

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

Meeting Summary
SFM Advisory Group Meeting, ~~April 3~~Dec 4, 2008

	<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
	Bob Chambers	Ranching/ Woodlot, Merritt
✓	Brian Drobe	Weyerhaeuser (Princeton)
✓	Bruce Beech	Tolko
✓	Chris Lepsoe	Merritt
	Cory Kuromi	Ardev Wood Products
✓	Dave Doubek	Stu'wix
	Dennis MacDonald	Stu'wix
✓	Elizabeth Salomon de Friedberg	Merritt
✓	Frank Armitage	Princeton
	Frank Etchart	Merritt
✓	Franz Reuter	Merritt
✓	Gerry Sanford	Merritt
	Heather Thomson	Merritt
	Ian Black	BCTS (Kamloops)
✓	Jan Stadey	Ardev Wood Products
✓	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
	Nelson Patry	Princeton
	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	Ardev Wood Products
✓	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. Pat stated that the main objective of the meeting would be to review action items and to discuss the 2009 SFM Plan. He proceeded to review the agenda with the group. No further items were immediately added to the agenda.

2. Action Items from previous meeting

Pat briefly reviewed the action item list created as a result of previous meetings. The action items on the list would be retained until such time as they had been completed or the group felt they were no longer important. The list attached to this meeting summary reflects the outcome of discussion at the meeting (2 items will remain on list, other items completed).

3. TSR Status Report

In Len Marsh's absence, Jerry provided the group with an update. The Nicola Similkameen Innovative Forest Society is looking to take a lead role in the timber supply review process for the Merritt TSA. This is being discussed with the Chief Forester's office of the Ministry of Forests, and is somewhat contingent on funding availability. The Ministry's estimated timeline for the process to occur is as follows (info from <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hts/schedtsa.htm>):

Data Package Release: January 2009

Analysis Report Release: July 2009

AAC Decision: October 2009

4. CSA Revisions Process

Pat handed out Annex C of the October 2008 CSA Z809 Draft Document – Summary of key changes in this edition of CSA Z809. The group quickly reviewed the document (that describes the changes). The substantive changes requiring involvement by the advisory group were reviewed – specifically discussion items and core indicators. Please feel free to contact Pat if you have questions upon further review of the document. Timelines for release of the new standard are as follows:

CSA Technical Committee ballot on the October 2008 draft – December 31, 2008

Standard published – March 31, 2008

The licensees do not expect to ask the advisory group for assistance in transitioning to the new Standard until the second half of 2009.

5. Review of Company Audit Findings for 2008

Ardeew, Aspen, BCTS, Tolko and Weyerhaeuser all reviewed their audit findings with the advisory group. Handouts of the information (either the full audit reports or the summary of findings) were distributed to the group for all companies except for BCTS – who will send for inclusion with these minutes. Highlights of each of the audit findings were discussed including all those that had a connection to either the SFM Plan or the advisory group process. A few of the suggested opportunities for improvement (OFI's) relating to the SFM Plan had been actioned in the draft Proposed Insert to the SFM Plan (discussed later in this meeting summary). The majority of the suggested OFI's were proposed for deferral until the 2010 SFM Plan where new core indicators will also be considered and worked on. All licensees welcomed further comments or discussion on their audit reports and action plans, feel free to contact any of them directly for this.

6. Presentation on Coarse Woody Debris from a trapper's perspective

A group presentation was made by Norm Druck (professional forester and trapper) on the important role that coarse woody debris (cwd) has in retaining habitat for wildlife and fur bearing animals in particular. Norm provided examples of harvesting and reforestation strategies that demonstrated varying levels of suitable habitat, some examples better than others. The advisory group discussed opportunities for indicators and targets related to cwd and standing tree retention within the future 2010 SFM Plan. The presentation was very well received by everyone in attendance. Norm agreed to provide us with a copy of his presentation for future reference. Once available, the presentation will be posted onto our website. Norm was thanked by the group and invited to stay for dinner.

7. Terms of Reference Review

A copy of the proposed changes to the ToR was distributed to the group for discussion. The group agreed to a number of changes to the existing ToR, stemming from suggestions by auditors during certification audits. The timelines section will be changed to emphasize the main role of the group is to maintain and look for continual improvement of the SFM Plan (as opposed to it's initial development). It was also agreed that the roles and responsibilities section change to more clearly emphasize that advisory group members participate as individual members without any representation of a specific interest sector or group (hence any reference to a person's affiliation is a reflection of the background and experience they bring to the advisory group only). Finally a number of grammatical errors were made such as the deletion of the reference to a section number that no longer existed within the ToR. It was agreed that the revised ToR (December 4, 2008) would be appended to the Insert document discussed in Item #8 (below).

8. 2009 SFM Plan Revisions

A copy of the SFM Plan Proposed Insert document was circulated to the group. After some discussion, the group agreed to the approach suggested (Purpose) by not creating an entirely new 2009 SFM Plan, but relying on the 2008 SFM Plan with a few stated changes (Proposed Insert document).

The Proposed Insert document changes were reviewed and agreed to as follows:

Item 1. Group agreed not to implement these proposed changes dropping the number of licensees (14) that created the initial plan. The text in both sections emphasize that the number reflects those involved in the early stages of initial plan development and it was felt this historical context was appropriate to leave in the plan.

Item 2. Change on page 7 to occur as indicated ("and responsibilities" additionally added).

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.

Item 3. Replace the first 5 paragraphs under Section 4.0 (page 9) as indicated.

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.

Item 4. Additional sentence to the paragraph on Advisory Group Participation under Section 3.1.2 (page 5) to occur as indicated.

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.*

Item 5. Additional request to list the type of information exchanges under Appendix 2, Indicator 25 (page 93) to occur as indicated.

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/>
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Item 6. Delete Appendix 5 of the Plan (pages 113-116) and revise wording to the paragraph on Rare Features and Species at Risk (page 11). Species at risk (referenced as Identified Wildlife) within the Cascades Forest District will now be obtained by going to the government's website. New wording to appear as indicated.

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.

Item 7. Replace Appendix 6 (pages 117-124) with the December 4, 2008 Terms of Reference attached to this meeting summary (explained in part 7 of this meeting summary).

It was agreed that a copy of the SFM Plan Revisions document (now Titled December 4, 2008 Insert to the Merritt TSA SFM Plan) would be appended to the Insert document and that document along with the 2008 SFM Plan would then represent the 2009 SFM Plan.

9. Current DFA issues, Other Business, Summary and Wrap up

Pat acknowledged the effort of Franz Reuter who prepared a news story regarding our earlier field trip to the territory of the Upper Nicola Band. Unfortunately, with the change to the editor at the newspaper, the article was not printed.

Update: the new editor has been in contact with Pat and Franz, so we might just see the article yet!

Bruce advised the group that Tolko was exploring the possibility of merging their Merritt, Kamloops and Okanagan Plans and wondered what the appetite of the group was in having a larger area plan covered off by a single advisory group. Some of the licensees were very opposed to the idea, not wanting to be involved in a plan that discussed issues far beyond their own geographical boundaries. Public members were generally reserved on their opinion, looking for more information on how such a change might impact them (logistics around timing and location of meetings, managing group size and discussion, influence on local issues and decisions). Bruce advised that public members in the Okanagan were somewhat opposed to the idea while public members in Kamloops were somewhat receptive to the idea.

Bruce will be discussing this further with his colleagues prior to making any further decisions to move forward. He will advise the group of the outcome of that discussion and any planned next steps. The advisory group thought that if there was a plan to move ahead with such an idea that they would like to see a discussion paper that outlined the pros and cons of such an idea from the perspective of both the licensees and the public.

Action: Bruce to consult with his counterparts and advise us of the results of those discussions.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.