

**Weyerhaeuser/Tolko
Okanagan Sustainable Forest Management Plan**

**Meeting Summary
SFM Advisory Group Meeting, December 7, 2006**

Meeting Attendance

√	Albert Hanson	√	Mike Watkins
√	Barry Beadman	√	Morrie Thomas
√	Brian Drobe	√	Pat Salm
√	Cam Leadbeater	√	Patti Meger
√	Darcie Annesley	√	Paul Ross
	Dave Keeler	√	Peter Wise
√	Emery Robins		Real Rousseau
	Ed Sims	√	Renee Clark
	Grant Furness	√	Richard Toperczer
√	James Moller	√	Rob Kennett
√	Jim Bryan		Ron Racine
√	Jody McCall		Scott Smith
	John Friesen		Sean Ardis
√	Juergen Hansen	√	Ted McCrae
√	Karl Wabneggar		Tony Baptiste
√	Kerry Rouck		Wayne Cunneyworth
√	Les Laithwaite		

**Weyerhaeuser/Tolko
Okanagan Sustainable Forest Management Plan**

DRAFT AGENDA

SFM Advisory Group Meeting

Date: Dec 7, 2006

Time: 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM (lunch provided)

Place: Ramada Inn, 2170 Harvey Ave, Kelowna, BC

Meeting Objectives:

Improvement of the OSFMP for 2007

Agenda Topics (refer to following pages for supporting information):

1	Introductions & Agenda Review	9:30 – 9:40
2	Inclusion of Gorman Bros Lumber Ltd in the OSFMP	9:40 -- 10:10
3	Action Items	10:10 – 10:30
	<i>Break</i>	10:30 – 10:45
3 Con't	Action Items	10:45 -- 11:25
4	Provincial Indicator Development Initiative	11:25 -- 12:00
	<i>Lunch</i>	12:00 -- 12:45
5	Proposed OSBR SFMP improvements	12:45 – 2:00
	i. Terms of Reference	
	ii. Indicators	
	iii. Significant Changes to Text	
	iv. Housekeeping	
6	CSA Updates	2:00 – 2:30
	i. Third Party Audits	
	ii. CSA Update	
	iii. Core set of indicators	
	<i>Break</i>	2:30 – 2:45
7	MOE 2005 Monitoring Report comments	2:45 to 2:55
8	PAG fall field trip feedback and opportunities	2:55 to 3:15
9	Summary and Wrap-up	3:15 to 3:30
	Reminder re Annual PAG Survey	

Supporting Information

Agenda Item – Introductions & Agenda Review

Participants introduced themselves. Rein Kahlke also attended from BC Timber Sales to outline their plans for CSA certification.

Additions to the draft agenda were included in Item 9: Summary and Wrap-up

Agenda Item 2 – Inclusion of Gorman Bros Lumber in the OSFMP

Kerry Rouck:

- Presented overview information on change to the Okanagan plan area and statistics. He also addressed PAG membership and next steps for Gorman (attached)
- Overall there will be very little change to species composition, Biogeoclimatic Zone occurrence or age class distribution. Little influence on existing Indicators is anticipated.
- One new PAG member invited by Gorman (Karl Wabneggar) was in attendance. Four more members of the public have agreed to join and plan to attend the spring meeting (2 from Peachland, and 2 from Keremeos).
- Gorman's view of the current SFM Plan (reaction/acceptance/concerns)
 - With replacement of Forest Development Plans with Forest Stewardship plans, company contact with the public regarding plans and operations has decreased significantly. Gorman staff anticipates dialogue with the Advisory Group will in part offset this trend.

Advisory Group questions, discussion

- There is an active planning process occurring in the Apex area, does Gorman have an interest? Yes, Kerry will participate.
- Why CSA versus other certification systems?
 - Had considered FSC and participated on the Standards Development Committee
 - There was a lack of certainty regarding the standards, Tembec is now certified but it was quite a process
 - Lack of area based tenure also did not make FSC a good fit
 - SFI perceived as easier but an American standard
 - CSA certification aligns with others in the Okanagan (Weyerhaeuser & Tolko)
 - Also, the Public Advisory Group aspect of CSA was a key for Gorman

Agenda Item 3 – Action Items From April Meeting

1. **Topic** -- Choice of species for regeneration

Action -- **Paul Ross** believes there is a report out and will provide highlights at the fall meeting

- The Chief Forester of BC is leading an ongoing "Future Forest Ecosystems of BC" team
- The initiative is addressing both Mountain Pine Beetle and climate change
- The team includes entomologists, ecologists, geneticists, silviculturists and other specialists (2 specialists from the Southern Interior Forest Region are on the team)
- Objectives include:
 1. Understand the range of natural variability of ecosystem components, including soils, hydrology, species composition, landscape features, and natural disturbances such as fire, insects and disease;
 2. Measure whether we're managing to maintain ecosystem components within their range of natural variability;
 3. Predict how climate change might alter the range of natural variability of ecosystem components;

4. Set forest management goals and objectives that maintain and enhance ecological resilience; and,
 5. Communicate forest management goals and objectives that support ecological resilience.
- Dialogue with industry is expected when projects start reaching the field level.
 - Outcomes and recommended action to date:
 - i. Manage to Forest Stewardship Plan stocking standards
 - ii. Emphasis on managing to Targets for preferred species
 - Following are links to related web sites:

<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/fft/committees/sdag/reports/SpeciesManagement-All-Final-print.pdf>

http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hts/Future_Forests/
2. **Topic** – Biodiversity indicators: particularly Wildlife “populations”, genetics and ecosystem management
- a) **Action: Licensees**
- Review Trapper’s Survey as a basis for developing information on trends. (work with Pete Wise and BC Trappers Association)
 - Most appropriate questions to be determined.
 - Licensee review of the Trapper Survey with Peter resulted in a mutual decision that using it would not be viable (refer to handout)
 - The trapper survey is “harvest data”; it would not provide information on species not trapped. A better question to ask would be “What are you seeing?”
 - Also, there are gaps in reporting so its application would be “splotchy”
 - What industry can manage for and influence is habitat, not populations
 - Intention: industry to work with trappers to understand habitat and animals in the habitat. (effective communication)
 - Is training open? The BC Trappers Association are more than happy to accommodate anyone interested
 - The key: good communication with trappers and guides
 - Need to plan diversity and retention on the ground, the plan has indicators that address this
 - An observation by some group members was 20 to 25 year old stands are looking good; biodiversity and species are reestablishing
 - It was noted that biodiversity indicators are a Parking Lot item
 - Dr John Stelfox might be a suitable guest speaker/expert at a future meeting – formerly with the Alberta Wildlife Service, now in Vernon
- b) **Action: Les Laithwaite** to invite John Dunford to the fall PAG meeting to provide perspectives on the Provincial indicator development initiative including status and next steps. Request a focus on genetics and ecosystem management.
- Action:** John to be rescheduled for the spring meeting due to an illness in his family
- c) **Action: Ted McCrae** will provide an update on the Resource Stewardship Monitoring Program at the fall PAG meeting (FREP: Forest and Range Evaluation Program)
- Objective: assess the effectiveness of legislation, regulations, policy and other Government direction on managing for the 11 identified resource values.
 - 2006 was the first year of monitoring in the Okanagan Shuswap Forest District
 - Plots are being established across the province in blocks logged under the Forest Practices Code. It will be two or three years before Forest and Range Practices Act blocks will be available for monitoring.

- In the Okanagan, “stand level diversity” and “riparian” were the values monitored in 2006. Piloting of “stand level soils” has started and will be fully implemented in the Okanagan in 2007 or 2008.
- In 2006, 15 blocks were randomly chosen for evaluation. It will take a while to develop local trends. Information from the 15 blocks will be rolled out as part of a Provincial Report around March 2007
- What riparian indicators are being used? They include:
 - Invertebrates in the water
 - Bank erosion
 - Amount of windthrow, debris in the stream
 - Vertical or overhanging banks
 - Both qualitative and quantitative indicators
- Is recreation influence noted? Notes are made; it is not a specific question.
- Is there an opportunity to involve water purveyors? Yes, but the randomness of the blocks means the evaluation may be outside of the purveyor’s area of interest.
- Comment: very interesting work from the public’s perspective.
- **Action: Ted** is to let Emery know who is leading the Provincial initiative on cultural values
- Forest and Range Evaluation Program web page is at <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/frep/>

3. Topic – Private land log purchases

Action: Licensees will ask their log purchasing groups if forest management is a purchase consideration.

- Concern was raised regarding logging on private land that Weyerhaeuser had sold.
- Tolko followed up with the group member who raised the specific issue. Tolko had already turned down the opportunity to buy wood from the property because of the Company’s own concerns
- Log buyers for all three companies have the authority to turn down purchase wood if they are concerned with the practices
- If a company says “no” the seller will just go to the next company? Yes, or switch practices.
- What are the Provincial Government requirements? There are only private land requirements if the land owner has elected to classify his land as “managed forest land” under the Assessment Act. In that case his operations will then also fall under the “Private Managed Forest Land Act”. Soil and water management are the primary values addressed by this act.
- The Federal Fisheries Act and Species at Risk Act apply to all private land

4. Topic – Forestry Ombudsman has a forest worker safety focus

a) **Action: Darcie** will provide the group an update of BCTS’s participation at the fall meeting.

- BC Timber Sales sits on the BC Safety Council
- Objective is for BC Timber Sales to be certified as a “Safe Company” early in 2008
 - Timber Sale Licensee registration to the program (not certification) will be expected by April 2008
 - Some non-operational companies will be exempt (i.e. data entry etc)
- The following link leads to the BC Safety Council site, and specifically its subscriptions page <http://www.bcforestsafesafe.org/nav-subscribe.html>
- Weyerhaeuser’s certification audit is underway. The company will assist its contractors in becoming certified.

- Tolko woodlands will be going for certification. Logging contractors are expected to be registered, not necessarily certified. A safety plan is required or they do not work. The strategy for layout and other workers has not yet been determined.
 - Gorman is planning to join as a company.
5. **Topic** – The spring 2006 Parking Lot¹ review identified two action items:
- a) **Action: Les** to request a CSA Technical Committee response to the PAG’s letter that suggested recognition of and respect for grasslands.
- Status:** The CSA Technical Committee has acknowledged and thanked the PAG for its suggestions regarding “grasslands” (copies available). The suggestions are being given active consideration as part of Criterion 4 (Forest Ecosystem Contributions to Global Ecological Cycles) review and updating. This item will be removed from the Parking Lot.
- b) **Action -- Rob Kennett** will review work being done with Site Index (SI) as part of the Okanagan Innovative Forest Practices Agreement (IFPA). There may be potential to develop an indicator.
- [Review concluded that current Indicator 25 will capture changes to Site Index \(refer to handout\)](#)

Agenda Item 4 – Provincial Indicator Development Initiative

John Dunford to be rescheduled for the spring meeting

Agenda Item 5 – Proposed OSFMP Improvements

i. Terms of Reference

Discussion:

- Why did the auditors suggest the change to Section 6? A reason was not provided.
- Additions to Section 6 of the Terms of Reference (Roles and Responsibilities) were agreed to as proposed.
- A suggestion was made to reference the “Dynamic Round Table Process” in Section 6. It was noted that while Advisory Group meetings follow the spirit of the process, but the five steps are not specifically followed. Inclusion in the Terms of Reference would allow the public members opportunity to refer to the process if they felt information or advice they were providing was not being fully considered. While initially agreed to, this suggestion was withdrawn when it was noted that the process is referenced in Section 8 and appended to the Terms of Reference
- Public member concern: need to be careful, some latitude is required for the level of participation. Yes, the group has stayed away from absolute participation rules. The licensees do have offside discussions with individuals at times to understand their intentions and whether they would like to be more or less involved.
- **Action:** Terms of Reference to be included as an appendix of the SFM Plan

¹ Parking Lot is Appendix 2 of the SFM Plan

Agenda Item 5 – Proposed OSFMP Improvements Con’t

ii. Indicators

a. Indicator 11

Proposed wording to revise the Target and clarify the variance was provided by the licensees.

- Licensees are trying to create efficiency and maintain First Nations partnerships. As written, the indicator creates piecemeal activity which is not conducive to contracting out.
- The intent of the indicator is maintained; grass will be established before invasive plants
- It was observed that orchard and timothy are pretty good performers at higher elevations but clover is poor. What seed do licensees use at these higher elevations? The licensees use a variety of seed mixes based on site conditions and operating areas. Several years ago, Tolko was asked to lower their clover content in Grizzly Bear areas. Instead of using two types of seed they switched to this low clover content seed mix
- What about temporary roads? They are rehabilitated and planted to trees. Some grass seeding may occur if there is a specific sediment concern.
- Is current road and landing ripping on the TFL being seeded? Yes.
- The following Targets and Variances were agreed to.

Target	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) Permanent road cut and fill slope revegetation application carried out within the current growing season of road completion under normal conditions; and for roads completed during winter, revegetation application will be completed before or during favourable germinating conditions the following spring. B) 100 percent of rights-of-way revegetated for noxious weed and erosion control with Canada No.1 or equivalent grass seed.
Variance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) Maximum 7 months. B) None

b. Indicator 36

- The need to change the title and annual reporting section of Indicator 36 was discussed. The objective is to retain some piles on blocks, not just within 50 meters of timber edge or riparian management areas. Close was only a preferred location, not the measure of performance.
- Company silviculture staff raised the question as they felt it was limiting better options, including improving habitat connectivity within the block.
- The proposed change is “A good move, there will be ermine in every pile.”
- Is the Wildfire Act being addressed? Yes, blocks are assessed for hazard. High risk areas (near roads) are burned.
- The Okanagan Innovative Forestry Society is conducting research on martin populations relative to piles and other debris.
- Wording agreed to as proposed (refer to the agenda).

c. Proposed Indicator 13

- Licensees proposed a new indicator that would provide them the ability to quantify and manage their impact on water quality.
- Additional wording requested by the Advisory Group for Target 1 (highlighted) is intended to reduce the resulting number of crossings with “High” ratings. The assessment process cannot be completed at the planning phase (or during construction) but there is a planning component to it. Use the knowledge from the rating system in road design and construction techniques to minimize outcomes.
- Licensee approach:
 - Planning: planner awareness and avoid potentially “high” if possible. If not red flag to construction

- o Construction: if High then implement all reasonable mitigation measures to reduce the rating (to medium)
- What is a “high” rating?
 - o A “high” from Brian Carson’s rating system is not necessarily the same as a water purveyor’s “high”. Brian’s system rates “potential”, not actual sedimentation
 - o Newer construction with a higher percent of “fines” will generally become a lower rating over time
- In addition to Target 1, changes to the original proposal include an additional Target (3), expanded documentation of legal requirements and the addition of Variance (3) to address the new Target. Variance (3) recognizes that a “high” rating will not be avoidable in all cases.

Target	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of newly constructed or reconstructed <u>permanent</u> road stream crossings in Community Watersheds have a water quality effectiveness evaluation <u>incorporated into the planning, construction, and maintenance and monitoring phases</u>. Licenses will bench mark and report on the number of crossings rated as High, Medium and Low. <u>No “High” ratings</u>
Legal Requirements	KBLUP Higher Level Plan, Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act, Operational and Site Planning Regulation, Timber Harvesting and Silviculture Practices Regulation, Forest Road Regulation, Water Act, Fisheries Act, Forest And Range Practices Act, Forest Planning And Practices Regulation, <u>Drinking Water Protection Act</u>
Annual	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Licenses report both the number of new or reconstructed permanent road stream crossings in Community Watersheds, and the number of those stream crossings that have had a water quality effectiveness evaluation completed. The number of crossings rated as High, Medium and Low will be reported <u>The number of crossings rated as High excluding those where all reasonable mitigation measures were taken</u>
Variance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Variance 25% - training and implementation scheduling may result in some crossings not having an effectiveness evaluation completed. None <u>“High” rating is acceptable if all reasonable mitigation measures have been taken.</u>

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- Garbage dumping is also a significant concern for water quality. Potential for licensees to take a more proactive approach? A “thought” for now.
- What is the follow up for road maintenance? Current Indicators 21 and 22 address road maintenance.
- In site selection consider potential wildlife issues (i.e. beavers and dams)

iii. Significant Changes to Text

d. Edits to finalize BCTS reporting and add Non-Replaceable Forest Licence Reporting

(Page 2, 1st full paragraph of current plan) – changes agreed to as proposed (refer to agenda)

(Page 19, last paragraph of current plan)

- Former TFL 15 is now part of TFL 35
- BC Timber Sales retains harvest rights on TFL 35 -- changes agreed to as proposed except for the following highlighted edits:

B.C. Timber Sales

B.C. Timber Sales operations on TFLs 35 and 49 are included in the Defined Forest Area. On TFL 35 BCTS has a cut level of 5 percent of the TFL’s allowable cut. On TFL 49 the BCTS cut level is 36,905 m³ per year. Together the harvest on TFLs 35 and 49 represents less than 2 percent of the annual harvest for the DFA.

- Deleted: 15
- Deleted: 15
- Deleted: the
- Deleted: previously had
- Deleted: Although BCTS no longer has harvest rights on this TFL, they have outstanding obligations to complete on previously harvested areas.
- Deleted: previous
- Deleted: 15
- Deleted: the current harvest on TFL

e. The proposed edit to the plan documents progress of portions of the OSLRMP towards legal status.

Agenda Item 5 – Proposed OSFMP Improvements Con't

iv. Housekeeping edits

- The Advisory Group and/or individuals were asked if they wanted to be kept in the loop on the housekeeping edits described.
- The Advisory Group agreed to the housekeeping edits proceeding without further reference to the group.
- Clarification was provided regarding the agenda "...Weyerhaeuser private land; it has all been sold..." The majority of Weyerhaeuser's private land has been sold. The remaining land is in the process of being sold.

Agenda Item 6 – CSA Updates

i. Results of Third party audits - an overview

- Tolko
 - Plan adequately implemented
 - There were no non-conformances
 - Observations of good practices included
 - Invitations to First Nations to participate
 - Internal systems and files
 - Contractor performance
- Weyerhaeuser
 - No non-conformances
 - An opportunity for improvement – some Indicators need some editing to be kept current
 - The Weyerhaeuser audit summary can be found on their web site <http://www.weyerhaeuser.com/ourbusinesses/forestry/bcinterior/plan/>
- Feedback from Advisory Group members who attended the field portion of the audit
 - A good experience
 - Noted Tolko was replacing a poor road with a better located one
 - It is important to be involved; it is the finale of years of work!
- How/who/what decides to do an audit?
 - The licensee hires a registered auditor
 - Who else does audits besides QMI? KPMG and Price Waterhouse Coopers
- The Okanagan Shuswap Forest District web site the "[District Licencee Forest Certification Links](#)" leads to all three licensees' certification web pages.
- Gorman's audit during the **week of January 23 (3-4days)** is an opportunity for Public Advisory Group participation
A sheet was circulated at the meeting for public members' to indicate their interest in participating in the audit (phone interviews or field portion of the audit)
Action: All public members: if you have not already done so, let Kerry Rouck know of your interest to participate (Phone: 768 6220, krouck@gormanbros.com; Box 26052, Westbank, BC, V4T 2G3)
Action: Kerry will work with the auditors to determine participation then will contact the public members who have expressed interest.

ii. CSA Update (previously distributed by email Nov 6, 2006 "An update from CSA")

- Provided information on general progress of the new standard and thanks for input
- A detailed table with comments and responses is available

iii. Core set of indicators as part of the 2007 version of the standard (expected late 2007/early 2008)

- The Technical Committee will develop a core set of indicators to be included in all SFM Plans (develop a minimum uniformity/commonality between plans)

- Looking at a core indicator for each of the 17 Elements; there may be alignment with some of the existing Indicators in the Okanagan SFM Plan
- There may be another opportunity for Public Advisory Group input into the standard
- The new standard will likely result in some work for the Advisory Group
- Requirements for transition to the new standard are not settled.

Agenda Item 7 – Ministry Of Environment 2005 Monitoring Report comments

Information for awareness

- The Ministry of Environment was originally involved in plan development
- When reviewing the 2006 plan they had some questions
 - Old Growth and how is it managed?
 - Indicators 1, 2 and 3 apply
 - These have not changed
- As a result of the discussion with Ministry of Environment, licensees may bring forward updates to reflect where things are at today
- There may be an opportunity to review these indicators as part of plan updating to align with indicators mandated by the new standard

Agenda Item 8 – Public Advisory Group Fall Field Trip Feedback and Opportunities

- Great weather!
- Voluntary use of streamside protection on S6 streams was good to see
- Innovative practices great!
- Seeing operations and equipment working was a highlight
- Gorman will be hosting the 2008 field trip
 - Will emphasize indicators that can be observed at each of the stops

Agenda Item 9 – Wrap-up

1. Tolko's 50th Year Anniversary

- Rob Kennett noted 2006 was Tolko's 50th Year Anniversary
- Publications describing Tolko's history and sustainability initiatives were distributed

2. Mountain Pine Beetle

- The group would like an update at the spring meeting
 - Last couple of years statistics and what is the expected progression
 - What are the strategies and how are they being implemented
 - **Action: Public members**, if more detail is wanted on some aspect, highlight it when the draft agenda is circulated
- Under the "useful links" section of the following web site, the first two documents provide some broad but very useful information on how the Okanagan Shuswap is expected to fair with regards to the MPB over the next decade or so.
http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/dos/Programs/Tenures/MPB_specific/mpb_index.htm

3. BC Timber Sales plans for CSA Certification

- BC Timber Sales has approval to work towards CSA certification in the Okanagan and Columbia Timber Supply Areas
- The Minister is committed to certification by 2008; some CSA but 100% ISO
- BC Timber Sales would like to join the current Okanagan group as other licensees have done previously
- BC Timber Sales' objective is to have an operating area that reflects the entire land base. While their addition would increase plan area, it is not expected there would be a significant shift in the relative amount or distribution of species, age class, etc within the plan area
- Certification in the Columbia would be a separate process and plan.

- Each addition of a licensee to the Okanagan SFM process brings changes to the SFM Plan and Advisory Group membership. Caution from a volunteer, do not overload us.
 - Federated Co-operatives has also expressed an interest only leaving Bell Pole and Westbank First Nation.
 - **Action: licensees** to determine what the non-participating licensees' intentions are. They will try to avoid the slow stepped growth and bring the rest of the interested licensees in at the same time.
 - Addition of licensees is a good idea; but streamline the process to minimize volunteer effort.
 - **Action: BC Timber Sales** will provide a presentation regarding their inclusion in the Okanagan SFM Plan process at the next (spring) Public Advisory Group meeting.
 - What about woodlots? They are more likely to be interested in the standard specific to them.
- 4. Okanagan Basin Water Board**
- Renee provided an introduction to the Okanagan Basin Water Board and it's supporting Water Stewardship Council (<http://www.obwb.ca/index/>)
 - Posters are available as teaching support
- 5. Recognition of Cam Leadbeater's Contributions**
- This was the last meeting for Cam, he is retiring from Weyerhaeuser and moving to Prince Edward Island
 - Cam was recognized and thanked for his long and productive participation:
 - Cam started with the Tree Farm Licence 15 Advisory Group "eons" ago
 - He worked with the Advisory Group on development of the SFM Plan from scratch
 - Cam expressed the satisfaction he had working with the group, said it was great! The plan itself is getting better and the area it influences is getting bigger.
- 6. Public Advisory Group Survey**
- A reminder that the survey will be distributed in the next few weeks to obtain participant feedback. Results are used to report against Indicator 33 of the Plan and to identify improvement opportunities.

Merry Christmas!