

# Deadman Creek LRUP Summary

January 28, 2003

Skeetchestn Band Hall

The meeting was quite quiet. The meeting was very informal. There was confusion about start times and therefore a number of people did not arrive until 7:00PM.

## Agenda

Introductions

Old Business

Participant Concerns

Licensee Presentations

Forest Service Presentations

## Old Business

### Follow up

1. **Hauling on the Deadman Road** There are still issues about hauling on the road and safety. There was an incident with a school bus this year. We have to ensure these things are dealt with before a tragedy occurs.

There is an opportunity for improvement in this issue. The Small Business Program sold timber from 100 Mile House and did not adequately notify the contractors about safety issues in the valley. The Small Business program is becoming the BC Timber Sales Program and is headquartered in Kamloops. We can ensure these considerations are raised in the tender package

2. **Band feels there are too many open active roads in the Deadman area.**

The Forest Service continues to monitor road density and close roads as they are not required for future forest management. The Wilderness Road program has not moved forward yet. It is still in the works and we expect to see roads closed under this program.

3. **Spraying of herbicide along the roads. According to the band there was not adequate signage put in place. In the future they would like a map indicating the sprayed area.**

Spraying occurs within the bounds of the signs and is limited to single weed plants or groups and a one metre area around the weed. It will be very difficult to provide accurate spray maps because the spraying is spot based as needed. If anyone has concerns please call the contact number for detailed information.

4. **Riparian management zones: Concerns that the Forestry could be doing a better job within the wetted and blowdown areas. In FPC documents a riparian area is defined as width dependant on stream class and the band feels that any wetted area is a riparian. (Management zone with in any wetted area).**

This is an ongoing concern best dealt with the new research program underway in the Deadman Valley.

5. **Beetle management practices are too heavy handed. Larry suggested that the Licensee's and the band should talk.**

There is a Non Impacted Tree Species District Policy available. Larry will see that the band receives a copy.

6. **Archaeological: Any traditional work. We have a local girl working on this; she needs hours to complete her diploma. Therefore, we do not want to bring in any outsiders.**

Our desire is to use local expertise wherever possible. We must meet the legal requirements for the job and this constraint may impact our ability to hire locally.

7. **Sensitive Stream Issue: Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management should lead the process of sensitive stream designation. The Ministry of Water Land & Air Protection should implement this. There will not be support for the designation without consultation with the Watershed committee.**

This is a Ministry of Water, Air and Land Protection initiative. Your concerns have been forwarded to them.

8. **Reseeding along the highways: Lack of suitable grass seeding on Highways maintenance projects.**

Highways staff assured the FS that seeding occurs on all construction projects.

## **Participant concerns**

### **Deadman**

- 1) **Trucks using the road, especially during the time the school bus is on the road. There was an incident where the bus and truck was too close for comfort.**

As discussed in the Old Business section point 1.

- 2) **Beetle harvest and stream flows – there is concern that the accelerated harvest may cause fluctuations in the stream flows.**

This is a project where we hope to obtain some answers from the new research project in the valley. We are focussed on the removal of the beetle at this time and will review the watershed cut levels upon completion of the beetle harvest to determine if remedial actions are required. The key point is that a dead spike is the same as a cut stump for hydrologic values.

- 3) **Beetle harvest includes too many other species within the cutblocks. All other species should be left if the block is designed for beetle harvest. Especially if they are within 100m of a stream.**

This is a site-specific decision based mainly on tree species and ground conditions. There are concerns such as regeneration of suitable crop, silviculture factors like root rots and blowdown of leave trees. Another important factor is that some of the mills in the Timber Supply Area require species other than Lodgepole Pine. Many licensees have customers that want different species for their products. There will be less impact to the landbase if these other species come from an existing block rather than harvest a new block with no beetle to obtain the species mix the mills require.

- 4) **Why are we harvesting any green wood if there is so much MPB?**

See above, #3.

- 5) **Why is the Section 18 volume leaving the TSA?**

The volume identified for Section 18 transfer is in excess to the milling capacity within the TSA. Licensees within the TSA are diverting wood to some of their other operations in an attempt to mill as much Mountain Pine Beetle timber as possible.

- 6) **In reference to the AOA process – more time is required by the band to process the number of referrals.**

We understand the pressure on the bands to process the volume of referrals at this time but we ask for understanding. This is a short-term need dictated by Beetle Management. When the infestation is over, we will return to normal planning cycles with proper amounts of time to review proposals.

- 7) **There are other AOA concerns that will be raised with the District Office.**

Judy Steves is the contact person for AOA issues.

- 8) **Concerns about misclassification of streams.**

Streams have an initial map classification. When the licensees enter an area, they review the stream classification to ensure the original map class is correct. All streams are classified according to Forest Practices Code direction.

- 9) **Concern about Riparian Management; considering establishment of cultural areas on all riparian zones. Includes traditional plants and habitat.**

**Management strategies must change. Minimal road building is a necessary first step.**

These are issues that should be answered by the Riparian project underway in the Deadman Valley.

- 10) **Why are Land and Water BC and Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management not at this meeting?**

These ministries may not understand the values of meeting with the local people about issues. I will pass on your concerns and explain the values we see.

- 11) **Concern about beetle baiting practices. A worker was looking at the establishment of traps in an area that did not have beetle. He felt the intent was to draw the beetle too far in to uninfested timber.**

Beetle baiting follows set strategies and procedures. The baits only have an effective radius of about 25 metres. If the licensee were trying to draw beetle in to uninfested timber this would not be an effective way to accomplish that. The other issue is that the licensees have more timber infested by beetle than they want or need. In this case there is a chance the beetle was present but did not exhibit the traditional pitch tubes and bore holes with sawdust. The sawdust could have been washed or blown away and the tree did not have the pitch available to direct to flooding the beetle out.

- 12) **Concern that not enough is done to protect trees with active nest sites during layout and harvest.**

When active sites are noted during layout Wildlife Tree Patches can be located around the nest site. If nests are found during operations they are assessed for species and action depends on species of bird in the nest.

- 13) **Timing of referrals and consultation with First Nations – not enough time.**

As stated above this will hopefully change when the beetle infestation is done and we can move back to normal management.

- 14) **Will public access be assured if the sites go private?**

Public access will be assured but there may be charges for things like boat launches.

## **15) Shovel Lake Gate**

heavy vandalism

damage to stream by people going around the gate

gate left open for unknown periods of time

concern about lack of signs at the main roads.

There are concerns about the intention of the gate and reasons for the placement being ignored now that the costs are coming back to bear. These stakeholders want the gate or some method of blockage to be in place at that location to prevent drive through traffic as agreed at the original meetings.

If the gate is not working why keep it in place? (It appears the gate is not working since it has been left open and people drive around the gate.)

The objectives for the gate are still valid. Why not do something that improves the value of the gate?

A field trip will be conducted to the area with Doug Jury and Larry Michaelsen to assess the gate and options to limit through traffic for the purposes of hunting this summer. A final decision will be made about gate management at this time. If there is a significant change in direction, a letter will be sent to the Bonaparte and Deadman tables asking for input to the decision.

## **Licensee Presentations**

### **1) Weyerhaeuser – Jason Ladyman**

#### **Activities Completed in 2002**

Pest Management: Generally, Weyerhaeuser is experiencing epidemic Mountain Pine Beetle populations in the following areas; Deadman, Gisborne, Watching Creek, TFL 35(Jamieson, Venn Creek, Rushton, Stuart Lake, Whitewood, Skull) and Hyas Lake. Bonaparte Logan Lake and Greenstone area have endemic beetle populations and Weyerhaeuser continues to monitor areas. Approximately 80%+ of our 2002 cut was managing salvage volume.

Two other areas were developed in 2002; Bonaparte Lake (south shore) and Cannine/No Name Lakes.

Forest Development plans approved; last remaining item is to provide public with agency/other road blockage requests(green squares on map)

#### **Activities Planned for 2003**

Development and harvesting of epidemic Mountain Pine Beetle in the chronic areas from the past few years. Our expectation is that volume of salvage will remain at or higher than 2002 levels. Initiating layout on Watching Creek and Hyas shortly for summer harvest. FDP major amendments including advertising and referral with stakeholders will be completed within the next few months.

#### **Communication**

Weyerhaeuser will respond to all comments and questions generated from FDP amendments. It is imperative that public, stakeholders, First Nation and agencies provide comments and concerns early in the planning process.

## 2) **West Fraser**

Most activities have been in the Battle Creek area working on a windthrow project and in Hat Creek, McLean Lake, Tunkwa Lake and Criss Creek working on beetle harvest. We are finding more beetle in the Deadman area and are currently working on identifying that infestation. The majority of our cut has been in salvage for the past year. We do not see an end to this trend.

## 3) **Ainsworth**

No changes from last year except for some harvesting that SK7AIN and Ainsworth have done near the Highland Valley mine for MPB and the start up of the new partnership between Ainsworth and Skeetchestn Indian Band. Ainsworth completed the MPB portion of the harvest and SK7AIN worked on the green wood.

## 4) **BC Timber Sales**

**Small Business Forest Enterprise Program** will officially be changed to **British Columbia Timber Sales** with the passing of the Forest and Range Practices Act in the spring

- Originally one SBFEP department in each District office, now only **12 Business Units (Timber Sales units)** throughout the province of BC
  - One of those main units is in Kamloops
  - Kamloops B.U. covers five original Forest Districts - Kamloops, Clearwater, Merritt, Lillooet and 100 Mile House
  - Main **Timber Sales office** in Kamloops
  - Four **Field Units** are in Kamloops, Clearwater, Merritt and 100 Mile House
  - Still located under the Ministry of Forests umbrella; however, "separated" to make us more like a licensee
  - Our objective is still to provide opportunities to access wood volume to those registered in the program and gain the best monetary value from the timber for the Province of BC - this will lead to less social direction (ie. training and job creation)
  - With downsizing there will be fewer staff to run the program - will need to become more efficient with larger timber sales being offered for sale and less salvage opportunities
  - 'Small scale salvage' will now be run through Field Services (main MoF office)
  - Deadman LRUP harvest
- |                  | 2002      |   | 2003      |
|------------------|-----------|---|-----------|
| - Sabiston Lake: | none      | , | none      |
| - Mow Creek:     | 10,500 m3 | , | 10,000 m3 |
| - Welland Creek: | 53,500 m3 | , | none      |

Then, I discussed the Mountain Pine Beetle and its effects on our operations:

- 85 - 90 % of our harvesting over the past four and a half years has been MPB harvested

- 10 % greenwood due to our obligations to our mill / value added registrants
- cannot sell MPB wood to mills due to longer term of sales and the need to remove the wood prior to flight
- remove all pine and leave all other species except where there are operational or safety constraints
- almost all of our sales have been harvested before beetle flight in July/August
- any that weren't have been baited and held until the fall
- also have had fall and burn contracts in our Operating Areas for single tree disposal where we couldn't salvage the timber
- all sales (where applicable) are site prepped and planted based on available stock
- utilizing First Nations bands to help with fall and burn and salvage opportunities
- maintained contact (referrals) with all affected stake holders where impacted by our salvage operations

Finished off with requesting input from people present wherever concerns arose throughout the year and stating that BCTS is always open to discuss our developments and proposals at any time. Offered to view our maps and ask any questions after the meeting.

## **5) Range**

### **RANGE ACTIVITIES 2002**

#### **Range Use Plans:**

Issued new plans for Highland Valley, Scottie Creek, and Bonaparte Tenure area at Cache Creek. Range did the field work for Marble Canyon and Ashcroft Ranch. Ranchers use this Forest Service supplied information to prepare their submissions.

#### **Improvements:**

No funding for Improvements currently  
 Harry Lake smooth wire fence was done over the winter  
 Worked on some layout for projects at Scottie Creek, Mclean Lake.

#### **Weeds:**

- Some Spotted knapweed spraying was done in Hat Creek, Brand 88, McLean Lake, Nesbitt Lake and Highland Valley areas, containment only. Also one patch of HT on Ambusten Road
- HVCC had a crew do HT pulling and they did a good job on about 13 sites, mostly east of Logan Lake.
- Numerous bio-agents also released. Good potential for Toadflax and Houndstongue control.

#### **Ecosystem Restoration:**

Burn plans for the Dewdrop and Hat Creek areas were put on hold with the late spring.

## **RANGE ACTIVITIES 2003**

### **Range Use Plans:**

Ranchers have submitted plans for Marble Canyon and Ashcroft Ranch. After this the regulations were changed extending all current plans to the end of 2004. Range will be working with the ranchers to ensure that Range Use plans are in place for 2005, which will mean issuing over 200 over the next 2 years.

We are also taking over responsibility for McBride, which adds over 40 tenures to the workload. Now have 4 staff covering Kamloops and the new Headwaters District.

### **Improvements:**

- The Grazing Enhancement Fund (GEF), which supplied most of the funding for the range improvements in this area over the last five years has been terminated. Future project funding is not known.

### **Weeds:**

- Government has said it will continue with biological control.
- Funding for spray/pulling program will be limited to new invasive weeds and isolated patches of Spotted knapweed. Program will be handled out of the new SIR.
- Keep watching for newer weeds, including Field scabious, Perennial pepperweed and Rush skeletonweed.

### **Ecosystem Restoration:**

Hope to carry out burn in Hat Creek and Dewdrop Burns in late March/early April . Future funding is questionable. Logging is going on at the Harry Lake site to space area prior to the burn.

## **Forest Service Presentations**

### **Recreation**

The Forest Service is not going to change direction at this point. Recreation sites and trails will not be managed by Forest Service staff. The request for proposal to manage sites and trails in Kamloops District generated 4 responses. Only the TNRD proposal was comprehensive. The other proposals were for small groups of sites. All proposals were being reviewed in Victoria when a decision was reached to purchase liability insurance and remove that component from the Request for Proposal. A new Request for Proposal will be sent out soon with a goal of awarding contracts in April or early May for Recreation Site management.

### **Mountain Pine Beetle**

We are on the cusp of a serious outbreak. The licensees have been working diligently on this problem but the weather is cooperating with the beetle not us. There is still a slight chance the weather will assist us in our management. If the warm weather continues and

we see another dry summer the beetle may outstrip our ability to manage under our current Annual Allowable Cut.

Provincially we are in much worse shape. There is no short term hope for the districts in the north-central part of the province. They are working on strategies that will try to reduce spread but there is so much salvage material that is not being harvested the province is losing significant value every year. Attached is a summary of slides used at the meetings.

[Link to MPB slide show](#)

## **Forest and Range Practices Act**

Government is bringing in new legislation that will reflect priorities of the new government. These changes are happening very quickly and we want to present a very short overview so you are aware of some of the more significant changes coming.

- There will be a phase in period for the new legislation to allow for growing pains during the transition.
- The goal is to maintain the strengths of the Forest Practices Code while removing some of the complexity and impediments to innovative management.
- The new act will allow industry to respond to market conditions while still meeting their public obligations.
- The new act will not sacrifice environmental standards.
- The standards set in the act will be enforceable.
- Staff will be employed to enforce conditions of the act. The penalties are under review and will be made available as soon as possible.

[Link to FRP slide show](#)

## **Summary**

We expect to return next year and hope to discuss forest management with everyone.