

Merritt/Kamloops/Lillooet SFM PAG

May 5, 2010, NVIT Room U001 Merritt, BC, 9:00AM

Facilitator: Pat Salm

Attendees:

Rick Cooper, Elizabeth Solomon de Friedberg, Gerry Sanford, Katharine Shewchuk, Wendy McKinney, Chris Lespoe, Jim Baker, Aline Lachapelle, Jan Stadey, Jerry Canuel, Paul Willms, Graham Everett, Leona Antoine, Frank Etchart, Francis Vyse, Simon, Warhurst, Bert Parke, and Corey Kurumi

Reviewed PAG member list (Merritt):

Pat outlined some updating needed for the Merritt advisory group participants, to reflect members that have opted not to continue or have been absent from participating.

Agreement: Al Clarke, Barb and Gord Hamilton, Brian Drobe, Christian Guay, Jed Anderson, Leonard Joe, and Steve Borcsok, will be removed from the active member list and that Al Clarke will be moved to the partial participant list.

SFM plan combination

Licensees in Kamloops, Merritt, and Lillooet will report to their individual plans for 2010. This process will work to combine all three plans for January 1, 2011. Members felt it might be advantageous to understand exactly what area the DFA within the three TSA's would look like.

Action Item: Aline to prepare a map that identifies ther combined DFA for all participating licencees within the three TSA's.

Field Trip:

Scheduled for September 23rd and will be hosted by BCTS. No location or topics have been decided yet. If you have any suggestions or ideas, please contact Rick Cooper.

Schedule:

A typical year is 2 meetings and 1 field trip per year. This is an exceptional year with the work required to update the plan to the new CSA standard. Complicating this is the merging of SFM Plans and advisory groups. The work to rewrite a single plan may take 5-6 meetings. Licencees will pay for travel expenses for PAG members to attend meetings – please see Wendy McKinney for the form needed to submit expenses.

Work Plan:

Reviewed the binder. Bright green pages separate the various sections.

Sections are, background info, terms of reference (need to name this group and the plan), values (need to determine values) discussion items (topics that need discussion and topics that we have discussed), core indicators (new to CSA), supporting information to core indicators, and the actual CSA Z809:08 standard.

Timing of meetings:

Some PAG member prefer daytime meeting, and some prefer afternoon/evening meeting. Concern expressed about night meetings going late and then having to drive. Agreed evening meetings not to go past 8:00 pm. PAG in general agreement to meet every two weeks. No concern expressed about meeting on Wednesdays.

Agreement: two meetings in Merritt and two meetings in Ashcroft, split between evenings and daytime. Lunch or dinner will be served during the meetings. Schedule for meetings as follows:

May 19th: Ashcroft River Inn – 3-8 pm

June 2nd: Merritt NVIT – 3-8 pm

June 16th: Ashcroft River Inn – 9am-3 pm

If more time needed to update the SFM Plan, then meetings will be scheduled following the summer break – actual schedule to be discussed at June 16th meeting if necessary.

CSA standard review:

-CSA has over 3000 different standards, light bulbs, hockey helmets, etc. All standards are built by a balanced process with representation from all sides of the industry. CSA Z809 had representation from FN, industry, academia, government, and other stakeholders.

-Audits to CSA Z809 are conducted by an SCC registered auditor.

-reviewed general statistics on certified area in Canada, BC, and around the world. Canada and BC leading the world in SFM certification.

-reviewed history of the CSA standard. Development started in 1993, first released in 1996, revised 2002 and then revised again in 2008.

-CSA Z809 has been endorsed by PEFC since 2005.

PEFC is an internationally recognized standard.

-strength of the CSA standard, is public participation, performance requirements, and management system requirements.

-CSA standard has 6 performance criteria, broken down by elements; PAG job is to develop values, objectives local indicators (where necessary) and targets, measurement, and indicators for the elements defined by the standard.

Significant changes to the standard include more FN involvement, safety, and community stability. A summary in of changes to this latest version of the standard can be found in Annex C of the standard at the back of the binder.

Meeting process:

Discussed the need to have items reviewed and agreed upon at the meeting sent out for distribution to all PAG members . This would give those who attended the meeting a chance to confirm the agreement and those unable to attend a chance to review and comment on the agreement.

Agreement: that changes suggested and agreed to at the meetings would be indicated in the meeting minutes and finalized at the next meeting, subject to any discussion/concern raised by

Terms of Reference:

Working from the draft Cascades/Kamloops ToR that Pat had developed and included in the binder.

-PAG members will have a background that may be in the outdoor environment but PAG members are at these meeting representing themselves. PAG members are not required to be speaking on behalf of their 'representative organizations'. They are presenting their own views.

-First Nations are working here without prejudice to their rights and treaties.

-Introduction-changed name to the Cascades/Kamloops Defined Area.

Action Item: PAG need to agree upon a name for this 3 TSA plan. One suggestion already received is the "Cascades-Thompson Defined Forest Area SFM Plan."

ToR proposed changes were reviewed and discussed. Under roles and responsibilities discussed the active and interested parties lists and agreed that these are well enough defined, additional rigour around the parameters for being on either list was not needed. Discussed the 'parking lot' and the value of including as information for new members in the terms of reference. Decided not to add anything at this time. Evaluation of the public participation process- historically Kamloops, Lillooet and Merritt did a survey each fall. These surveys are slightly different and will at some point later this year, need to be merged into a single survey.

Agreement: Accepted the revised ToR as proposed (and with changes to include all licencees in the newly defined operating area). Also agreed to the following additions to the ToR:

- Operating guidelines - remove the statement that new PAG members 'make a request to the facilitator' to join.
- Decision making process- agreed to better define consensus to "substantial agreement not unanimity".
- Evaluation of the public participation process - agreed to change text to make it clear that the survey is for public members only, not for all PAG participants, ie- not companies.

Change process for the SFM Plan

We will review the discussion items, values, objectives, indicators and targets for each Criteria. Will start with an initial review of discussion items. Following that, the values and objectives will be agreed upon, and finally move into targets and indicators.

Criteria 1

Discussion Items:

Some of the mandatory discussion items have already been discussed in previous meetings. Kamloops has already had all the required discussion. Lillooet is a bit of an unknown, Lillooet PAG members were asked if they could speak up if there were any discussion items they wanted to review. Otherwise this PAG will discuss all the ones that are needed for the Merritt PAG group. PAG was asked if they could do homework before each PAG meeting to review discussion item material in the binder in advance of each meeting, to allow for conversation at subsequent PAG meeting.

Action Item: PAG to review discussion item material for criteria 1 and 2 (homework) and as a group will discuss any items needing more explanation or clarification at the May 19th meeting.

Values for Element 1.1 Ecosystem Diversity:

Had considerable discussion on the values currently within the 3 SFM Plans and what would be appropriate for the combined Plan. Views narrowed to the selection of -“Functioning ecosystems that support natural processes” or “well-balanced ecosystems that support natural processes”. Discussed what ‘Functioning’ means versus ‘well-balanced’, discussed differences between the two. Discussed ‘Healthy ecosystems’ and if they differ from ‘functioning’ and ‘well balanced’.

Agreement: the PAG values “healthy functioning ecosystems that support natural processes.”

Objectives for Element 1.1 Ecosystem Diversity:

Discussion of what constitutes an ecosystem, specific to forests or to all ecosystems. Does natural forests mean the same as full range of habitat? Does planting a cutblock mean we still have a natural forest? Some of the objectives are the same between the three SFM Plans currently, like representation of natural attributes, and some are present in 2 Plans like connectivity of forests. Connected forest ecosystems is important to most of the PAG members. It was generally felt that it was better to keep the objectives broad and allow the core and/or local indicators narrow the focus.

Agreement: the PAG objective was for “Healthy, connected ecosystems with a representation of natural attributes.”

Core Indicators for Element 1.1 Ecosystem Diversity

Having discussed values and objectives, we now need to look at the core indicators and recommended targets. Additionally, we will need to decide if the core indicators adequately measure the agreed to values. Where this occurs, no further work is required. Where core indicators fall short of measuring the value, a local indicator will be considered. Reviewed the Core indicators, and how they line up to the criteria. Reviewed the comparison between present indicators from Lillooet, Merritt, and Kamloops SFM plans.

Indicator 1.1.1 Ecosystem Area by Type

Discussed BC's Biogeoclimatic ecosystem classification system, a land classification system that groups together ecosystems with similar climate, soils and vegetation. It classifies ecosystems by zones, subzones, variants and at the field level by site series. Discussed the sentence 'maintain the presence and representative area of Biogeoclimatic Zones..' Do we want an inventory to be part of the plan, do we want maps? Discussed amending the target to "Maintain the presence and representative area of the Biogeoclimatic Zone within the plan area to the subzone level." This may make it clearer for the PAG. Discussed how updates occur and how changes happen to the area of Biogeoclimatic subzones (largely out of licencees control). Changes usually happen during Timber Supply Reviews (occurring at the TSA level. The province does have ecosystem maps publicly available (<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfd/pubs/docs/M/M008.htm>).

Agreement: leave the target the way it is and to accept it as "Maintain the presence and representative area of Biogeoclimatic Zones to the subzone level within the plan area." Also agreed to have licensees supply maps of these zones within their operating areas of each TSA and include these in the updated SFM Plan

Indicator 1.1.2 Forest Area by type or species composition

Reviewed current targets in Lillooet, Kamloops, and Merritt. Need to add graphic pie chart to plan text showing timber inventory by tree species. Discussed changing Kamloops target 3, changing the threshold of inventory species from 1% to 10%, There was a concern that licencees could meet the target with a distribution of 98% one tree species with the other two species at 1% each. Licensee discussed problems and the potential need for variance. Discussed the survey procedure for FTG surveys, how it only measures to 10% on the inventory label. Kamloops licencees have instructed surveyors to estimate species beyond the 10% minimum, down to the single percent. In order to understand if this is an issue at all, it was agreed to report on the primary, secondary and tertiary species percentages – as an average across all areas reported on in the reporting year. Discussed removing Kamloops target 2-broadleaf species on the land base. Some PAG members wanted to keep. There is value in reviewing the amount of broadleaf species on a landscape. Other possibility is to include broadleaf species in the text of the Plan (as an indicator it is reported only periodically in conjunction with inventory updating for Timber Supply Reviews).

Agreement: adopt Kamloops target 3, but to also report out on the percentage of the first, second, and third species present on a cut block to get an understanding of the average species distribution for those areas reported on as meeting the target. Further agreed to remove Kamloops target 2-broadleaf and move the information on broadleaf species to the text of the SFM Plan.

Indicator 1.1.3 Forest Area by seral stage or age class

Reviewed current targets in Kamloops, Merritt, and Lillooet. Some are very similar with subtle differences, like Kamloops #4 and Merritt #34. Lillooet is very complex and specific. Discussed the differences between the Merritt and Kamloops numbers. Discussed the information in the TSR about timber modelling and the distribution of age classes. Discussed the difference in age class interval 50 or 100 years. Licensees to look into having a consistent reference point. Lillooet TSA is currently absent of a target.

Discussed Merritt target 33, is there value in keeping this target? Discussed how protected areas are created, how to deal with incursions. Discussed the value of the first part of the target, and agreed it was better information to include in the Plan text. Discussed maintaining the second part of target 33 related to old forest. Agreed this should be added - "Maintain the retention of existing or replacement draft old growth management area."

Agreement: use Kamloops target 4, report by TSA with targets specific to the TSA and using a consistent reference point of 50 years (if that data is currently available for the Merritt TSA). Failing that separate reference points (50 and 100 years) will be used.

Agreed to include the portion of Merritt target 33 "Maintain the retention of existing or replacement draft old growth management area."

Action Item: Aspen Planers will need to supply target information and reference point for the Lillooet TSA.

Meeting adjourned at 1500hrs.

Next meeting reminder: May 19th: Ashcroft River Inn – 3-8 pm

The River Inn located at: 50 1 Street, Ashcroft, BC V0K 1A0

Thanks everybody!