

Prince Albert FMA Forest Management Planning Process

Core Planning Team Meeting Minutes for Jan 21, 2015

Location: Forest Service – Birch Room

Time: 8-9:30

Dave Lindenau, Forest Service	Cam Brown, Forsite (Minutes Author)
Michelle Young, MLOSB	
Xianhua Kong, Forest Service	
Darryl Sande, Forsite	
Narayan Dhital, Forest Service	

Minutes:

1. Review of Past Action Items:

- **Cam** to develop a map showing caribou habitat ratings, actual caribou population use, and old/very old stand retention areas so that planners can assess where deferral areas might be located (still in progress – looking for population locations still).
- **Forsite** to send Xianhua info to add the new VSA lakes into his planning file.
- **Cam** to ensure SGR's are consistent with modeling assumptions that all stands revert to the same stand type – and that no erosions of SWD regeneration is occurring relative to what is assumed in the yield curves.
- **Darryl** to look at our current VOITs and determine if any should be adjusted in consideration of the draft VOITs provided by govt in Dec 2014.
- All other past action items were addressed.

2. Timelines

- a. Dave Lindenau has provided approvals for the Development Report (G&Y) and indicated that the Modeling Assumptions document as no more outstanding issues. The lower pulp volume estimates was recognized as a political issue for Govt, not a technical one.
- b. A new workplan and timeline has been signed off by Sakâw and the Forest Service. Key milestones are:

	Submission	Govt Response
Forest Estate Modeling Report	March 31, 2015	May 31, 2015
Draft FMP Volume II	May 31, 2015	June 30, 2015
Final FMP Volume II	July 31, 2015	October 31, 2015

- c. Plan approval will be retroactive to April 1.

3. Tactical Plan Issues

- a. Cam had a conversation with Bob Wynes over the holidays on using an objective based Tactical Plan in place of a hard spatial one. Bob could see value in the proposal but ultimately replied with an email indicating he can't see how to address the caribou issue sufficiently without a spatial tactical plan (current plan is for F&W to review and comment on tactical plan as only means of input into FMP for caribou).
- b. There seems to be various interpretations of the spatial resolution required for harvest areas in a tactical plan (from exact model polygons/blocks to generalized 'blobs'). **Forest Service (Dave L)** to provide a description of what would be required in a spatial tactical plan.
- c. Sakâw shareholders identified that if realistic blocks were to be developed for the tactical plan it would take significant effort from their planners and this is not likely to happen in the timeframe we are looking at. In addition, a hybrid product that spatially identifies where harvesting won't occur, plus gives objectives to guide logging in the remaining area (aka links to strategic objectives in model) is seen to offer the advantage of being better able to deal with changing/improving information sources around caribou habitat and the placement of larger events during the 10 years of plan implementation (plus markets and production facility's needs).

4. Forest Estate Modeling

- a. Cam presented the latest timber supply forecasts that reflect the NFP guidelines (including 9% inblock retn) and they indicate several decades of harvest at the current HVS for sawlogs and hardwood, but pulp production is less than half of the pulp
- b. Pulp levels are well below the current HVS – **Cam** to check to make sure they are as high as they can go without compromising other objectives.
- c. Narayan's natural disturbance assessment was discussed as a means to understand impact levels of on the landbase. As none of this catastrophic disturbance is being modeled when assessing sustainable harvest levels, the selection of the reanalysis threshold needs to consider our risk tolerance for exceeding volume removals from the forest during the term of the plan. Current intention remains to use a 10% impact on the net landbase (unsalvaged area).

5. VOITS/FMP Registry

- a. 1999 FMP/EIS approval condition's and commitments need further work to rationalize the changes or reference standards that replace them. **Narayan** is to look at what Pat and Darryl worked on and attempt to get it to where it needs to be.
- b. New draft FMP planning standard VOITS were released in Dec week and they largely align with our current VOIT package but differences do exist. **Forsite** to determine plan of action on differences. Compliance VOITs are mandatory so we would need to adopt those. However, they are currently draft and may not get finalized before we have to finish the FMP.
- c. **Darryl** to look at old plan commitments and determine future status.

6. Caribou

- a. **Forsite** to work with Gigi's group to develop a potential strategy for Caribou management now that habitat mapping is available. Consideration is being put into the use of old seral reserves (spatial) plus some kind of temporary harvest deferral areas that would be in place for the term of the plan or until they are replaced by range planning outputs.

Subsequent meetings:

Wed Feb 25, 2015 (930am at Forest Service)

Wed Mar 18, 2015 (930am at Forest Service)

Wed April 15, 2015 (930am at Forest Service)