

Prince Albert FMA Forest Management Planning Process

Core Planning Team Meeting Minutes for Jan 22, 2014

Location: Forest Service – Birch Room

Time: 9:30 – 1:00pm

Chris Brown, Forest Service

Michelle Young, Tolko

Doug Braybrook, Edgewood

Shawn Miesner, Carrier Forest Products

Dave Knight, Sakâw

Cam Brown, Forsite (Minutes Author)

Vickie Gauthier, Forest Service

Xianhua Kong, Forest Service

Dave Harman, Paper Excellence

Minutes:

1. Review of Past Action Items
 - a. All past action times were addressed except for the following:
 - i. **Gigi** to send Forsite the species and habitat definitions to track in FMP (**Pat** coordinating). Gigi has decided that the three species to be modeled will be Caribou, Fisher, and Moose.
 - ii. **Forsite** to propose threshold value for fire impact reanalysis
 - iii. **Cam** to propose approach on integrating caribou considerations into the development of the tactical plan. (Was addressed in meeting - modeling of event sizes and old seral patch size can be used to minimize impact on old interior habitat.
2. Volume 1 Document
 - a. Cam has made all requested edits to text and maps except is waiting for information on NSR stands. Discussion on how to approach this was to forgo the map of NSR (too small an issue to map), include Diane's updated stats on legacy block status, and make it clear that achieving successful regeneration on the FMA is not an issue.
 - b. A public consultation report has being prepared to accompany the final FMP Volume 1 document - almost no comments were received so it is short (mostly documents process).
 - c. **Cam** to submit revised Volume 1 and consultation report as finals.
3. PAG Update
 - a. Next meeting is scheduled for end of February and will be addressing the issue of riparian buffers.
 - b. Brad Dahl is not going to represent the SK Wildlife Association but could potentially sit on the planning team anyways. **Dave** suggested he would be **contacting Susan Carr** to be the PAG rep on the planning team.
4. Planning File / Netdown
 - a. Planning file was submitted for review to forest service in early Jan.
 - b. Xianhua indicated that he and Mark Doyle will be reviewing it starting next week once they finish with the PP FMA file.
 - c. Future permanent road losses were discussed (alternative approach to the 2% used in past analysis). New approach will be formally reviewed as part of the planning file.

- d. Approach to low density stands was discussed – ended up with a simple set of assumptions in this FMA because of limited data (<40 yr old forested stands are in, older low density stands are out)
 - e. **Dave** was going to speak to Andrea about why we are removing proposed TLEs.
5. SGR's
- a. **Vicki** indicated that she had not yet reviewed the SGRs and could not provide comment yet. Aiming for 1-2 weeks from now.
 - b. Goal is to review the SGRs to evaluate the proposed methods for acceptability and likelihood of achieving the goal of 'maintenance of forest type proportions over time'.
6. Blowdown Regeneration
- a. Cam reviewed the area and forest types currently in the high/NA class of blowdown (2011 event) and proposed transitions/regen delays. The Island Forests assumptions were examined and generally pointed to impacted stands reverting to the same types – expect some HJP types shifted slightly toward more hardwood. It was decided that the area involved did not warrant a complicated approach so all types were assumed to revert to themselves and different regen delays were identified by types (10 year for jP types, 5 yrs for hardwoods or black spruce, and 0 years for white spruce because of advanced regen.
7. NFP
- a. Old seral – MU's by species groups look to work well but some deficits exist initially because we are forcing averages on a diverse landbase. **Cam** raised issue that JP old seral ages should be younger than other softwoods – to talk to Nadine.
 - b. Event size targets should be set to ensure they can be achieved – current Op Plan suggests a heavy weighting for the 100-1500ha size class but some large events are being created. It was suggested that a tiered set of targets should be implemented to give operators a chance to shift into the larger events.
 - c. Interior old/very old habitat – current proportions for both MU's and Species groups were reviewed and indicated that targets may need to be customized for each unit. For example the bS species group had a lower proportion of interior habitat to start than other groups. Targets will be best finalized once some modeling is done and the impacts on HVS are understood. Early ideas suggest 1/3 of the old/very old could be maintained as interior habitat.
 - d. Insular Retention – debate occurred over whether the 9% retention could be broken down into a portion that was permanent and a portion that could be removed in 20-30 yrs. Concerns over how realistic it was to come back for these stands was expressed and whether this would just keep roads open and prevent the 'get in-get out' objective from being met. An idea was floated where smaller events could have 4.5% insular retention applied while using 9% for the larger events. It was more likely that the extra 4.5% could be harvested at a later date in larger events because larger leave patches could be created and they could be created along access roads internal to the block. **Dave** was going to explore this idea with Bob. It was also discussed that leaving retention for 20-30 years has minimal value for block structure so why bother leaving it – focus on matrix and permanent 4.5% insular retention to keep accounting rules simple.

Subsequent meetings (to be sent out as outlook meeting requests):

Wed Feb 12, 2014 (1-4 pm at Forest Service – Cam to call in)
 Wed Mar 19, 2014 (930 am at Forest Service)
 Wed Apr 16, 2014 (930am at Forest Service)
 Wed May 14, 2014 (930am at Forest Service)
 Wed June 18, 2014 (930am at Forest Service)