

Minutes
Okanagan Sustainable Forest Management Plan
Public Advisory Group Meeting
Ramada Inn – Kelowna
April 12, 2007

8:30am Pre-Meeting Summary for New Participants:

Prior to the commencement of the full Public Advisory Group (PAG) meeting, a short orientation session was held for new and interested members of the Okanagan PAG. Topics covered included:

- an overview of the development of the PAG, and the adoption of the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Standards for participating licencees.
- the principle of continuous improvement and the CSA process of planning, review, and revision.
- the respective roles of the public members and licencees in the CSA Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) process. (see Figure 1 – attached). It was noted and discussed that the role of 3rd party auditors should be added to Figure 1)
- The current PAG Terms of Reference were also reviewed in detail

9:30am Full Public Advisory Group Meeting - Attendees

Morrie Thomas	Pat Salm	<u>Don Guild</u>
Jeff Lipsett	Dave Keeler	Barry Beadman
Richard Toperczer	Ted McRea	John Friesen
<u>Paul Ross</u>	Peter Wise	Jody McCall
<u>Randy Hardy</u>	Kerry Rouck	Scott Smith
<u>Norm Parkin</u>	Mike Watkins	Brian Drobe
Jim Bryan	Dave Gill	<u>Scott Beeching</u>
Patti Meger	<u>Rob Kennett</u>	Emery Robins (to 1:30am)

Facilitator: Les Laithwaite Minutes: Mark Hopkins

(Note: underlined individuals above were also present at the “pre-meeting”)

1.0 Introductions and Agenda Review

Following the self introduction of all participants, the agenda was reviewed, with the following changes:

- Peter Wise requested addition of a discussion on the allocation of timber rights with Ministry of Forests (MOF) reps (later withdrawn as issue addressed)
- John Dunford was unavailable to present agenda item 6. This item is deferred to the Fall meeting.

2.0 Gorman Bros. Lumber Ltd. Certification Audit - Kerry Rouck

- Gorman's conducted an internal audit of their CSA-SFM system in January 2007, followed by a successful registration audit over the period Feb 13-15, 2007.
- The independent audit was conducted by the firm QMI. A summary of their findings was also distributed. – copies available from Gorman's.
- Other pending licensee audits include Tolko, towards the end of August/07 Weyerhaeuser in September/07, and a second (snow-free) audit of Gorman Bros. in the Fall of 2007
- The precise dates of these audits will be announced when available and PAG members are welcome to attend.

3.0 Addition of New Licences to Okanagan SFMP

- Pat S. outlined the history of licensee membership, in order, Weyerhaeuser, Tolko, most recently Gorman Bros. B.C. Timber Sales (BCTS) is currently reporting their activities for the annual monitoring report.
- There was some discussion on the merits of Timber Supply Area (TSA) wide membership as compared to only including the operating areas of participating licensees. Pat S. will report back to the PAG at the Fall meeting as potential members want more information.
- Mike W. asked about coordination of operations with non-participating licensees. Pat S. and Paul R. described benefits of having all licensees in the process, and the current referral process to other operators, respectively.
- Kerry R. outlined current watershed level analysis being done by Dobson Engineering.
- Tolko is conducting voluntary development plan open houses to improve extension and referral.

B.C. Timber Sales Presentation

Dave Gill, RPF, BCTS Planning Officer

A copy of Dave's powerpoint presentation is attached, highlights include:

- The BCTS objective of having operations SFM certified by the end of 2008.
- An internal audit is scheduled for Fall 2007, registration audit in 2008.
- Internal data management issues seem to be the biggest implementation hurdle.
- BCTS operations currently occupy approx 25% of the TSA landbase.
- In response to questions, Dave indicated that BCTS is held to the same standards as other licensees, and that BCTS contractors currently receive full map packages of all operations. The question of GENUS (BCTS database) compatibility with other licensees was deferred to a subsequent meeting.

4.0 Action Item Updates

A copy of the Action Item update was attached to the agenda of this meeting (and these minutes). With the exception of item 4(a) (John Dunford presentation) all items have been covered, or are included as separate agenda items. Due to unforeseen circumstances, John's presentation is deferred to the Fall/07 PAG meeting.

5.0 2006 Monitoring Report Review

General Opening Comments

Tolko noted the challenge of meeting the reporting requirements of the recently acquired Riverside operating area. New system of tagging specific Staff members with "ownership" of specific indicators is working well.

Discussion on Specific Indicators:

Indicator #1 - Representation of Seral Stage Distribution by Natural Disturbance Type (NDT)

Issues/Comments:

NDT 4 has an "Old" age class target of 13% however only 7% is currently in this category. There has been virtually no harvest activity in NDT 4 therefore only time can increase the percentage. Is this therefore a worthwhile Indicator?

Resolution:

This indicator will be examined by the licencees for possible adjustment. There was some PAG support to keep current version

Indicator #3 – Report on Total Area of Clearcuts by Size Categories.

Issues/Comments:

There is no firm target included with this indicator.

The target was intentionally not included as it was intended that this indicator would serve a reporting function only –to gather information on Cutblock opening size trends.

Resolution:

Future monitoring reports will include either a footnote of explanation and/or a graphical representation of the trend.

Indicator #13 – Managing Water Quality (2007 Plan)

Issues/Comments:

The absence of this Indicator was noted by some PAG members. This Indicator was added in the 2007 SFM Plan, as such no date was collected for the 2006 Monitoring Report.

Resolution:

The 2007 Monitoring Report will report on this Indicator.

Indicator#14 – Number of Slides Resulting from Forest Management Activities (>0.1ha) Originating In, or Adjacent To, Harvested Areas or Inspected Permanent Roads.

Issues/Comments

The report mentions three landslides, there is no indication as to the scope and impact of the slides.

Resolution:

Future monitoring reports will include more detail as to the nature and extent of any slides.

Indicator #17 – Percentage of Cutblock Area that Meets Free-Growing Requirements On or Before the Latest Date

Issues/Comments:

Although 98.5% of the blocks (and a greater amount of the total harvested area) met the indicator requirements, this was still short of the 100% target. The legal requirement is to have 100% of the area meet the free-growing requirement in the prescribed timeframe. To have a target which is less than the legal requirement is not recommended.

Resolution:

This indicator will be examined by the licencees for possible adjustment.

Indicator #21 – Percentage of Permanent Status Roads That Have Had Inspections Completed as per Plans

Issues/Comments:

It is not clear in the report what the total km of “Permanent” status roads is (100% of which is to be risk assessed). Only the total planned for inspection and the km inspected is included. This makes calculating overall achievement difficult. Licencees acknowledge difficulty in tracking inspection reports, especially in wake of Tolko acquisition of Riverside. BCTS acknowledges this as a challenging area as well.

Resolution:

Licencees will endeavor to enhance their data management in this area.

6.0 Provincial Indicator Development Initiative

This item was deferred to the Fall meeting as the presenter was unavailable

7.0 Mountain Pine Beetle Update - Heather Rice, Forest Officer, Okanagan/Shuswap Forest District

Specific questions arising from the presentation and requiring follow-up, include:

- What is the percentage of pine by watershed in the Okanagan and Shuswap Drainages? **(Heather Rice will source info)**
- Are the ha's of infected forest presented cumulative or not? **(Heather Rice will source info)**
- What benefit (if any) is there to the hydrologic regime to leaving dead, beetle killed trees in some watersheds? **(Gorman's will make the results of it's investigation into this issue available this Fall)**
- Is fire risk is increased or decreased in fire-killed stands, particularly in mixed species stands. **(An expert in this area will be sought for a presentation to the PAG at the Fall Meeting).**
- It was suggested that the presentation could be modified to include more wildlife impact information
- The endorsement of the lack of fire on the landscape as a contributor to the current beetle outbreak was recognized by a PAG member.

8.0 Summary and Wrap-up

Questionnaire Received

A request has been received by a licensee PAG member from a University of Alberta Grad student to circulate a questionnaire amongst the PAG members regarding the process. Discussion ensued. **The decision was made not to participate in the survey.**

Travel Cost Re-imbusement

Public members of the PAG may recoup their travel costs to and from the meeting by submitting the total # of km driven to Rob Kennett at Tolko. Km's will be paid at the current BC government rate. (e-mail, fax or mail all acceptable)

Fall Field Trip

Tolko will be hosting the fall field trip, tentatively scheduled as follows:

Date: Thursday, September 20th

Time: 8:00am -4:00pm

Meet: Summerland (details TBA)

Tour Location: Trout Creek Area

Change of Facilitator

Les Laithwaite is stepping out of his role as OSFMP facilitator, Mark Hopkins replacing him in this role. Thanks Les, for a job well done.

Appendix

Supporting Information and Action Items from Fall 2006 Meeting

Agenda Item 2 – Gorman Bros. CSA Certification Audit

- a) Kerry will provide an overview
- b) Feedback from public members attending the audit

Agenda Item 3 – Addition of licensees to the Okanagan SFM process

- a) Licensees will provide an update on non participating licensees' interest
- b) BC Timber Sales (Dave Gill) will provide
 - Updated SFM Plan statistics that include BCTS operating area
 - BCTS view of the current SFM Plan -- reaction/acceptance/concerns
- c) Plans to maintain a representative PAG membership
- d) Advisory Group questions, discussion

Agenda Item 4– Action Items from December Meeting

- a. Action: Les Laithwaite to invite John Dunford – complete – agenda item 6
- b. Action: Ted is to let Emery know who is leading the Provincial initiative on cultural values – complete
- c. Action: Terms of Reference to be included as an appendix of the SFM Plan - complete
- d. Action: Kerry will work with public members and the auditors to determine participation in Gorman's certification audit - complete
- e. Action: Licensees to arrange a Mountain Pine Beetle update for the spring meeting – complete – agenda item 7
- f. Action: licensees to determine what the non-participating licensees' intentions are regarding the Okanagan SFM process – complete – agenda item 3
- g. Action: BC Timber Sales will provide a presentation regarding their inclusion in the Okanagan SFM Plan process – complete – agenda item 3

Agenda Item 5 – 2006 Monitoring Report Review

- a. Results
- b. Indicator 3 & 25 adjustment
- c. PAG survey comments, were as follows:

A) SFM Plan

1. A good set of measurable criteria has been developed that support
 - Sustainable operations
 - Collaboration between industrial and environmental interests
2. Objectives of the SFM are admirable and the intent to implement them is worthwhile.
3. A concern that on the ground implementation does not meet the plan's objectives:
 - Distribution of benefits to the community, particularly employment
 - Water and riparian values
 - Harvesting systems
 - Timber utilization

B) SFM Plan process

1. Length and organization of meetings:
 - The earlier meeting times are supported
 - Reduce the agenda when possible and allow for more input and discussion
 - Meetings are well facilitated
 - Additional meeting time may be required with the inclusion of more licensees, and the resulting expansion of the Advisory Group. This would be a burden for (some of) the volunteers. Request licensees/facilitator make every effort to keep the meetings to the present time frames.
2. Effectiveness of meetings
 - Meetings are providing an opportunity for forest companies
 - To complete CSA mandated tasks
 - To understand what other stakeholders' visions are for sustainability
 - Meetings provide a forum for all to learn and engage in meaningful discussion leading to reduced forestry impacts on other resources
 - Not all the issues discussed are resolved
 - There is a need for more forward looking, broad discussions of topics that are becoming dominant criteria for sustainable management and are of major interest (mountain pine beetle, global warming, diminishing water, future forestry management etc)
 - Increase the integration of the dynamic round table concept in the SFM process
3. Other:
 - Satisfied with the overall functioning of the process

- Some survey questions have two parts and a person could have two answers (7, 10, others?)
- Involvement of independent parties to audit the companies' environmental standards is recommended (*Comment: independent third party auditors are used*)
- Have not received the minutes (*hard copy now being mailed*)

C) Other interests/concerns

1. SFM standards end when logs arrive at the mill
2. Would like to accompany an audit in specific watersheds
3. While relationships between the licensees and other resource users are better understood, the relationships themselves are not always positive

Agenda Item 6 – Provincial Indicator Development Initiative

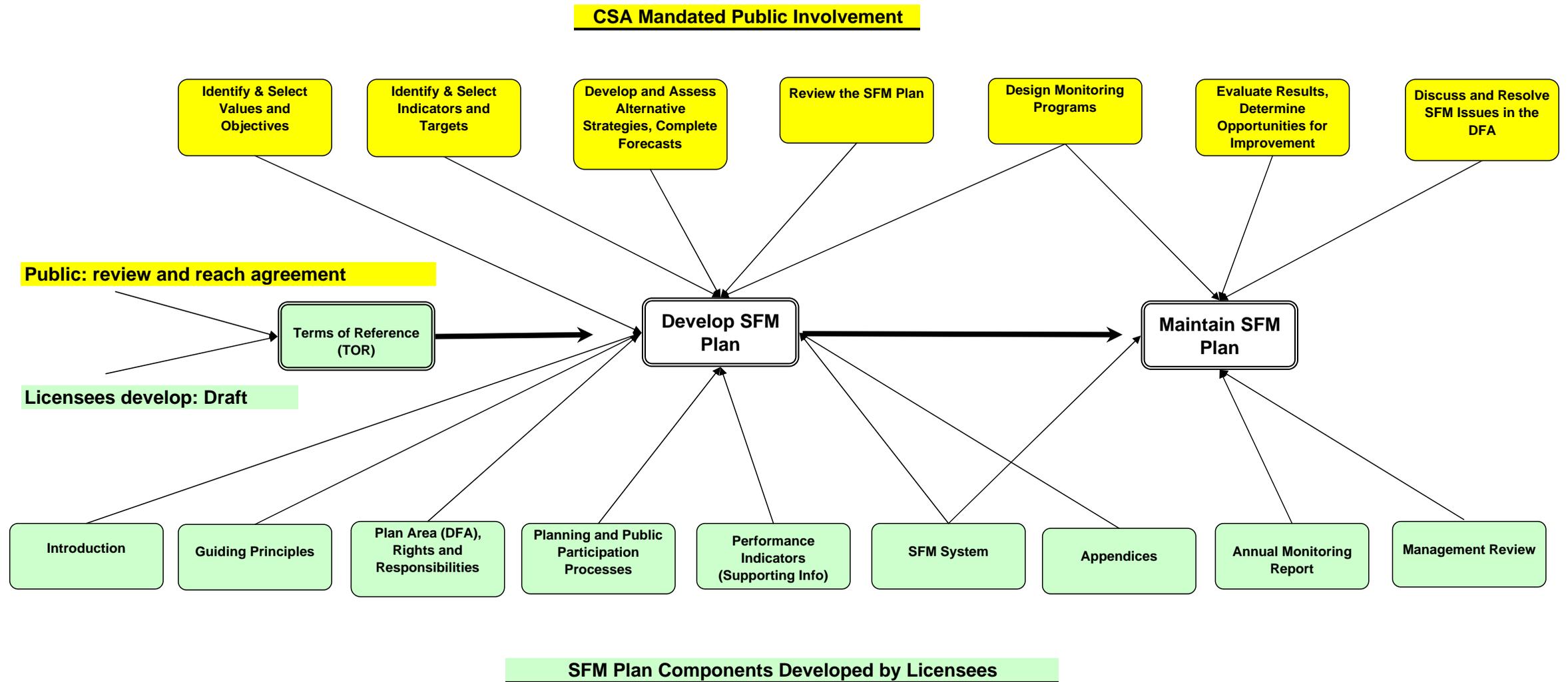
John Dunford, Manager, Forestry and Sustainability for Tolko, will provide perspectives on the Provincial indicator development initiative including status and next steps. He will focus on genetics and ecosystem management.

Part of the Target for Indicator 33 (An Effective Public Advisory Group) includes a requirement that all written comments be reviewed and considered by the licensees. John will also touch on one of the comments from the 2005 PAG survey regarding the effectiveness of the CSA process.

Agenda Item 7 – Mountain Pine Beetle update

- a) Last couple of years statistics and what is the expected progression
- b) What are the strategies and how are they being implemented

Figure 1: Public Involvement in SFM Plan Development and Maintenance



Inclusion of BCTS Operating Areas into the Okanagan Defined Forest Area

Dave Gill, RPF
Planning Officer
BCTS – Okanagan-Columbia

April 12, 2007



BCTS - who are we?

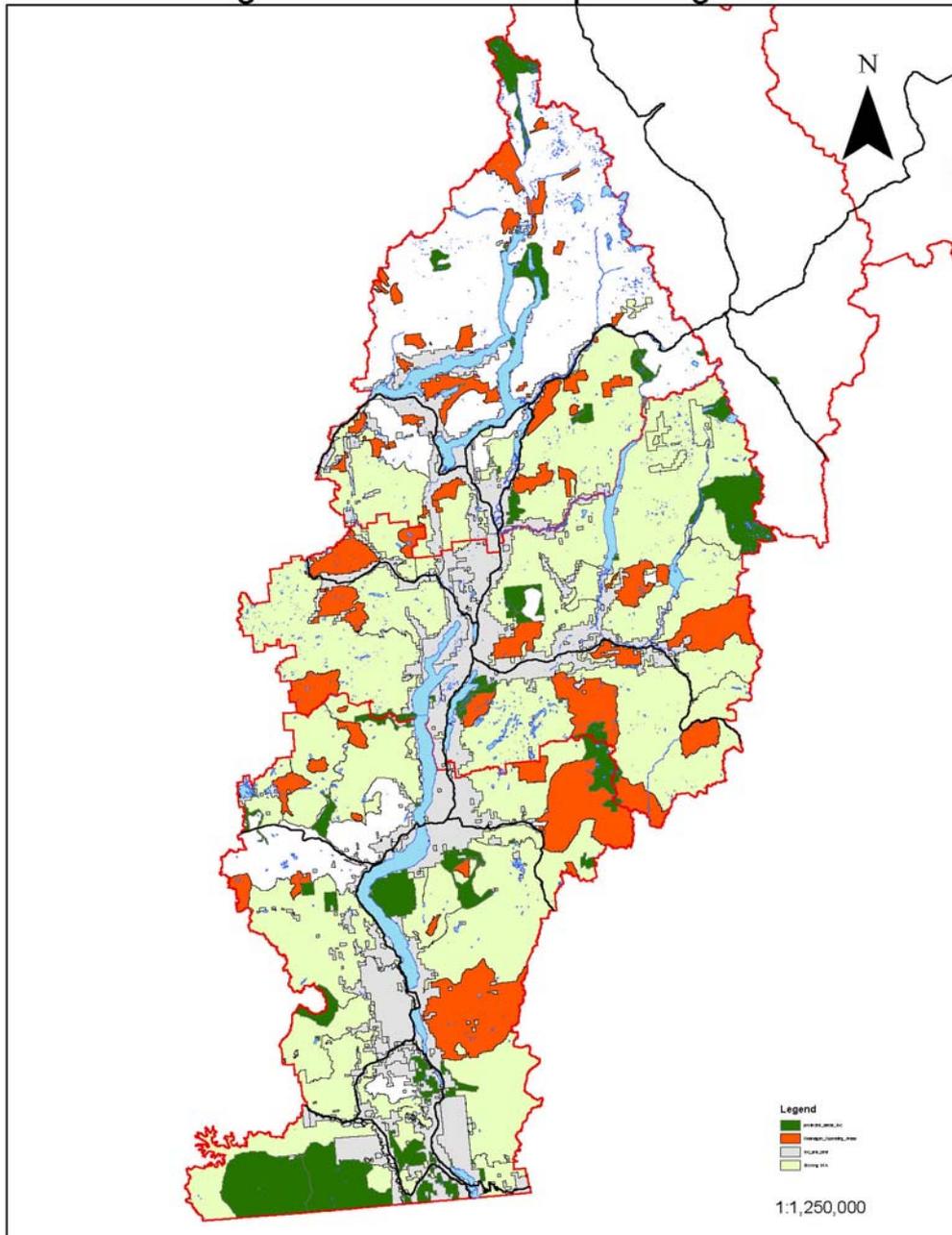
- We are an independent organization within the Ministry of Forests and Range;
- Our role is to competitively auction 20% of the Province's Crown timber to provide information used in determining the stumpage price for the remaining harvest;
- Our Mission is to market Crown timber to establish market price and capture the value of the asset for the public;
- We have 12 Business Areas throughout the Province, are present in 33 communities, and provincially have an AAC of 16 million m³



Why Certify?

- SFM is viewed as a best practice in forest and resource management;
- SFM provides an effective forum for the exchange of knowledge and ideas;
- Important for market access;
- Builds on our existing Environmental Management System; and
- Corporate direction

Existing DFA and BCTS Operating Areas



BCTS Operating Areas

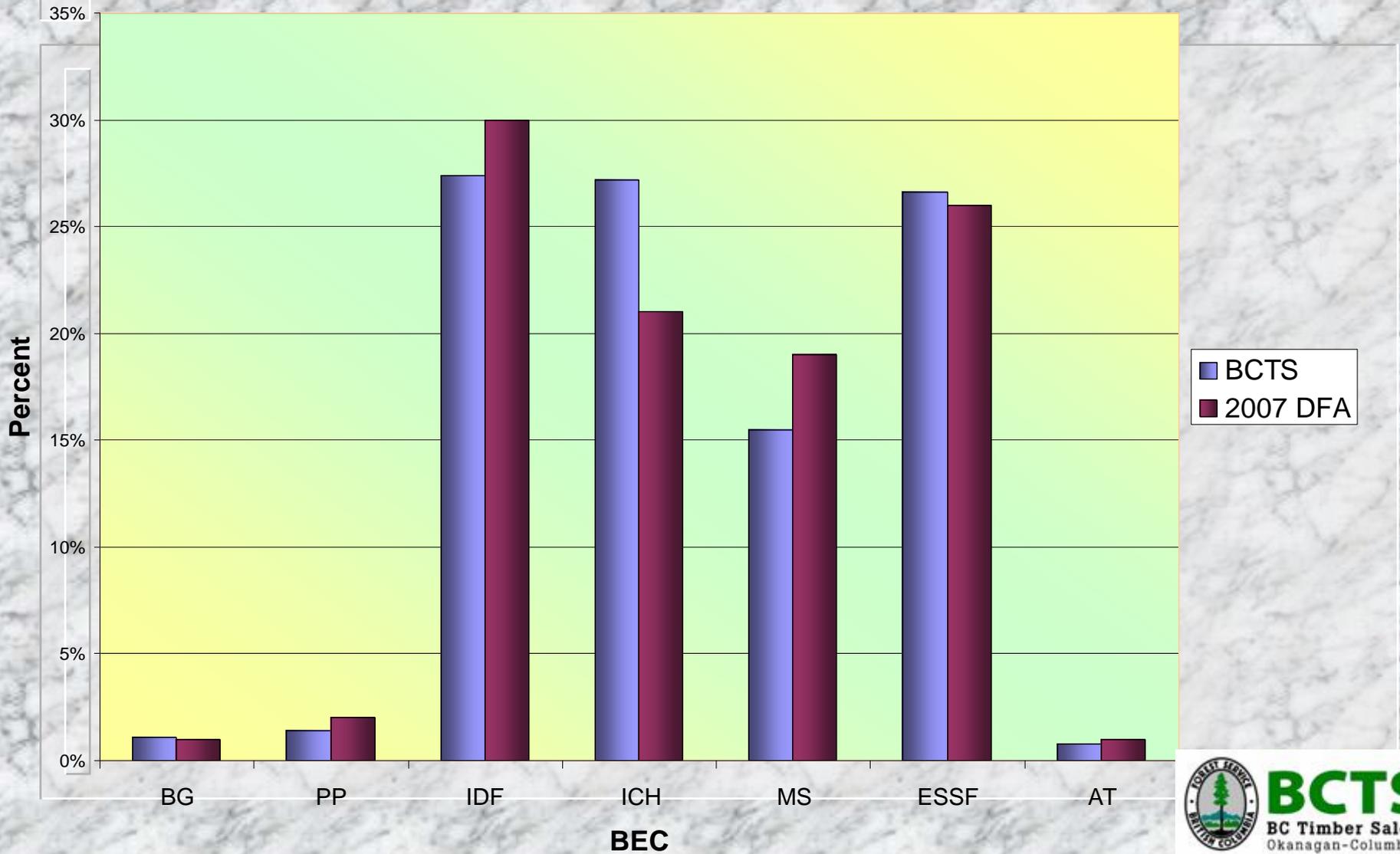
- Fills in existing gaps;
- Additional representation from the northern portion of the TSA;
- Increases DFA by 293,000 ha's (25%);
- Annual area harvested under the SFM will increase by about 1,750 ha's

DFA Characteristics

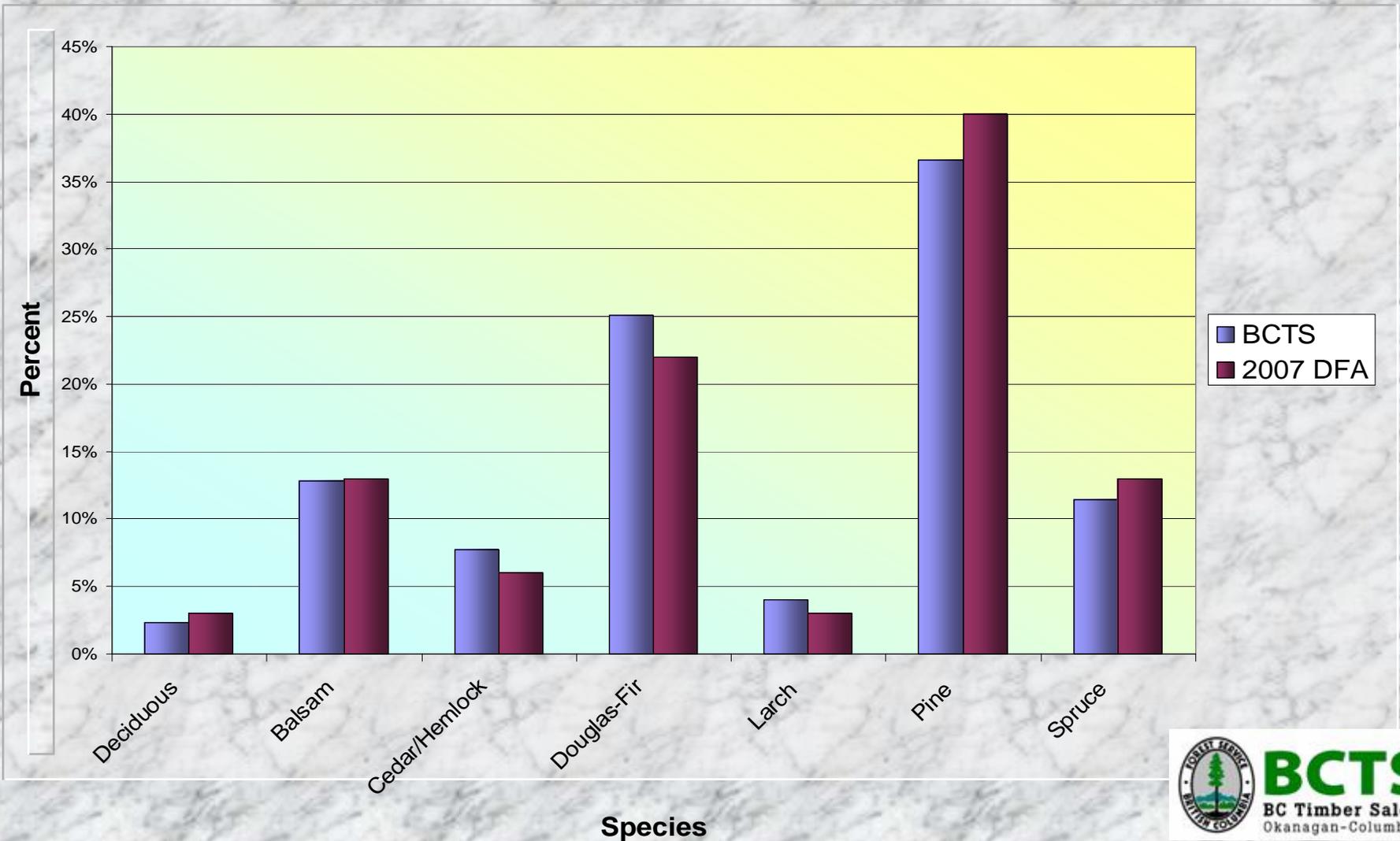
How will the landscape level characteristics change with the inclusion of BCTS?

- Biogeoclimatic Zones
- Leading Species Distribution
- Age Class Distribution

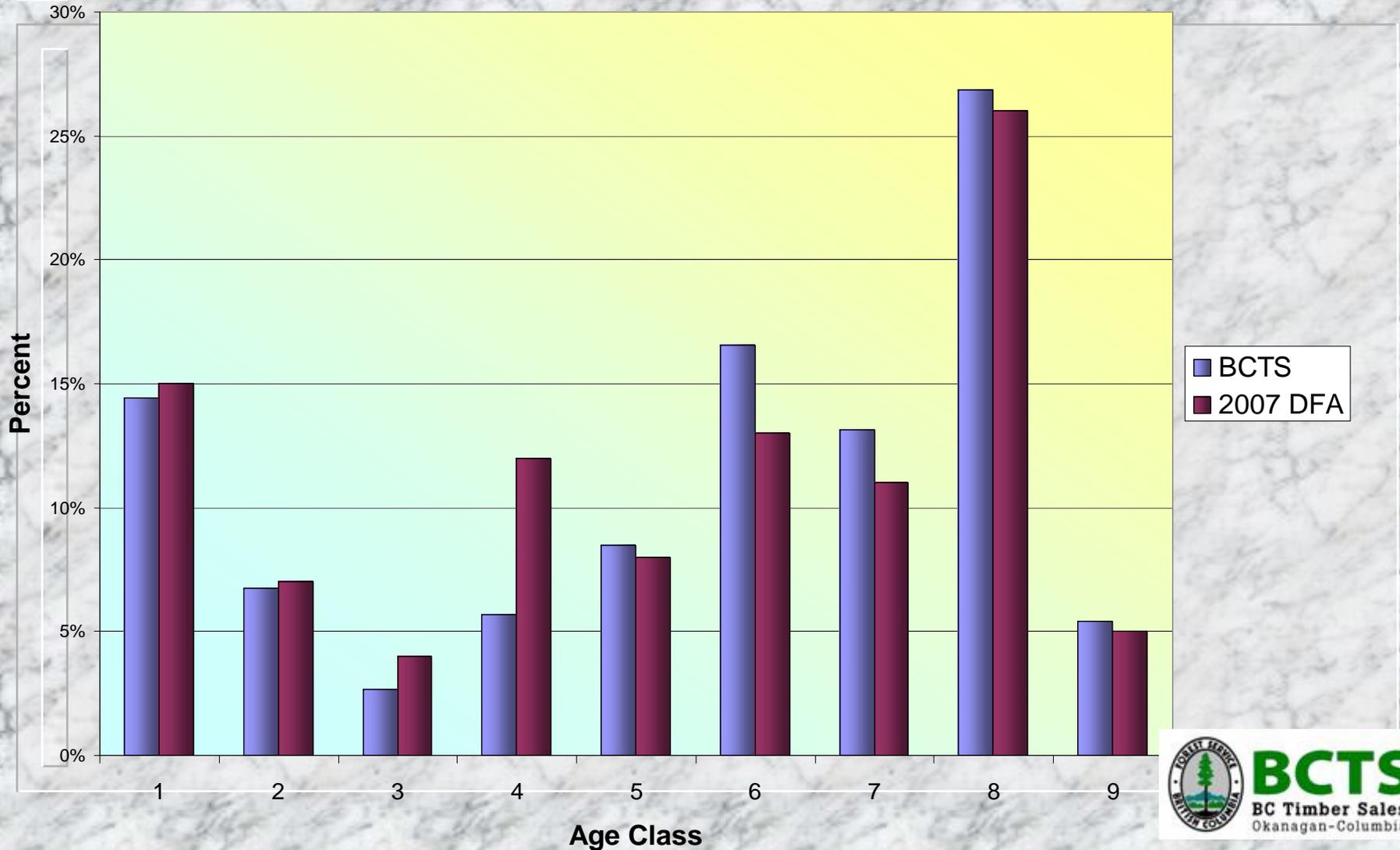
Biogeoclimatic Zones



Species Composition



Age Class Distribution



PAG Representation

Can BCTS bring in stakeholders who can complement the PAG?

- Potential from the northern portion of the TSA (Shuswap Lake);
- Filling in gaps elsewhere;
- Thoughts?

Next Steps

- Implement finding of February 2007 Gap Analysis;
- Continue to develop GENUS and other systems to track indicators;
- Internal audit scheduled for October 2007; and,
- Registration Audit scheduled for February 2008

In Conclusion

- We recognize the importance of SFM and the significance of working together with a PAG;
- We thank you for the opportunity to get involved, that you've provided us with over the past 2 years; and,
- We welcome the opportunity to be part of the Plan, to complement the DFA, and to participate more fully in the future