” replacement is allowed and will be dealt with in the details. Pat will also put the word ‘draft’ into the text of the plan to show that OGMA are not legally protected in all TSA’s.

New Items:

Criteria 1 Discussion Items:

Forest Fragmentation- page 7- question rose about patch size versus cutblock size. Land managers look at deer winter ranges, caribou protected areas, WHA’s are enacted by MoE, and are intended to protect specific species, OGMA’s also address some species habitat requirements. Focal species are being identified by Government and will provide habitat for a variety of other species as well. For known sites, rules are in place to protect some species, for some species WHA’s are being established by MoE that protect critical habitat. Are all these habitat protections adequate? That is a question for government. FREP is in place to monitor and provide results to gov’t.

Discussion Item: maintain populations and communities against human disturbance: what is a landscape? Sometimes it may be the DFA. A coarse vs. Fine filter approach. Is animal genetic diversity information being sent out and who manages for it? Work is being done at a higher level, in government at provincial or federal level. Genetic diversity is preferred. CSA standard is forest companies are required to manage habitat not species. Species under threat and big game species

have had more research done. Government research usually flows into procedures for companies to follow.

No other information or conversation was felt necessary relating to discussion items for Criteria 1.

Indicator 1.1.4- within stand structural retention

Reviewed Kamloops and Merritt indicators. Discussed changes target from 80% to 90%. Companies asked that target stay the same, because there are non certified licensees reporting, and because data is not available for Lillooet and Merritt TSA's. The target can change in future years if the data warrant.

- Indicator will only apply to those blocks approved after the plan date. Will not apply to those blocks that were approved before this plan was created and implemented.

Agreement: accept Kamloops indicator 5a and 5b. "5a) 80% of cutblocks greater than 10 hectares will have individual wildlife trees/stubs and/or wildlife tree patches within the block 5b)Of the blocks that have individual wildlife trees/stubs and/or wildlife tree patches; at least 50% of the time these blocks will have dispersed individual trees, stubs or small patches retained." Also agreed to accept the Kamloops objectives for location of WTP's. and desirable characteristics for stub trees.

Values for Element 1.2 – Species Diversity.

Review values from 3 different current plans. Following discussion, agreed to accept Kamloops value "Abundance and distribution of habitat to conserve populations of native flora and fauna".

Agreement: The value for species diversity is "Abundance and distribution of habitat to conserve populations of native flora and fauna".

Reviewed objectives for 1.2 from all 3 TSA plans. Objectives are quite different for all three. Lillooet plan has a good tone, but is very general and would consider the sustaining of MPB at is present level. Merritt objective deals with species, but value deals with habitat. Discussion around Kamloops objective. Invasive species discussed, do we want to keep? If we want an invasive indicator, we should leave Kamloops objective in. Agreed, to accept Kamloops Objective "Maintain a variety of habitats for naturally occurring species. Use practices to reduce the spread of invasive plant populations within forested ecosystems."

Agreement: The objective for species diversity is "Maintain a variety of habitats for naturally occurring species. Use practices to reduce the spread of invasive plant populations within forested ecosystems."

Indicator 1.2.1- habitat protection for focal species

Reviewed current indicator from all 3 current plans. Discussed the specific indicator for focal species.

Agreed to change and accept Kamloops #7 to 'affected licensees adhere to the current management strategies for mountain caribou.' Will also reference the current spotted owl plan in this statement. Licensees who operate outside the range of either of these species will not report annual performance. Will parking lot the Grizzly Bear for inclusion in 1.2.1. Will wait until the management strategy is released by government. Agreed to change Lillooet #6 to "affected licensees adhere to the current management strategies for northern spotted owl." Agreed to adopt Kamloops #6- re red and blue listed species.

Agreement: Agreed to adopt all of Kamloops target #6 related to managing and protection of red and blue listed wildlife species. Also agreed to include targets for caribou and spotted owls as follows: Affected licensees adhere to the current management strategies for mountain caribou. Affected licensees adhere to the current management strategies for northern spotted owl.

Agreement (for SFM Plan write-up): Add the inclusion of Grizzly Bear as a target for indicator 1.2.1 to the SFM Plan parking lot – awaiting release of governments management strategy for the species.

Indicator 1.2.2- habitat protection for focal species (long term)

Reviewed section 7 notices for Kamloops and Cascades district. Lillooet is included in Cascades district. Ensure you are protecting the hectares for each district, but cannot combine and manage in one district and not the other. Will list in the text of the indicator. Cascades section 7 notices include both Merritt and Lillooet TSA. SFM Plan participating licensees will be required to manage for these species relative to their distribution within areas of operations. Also discussed the need for the spotted owl indicator to be reported here seeing as how it was reported in 1.2.1.

We can report the same indicator again, no problem. Area given in hectares, but what about the type of habitat. Do we need to include if habitat is not usually logged? Licensee need access to upland areas and may need to go through low lands red listed species areas. Need to manage and include to avoid.

Agreed to Kamloops #8 concept with applicability to the DFA "Conserve or manage within the Kamloops and Cascades district the following amounts of habitat for selected focal species by retaining 100%of the amount of habitat (provided for in governments FPPR Section 7 notices specific for each TSA) in a condition suitable for the survival of the species", and Kamloops #7 revised as above, and Lillooet #6 revised as above as well.

Agreement: Agreed to the target "Conserve or manage within the Kamloops TSA and Cascades Forest District habitat for selected focal species by retaining 100%of the amount of habitat (provided for in governments FPPR Section 7 notices specific for each TSA) in a condition suitable for the survival of the species". Also agreed to include targets for caribou and spotted owls as follows: Affected licensees adhere to the current management strategies for mountain caribou. Affected licensees adhere to the current management strategies for northern spotted owl.

Indicator 1.2.3- regeneration comprised of native species

Discussed Lillooet is showing an increase in species after logging. Very difficult to track and monitor. Discussed planting ecologically suited species. FREP report #16 (in binder following indicator matrix) provides information on tree species diversity in the province. The report concludes that areas of monocultures in the province have been decreasing over the past 25 years. Discussed site conversion, like Fdi to Pli. How can we measure? Can we tweak indicator 1.1.3 to accommodate. Currently 1.1.3 is about diversity, and we are discussing conversion. Indicator is dealing with regeneration compromised of native species. Is there any possibility of a target that looks at the ecologically preferred species that a site has and compare that with the species planted on that site? Query last 2 years, number of species preferred and number of species planted. Some company members concerned that such a target (prescriptive) does not consider site specific decisions made by professional foresters. May not give the results PAG is looking for. If we logged straight pine, but stocking standards were for Pli, fdi, and Sx, may give PAG the impression that we are doing species conversion when we were are just replacing what is there.

Q: what is penalty of not meeting FTG. Depends on action taken.

Q; how often are blocks are looked at? Depends on site, yearly or 5 year. Companies have incentive to actively manage and get blocks FTG as early as possible.

Agreement: Agreed on Kamloops target #9 as is. “100% of trees planted will conform to plan commitments related to the species requirements within approved stocking standard (requires reforestation with commercially valuable and ecologically suitable tree species)”

Action Item: Aline to develop possible second target related to ecologically preferred species and supply that information to licensees for discussion and consideration in advance of the next meeting. Aline to advance the possible target at the June 2nd meeting.

Indicator 1.2.4-timing of grass seed application (non core indicator).

Discussed differences between Merritt and Kamloops, Kamloops ties in certified seed, no need for separate indicator like Merritt had. Target only deals with the application of seed, no mention of the effectiveness of the seeding. Discussed the reason for seeding, erosion versus invasive control. Timing was discussed, done right after construction versus after logging. May make more sense to do after logging rather than right after construction if logging will destroy the seed.

Agreement: Agreed to adopt Kamloops target #10 as is - “All road cut and fill slope seeding application carried out using certified seed and within 12 months of completed road construction on suitable sites.”

Criteria 1.3- genetic diversity

No core indicators required by the standard. Will come back to values objectives, indicators and targets for this Criteria after completing the remaining indicators. There is a strong possibility that other indicators/targets common to the entire Plan area could be used here.

Value for Element 1.4- Protected areas and sites of special biological significance.

Reviewed all 3 plans current values. Discussed the all the values and what their strengths and subtle differences were. In the end, the PAG liked the Lillooet value but wanted to add in both the geological and the cultural component.

Agreement: The value for Protected areas and sites of special biological significance is -“Appropriate management of protected areas and sites of special geological, biological, and/or cultural significance.”

Objective for Element 1.4 - Protected areas and sites of special biological significance.

Discussed the merits of all three TSA objectives. All were fairly good, some extra discussion on the need for maintaining boundary integrity (it was felt this was something to manage the working forest area near protected areas). In the end, Agreed to a slightly modified version of the Lillooet objective - “Protected areas and sites of special significance are identified and appropriately managed.”

Agreement: The objective for Protected areas and sites of special biological significance is -“Protected areas and sites of special significance are identified and appropriately managed.”

Indicator 1.4.1-identified sites with implemented management strategies

Reviewed the current targets in all three plans. Discussed Merritt #6, having a fairly narrow focus (Identified Wildlife Species only) to something more broad such as all red and blue listed species. This would be an interim step until work on rare sites has been completed (as has been done in Kamloops and Lillooet). Discussed Kamloops #12 and whether to keep or to remove from all. Discussed whether to move to 1.4.2 or if needed at all. Agreed it should not be included in the combined Plan. Lillooet target should be revised to make it clear that not more than 50% of the total identified rare ecosystems be harvested. Lillooet has new parks just announced, but if they are real parks they will be removed from the THLB. Lillooet and Kamloops have both used an expert consultation to help build their existing targets.

Agreement: Agreed to TSA specific targets. Kamloops to retain their target #11, Lillooet to retain their target #3 slightly modified “Harvesting to exceed greater than 50% of the total of each identified rare landscape unit / BEC zone variants”. Merritt to use the Kamloops #6 target (agreed to in 1.2.1).

Action Item (for SFM Plan write-up): Include text to explain why different targets are being used for each TSA. Add parking lot item for Merritt to look into a rare ecosystem indicator.

Indicator 1.4.2- protection of identified sacred and culturally important sites

Reviewed and compared the Kamloops and Lillooet targets (Merritt had no target directly applicable).. Kamloops target dealt with protection while Lillooet target referenced a process of completing archaeological assessments but no specific commitment to implementing outcomes of those assessments. Group preferred the Kamloops target (#13). Discussed if we could have one statement instead of it split with the 'or' in the middle. Decided to keep working as it is (protect **or** manage).

Agreement: Agreed to use Kamloops target #13 as stated: "100% protection of culturally important, sacred and spiritual sites that have been identified and mapped **or** 100% conformance to all plan commitments specifically designed to manage for culturally important, sacred, and spiritual sites that have been identified and mapped."

Possible Indicator 1.4.3- (non-core)

Do we need an indicator to measure performance against the stated value (geological)? There is no requirement for geological in the standard, but it is found in guidance to this section and it is part of the agreed to stated value for the Element. We could have known geological sites managed like known waterfalls, volcanoes, and rich mineral deposits. There is the possibility that targets under indicator 1.4.1 could be used by adding known geological sites to the target. Licencees wanted to understand more on how good the provincial map layer is for geological sites.

Action Item: Aline to review any GIS layers showing known geological sites, what is depicted on the layer and how applicable it would be to forest managers.

Criteria 2: Forest Ecosystem Condition and Productivity

Discussion items included climate change, carbon emissions, human caused disturbance, disturbed areas not salvage harvested. There was no initial desire to further review any of the printed materials related to the discussion items.

Action Item: Confirm if any further discussion is needed related to the discussion items.

Value for Element 2.1 – forest ecosystem resilience

Reviewed current values from all 3 TSA's. It was felt by the group that the first part of the Kamloops values was succinct and appropriate.

Agreement: The value for forest ecosystem resilience is "Sustainable forest ecosystems".

Objective for Element 2.1 – forest ecosystem resilience

The PAG felt that the objective currently used by Merritt was most appropriate as it involved the actions of the participating licensees in maintaining ecosystem resilience.

Agreement: The objective for forest ecosystem resilience is “forest management does not compromise forest ecosystem resilience”.

Indicator 2.1.1- reforestation success

Discussed the merits of all targets within the three TSA’s. Because the broadleaf indicator for Kamloops is reported on periodically in conjunction with Timber Supply Reviews it was felt that the information could be included in the text of the SFM plan. Discussion then revolved around the threshold (90% or 100%) for reforestation within 3 years. Licensees wanted to stay at 90% to allow for protracted logging as the regeneration delay clock starts ticking when logging starts. The PAG agreed to this.

Agreement: Use Merritt target #17 as stated: “90% of area prescribed for planting is completed within the third growing season from start date of harvest”. Further agreed to the first part of Merritt target #10: “All cutblocks will reach free growing requirements on or before the latest date”. Finally agreed to add the reporting (no set target value) of Merritt #11: “report area of cutblocks that outperformed late free growing requirements and average time by which requirements exceeded.”

Value for Element 2.2 – forest ecosystem productivity

Reviewed current values from all 3 TSA’s. All three values were quite similar and appropriate. The group Selected the Merritt value

Agreement: The value for forest ecosystem productivity is “Productive, well functioning forest ecosystems”.

Objective for Element 2.2 – forest ecosystem productivity

The PAG felt that the objective currently used by Kamloops was most appropriate as it included the connectivity of ecosystems.

Agreement: The objective for forest ecosystem productivity is “well functioning connected ecosystems that are managed for timber and non timber forest values.”.

Indicator 2.2.1- additions and deletions to the forest area

Targets are nearly identical and very appropriate. Due to the terrain conditions in Lillooet, agreed to separate it out and retain the 7% number. It is the desire of the PAG to have a single reporting target number for the entire DFA.

Agreement: The target for additions and deletions to the forest area is “Less than 6%, (7% within the Lillooet TSA), on average, of harvested areas will be in permanent roads and landings.”

Indicator 2.2.2- proportion of the long term sustainable harvest level that is actually harvested

Targets similar for all the TSA's. The Kamloops target gives consideration to the forest legislation for cut control and was felt best suited. To avoid confusion, the word annual to be removed (although reporting will still be done on an annual basis).

Agreement: The target for the indicator is “Harvest the cut allocation for the year consistent with the cut control regulation and policy”.

Indicator 2.2.3- riparian conformance (non-core indicator)

This is a non-core indicator, that could be used here (assists with the objective to retain ecosystem connectivity) or in Criteria 3 – Soil and Water. PAG felt it might be well suited in both locations and wanted to include it. Agreed to add the Kamloops target as it included lakeshore commitments.

Agreement: The target for riparian conformance is “100% conformance to riparian and lakeshore commitments made within plans”.

Next meeting: Wednesday, June 2, 2010

3-8 pm

[Best Western Nicola Inn](#)

4025 Walters Street, Merritt

Homework – discussion items for Criteria 3.

Meeting adjourned 8PM.