

Prince Albert FMA Forest Management Planning Process

Core Planning Team Meeting Minutes for Sept 18, 2013

Location: Forest Service – Birch Room

Time: 9:30 – 4:00pm

Pat Mackasey, Forest Service

Doug Braybrook, Edgewood

Dave Harman, MLMP

Dave Knight, Sakâw

Ed Kwiatkowski, Carrier Forest Products

Cam Brown, Forsite (Minutes Author)

Michelle Young, Tolko

Xianhua Kong, Forest Service

Katherine Brewster and Gigi Pittoello (Fish and Wildlife Branch) attended in afternoon.

Minutes:

1. Review of Past Action Items (Cam)
 - a. All past action times were address^{ed} except **Cam is still to produce a map of historical harvest locations** for the Vol 1 document.
2. Volume 1 Document
 - a. First draft has been submitted to Forest Service. **Pat indicated that he has various gov't staff assigned to review sections and will compile gov't response/comments and provide them to Sakâw the week of Oct 22.**
 - b. Pat indicated that he would like to see additional FMP commitments added to the Vol 1 doc (Table 4) to reflect key forest estate modeling assumptions from 1999 (e.g. intensive silviculture for some managed stands). Sakâw reps argued that there was little point because many of these issues were developed by Weyerhauser and there is no desire to highlight/defend changes from them. Cam was unclear on the specific level of detail that was desired because there were a lot of 'assumptions' and even more model outputs (e.g. harvest by FMZ) making the idea a slippery slope. **Pat agreed to propose some wording for review.**
3. PAG meeting update
 - a. Oct 7 meeting in PA planned (invitations have been sent). Intention is to invite Doug Turner to discuss NFP. Susan Carr will be there to take minutes.
 - b. One objective of the meeting will be to ID someone who would be willing to attend the planning team meetings.
4. Timber Supply Modeling Assumptions
 - a. SFVI Inventory (Pasture fire) – shows area of non productive that was considered productive before the fire (UTM inventory). This is likely because the fire occurred in the year of the photograph for the new inventory so it looked burnt on the photos. Xianhua suggested we put it back into the inventory using UTM attributes and assign [the year of origin as the](#) fire year. **Cam to send Xianhua/Mark Doyle a summary of the issue.**
 - b. Non Merchantable types – Sakâw to review definitions in FMA agreement and proposed for use in FMP, plus **Xianhua to check with licensing folks on this issue.**

- c. Visuals – Forest Service agreed with the approach to not use mapped visually sensitive land as netdowns but instead control the rate of harvesting in these areas using forest cover constraints.
 - d. Exclusions - There is a list of exclusions in the FMA agreement document but it may not line up completely with the latest data provided by Mark Doyle. Several expired exclusion area (Smoothstone, Dore, Big River) that are no longer in the exclusions dataset are being considered as potential netdowns by Sakaw. More information is needed on these areas to understand them and why they are no longer exclusions. **Forsite to follow up with Mark Doyle.**
 - e. Riparian – intent is to remain consistent with the old Weyerhaeuser approach to riparian management as documented in the FMA standards. It was requested that **Dave to send a letter to the Forest Service stating this.**
 - f. Steep Slopes – Sakaw is evaluating whether a 30% slope cutoff is appropriate for use as a netdown. Xianhua suggested that it was possible to vary from this value in the Planning Manual appendix if sufficient rationale is provided ([but was not suggesting to do so](#)).
5. VOITS
- a. Cam started review of the VOITS table found in the Planning Manual and it was confirmed that there was a new version that should be used as a starting point. **Pat to get Rod to send Cam the new VOITS table** and then Cam will reinstate the VOITS discussion.
 - b. Pat pointed out to that one of the VOITS will require us to track habitat supply for other wildlife species beyond just caribou and to Cam should follow up with Katherine/Gigi at Fish and Wildlife. **Gigi acknowledged that she will ID species and habitat definitions to track during modeling.**
6. Caribou Presentation
- a. Lane presented his work to date on version 2 of an ecosystem map for the Boreal Plains. The intent is to develop a common base map of ecosites that can be publically distributed and used for multiple resource management. Version 1 was considered too poor to use and this new version is expected to significantly improve accuracy levels by using multiple data sources (SFVI, Landsat, DEM, soils) and data driven classification routines (imputation). Lane indicated that a first draft of his map would be available mid October and then indicated that a realistic date for a final map product would be Dec 2013.
 - b. Gigi spoke on how Ecosites have been correlated with caribou habitat suitability (L,M,H) to allow the ecosite map to be turned into a potential (“crucial”) habitat map. Wetland complexes and upland jP and bS sites linked to wetlands (and corridors between habitat areas) are the main focus.
 - c. Management guidance is going to focus on how roads and harvesting can be managed across broad habitat areas (vs isolated population polygons). The goal is to maintain the federally dictated 65% undisturbed habitat requirement within the identified area.
 - i. ‘Disturbed’ conditions include natural and anthropogenic disturbance (any) as defined by feds. Any anthropogenic change needs to be buffered by 500m (quad trail, highways, cutblocks, etc). Need to confirm this interpretation as the feds used Landsat data (30m pixels) to develop their data/results and they would not have been able to pick up small trails etc.
 - ii. Harvested areas and associated buffers are considered disturbed for 40 years.
 - iii. Wetland/muskeg types (not just productive forest) can contribute to the undisturbed condition as long as they are not considered disturbed.
 - d. Gigi indicated that the FMP process would ideally work with the provinces new maps/definitions of ‘potential habitat’ and then apply the Fed’s targets/definitions for suitable habitat (min 65% undisturbed, disturbed / undisturbed definitions and buffers etc) while the province works to refine the approach over the next 3-4 years.

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7. Public Meeting Roadshow
 - a. Dave confirmed he was looking after all of the arrangements to put this into place (venues, advertising, invitations, etc).
8. Timeline Discussions
 - a. The end of September deadline for direction from gov't on caribou and NFP's is not going to be met. There is significant concern that Sakaw will not be able to meet the FMP timelines if they do not get direction on these issues in a timely way. There appears to be two choices if no direction is forthcoming:
 - i. If the FMP will ultimately not be approved without the including the new/pending information on caribou and NFP, establish a new timeline for providing data and consider the need for an associated shift in final deliverables.
 - ii. Use the best available information as of Oct 1 (details of which to be defined and agreed upon during Oct) and keep the original completion date intact.
 - b. Cam is to provide Dave some text to this effect so that he can send a letter to Bob Wynes and get his perspective on the issue.
 - i. Key items required from NFP work are:
 1. Specifics of old/very old seral retention requirements
 2. Specifics of stand level retention requirements
 3. Any patch size distribution targets
 - ii. Key Items required from Caribou work are:
 1. Map of potential habitat
 2. Rules around how to identify disturbed stands (if different from Feds)
 3. Target for undisturbed area (65% long term, x% short term)

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

Wednesday Oct 16, 2013 (930am @ Forest Service)
Week of Nov 18-22, 2013 – Public Meetings on Vol 1 (In conjunction with AOP meetings)
[Wednesday Dec 18, 2013 \(1pm @ Forest Service – Cam to call in\)](#)
Wednesday Jan 15th, 2014 (930am at Forest Service)
Thursday Feb 27, 2014 (930am at Forest Service)