

**Merritt Timber Supply Area
Sustainable Forest Management Plan**

**Meeting Summary
SFM Advisory Group Meeting, December 3, 2009**

	<i>SFM Advisory Group Member</i>	<i>Background/Affiliation/Location</i>
	Al Clarke	Radio NL Merritt
✓	Aline Lachapelle	Aspen Planers
✓	Andrea Inwards	Merritt Sunrise Rotary Club
	Barbara and Tom Hamilton	Allison Lake
	Bob Chambers	Ranching/ Woodlot, Merritt
✓	Brian Drobe	Weyerhaeuser (Princeton)
✓	Bruce Beech	Tolko
	Chris Lepsoe	Merritt
	Christian Guay	BCTS (Merritt)
	Corey Kuromi	Ardev Wood Products
	Dennis MacDonald	Stu'wix
✓	Elizabeth Salomon de Friedberg	Merritt
✓	Frank Armitage	Princeton
✓	Frank Etchart	Merritt
	Franz Reuter	Merritt
	Gerry Sanford	Merritt
	Ian Black	BCTS (Kamloops)
✓	Jan Stadey	Ardev Wood Products
✓	Jed Anderson	Merritt Herald
✓	Jenn Reid	BCTS (Merritt)
✓	Jerry Canuel	Aspen Planers
✓	Katharine Shewchuk	Merritt
	Ken Taylor	NVIT, Merritt
✓	Len Marsh	Cascades Forest District
	Lennard Joe	Nicola Tribal Association
	Leona Antoine	Merritt
	Lyle Leclair	Stu'wix
	Mark and Susan Dixon	Allison Lake
✓	Norm Hansen	Merritt
✓	Pat Salm	SFM Advisory Group Facilitator
✓	Paul Willms	NVIT, Merritt
✓	Rick Cooper	BCTS (Kamloops)
✓	Steve Borcsok	Upper Similkameen Indian Band
	Todd Chamberlain	Stu'wix
	Wayne Schindler	Woodlots/ Ranching, Merritt
✓	Wendy McKinney	Tolko

1. Introduction and Agenda Review

Meeting called to order shortly after 4:00 pm. All participants were welcomed to the meeting and members of the group were asked to introduce themselves. In addition to regular advisory group members, Rich Hodson and Rocky Chan were welcomed to the meeting. Pat reviewed that the main objectives of the meeting.

- Address action items from April 2, 2009 meeting
- Discuss 2010 SFM Plan changes and strategy
- Review of audit findings and company plans
- Knowledge/awareness of current Timber Supply Review and Forests for Tomorrow Program

The remainder of the agenda was reviewed with the group. No further items were immediately added to the agenda.

2. Action Items from previous meeting

Pat briefly reviewed the action items resulting from previous meetings (appended at the end of the summary). Action items are retained and brought forward at subsequent meetings until they are completed or the group feels they are no longer important.

Agreed to retain action items 1, 3 until the SFM Plan is updated to the new Standard requirements.

For action item 2, it was felt that starting in 2010 licensees could report on the amount of fibre that is being utilized following operations that would otherwise be destined for on-site burning (ie. in landing piles). Andrea believes there is data and a report that might satisfy this already. Also agreed that the reporting would not be as part of an indicator and target, but would be general reporting at a broad level (such as the TSA). Data would be shared as information within the monitoring report.

A new action item 4 was added to remind the group that Indicator 25 (information exchanges with First Nations) needs to be looked at when the SFM Plan is updated.

Action: Aline will work with Andrea to determine what is available and appropriate for reporting a target related to fibre utilization.

3. 2010 SFM Plan and CSA Standard revision - next steps for PAG

Licensees advised that they would like to transition the existing SFM Plan to that required by the new Standard in 2010. Currently, the SFM Plan for 2008 along with an insert document created in December of 2008 is being used for the 2009 SFM Plan. Advisory group members agreed that the insert document presented at the meeting (contains 7 items related to changes made in 2008 and one (minor) item related to changes in 2009 – item #8) would be ok to carry forward as a 2010 SFM Plan. This endorsement would be subject to any other additions that might arise from discussions later in the meeting related to audit findings. A copy of the insert document would be appended to this meeting summary.

PAG members were advised that the time commitment to rework the SFM Plan to the new standard was estimated to take between 4 and 6 meetings. The group preferred to conduct the work in the spring of 2010 (April-June) with day meetings every second Thursday – meetings likely to be held somewhere in Merritt. Pat would produce a draft meeting schedule so that everyone could tentatively block out these dates. **For now the dates to reserve will be April 8 and 22, May 6 and 20 and June 3 and 17, 2010.**

4. Presentations

Guests Rich Hodson from the MoFR in Merritt and Rocky Chan from the MoFR in Kamloops gave presentations to the group on the Timber Supply Review (TSR) process and the Forests for Tomorrow (FFT) program respectively.

Rich outlined the process for Timber Supply Reviews – the timelines for them to occur, the resources and data required for each and the types of analysis and considerations that occur for all TSR's. He then went into the specific process that is currently occurring for the Merritt Timber Supply Area. The AAC history was reviewed as were the types of data sensitivities that were being considered in this current review. Rich advised that the Analysis Report for the Merritt TSA was due to come out fairly soon and he was expecting that the opportunity for public review of this material (60 day period) should occur in January, 2010.

Rocky explained that the FFT program was designed to respond to areas of major natural disturbances such as those caused by fire and Mountain Pine Beetle. The program is focused on areas where the damaged timber is unsuitable to existing forest agreement holders and needs to be managed in order to reforest disturbed areas. The reporting measures for the SFM Plan that could be attributed to the FFT program were generally felt to be incorporated into the business of existing agreement holders, thus there was likely little additional reporting needed by FFT.

Both Rich and Rocky were thanked for their presentations and were good enough to stay for dinner where the public members had a chance to ask further questions of them. Copies of the presentations will be distributed with the meeting summary.

5. Review of Company Audit Findings for 2009, Other Company Business

Aspen, BCTS, and Weyerhaeuser all reviewed their audit findings with the advisory group. Tolko had not had an audit from the time of the April, 2009 meeting so had nothing further to report. Ardeu was expecting to have the auditor at the meeting as part of their audit but a last minute change to the schedule occurred and thus their audit results will be shared at the next meeting. A handout of Aspen's audit summary was provided and discussed at the meeting. For both Aspen and BCTS, there were no audit findings related to the SFM Plan or the PAG process.

Weyerhaeuser reviewed their audit findings and there were two opportunities that were applicable to the PAG. The first was text related to indicator 25 that should be reviewed to reflect changes in how the target is reported. This was added to our list of Action Items – item #4. The second was a review of the PAG list of participants; particularly removing inactive members from the list. After some discussion it was agreed that participants who have not attended any meetings or field trips for two years be contacted by the facilitator to gauge their interest in carrying on as an active participant. There were no audit findings that needed to be addressed in the insert to the 2009 SFM Plan (for 2010). All licensees welcomed further comments or discussion on their audit reports and action plans, feel free to contact any of them directly for this.

Brian advised that Weyerhaeuser has decided to make a switch in certification programs from CSA to SFI. He explained that this was done to gain efficiencies in audit costs and time spent managing two separate SFM Plans (Merritt and Okanagan). This will mean that Weyerhaeuser will no longer be participating in the advisory group. Brian committed to work with the other Merritt licensee's on Weyerhaeuser's reporting into the SFM Plan to help with any audit concerns that indicators and targets are not being met because of a lack of participation by Weyerhaeuser. Licensees thanked Weyerhaeuser for their efforts with the SFM Plan over the years.

BCTS indicated that they too are looking at efficiencies with their certification costs. They would like to stay with CSA certification if some efficiency in SFM Plans and advisory groups could be achieved. This is similar to the thinking that Tolko brought to the advisory group the previous year (merging SFM Plans and PAG members). PAG members were not opposed in principle to any such amalgamation of Plans and advisory groups but in the end, felt these were business decisions that needed to be decided on by the companies directly. There was discussion on how a combined SFM Plan might look – with most indicators and targets similar and reported on by all subscribers and possibly a few local targets that would only apply to those in a certain area. BCTS was going to prepare some extra information for licensees on possible options.

Companies agreed that any decisions to align plans or bring advisory groups together needed to be sorted out in advance of meetings scheduled to revise the SFM Plan to the new CSA Standard (April 2010).

<p><u>Action:</u> Rick Cooper to present materials to Tolko, Aspen and Ardew on possible options merging SFM Plans and/or advisory groups.</p>
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6. Current DFA issues, Other Business, Summary and Wrap up

Paul Wilms advised that NVIT has arranged to have Les Josa come to the school for a presentation on the attributes of wood on Wednesday, January 13, 2009. Paul extended the invitation to any of the advisory group that they are welcome to attend. Les is a very knowledgeable person and a great presenter, so those who do attend will likely be pleased they did. Contact Paul for more information.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Merritt SFM Plan - Advisory Process Action Items

Item	Intitial Date	Action Item	Lead Person	Date due	Comments
1	03-Apr-08	Look to revise target and variance for indicator 15 (Equivelent Clearcut Area) when updating Plan to new standard.	Pat Salm	Complete with plan re-write	New standard does require something along these lines
2	02-Apr-09	Aline to work with Andrea to see what kind of data in currently available that could be used to satisfy reporting on wood fibre utilization of material that would otherwise be burned.	Aline Lachapelle Andrea Inwards	31-Mar-10	Reporting would occur at the broad level - possibly TSA. Information would not be part of an indicator/target but reported as a collective number into the text of the annual monitoring report. Reporting to commence in 2010.
3	02-Apr-09	PAG desire to include a coarse woody debris and/or waste residue target	Pat Salm	Complete with plan re-write	New standard has a CWD indicator. Potential indicator above related.
4	03-Dec-09	Review indicator text (strategy, forecast, means of achieving objective) for Indicator 25 when updating Plan to new standard.	Pat Salm	Complete with plan re-write	

**December 3, 2009 Insert to the
2008 Merritt Timber Supply Area
Sustainable Forest Management Plan**

Purpose:

The changes contained in this combined 2008 and 2009 insert to the 2008 SFM Plan in addition to the 2008 Plan will constitute the 2010 SFM Plan for the Merritt TSA. As for 2009, a new Plan for 2010 will not be printed. Work is planned starting in April, 2010 to make the necessary Plan changes required by revisions to the CSA SFM standard (CAN/CSA Z809-08).

SFM Plan text changes to the 2008 Plan for 2009 and 2010 (shown in red italic):

1. Page 7 – Licensee participation; rights of those not signing the plan will be respected (insert the text below after paragraph on NRFL holder reporting).

Forest Licensees participating in this plan agree to respect the rights and responsibilities of other stakeholders (e.g., trappers, ranchers) who are not signatories to the plan.

2. Page 9 – update section; recognize no LRMP to occur for the TSA.

Resource use planning in British Columbia occurs at a variety of levels ranging from strategic land use to site specific plans for small areas (e.g., site plans for individual cut blocks).

Strategic land use plans (such as those created by the Commission on Resources and Environment process or by the Land and Resource Management processes) provide broad direction for the sustainable management of land and resources through the establishment of resource management zones (e.g., protected areas, special management areas and general resource management zones). Within these zones, management objectives and strategies are developed to guide land and resource management activities.

Operational and site plans address resource management at a site specific level and are guided and often regulated by objectives and strategies in strategic land use plans or by broader government objectives such as those within the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA).

A formal strategic land use plan was not completed for the Merritt TSA. Forest planning and practices are guided by other broad plans such as the Nicola-Similkameen Innovative Forest Society's Forestry Plan or by the legislation itself. In their development of Forest Stewardship Plans, forest licensees are mandated to include results and strategies that meet government's objectives for resource values such as water, wildlife, soils, biodiversity and cultural heritage.

- Update Section 3.1.2 (page 5) confirming FN participation is without prejudice.

Advisory Group participation: *The CSA standards require informed, inclusive, and fair consultation with First Nations and members of the public during the development and implementation of the SFM Plan. The Merritt SFM Advisory Group was established to provide advice and recommendations to the Merritt TSA Licensees regarding the development of values, objectives, indicators and targets. First Nations participation in this process is without prejudice to Aboriginal title and rights, and treaty rights.*

- Appendix 2, Indicator 25 (page 93) – clarify that the type/variety of FN information exchanges need to be reported on.

25	Monitoring/Reporting: Licensees will report the number of information exchanges with First Nations related to their Values and Uses.	# information exchanges <i>List type of information exchanges:</i> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
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- Delete Appendix 5 of the Plan (pages 113-116) and revise wording to the paragraph on Rare Features and Species at Risk (page 11). Provide link on page 11 to the BC government Identified Wildlife list.

Appendix 5 – DELETE

Rare Features and Species at Risk

Existing forest legislation outlines the management requirements for rare features and species at risk (referenced as identified wildlife). Plants and animals that are designated as identified wildlife within the Cascades Forest District can be found by searching the governments BC Species and Ecosystems explorer website at: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/atrisk/toolintro.html> - top*

** The provincial list of Identified Wildlife includes all species in BC that are designated within Schedule 1 of the federal Species at Risk Act plus other species felt be of regional importance. Information on the federal list of species at risk can be found at the website: http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/species/default_e.cfm. Companies are obligated to adequately manage the habitat associated with Identified Wildlife.*

6. Replace Appendix 6 (pages 117-124) with the December 4, 2008 Terms of Reference that was reviewed and approved at the meeting of the same date.

Appendix 6 – Replace with Dec 4, 2008 Terms of Reference

7. April 2, 2009 – additional change to SFM Plan (refer to April 2 meeting minutes).

Revise target for Indicator #20:

Operating level of timber processing facilities

Agreed to change the target, moving away from reporting on the average number of shifts worked per day to the total number of man hours that were worked (including woods staff). This reporting is to occur for the 2009 SFM Plan. This indicator remains not-applicable to BCTS and Stuwix (licensees without timber processing facilities). The target for Indicator 20 is revised as follows:

Report number of timber processing facility operating days, the total number of man hours worked and the number of mill employees on payroll.

SFM Plan text changes to the 2008 Plan for 2010 (shown in red italic):

8. Adjust website url on page (roman numeral) III and page 1 of the Plan so that it links directly to the Merritt Plan and SFM Process. Link as follows:

http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/dcs/sustainable_forestry/sustainable_forestry_DME.htm