

Pinantan-Tod-Lolo-Badger-Devick LRUP Summary

February 5, 2003
Heffley Creek Hall

Agenda

Introductions
Old Business
Participant Concerns
Licensee Presentations
Forest Service Presentations

Old Business

Follow up

1) **Mount Morrissey Ski Trails:**

Follow up from a meeting last year: Jennifer had organized a meeting between Sun Peaks, the Forest Service, Overlander Ski club and the Outdoor Club. Sun Peaks has relocated the parking lot for both the backcountry skiers and snowmobilers. This has worked out very well. Conclusion: We have had one good meeting and we need to meet again.

Follow up meetings have occurred and the ski club and Sun Peaks are happy with their working relationship.

2) **Water Supply:** The base of Morissey Mountain

Local rancher expressed his concern and frustration with the current water shortage. He feels the water shortage is a direct result of Forestry roads that were put in place. He feels that responses to his concerns are not adequately dealt with.

Tolko is aware of this issue. Larry says he will raise this issue with Tony as he is the one that is familiar with the situation. Tony will schedule a meeting.

A field trip was conducted to the site with a regional geomorphologist geotechnical engineer the landowner and licensee to review the issue. The professional judgement was that the water source was at risk before improvements were made to the road. The actions Tolko has taken are adequate to restore flows to historic levels.

3) **Heffley Lake Bay Road:**

Unauthorized camping is occurring at the East end of the lake on the south side. Concerns are waste management, fires and fisheries. The potential solution is a road blockage.

We will look into this although it is a Highways issue. See participant concerns #3.

4) **Hang Gliding Site**

The development of CP501 on the road up to Sun Peaks has resulted in a gate being installed. The Hang Gliding club has requested a key for this gate.

Issue: Why would you not access the area from the Sun Peaks area?

There is no direct connection between the Sun Peaks area and the launch site that we need to reach.

Location of launch sight is 2.4 km up Henderson road on the North West facing slope.

Road condition will remain the same; water bars will not be filled in.

Tolko expressed concern for “ established forest regeneration” to make sure it remains healthy.

This site will be identified and issued an SUP’s.

Ian McArthur is asked to do a detailed survey of the perimeter and get an application in to Jennifer soon.

Participant concerns

1) **The Outdoor club would like to place a gate to prevent snowmobiles from accessing the ski trails at Morrisey.**

The table did not see an issue with this. The gate is for safety primarily to prevent vehicle accidents with the skiers and protect the trails since many of the trail hills become unsafe if snowmobiles have packed the snow.

2) **Has Hang Gliding Club obtained an SUP for their launch site at Sun Peaks?**

3) **Did Highways provide authority to block Lake Bay road?**

Larry thought the authorization was obtained but found out that Highways requires a public hearing process that is going to cost the proponent about \$1500 to determine if there is any opposition to blocking the road. Sandra is documenting the garbage dumping and will take this information to Highways this fall.

4) **Some logging trucks still use Meadow Road and exceed the weight limit.**

Highways has posted a reduced load limit. BC Timber Sales did notify their truckers of the issue and will continue to notify the truckers. If the truckers want to take a chance breaking the law that is a Ministry of Transportation and Highways issue.

5) **Jay Springs Ranch would like to place a gate on Grazing Lease land to prevent theft, poaching, and dumping of vehicles.**

There have been a number of issues with wood theft, garbage dumping, illegal hunting and car dumping recently on some newly reopened roads in the woodlot. To reduce these activities the owners want to place a gate to prevent access to the old road. Table is okay with proposal.

6) **Why haul beetle during flight? (common question at all meetings)**

The goal of transporting logs during flight is to get as many beetle to the mill and processed as possible. The belief is that even if some beetle leave the logs during transport this is a smaller number than would leave the logs if they were not harvested and removed from the forest. There is also a belief that the movement of the logs during harvest and transport acts like a storm to the beetle and they do not leave the logs until things are quiet and they have more chance of success.

7) **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.

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) 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)
- Pinantan LRUP

	2002	2003
- McGillivray Lake:	30,600 m3	, 30,000 m3

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.

3) **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, Tolko Lavington, Tolko Nicola) 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

- In this area we brushed 92 ha, excavator site prepared 146 ha, stumped 63 ha for root disease, planted 473 ha and replanted 34 ha.

2003 plans for silviculture

- We will brush 177 ha, weed 16 ha, excavator site prepare 446 ha, pile 10 ha, disk trench 315 ha and plant 231 ha.

2002 summary of harvest operations

- Last year we constructed 49.6 km of new road, reconstructed 4.5 km and reclaimed 4 km of road.
- Approximately 345 ha was harvested on several cutting permits (556, 571, 581, 700, 701, 996, 999) including Cicero Creek. 85% of this area was harvested for Mt pine beetle control.

2003 plans for harvest

- Will finish hauling CP 702 at McClure Cr next week. A new fence will be constructed in May or June.
- CP 700 at Community Lake will be hauled by the end of this week. Some sections of fence were taken down for harvest. New posts have been put in and the wire will be put back up in the spring.
- Fence at CP 556 will be repaired in the spring. On block 12 a new fence will be built along the private land boundary.
- At Badger Lake we will log half of CP 599 prior to breakup and plan to log the rest prior to beetle flight. Have some fence to repair and cattle guards to install.
- CP 703 at Siwash Creek is a new beetle permit that will be harvested this summer.
- Interfor is presently helping us out with beetles at Coal Creek, Armour Cr, and Mt Morrisey. They will harvest about 40,000 m3 this year and plan to be completed by end of Feb.

4) Range

RANGE ACTIVITIES 2002

Range Use Plans:

Range issued RUP's for the Tsalkom, Tod/Cahilty/Paling/McKnight, and Whiskers Units.

Did field work for the Meadow Lake, Charles Lee, Heffley Creek, and Moulton-McBrien/Toney Units. 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:

- Most 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. Good to expand these kinds of programs, but takes significant coordination.

- 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 other areas.

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.