

MARTIN MOUNTAIN LRUP, Meeting Minutes, February 2, 2004

The following is a brief summary of minutes for the **Martin Mountain LRUP meeting** held at the Pritchard Community Hall on February 2, 2004. The open house portion started on schedule at 1700 hours and the meeting finished ahead of schedule at 1930 hours. Minutes prepared by David J. Piggin, and reviewed by Mike Dedels.

Steve Schell (Kamloops Fire Zone) was unable to attend the meeting at Pritchard but Steve's (post meeting) comments have been added to the minutes to provide answers to questions asked the public.

Attendees:

David Piggin, Stewardship/Forest Health, Kamloops District – facilitator and minutes.
Morino Bordin, Interfor, Adams Lake Lbr.
Dave Tremblay, Gilbert Smith Forest Products, Barriere
Ron Letham, BCTS - Kamloops
Bud Fox, Rancher, Pritchard
Harold Turner, Rancher/Woodlot Licencee, Pritchard
Robin Mader, Farmer, Pritchard
Kurt Freudenberger, Weyerhaeuser Ltd, Kamloops
Mike Dedels, Range, Kamloops District
Norm Fennell, Tolko, Heffley Creek
Don Swift, resident, Pritchard
Geoff Bodman, rancher/woodlot, Jay Springs Ranch, Pinantan

Introductions: (everyone said hi)

Old Business: The minutes from the last meeting were read in brief. Some general discussion from the floor.

New Business: Each person present was given an opportunity to make any comments and concerns. Comments and concerns were written on a flip chart. The following is a brief summary of the written list of concerns.

- 1. General concern with logging and logging slash related fire suppression and fuel management with a feeling "are we going to be next". This is in reference to the serious fire at McGillvary Lake and McClure.** . D. Piggin advised Pritchard is vulnerable and needed to develop a wildfire/fuel management plan. Should request expertise and advice from fire centre. Suggested discussions with local fire department, fire zone, and TNRD.
- 2. Specific concern with cause of the McGillvray fire. The fire was apparently not actioned as quickly as hoped. In essence, the fire "didn't need to happen".** Resident advised to contact fire centre with concerns.

Editors Note: I spoke to Steve Schell (Feb 5, 2003) at the Kamloops Fire zone and he advised as follows:

“The forest fire was not left but every effort was taken to contain it as soon as it was reported”.

“The Initial Fire Report of a forest fire, in the Pritchard area, was responded to by Initial Attack crews on the evening of August 15, 2003 within minutes of receipt. The Adams Lake IB Fire Department also responded to the fire. The three crews found the fire early in the morning of August 16, 2003, but were not able to action in the darkness of the night, due to isolated steep terrain, and heavy timber. Air tankers actioned that morning of August 16, 2003. Every effort was taken by ground and air tanker crews to contain this fire the first day, but were unable to do so due to steep terrain and extreme fire behaviour conditions. However, we were able to respond quickly to this fire thanks to the public reporting it.”

3. After the fires are out, "how soon will the rancher get back on to the range". "What will the rancher do with cows due to markets" because they haven't got range. "what grass seeding is to be done." What are they "doing about weeds on the fire from the fire suppression equipment".

Mike Dedels advises that various actions are being taken (temporary non-uses, shorter period of use, fewer head turned out, cattle moved to vacant range, and move cows out of District). Grass seeding is being don on priority erosion control areas first. Grass seeding for forage has not been done in a big way but some seeding is planned for the spring. Concern from licencees that general seeding for forage will make forest regeneration problematic.

Editors Note: I spoke to Steve Schell (Feb 5, 2003) at the Kamloops Fire zone and he advised as follows:

“The weeds on the fire guards are normally addressed by fire rehabilitation crews, after the fire is moopped-up through grass seeding the exposed soil. The weeds on the wildfire are being managed through aerial grass seeding as determined by Forest District specialists”

4. Resident concerned about tall grass on a Grazing Lease where the grass has not been grazed. The ungrazed grass is a fire hazard. Mike Dedels and D. Pigginn advised that grazing leases are administered by Crown Lands and that there are limited avenues to approach the problem. (ie call Lands, talk to lease holder, possibly TNRD, and local fire department). Cattle use is not usually even and often low elevation pastures are used in rotations. Very little can be done at this time.

5. Fuel Management -Concern about grass and fuel situation around the unorganized community of Pritchard and outlying ranches. Discussed the grass fuels along the CPR, and CNR (old verson hwy route), highways roads, leased land. D. Pigginn advised that local residents should discuss their concerns with their elected Regional District representatives and local volunteer fire department. The name of the local Highway representative was requested and given.

6. McNulty Road (CAT 4) resedients were not evevacuated while everyone else was evacuated. Apparently, they were missed during the evacuation order. Some thing needs to be done to ensure it does not happen again. The residents wanted a logging fuel break along the road at McNulty Road. D. Pigginn (and others) advised residents to contact the fire centre to indicate their concerns and that local residents should participate in fire pre-organization with the TNRD and local fire departments.

Editors Note: I spoke to Steve Schell (Feb 5, 2003) at the Kamloops Fire zone and he advised as follows

“ It is the office of the Fire Commissioner who is responsible for evacuations. Please provide recommendations for improvement to their office, The contact information is:

Office of the Fire Commissioner
Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services
#390 – 546 St. Paul Street
Kamloops, British Columbia, V2C 5T1
Phone (250) 828-4001
Fax (250) 828-4323
Email: OFCInteriorGems9.gov.bc.ca
Their web site is www.mcaws.gov.bc.ca/firecom “

7. Fuel/ Smoke Management: concern that prescribed burning of agricultural land and ditches to reduce fuel and improve range condition will be stopped by WALP's smoke sensitivity rules. The general consensus was that smoke from prescribed range fires and fuel reduction was not a concern relative to the risk of wildfire. D. Piggan advised the ventilation indices and smoke sensitive drainages are important for people with allergies and to calm "fire fear" in the local public.

8. Concern of was expressed for drift fence in Raspberry Creek in Riverside's operating area that breached a natural barrier. Located in Okanagan Shuswap District. Mike Dedels will check with local rancher on situation.

Licence Reports:

Norm Fennell, Tolko Industries Ltd., Heffley

Mt pine beetle

The Mt pine beetle epidemic continues to grow. On average the annual expansion from 2000 to 2003 has been about 200%. This is the area of red attack mapped by the MOF and represents the area killed by the pine beetle from the year before. In the Kamloops TSA 30.7% of the timber harvesting land base is comprised of pine leading stands. In total, 54 million m³ of mature pine stands with more than 50% pine and older than 80 years area at risk of infestation. The MOF estimates that there is currently 2.5 million m³ of merchantable pine is infested. Out of the AAC of 2.6 million m³ only 1.0 million m³ of pine is harvested annually. To keep up with the infestation the MOF has increased the AAC in the Kamloops TSA by 1.0 million m³ for the next 3 years.

2004 plans for silviculture

- All of the blocks site prepared in 2003 will be planted in 2004.
- Site preparation on CP 614 blocks 2, 7 and 8 will be done. These blocks will be planted in 2005. 642-4,5, 8, 9 and 999-461, 606 will be planted in 2004.

2003 summary of harvest operations

- Logging was completed on 614-2 and the patch cuts on 614-7 and 614-8.

- This finishes off the last of Tolko's approved cutting permits in the area. Several roads were reclaimed in CP 642. The road in 642-4 will be reclaimed in 2005 after the block is planted.

2004 plans

- Discussions are underway to transfer a portion of Tolko's operating area, including Martin Mt, to Weyerhaeuser. The plan is to complete the transfer by March 31, 2004. Silviculture obligations will be completed on all outstanding Tolko blocks.

Dave Tremblay, Gilbert Smith Forest Products, Barriere

10,000 to 15,000 m³ (40 ha) of beetle harvesting required. Mainly cleanup stage. Should be done by June 2004. Discussed fences and metal posts when weak spots observed. Discussed the need for quad ATV access on deactivated roads. Logged some beetle for Tolko.

Kurt Freudenberger, Weyerhaeuser Ltd, Kamloops - No comments at this time. Interested observer.

Morino Borden, Interfor - Adams Lake Lbr, Chase, - They have a small area of their operating area that has been impacted by the fire and they are taking action. Appreciated being at the Pritchard meeting because no one shows up at the Chase meeting.

Ron Letham BCTS. Harvesting burnt timber with 6 timber sales, 5 of the sales are active. There is a lot of beetle located just west of the McGillivray fire based a very recent survey which is currently being studied by BCTS staff.

Mike Dedels, Range Training to be scheduled (April) for the completion of Range Use Plans. In the future it will be the ranchers responsibility to write their own range use plans. F&R Practices Act extension of plans to Dec 2005. Range and grazing enhancement fund now gone, but there are funds to replace fences destroyed by fires. Discussed the need to know the more recent weeds and there are pamphlets available. Prescribed burn done at Dew Drop caused smoke problems in Kamloops, also a prescribed fire is planned for Hat Creek in spring 2004. Will discuss Raspberry fence with rancher.

Meeting Summary

Reviewed the participant concerns written on the flip chart during the meeting for followup..... and meeting adjourned.

David J. Piggin, RPF
Stewardship/Forest Health Forester
Kamloops Forest District