

North Island – Central Coast District Forest Management Leadership Team Meeting #4 - Minutes

Date: May 26, 2011

Location: Marshall at NICC office; field visits along Holberg Rd/Nahwitti Lk areas

Time: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

In attendance: Andrew Ashford, Jon Flintoft, Ione Brown, Mike DesRochers, Dave Mackay, Jennifer Barolet, Tom Cole, Glenn Piggot, guests Craig Wickland (FLNRO West Coast Region) and Kai Sonnenburg (IFP).

1. Stop #1 – Richply Nahwitti Blk 108A – Blue Stain Yc
 - Areas with high incidence of blue-stain Yc – forest management solutions vs. Revenue/appraisal solutions
 - Assumption is that all Yc is blue-stained, not favoured in many markets
 - Stain doesn't affect grade
 - Attempt to cruise out the 'mop-tops' – then have to treat as standing waste
 - Amendments to scaling manual?
 - Perhaps there should be a separate grade
 - Historically ~ 30% recovered
 - Ideal wildlife trees
 - Defect definition
 - Alternate cost structure
 - Safety issues with retention
 - Plant these sites primarily with Cw, Yc in SS11
 - More flexibility for safety reasons if remove from harvest area and call them retention patches rather than WTPs
 - Salvage benefits, FN partnerships
 - Dual mark salvage permit
 - Green log and dead/down ability after waste assessment if CP still active
 - Tom's BN (Action: Tom to send to group).
 - CWHvh1 revenue – allow zoning in the appraisal manual
 - Geographic issue
 - Affects operability

2. Stop #2 – Richply block along Pugh Rd – Ocular Estimates for FG
 - Boundary between vh1 and vm1 in distance
 - OIF group quick-win
 - Ocular estimates standards submitted to CF and policy group but was rejected
 - Not an issue with the survey, but how does the silviculture reporting work? Needs to be accurate enough for predicting future inventory
 - TSR: larger analysis units. Difficulty with inventory label?
 - Lower side of road SS01; upper side SS11

- Below road is definitely FG (500 min); upper is borderline (400 min)
- Harder with clump and gap stands – becomes increasingly difficult to estimate well-spaced
- Branch pushing growth-intercept concept indices for SI; most people use SIBEC
- Professional reliance and rationales
- Useful tool where there are safety or access concerns
- Use where appropriate, not everywhere
- OGMA/WHA
- LUs – amendment provisions
- Recorded info around OG primarily even though other values are being captured
- Salvage in OGMAs
- Is LRDW being updated with spatial data from salvage or other operations? **Action: Jen to check with Mel.**

3. Stop #3 – Richply Block 13? – Another Ocular Estimate Example

- 21-year old alder stand with road influence
- More difficult for ocular estimation – lots of variation in height, clumping
- Difficult to determine average height
- Likely could do via flight and walk in afterwards for a couple of plots to confirm
- Use low level photos for stratification
- Series of fluvial benches, lots of spruce, cedar, hemlock
- Alder won't do well on salal sites but wide spacing will improve the soils (N fixation) and benefit conifer growth without the competitive effect
- Need to think about what SS would be appropriate to have Dr, and what would be acceptable in the survey
- Could expand on OIF ocular estimate standards – **Action: form a working group to develop localised guidance**

4. Next meeting

- Andrew Ashford scheduled as next chair
- Location & Timing: September; date to be determined
- Focus / Topics – fire/fuel management. Other?