

**Prince Albert FMA FMP
Core Planning Team Meeting**

Meeting Minutes for April 26, 2017

Location: Forest Service – Birch Room

Time: 930am – Noon

Mark Doyle, Forest Service	Nadine Penney, Forest Service
Michelle Young, MLOSB	Amy Slack, Forest Service
Ed Kwiatkowski, Carrier	Dave Stevenson, Forest Service
Robert Follett, NorSask	Doug Braybrook, Edgewood
Chris Brown, Forest Service	Shawn Francis, MoE - CE and Science
Narayan Dhital, Min of Economy	Cam Brown, Forsite (Minutes Author)

Bold names indicate responsibility of action items.

Minutes:

1. Previous Minutes and Action Items

- Previous Minutes were accepted and action items were completed unless discussed below.
- **Forsite** still to finalize planning inventory changes (fires, harvesting, and growth since 2013). Plan is to advance stand ages to 2017 and reset stand ages to reflect the year of disturbance for fires and harvesting since 2013.
- **Forsite** still to develop a set of yield curves to reflect a 12.5 cm top utilization options for sawlogs. Plan to complete this work is in front of Phil and Lane.
- **Cam** is still to prepare a proposal for retention targets and a supporting rationale for review. (Inblock retention and Old and Very Old Targets) No yet started.
- **Cam** to still to finalize VOITS (caribou habitat, harvest distribution, performance vs compliance)
- **Forsite** to still contact the PAG. A letter has been prepared but not yet send – needs to be circulated to Sakâw planners first.

2. Caribou Range Planning

- Shawn Francis is supporting the MoE Fish and Wildlife group on the Caribou Range Plan for SK2 Central and attended the meeting to shed light on the recently circulated draft Range Plan. He described the plan as consisting of 3 zones:
 - a. Tier 1 – current high value habitat with known demonstrated caribou use.
 - b. Tier 2 – future habitat areas that can be expected to provide largely undisturbed habitat conditions (large fire areas), or connectivity areas.

- c. Tier 3 – remaining area where standard management using NFP principles will apply. This area is expected to have the bulk of harvest activity in the short term.
- There are no direct harvest restrictions or limits on disturbance but offsets/mitigation will be required if new roads are built in Tier 1 & 2 areas – thus increasing the cost of doing business in these areas. Higher levels of offsets/mitigation (e.g higher costs) will occur in Tier 1 areas vs Tier 2 areas.
 - Offset requirements for new harvest areas in Tier 1 and 2 areas are still under discussion inside the Fish and Wildlife group. They are looking for ways to reduce disturbance in these areas over time. The goal is to ‘show progress’ over time toward a landscape more suitable for caribou – not try to reach 65% undisturbed ASAP.
 - There is a preference for harvesting in already disturbed areas and creating large openings (get in, get out) consistent with NFP.
 - The Range Planning group is looking to work with the PA FMA planning team on creative solutions that can help demonstrate ‘progress’ toward lowering human disturbed areas in the SK2 Central. A high level Range Plan needs to be in place by May/June 2017 but then the details required to implement it could be expected to take 1-3 years to be fully complete. The FMP team needs to have a detailed plan complete by end of May to meet FMP timelines.
 - Michelle / Doug / Ed made the point that they are actively working on implementing large openings where they can but a range of issues tends to spread them out over the landbase (trappers, guide/outfitters, recreation, heterogeneous stands types, etc). None of Sakâw reps in the meeting liked the idea of higher operating costs.
 - **Shawn** agreed to provide rationale information for the selection of the Tier 1 and 2 areas. Cam and Shawn plan to meet Tues May 2 to explore solutions that could be incorporated into the FMP (MLOS and Forest Service folks to also attend).
 - Dave expressed a desired to align the FMP with Range Planning as much as possible to avoid disruption during the term of the plan – but recognized that the necessary details do not yet exist.

3. Pulp Production

- Cam met with Aaron, Shane and Dave on April 12 to discuss the pulp issue. The goal was to provide clear direction to Sakâw on what was expected in the FMP around pulp harvest volumes. Commitments have been made by the Minister to PE.
- The expectation is that at least 600,000 m³/yr of pulp be available from the FMA and 200,000 to 300,000 of this is to come from stands dedicated to the pulp/smallwood allocation holder. These stands could be marginal sawlog stands that are less attractive to the sawlog allocation holders because of small piece size. Stands would only be allocated to PE once the decision to open the pulp mill was made.
- There was some ambiguity around whether this pulp volume needs to be included in the preferred management scenario / tactical plan, or whether it could just be shown in an alternative scenario demonstrating how this outcome could be achieved. **Mark** was going to seek clarity on this from the Aaron.
- Cam will be looking to the Sakâw board to endorse a plan to address this issue which could include a combination of dedicated stands and/or utilization changes.

4. Other issues

- Cam indicate that inventory update in the planning file is underway and a new planning file will be submitted to the Forest Service when completed.
- Forsite has submitted a proposal to develop 12.5 utilization sawlog yield curves to the Forest Service and they have asked for some changes. This issues should be finalized in the next week and then the curves will be developed.
- Cam has updated the FMP workplan to reflect a submission of the draft FMP in Oct 2017 followed by public engagement and then final submission by Nov 30, 2017. Mark indicated that this appeared acceptable but no further shifting of dates would be accepted.

Deliverable	Submission Date	Response Date
Terms of Reference & Work Plan	March 8, 2013	March 8, 2013 (Approved)
Public Consultation Plan	March 8, 2013	March 8, 2013 (Approved)
Final FMP Volume I	May 6, 2014	Aug 28, 2014 (Approved)
Forest Estate Modeling Report	March 31, 2015	May 31, 2015 (Approved)
Modeling Report Update	Aug 15, 2017	Sept 1, 2017
Draft FMP Volume II	Oct 1, 2017	Nov 15, 2017
Final FMP Volume II	Nov 30, 2017	Jan 31, 2018
Minister Approval (Target date)		Feb 15, 2018

- The workplan also now indicates an FMP start date of April 1, 2018 to avoid the complication of working retroactively with VOIT targets, caribou strategies, etc that were not part of operating plan approvals. **Mark** will be confirming whether this is acceptable to the Forest Service.
- The tactical plan will be addressed once the new timber supply modeling is complete, and will consist of large generalized 'development areas' (not blocks or events).
- Mark asked **Cam** to review the public engagement plan document for any needed updates.

Subsequent meetings:

Wed May 31, 2017 (Birch Room, PA Forest Service Office)
 Wed July 5, 2017 (Birch Room, PA Forest Service Office)
 Wed Aug 2, 2017 (Birch Room, PA Forest Service Office)
 Wed Sept 6, 2017 (Birch Room, PA Forest Service Office)
 Wed Oct 4, 2017 (Birch Room, PA Forest Service Office)