

Monte Hills LRUP Summary

January 30, 2003

Eagle Point Golf Course

A small group attended the evening session. We went through the presentations very informally.

Agenda

Introductions

Old Business

Participant Concerns

Licensee Presentations

Forest Service Presentations

Old Business

Follow up

1) **Damage to Grazing Lease lands by ATV's.**

It appears the use was not on Grazing Lease but Grazing License. The vehicle use is extensive but there is nothing that we can do at this time to limit the damage to soils and trees.

2)

Participant concerns

1) **Knapweed concerns – Is management still ongoing?**

Yes noxious weed mgmt will continue but in a reduced format dealing with new infestations mainly. Due to budget and staff constraints, the weed program will be managed from the South Interior Region. The city has a control program for areas within city limits.

2) **What kind of research is available on Lodgepole Pine genotypes that are resistant to the beetle?**

There is limited research on specific Mountain Pine Beetle resistant Lodgepole Pine genotypes. This research is long term 100 –200 year results. There are other research topics regarding MPB that may yield results sooner. Various bacteria and virus' that attack the beetle. The Federal Government committed a sizable fund for research in to the Mountain Pine Beetle this past summer. We do not expect results that will assist us in the current outbreak but we hope to have some tools to help us deal with the next outbreak.

3) **What is the status of access through Grazing Leases to the crown land beyond?**

Grazing Lease holders have the same rights as someone that leases a house or apartment. They can limit access to their lease property. Many grazing leases have legal right or ways that have been removed from the lease area. These access routes can be used by the public or other tenure holders as full public access. There is still

some consideration required to ensure there is no negative impact to crops or cattle. In this case where the access does not exist a letter to Land and Water BC is required to let them know about the club desire to access crown land beyond the grazing lease. LWBC will consider that letter during the renewal of the lease.

Licensee Presentations

1) Riverside Forest Products

We are chasing Mountain Pine Beetle in the Georges Creek area again. There is another area we are working and that is near McGlashan Lake. We plan to have both areas cleaned up before beetle flight this summer. We have exceeded our cut control in the district and are working on this as emergency salvage.

2) Tolko Industries

Mt pine beetle overview

MPB has been a problem in British Columbia since the major outbreak in 1998. This was due to a long hot summer that allowed the beetles to increase their populations to epidemic levels. Since then, warm winters have allowed this population to survive and thrive. Typical expansion rates have ranged from 2:1 to 20:1. With the mild winter we expect a 8:1 expansion of the population in 2003.

‘Climate’ is the most effective factor to control MPB. A cold snap of at least –30C for 3 to 4 weeks with low snow cover is needed to kill a significant number of MPB larva in the infested trees. Other than ‘climate’, the next best effective control, is to remove the beetle infested trees from the forest through harvesting. This is because ‘milling’ of the trees removes the bark, under which the beetles are hibernating and developing.

With the mild winters we are experiencing we expect to continue to chase the beetles for several more years. The peak of the beetle population cycle typically lasts 5 to 8 years and we are going into the sixth year of the cycle. The last epidemic occurred between 1980 and 1986. Cold weather early in the winter killed the beetles in late 1986. Until climate ultimately controls the beetle, management strategies such as harvesting will be employed.

Mt pine beetle has reached epidemic levels in several forest regions in the province to the point where control through harvesting is no longer possible. The MOF has increased the annual allowable cut by 5.3 million m³ in the Lakes, Prince George and Quesnel Timber Supply Areas to salvage as much of the pine as possible before it loses all of its value. In the Kamloops Forest District the MOF and licensees have been aggressively harvesting Mt pine beetle infested stands since 1998. To date this strategy has been successfully controlling the spread of the beetle for the most part so an increase in the AAC has not been needed.

Mt Pine Beetle in BC (from MOF)

Forest Region	Vancouver	Caribou	Kamloops	Prince Rupert	Prince George	Nelson	Total
Hectares	174,171	539,315	35,903	511,798	685,598	21,856	1,968,641
M3							50 million
AAC increase (m3)		908,000		1,500,000	2,900,000		5.3 million
Value (\$)							\$4.2 Billion

Tolko currently has more than 1 year of AAC of Mt pine beetle in the company's operating area. Other licensees (TSP, Interfor, Weyco, Ainsworth) are helping Tolko out by harvesting beetle attacked stands throughout Tolko's operating area (approximately 300,000 m3). In 2002 85% of Tolko's AAC was in Mt pine beetle stands. In 2003 we are planning 90% of our AAC to be in pine beetle stands. In the Kamloops TSA 31% of the timber harvesting landbase is comprised of pine stands. Losing this portion of the timber supply would have huge social implications for Kamloops and the surrounding communities.

2002 summary of silviculture operations

- Site preparation on beetle salvage blocks was completed on small CP 999 blocks 601, 603, 605, 412, 923, 447, 448, 449, 450, 458 and 605. Also harvested CP 642 blocks 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7.

2003 plans for silviculture

- All of the blocks site prepared in 2002 will be planted in 2003.
- Site preparation on CP 642 blocks 4, 5, 8, 9 and 10 will be done. Also will site prep CP 999 blocks 461 and 606. These blocks will be planted in 2004.

2002 summary of harvest operations

- We harvested Mt pine beetle on CP 642 (140.6 ha) and CP 999 (18.9 ha).

2003 plans for harvest

- Until we probe the area to find out if there is any MPB we have no plans for harvest this year.

3) 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)
- Monte Hills LRUP harvest

	2002		2003
- Roche Lake:	3,300 m ³	,	10,000 m ³
- Scuitto Lake:	6,300 m ³	,	1,000 m ³

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.

4) Range

RANGE ACTIVITIES 2002

Range Use Plans:

Range issued RUP's for the Wolfe Lake unit.

Did field work for the Monte Creek Unit, Pringles area in Wolfe Lake and the Bleeker Unit (Two ranchers now Capitol Hill and Gregory). Ranchers submitted RUP drafts for these areas.

After this the regulations were changed extending all current plans to the end of 2004.

We still hope to issue the submitted plans in some form this year, but have to wait for the new regulations, which aren't ready yet.

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.

Weeds:

- Some Spotted knapweed spraying was done in the Roche Lake Road area, most other areas are considered beyond containment.
- HVCC had a crew do HT pulling and they did a good job on about 13 sites, mostly towards 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:

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:

Future project funding is not known. A few materials for short fences or water developments are available.

Weeds:

- Forest Service funding is going to the Southern Interior Region who will do a containment program, primarily on newer weeds.
- Government has said it will continue with biological control.
- Keep watching for newer weeds, including Field scabious, Perennial pepperweed and Rush skeletonweed.

Ecosystem Restoration:

Hope to carry out burns in Hat Creek and Dewdrop in late March/early April. Future funding is questionable. Hat Creek is being logged with commercial spacing first. Commercial thinning of Douglas fir is also happening on Duck Hill and there may be some potential in the Eagle Point area.

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.