

Meeting with the Community Resource Board  
PIR Boardroom March 20, 2012

Attendance: Dave Stevens, Barry Smith, Jack Hagen, Jeff Anderson, Bob Henderson, Alan Baxter and Dave Ripmeester (Ben Heemskerk – absent)

The meeting was requested by the Community Resources Board to better familiarize those board members having some interest in the timber resource with the Higher Level Plan Analysis carried out by licencees in the Bulkey TSA.

A planning history was reviewed progressing from the late 80's to the current regime. Discussion focused on the shift from a process oriented regime under the Forest Practices Code to a results based regime under the Forest and Range Practices Act. The shift in legislation required the planning regime to be reviewed. Detailed objectives with inherent results and strategies were pared down to a restatement of the objectives in the Higher Level Plan Order (2006). These objectives along with the spatial linework form the basis for the creation of FSPs. The HLPO (2006) removed much of the local discretion or ability to amend or alter objectives or the associated mapped zonations.

The legal measure of a licencee's consistency with an objective sourced from the HLPO (2006) is stated as a result or strategy in the licensee's Forest Stewardship Plan. The result or measure may or may not be the same as results or measures previously stated in Landscape Unit Plans or other planning documents. For example a habitat management measure could be supplemented or replaced by an access control measure. The understanding of this concept is very important in the direction/coordination of any and all monitoring activity.

The various aspects of the analysis report were reviewed including the text, spreadsheets and the mapping tool. The fact that the report identifies "status" associated with the measurement of strategies as opposed to being a compliance report was stressed. The green, orange and red color themeing was reviewed. The concept of the orange and red indicators suggesting further site specific review was discussed with reference to seral stage, core ecosystems and landscape corridors.

Questions/comments arose regarding the function and mandate of the CRB with regard to resource management in the Bulkley TSA. It was generally agreed that their role is not necessarily to "do" the monitoring, but to review monitoring efforts and perhaps build on or advocate for recommendations associated with monitoring efforts.

Monitoring efforts carried out by any party should be well discussed and understood by pertinent stakeholders to ensure the communicative and cooperative atmosphere around local planning initiatives is maintained – the atmosphere that allowed consensus on numerous issues to be achieved in the past.

The concept of the LRMP balance was discussed. All participants agreed that the concept of maintaining the balance was significant. Concern was expressed regarding the initiation of added constraints by various levels of government without establishing a

formal arrangement with the CRB at the outset. Examples include the Caribou WHMA and proposed new Fisheries Sensitive Watersheds. A role that the CRB can and should play is making recommendations on whether or not the LRMP “10% budget” should be impacted by implementation of a new timber supply constraint, and if it should, prior to enactment of a constraint the CRB should then provide advice on where the corresponding offset is best located. This is necessary because the current constraints in the Bulkley TSA have reduced the timber supply by the approved 10% maximum.

For the future a number of ideas were presented:

- an annual field trip for CRB members and the appropriate resource professionals to view topical issues in the field was suggested,
- periodic access to updated versions of the “State of the Forest Report” made available to the CRB by gov’t agencies
- setting an annual goal for the enabling of salvage of MPB infested / constrained volumes – perhaps by altering or shifting constraints.
- CRB could put forward a request to Ministries (FLNRO, MoE, & ILMB) in regards to wanting to be informed and involved when ministries are considering implementing legislation that may affect the LRMP balance in the Bulkley TSA.
- The CRB may be able function as the communication coordinator in regards to any HLPO monitoring that is proposed or conducted in the Bulkley TSA.