

Prince Albert FMA Forest Management Planning Process

Core Planning Team Meeting Minutes for May 28, 2014

Location: Forest Service – Birch Room

Time: 9:30 – 4 pm

Chris Brown, Forest Service

Dave Knight, Carrier

Michelle Young, Tolko

Dave Harman, Paper Excellence

Pat Mackasey, Forest Service

Cam Brown, Forsite (Minutes Author)

Xianhua Kong, Forest Service

Narayan Dhital – Forest Service

Doug Braybrook, Edgewood

Minutes:

1. Review of Past Action Items
 - a. Perry Vermette was contacted. **Cam** to make sure he is on the PAG invite list.
 - b. Riparian for PAG – **Doug** to give Susan the presentation.
 - c. **Xianhua/Pat** still to provide technical review comments on Modeling Assumptions Document.
 - d. All other actions completed.
2. Volume 1
 - a. No outstanding issues remain. Pat indicated that signing is delayed because of FS's need to follow the EA process for a Change in Development. The ministry will proceed with the streamlined approach rather than wait for FRMA to be proclaimed to facilitate plan approval. The Forest Service is preparing a Section 10 notice (as required by the EA Act) to notify the public that the FMP is being developed by Sakaw. Once this notice has been posted, the FMP-Volume I will be recommended for approval.
3. PAG
 - a. Susan Carr now facilitating the group.
 - b. Next meeting is June 17, 2014 in PA. Agenda to include update on Act/Regs, Caribou, Ducks Unlimited Wetlands, Timber Supply, and VOITs.
4. Development Report
 - a. The Forest Service has no issue with the curves except there may be an issue with the softwood sawlog/pulp splits on some curves and this has held up approval of the Development Report. A request was made to manage the flow on total softwood (not just sawlogs). Delay also linked with review of the Modeling Assumptions document. **Pat** was asked to try and separate these issues and respond specifically to the Development Report.
5. Forest Estate Modeling Results
 - a. Cam presented modeling results for:
 - i. NFP scenario based on Forest Service's March 2014 Draft NFP Standard document – extensive detail on model results was provided. This run did not

- meet Old Interior forest requirements. See powerpoint slides provided with these minutes.
 - ii. NFP vs current practice (1997 FMP)
 - iii. NFP with larger piece size (old harvest ages)
 - iv. NFP with stronger controls on old
 - b. Key points noted:
 - i. 'Old interior' is being drawn down extensively and is of concern (not meeting intent of Draft NFP standard). The ability to meet some of the 15% old seral objective using in block retention and non net landbase areas means that much of the old seral that is retained in the long term is small and scattered (non interior). Forcing the model to retain it in more contiguous areas will have timber supply impacts. It was recognized that the event size distribution is not influencing future supply of old interior because these areas are not reaching old age – they are being harvested when they reach min harvest ages.
 - ii. Forcing the model to achieve larger piece sizes in the long term results in older harvest ages and significant loss of flexibility in short and mid-term timber supply and moderate impacts in the long term.
 - c. The presentation and other project results can be found on the Forsite project website.
 - i. <http://services.forsite.ca/web/wp-login.php> user = sakaw pass= Sakaw1
 - ii. Look under the 'Modeling Results' tab for the May 28 Presentation and you will have access to the slide deck and the 20 yr plan map presented.
 - d. Woodland Caribou - Pat provided a brief update on progress on the Province's approach to managing the woodland caribou recovery strategy. Fish & Wildlife branch representatives will be available to review the draft tactical plan when submitted by Sakaw to provide feedback in regards to management of woodland caribou habitat. The ministry is also planning to meet with forest industry representatives at some point in the near future to discuss the concept of habitat connectivity for woodland caribou. Pat will advise the planning team when this will take place.

6. VOITS

- a. Edits were made to the VOITs table document.
- b. #3 is focused on regen of softwood types as per NFP doc. Group agreed to leave the stems/ha targets (reduced slightly) but eliminate the target for H stands (to be made up for in HS stands).
- c. Interior Old #5 needs to have a target proposed still – feedback needed from the Forest Service's NFP committee because meeting 'natural' conditions may require too much timber supply impact. An alternative approach that would be easier to achieve and meet the intent of the NFP would be to ensure a % of old seral is in larger patches.
- d. Change event sizes (#6) to use the size buckets/%'s in the model but treat it as a reporting VOIT only (non for compliance).
- e. Indicate for all VOITS whether they are for compliance or simply reporting

7. Timelines

- a. It was recognized that meeting the Dec submission timeline for Volume 2 looks very unlikely considering we will not be able to have the timber supply public sessions until early September.
- b. **Sakaw** is going to send a letter to Bob about the timeline issue so that the Forest Service can prepare for the possibility that a new FMP is not in place for April 2015.
- c. **Cam** is to prepare an updated workplan document that identified the new Plan Author (Cam) and updates the Gantt chart to reflect realistic timelines.

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

Wed June 18, 2014 (930am at Forest Service)
 Wed July 30, 2014 (930am Conf Call / Web Meeting)

Wed Aug 20, 2014 (930am at Forest Service)
Wed Sept 17, 2014 (930am at Forest Service)
Wed Oct 15, 2014 (930am at Forest Service)
Wed Nov 19, 2014 (930am at Forest Service)
Wed Dec 17, 2014 (930am Conf Call / Web Meeting)