

PAG Meeting

Tolko Industries Ltd. Office November 16, 2004

Attendance:

Marilee Toews - Hungry Bend Sandhills Wilderness Society
George Friesen - Friesen Logging Ltd.
Mike Alsterlund – Public
Marcel LeCoure – Tolko Industries Ltd.
Barry Gladders - Footner Forest Products Ltd.
Rob Popowich – ASRD Lands & Forest Div.
Stephanie Grocholski - Little Red River Forestry
John Thurston - Public Advisory Committee
Michelle Holstein – Tolko Industries Ltd.

1. Administrative Items

- Marcel thanked everyone for coming out the meeting.
- Marcel indicated that this presentation was the second of two presentations that are being made to update the public and the respective advisory groups as to our progress in meeting commitments made in the Detailed Forest Management Plan (DFMP) and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Plan.

2. Presentation

- The presentation was entitled "Sustainable Forest Management Plan - Report Card - Part Deux".
- Agenda:
 - Overview of October 26th meeting
 - Environmental Management System
 - CSA-SFM/DFMP Status
 - CSA-SFM Indicator Status
 - Other-Certification News
 - CSA-SFM registration Audit
- In a number of previous meetings (including PAC, PAG, etc.), Marcel has discussed the Companies' integrated Environmental Management System (EMS). To ensure that everyone has an idea of what this EMS actually looks like, Marcel did a brief overview of the web-based EMS website highlighting such things as the Operations Inspection Form (OIF), Tailgate Meetings, Environmental Policy, etc.
- A brief overview of the CSA-SFM certification process was provided to those in attendance. This process included the identification of the Companies' Defined Forest Area (DFA) as well as a brief overview of the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM) criteria and the process of identifying local-level values, objectives, indicators, and targets.

Question: Is there a written record of the resolution to problems available to the public?

Answer: The Companies' Annual Report will outline issues and concerns that are identified and incorporated into plan development or harvest operations.

- In the October 26th meeting, the following items were discussed:
 - Maintenance of older age classes on the DFA
 - Maintenance of areas in the DFA which are retained because of their ecological/aesthetic significance
 - Maintenance of Species Diversity.
 - Training Programs for staff and contractors
 - Structural Diversity

Question: Does CSA support patch retention as opposed to single stem retention?

Answer: Although the CSA standard does not specifically require the Companies to implement "patch" retention instead of "single-tree" retention, the Companies are pushing for merchantable retention to be maintained in patches since volume retained in patches is more likely to remain standing. However, "single-stem" retention may still be present in some cutblocks to provide additional diversity within harvest areas.

Questions: Snags, is there some sort of requirement by WCB or OH&S for these?

Answer: It all started in BC and how they deal with snags, we prefer to stub them instead.

- Compliance with operations in critical wildlife zones
- Maintain areas of biological significance with the DFA
 - Commitment to identify high conservation value forests (with CPAWS)
- Maintain Forest Ecosystem Condition and Productivity.
- Maintain the natural process of carbon recycling (reviewed reforestation activities, including success)
- Local employment

Question: Was there any implication with mixedwood management?

Answer: No, because the concept of "mixedwood management" was not identified by the Public Advisory Group for incorporation into the Annex Table / SFM Plan.

Question: Are satellite yards permanent or are they going to be reclaimed?

Answer: Most will be reclaimed, however some will remain under a disposition.

Question: What defines the term "site degradation"?

Answer. The Companies have defined site degradation is consistent with the Soil Conservation Guidelines and includes both existing line and "new-cut" roads as well.

Question: What is an indicator of rutting?

Answer: Any instance of rutting during operations will be recorded in the Operations Inspection Form (OIF) and will be based on the definition outlined in the Soil Conservation Guidelines.

Question: In the slide outlining the fire occurrences during the 2003-04 harvest season, one of the PAG members identified a "typo" as the second and third columns were actually the same. Marcel apologised for the typo and clarified the information presented.

Question: Are there any hybrid popular on the FMA?

Answer: No.

- During the discussions regarding existing and potential heritage locations, Marcel used the Companies integrated data storage website to illustrate the amount of existing information. The Companies are also looking to incorporate new sites that are found during operations into the existing layer for future plan development.

Question: What percentage of SARA information comes from input from the general public?

Answer: Since the www.highlevelwoodlands.com website is relatively new, we have yet to receive any additional information regarding the location of such sites. However, as people become more familiar with the site, we are hoping that more information becomes available.

Question: There was a question about the amount of information and the geographical range of the information that is posted. Since there was concerns regarding the Hungry Bend Sandhills Area, a PAG member was wondering if we had information for that area.

Answer: For the most part, the information that was included in the site (SARA & heritage sites) was limited to areas where the Companies have tenure and propose operations. It is a requirement however that in areas where we do conduct operations that we do complete an annual heritage assessment to ensure compliance to the Historical Resources Act.

Question: There was a question brought forward about the perceived reforestation issue in areas harvested and reforested by some of the embedded operators.

Answer: Since the government is responsible for the management and reforestation of quota areas, a representative from the government should be addressing this issue, not the companies. This information and their respective records should also be readily available if requested.

Questions/Comments

- John: The First Nation's people are wary of attending meetings because they don't want to be seen as a spokesperson or representative for their group, they want to be seen as a member of the general public.
- Marcel: The annual report will be available early in December and will be available in digital format on the www.highlevelwoodlands.com website.
- Mike Alsterlund thanked Marcel for taking the time to explain things in laymen's terms so the group would understand forestry.

3. Next Meeting

- No date currently scheduled.