

Meeting Brief
Public Advisory Group (PAG), Prince Albert Timber Supply Area (PA TSA)
March 27, 2024

20 participants attended the meeting from organizations in 6 interest categories. Introductions were led by James Fischer, General Manager for Sakaw. Brief review of PAG role in developing and tracking progress against the Forest Management Plan.

Updates

- Development of 2024/25 Operating Plan, anticipate approval by end of March 2024. Draft maps are available at: www.Sakaw.ca
- PATSA Forest Inventory Project to replace the forest inventory is going into second data capture season; LiDAR is approximately 50% completed and was a good season for ground plot data.
- Field tour anticipated for late summer or early fall 2024; did not work to have one in 2023.

FMP 2023 Annual Report (on the 2021-22 Operating Year):

Overview of the 33 Indicators was completed. Participants were asked to identify any indicators they wanted to discuss in particular.

Harvest Event Retention (Ind 4) This indicator measures the area (in hectares) of trees retained within harvest events. Results show this currently off track due in part to how the rules work with retention, human error and to a lesser extent, forest fires. Strategy to get back on track is to ribbon insular retention within harvest areas to help achieve targets set out.

Caribou Habitat (Ind 7c) Discussion about the habitat Tiers and data included in the report maps – Tier 1 and 2 areas not included on maps. Forest Service to ask Ministry of Environment Caribou staff to present information on latest Provincial reporting to Federal government under Section 10/11 agreements.

Compliance - Soil Disturbance (Ind 16) There were 15 non-compliances associated with this Indicator, including instances for slash management, boundary/road deviations, spills and mistletoe sanitation. Non-compliances are remedied or mitigated wherever possible, as agreed to with the Forest Service working towards less disturbance or impact on the environment. Education is key to learning from non-compliances to reduce reoccurrences.

Compliance – Road Reclamation (Ind 17) There were 2 non-compliances with road reclamation requirements in 2021-22 – both were voluntary reports and were remedied easily. Education is key to learning from non-compliances to reduce reoccurrences.

Compliance – Watercourse Crossings (Ind 18) There were 5 non-compliances with water course crossings in 2021-22; 4 were remedied and 1 did not require a remedy as agreed with the Forest Service. Wetland crossings are included here, however, that may not be clearly understood. Education is key to learning from non-compliances to reduce reoccurrences.

Compliance – Riparian Management Standard (Ind 19) There were 2 non-compliances associated with the riparian management standard in 2021-22; both in relation to failure to maintain a riparian boundary – no remedies required as agreed with the Forest Service. New Forest Inventory data/mapping may help identify these types of areas and improve Forest Management Planning overall. Education is key to learning from non-compliances to reduce reoccurrences.

Highway Buffer Zones Discussion on buffer zones along highways; not required by law; at the Operating Plan and/or Forest Management Plan level is where stakeholder engagement should take place to discuss visually sensitive areas and work together for solutions on local concerns.

Closing Comments

2024 Field Tour is being considered and updates will be provided in advance.