



**Tsawak-qin Forestry Public Advisory Group**

Location: ACRD Boardroom

**Minutes – June 13, 2024**

**Advisory Group Members**

<b>Y</b>	Harold Carlson	Forest Recreation	<b>Y</b>	Bill Coates	Logging and Roads Contractor
<b>Y</b>	Judy Carlson	Naturalists		Jim Proteau (alt) Rony Mazumder	Forests, Lands Natural Resources Operations
<b>Y</b>	Stefan Ochman	Bamfield Road Safety Association		Solomon Schachner	General Interest
<b>Y</b>	Mike Sparrow	Alberni Clayoquot Regional District	<b>R</b>	Brigitte Arndt	AV Hill Climbers
<b>Y</b> <b>Y</b>	Francois Warren Scott Lemkay	Small Business		John Douglas	City of Port Alberni (Counsellors)
<b>R</b>	Jane Morden Mike Stini (Alt)	Conservationist			

**Y = attended    R=regrets    blank=did not attend    V=vacant seat**  
 Quorum Present



## **Resources Present:**

### **Port Alberni Forest Operations (TFLP)**

Dave Poilievre – Tsawak-qin Forestry, TFL Forester

Alexandra Iannantuono – Tsawak-qin Forestry, Silviculture Field Planner, Recorder for TPAG

Erin Badesso – Facilitator

Brian Marcus – Tsawak-qin Forestry, Silviculture Forester, guest

## **Introduction**

1. Welcome
2. Safety
3. Review of the Agenda
4. Adopt Minutes from April 11, 2024 – adopted by Stefan and Judy
5. Action Item Review
  - Omissions on agenda are completion dates for action items 13 – 16 and new action item 17
  - All completion dates and action item 17 have now been added to meeting minutes document

## **1. Tsawak-qin Operational Update – Dave Poilievre**

- Huu-ay-aht Integrated Resource Management Plan (HIRMP) had 2 meetings in 2023 by Marina Rayner – Document in final stages
- TFLP has signed agreements with Tseshaht (TFN), Hupacasath, Pacheedaht and Uchucklesaht to create their own Integrated Resource Management Plans (IRMPs)
- Nuu-Chah-Nulth Youth Warrior family society letter discussion – Handout given to TPAG
- Log donations for cultural purposes are getting interest from both Uchucklesaht and TFN
- Undercut discussion – Disposition letters sent out to recipient First Nations (FNs)
- Forest Operations Map (FOM) update covered by Brian Marcus – No comments received from any FOMs
- Planning department update
  - Dave shared details of recent staffing changes
- Logging update
  - Heli logging started in Henderson
  - Funding received with de-building and planting roads (14km worth)
- **Question:** Would a road be able to grow trees if it is a gravelly surface? **Answer:** Once the road surface is taken away during the rehabilitation (rehab) process, you are left with nice soil, and this is what is planted.
- **Question:** Don't you already do a lot of deactivation? **Answer:** In terms of the rehab project, there is a difference between deactivation and de-building. De-building recontours the road surface to its original slope and makes it so that the road virtually does not exist anymore, so planting is possible.

## **2. 2023 CSA Indicator Results – Dave / Brian**

- Labelled a draft – once errors and/or issues are fixed a final copy will be sent out to group
- **Question:** Why was the mushroom habitat indicator removed? **Answer:** This was the consensus from last year's meeting. It was not an indicator with as much value now as historically. There will always be mushroom habitat out there, so there will always be opportunities for mushroom pickers.

### **1.1.1 Ecosystem Area by Type**

- Maintaining 50% of all BEC in the mid mature and old seral stages annually – Target not met but result is within the variance
- CWHvh1 does not meet the target (hovering between 48-49%) – All others are met
- **Question:** Should the volume of mature not change that much? Wouldn't the trees that are between 80 to 250 years old be the ones that get harvested first? **Answer:** That is not always true, we have a lot of mid age stands that are constrained now due to old-growth management areas (OGMAs) being created, fish stream buffers, goshawk nests, etc. so these areas will not be

harvested again. Constraints are being added to younger stands so those trees will have the opportunity of eventually becoming mid/mature age. Also, a lot of second growth (SG) was set aside in the IRMP, not just old growth (OG). If you look at the mid number in the table, it has been growing steadily every year.

#### 1.1.2 Forest Area by Type or Species Composition

- Doing well for many years and expected to continue being stable
- **Concern:** The % change from 2012-2023 column is missing. **Answer:** Dave will fix this.

#### 1.1.3 Forest Area by Seral Stage or Age Class

- Hovering around 39%, this number will climb over time for reasons answered in indicator 1.1.1.

#### 1.1.4 Within-stand Structural Retention

- Target is 15% and was historically hit but a large jump occurred last year to 22%.
- **Question:** Is there a reason for this? **Answer:** We are doing a better job at adding retention to blocks with areas that we cannot physically harvest. In the past, we would just assign the amount needed but now we assign more to the areas that we know we'll never be able to go.

#### 1.2.1 Habitat Protection for Selected Focal Species

- The amount of protected area must remain the same or increase – More being added
- May have some data missing from GIS corporate – Need to look into numbers further
- **Question:** Even though it's been proven that the goshawk on Vancouver Island is not the same as the Queen Charlotte goshawk, why are we still making reserves and considering it a species at risk? **Answer:** The Western Forest Products standard is currently not aligned following the discovery.

#### 1.2.2 Suitable Habitat in the Long Term for Selected Focal Species

- Large jump in Marbled Murrelet (MAMU) nesting habitat in the non-contributing land base (NCLB)
- Reason 1: Creation of new OGMA's and legal reserves were shifted to overlap the MAMU habitat, which ended up protecting more
- Reason 2: Allowable annual cut (AAC) was redone and by using better data they were able to more accurately classify non-contributing land base which turned out to be good MAMU habitat
- **Question:** Can you explain the acronyms for MAMU and OGMA? **Answer:** MAMU stands for Marbled Murrelet which is a species that has a legal order that everyone on the coast needs to follow. OGMA stands for old growth management area where Old growth is protected.

#### 1.2.3 and 2.1.2 Regeneration Comprised of Native Species

- The planting of Noble fir is the reason 5 year average is at 99%
- Next year will be different since we just planted California Redwoods in Coleman 600

#### 1.3.1 Genetic Diversity

- We don't plant or deal with GMOs

#### 1.4.1 Protection of Sites of Special Significance

- Several potential definitions for what is considered special significance but pertinent to TFL44 its archeological sites or features like culturally modified trees (CMTs)

#### 1.4.2 Identified Sites with Implemented Management Strategies

- Data in table does not account for tall trees found using LiDAR

#### 1.4.2a Sensitive Ecosystem Training

- Have been recently trained in 2024 to cover next years indicators

#### 2.1.1 Reforestation Success

- Target was almost not met due to one block needing a site plan amendment to change ecology. Trees were 20 years old but not measuring height needed from original classification.
- **Question:** Do the tree height requirements associated with free growing vary with elevation? **Answer:** Yes, what species we need to grow and their height depend on elevation and moisture content. Taller trees at the bottom of the slope and shorter trees at the top of slope. Accurate ecological classification is key.

#### 2.1.3 Additions and Deletions to the Forest Area

- May need to adjust the working of this indicator consider life cycle of TFL, in terms of a dryland sort, it probably won't be built. We need to think of the cumulative effect of roads we build vs. roads we rebuild. There is opportunity to rebuild more

- It can be a more valuable indicator of converting built roads into forested lands vs. an indicator that is static through time
- **Question:** Can we come up with an indicator like that? **Answer:** Brian and Dave will sit down and think about a baseline of what has been done through time. Some of the deactivation done lately involves pull back, not rebuilding. Those pull back areas are being planted which could be some type of measure there alone

#### 2.1.4 Sustainable Harvest Level

- Only harvesting 40-50% of our AAC in the last couple of years – This year may not hit 40%
  - Our harvesting forecast for 2025 is only set around 300 000 cubic meters
- **Question:** Is that because the land base is not available for permitting? **Answer:** Many factors like contractor capacity and now the development of IRMPs are influencing planning operations. In terms of an undercut disposition – This is probably not feasible in the future because if the cut is not possible, how can it be possible for someone else? We are also struggling with making money on second growth (SG) harvesting.

#### 3.1.1 Level of Soil Disturbance

- Meeting this target regularly
- Not every cutblock has 5% threshold on soil disturbance, some are 10%
- **Question:** Is the Thomas area tethered block within this dataset? **Answer:** Yes, that block had more soil disturbance than what you normally see, but target is still met.

#### 3.1.2 Level of Downed Woody Debris

- That number represents all the coarse woody debris on site including unburned piles.
- **Question:** Isn't there less coarse woody debris after you burn? **Answer:** The table is based off the waste survey (before burning happens) so the answer to the question is yes meaning the table is slightly misleading because the table would be less after burning occurs.
- **Question:** Is the table pulling numbers for woody debris in the piles and woody debris after burned or is that not the case? **Answer:** No piles that are burnt are not calculated. This is all found in slash but if you take away the piles, we would definitely meet the target, it does go down with burning a bit though.
- **Question:** What is the purpose of burning then? **Answer:** For fire hazard abatement and to create plantable spots. For example, the klanawa fire of 2023; the fire service was happy that the piles there were already burnt because it abated the fire.

#### 3.1.2a Limit Herbicides

- Basal spray in GCL and Coleman, targets were Big Leaf Maple (Mb) and Red Alder (Dr)
- **Question:** Can you girdle Mb? **Answer:** Not really, it is easier to separate bark from stem in Dr, much harder to do with Mb. Since we also can't cut it down since it will come back faster and stronger, herbicide is the best option.

#### 3.2.1 Proportion of Watershed with Stand-Replacing Disturbance

- Franklin river watershed went over in 2021 but has been dropping since then
- Klanawa harvesting will be reduced in the next decade and will trend down
- Having a reduced harvest is beneficial to these indicators as you have more trees standing

#### 3.2.2 Management Activities Consistent w Prescriptions to Protect Water Features

- All blocks are required to have retention associated with riparian

#### 3.2.2a Watershed Condition

- Have not been seeing as many landslides as we used to as well as not many big storms
- Number in this the indicator document is from a Glynnis Horel's report

#### 3.2.2b Community Watersheds

- Data missing from report – Will let everyone know the outcome at a later date
- Currently looking at a block in the Headquarters watershed, but still classified as “proposed”

#### 3.2.2c S4 Streams

- Data incorrect in report – query needs to be run by GIS, will let everyone know the outcome

#### 3.2.2d S5 Streams

- No comments

#### 4.1.1. Net Carbon Uptake

- Numbers are accurate since we have pile measurements to determine footprint
- **Question:** Does burning release carbon? **Answer:** Technically it adds to it by converting it.
- **Question:** Is this a formula or a pattern to fill out the table? Can you adjust it? **Answer:** No, it's a template, other organizations do it differently, because it doesn't consider the debris that is not burnt (i.e. contributions from decay). The table makes it look better than it is since the decaying woody matter is not captured in the calculation and assumed as a contributor (i.e. carbon producer).

#### 4.1.2 Reforestation Success

- Majority of our cutblocks are planted right away
- Moving towards planting quick since we usually have more seedlings than actually needed
- **Question:** Is there a lot of die back from droughts and heat domes? **Answer:** It wasn't really the drought it was more the heat dome of 2021. We lost almost all our hemlocks. Last year was more a function of drought for douglas fir on south facing slopes
- **Question:** What do you do when there is dieback? Replant? **Answer:** Yes, give it another go

#### 4.2.1 Forest Land Conversion

- Converting land from productive forests to PAS
- We've had a decrease now, but we have smaller blocks and more heli
- Planners must provide a rationale when road is over 7%, is it really needed?
- **Question:** Do we account for service landings? **Answer:** No, they don't get attributed, because they are so small

#### 5.1.1 Diversity of Timber and Non-Timber Resources Produced in the DFA

- Corporate EBITDA – May want to move towards a TFLP equivalent
- Stumpage has caught up with markets now – More balance less lag in the log price adjustments
- **Question:** Why were local purchases so high in 2023? **Answer:** Shop repairs – 125 thousand was repairing the Cameron shop roof

#### 5.1.2 Respectful Communications with Forest Dependent Businesses, Forest Users and Local Communities to Integrate Non-Timber Resources

- Evidence – IRMP collaboration, lots of entities involved
- Forest Landscape Plan (FLP) coming after IRMP to replace the Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP)
- **Question:** Why do they keep changing the name? Stewardship to landscape? **Answer:** They are different, new guidelines, not just a name change

#### 5.1.2a Park Perimeter

- Once buffer is in place, no harvesting will take place even though its in our Timber Harvesting Land Base (THLB) – All these buffers are up against OG

#### 5.1.2b Recreation Access

- For the roads that access recreation sites there are no plans to deactivate roads
- If anyone knows of a rec site that develops over time, we can add more rec sites to TFL
- **Question:** What shape is Hawthorne Main out by lizard pond? **Answer:** Harvest plans coming up for Hawthorne Main so a portion will be well maintained soon

#### 5.1.2c Mushroom Habitat Access

- Indicator has been removed

#### 5.2.1 Participation and Support that Contribute to Community Sustainability

- Grading cost to go down since Bamfield Main is chip sealed – May see the lower cost in 2024
- Indicator was to measure how many logs in operation are sold to local purchasers vs offshore
- TFLP has no control over where logs go – Controlled by Western Forest Products contractually except for Western Red Cedar (Cw)
- Biggest local purchaser is Paper Excellence however chip and saw logs are bought for more money in Ladysmith compared to Paper Excellence

#### 5.2.2 Level of Participation and Support in Training and Skills Development

- Forest planning staff professionals are expected to do five days per year
- Possible omissions in the number right now – Will look into it
- It is required to report 30 hours annually of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) hours for Registered Professional Foresters (RPFs) and Registered Forest Technologists (RFTs)

- Indicator value is lower in 2023 – Less staff

### **5.2.3 Level of Direct and Indirect Employment**

- No maximum variance needed – Will continue to see if the right baseline has been established
- **Question:** If you had more exposure hours and the same harvest, would that be worse? **Answer:** Yes, that would mean you need more manpower to do the same amount of work. However, if work is harder, this could happen

### **6.1.1 Participant Satisfaction with Public Process**

- Error found in paragraph – Need to fix percentage and check number of participants

### **6.1.2 Capacity Development and Meaningful Participation**

- No comments

### **6.1.3 Public Concerns**

- TPAG website is not up and running – Not acceptable so target is not met
- A “pass” was given to make the target last year under the assumption it would be running at next meeting
- Website was a finding at last EMS audit – Turned into corporate finding since TFLP is not the only operation without it. Audit has given 60 days to resolve issue

### **6.2.1 Improve Safety Standards**

- The medical Incident Rate (MIR) is currently sitting at 15 – Needs to go down by end of year
- Bill Coates (local contractor) good news story – no lost time accidents in 20 years
- Discussion on getting hurt on the job – Push for transfer to light duty so there is no lost time
- **Question:** Have you found attitudes have changed where taking time off with compensation is not so appealing anymore? **Answer:** 20 years ago, safety wasn’t such a concern with risk takers compared to now

### **6.2.2 Worker Safety Program**

- It is required by our contractors to be safety certified
- **Question:** Who defines a large contractor? **Answer:** Having more than 10 thousand worked hours per year. The company made that definition to filter out the workers with smaller hours

### **7.1.1 Understanding the Nature of Aboriginal Title and Rights**

- FPBC conference has become virtual so everyone gets to attend
- **Question:** Can you put the whole thing in the table for FPBC as well as ABCFP instead of acronym. **Answer:** Yes, there is also a glossary of terms, we can make action item to update

### **7.1.2 Respectful Communications with Aboriginal Communities to Foster Meaningful Engagement**

- New harvest plan was presented to TFN in 2023 – Idea is to understand concerns before blocks are logged and change it before the permit is submitted, this might be new normal

### **7.2.1 Promoting Capacity Development and Meaningful Participation with Aboriginal Individuals, Communities and Forest-Based Companies**

- Some First Nations send members out to do archeological feature walks with our archeologists
- HFN is the more formalized one

### **7.2.2 Using Aboriginal Knowledge to Manage Culturally Important Resources and Values**

- Information sharing did not occur in 2023 due to lack of harvesting – Info sharing planned for 2024
- Some districts have 2 years before info sharing becomes “stale”, may come to us soon
- **Concern:** if you meet the target, it means the variance is not applicable. Some indicators don’t have variances at all, they just need a report of information. Should the variance column include Y/N/N/a to make the variance consistent? **Answer:** Will look into this

### **7.2.3 Management and/or Protection of Culturally Important Practices and Activities**

- the Makasap Conservation Network was created in 2023 – A network of interconnected retention developed through the course of the Huu-ay-aht integrated resource management plan

## **4. Conclusion and Announcements**

- Next meeting is November 7<sup>th</sup>



**TPAG Action Items**

<b>#</b>	<b>ACTION ITEM AND PROGRESS</b>	<b>Date of request</b>	<b>Recommend Completion</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>
12	Group to review 5.2.3. Dave to add another variance and will be reviewed at next meeting.	November 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	February 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2023		Dave Poilievre
13	Dave to get Brian Marcus to discuss FSP, FLP and FOM at next meeting.	February 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	April 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	April 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	Dave Poilievre
14	John Douglas requested at the November 9 meeting that the TOR be adjusted to detail further explanation as to when "in camera" would be used.	February 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	April 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	April 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	Dave Poilievre
15	Erin will be sending out the audit results (discussed) and the links on how to provide comments to the PEFC Canada Standard by February 9 (going out shortly).	February 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	April 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	April 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	Erin Badesso
16	To send out and compiling the Satisfaction Survey (by next meeting).	February 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	April 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	April 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	Erin Badesso
17	Brian to send PowerPoint to group so they can have access to info and links	April 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	June 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	April 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	Brian Marcus