

Prince George SFMP PAG Subcommittee Meeting

5:30 – 9:00 PM, November 15, 2007

Civic Centre (Room 208), Prince George, BC

MINUTES

In Attendance:

Public & First Nations:

Virginia Karr
Anne Migvar
Ken Pickering

Dave Stevenson

Pirie Elliot
Sandra Kinsey

Steering Committee:

Subcommittee Chair: Janine Gervais – Canfor
Tim Sproule – BCTS
Cecil Gray – Lakeland Mills
Ralph Hausot - Winton Global

Advisors & Observers:

Karl Bachmann
Justin Calof
Shannon Carson
Aaron Deans
Lee Evans
Kathy Juncker
Hugh Perkins
Rhonda Thibeault
Matthew Wheatley

Facilitator: Dwight Scott Wolfe

Scribe: Gretchen Prystawik

1. Welcome & Introductions
 - a. Welcome by the chair of the PAG Subcommittee
2. Reviewed Meeting Objectives and Agenda - Agenda accepted.
3. Reviewed Minutes – PAG Subcommittee adopted March 29, 2007 Subcommittee Minutes as written.

4. Presentation by Manning, Cooper & Associates on *Prince George Forest District Old Forest Quality*

a. Discussion/Questions:

1. Question concerning indicator - age of trees instead of time since last disturbance. Time since last disturbance is not broadly available at the landscape level.
2. Comment that value of additive for ungulate winter range should be higher because of implementation of policy in the past. Concern that a range of additives for ungulate winter range would better capture forest-use by wildlife. These concerns could be addressed during subsequent iterations of the model. Further comment that additives should not give undue value to those polygons that are already protected by other mechanisms.
3. Comment that value of additive for Douglas fir should be higher because of its rarity in the DFA. Comment that non-pine polygons be ranked higher in the plateau areas than pine.
4. Concern that rare ecosystems (whether forested or not) must be protected and managed. If not through this system, then through another mechanism. Ecosystem representation indicators may address this concern in other criteria and analyses.
5. Comment that multiple definitions of old forest (economic, aesthetic, and ecological) are appreciated.
6. Question regarding consideration of fur bearing wildlife species in model (i.e., beaver, wolverine, etc). This was not taken into consideration because data are not available. (Coarse woody debris (CWD) and canopy closure may act as surrogate indicators but data at landscape level are not available).
7. Concern that cottonwood trees be valued and managed for habitat, economics, and wildlife objectives. Deciduous species add value to old forest polygons as intrinsic indicator - "number of tree species."
8. Question regarding consideration of past forestry development by model. Only old forest was evaluated based on 120 and 140 year age criteria. Past logging in adjacent stands decreased the value of old forest in a particular polygon.
9. Statement that old forest should be considered only for areas that have not had any development, except in areas where no other options exist (i.e., recruitment). Concern that machinery negatively affects soil hydrology.
10. Comment that aesthetic values and local knowledge should be considered in old forest quality analysis. Methodology allows for polygons to be valued based on a number of different attributes.
11. Comment that model is a good start in managing old forest. It is not meant to act as an indicator, but instead be used in an old forest management strategy.

12. Request to see product of model at larger scale for specific and familiar areas. This will assure PAG Subcommittee members that model is consistent with their own experience and perceptions. Licensee Steering Committee will send areas of interest with model overlay to those Subcommittee members who are interested. (See Action Items. Subcommittee members to email Janine Gervais with areas identified by UTM coordinates, GPS coordinates, or by descriptions of roads and landmarks.)

b. Next steps - discussion.

1. See handouts "Intrinsic Model by BEC (just intrinsic indicators)," "Full Model by BEC (intrinsic indicators, all 5 additive indicators)," "Old Forest Quality (Updated November 8, 2007)," and "Proposed Indicator Changes to Address Old Forest Quality in the PG SFMP (Nov 15, 2007)."
2. Concern about recruiting forest polygons of high and very high quality to make up old forest target thresholds as per Landscape Biodiversity Order. Model incorporates interior old forest through patch size. For the model proposed, interior forest is only one factor, where as it is the only proxy for old forest quality in the Order.
3. "Revisit periodically" means every 5 years or when significant new inventory information becomes available. Comment that next iteration should include range of values for ungulate winter range additive as well as cultural, tourism, and local knowledge additives. Additive indicators could be assigned to specific areas or polygons. At the DFA level, it would be very difficult to capture this information effectively. A solution may be a database of rare features.
4. Comment to balance use of model with local knowledge, critical thinking, and field verification. All decisions must consider various values. Concern that model may not be useful given problems discussed. Comment from Advisor that model helps to give a broad-scale perspective. It does not eliminate other factors involved in planning. Existing models and other planning tools are still necessary in forest management and planning.
5. Suggestion that model be field verified and corroborated with other sources of information (database, local knowledge, etc). Caution from Advisor that this effort would verify inventory data instead of model that uses those data. Suggestion to investigate how the model is working instead of whether it is working by visiting some polygons of differing old forest value to see differences in ranking on the ground through a focused field tour. Suggestion that new data sets be embraced as much as possible.
6. Comment that old forest is really a surrogate measure of biodiversity and concern that this is not lost.
7. Statement of general concern with aspatial old forest management.

c. Recommendations to PAG.

1. Consensus by Subcommittee to add the following comments to the old forest strategy:

- A: Licensees and BCTS will implement and evaluate the old forest quality model as a tool in operational planning.
- B: Annually monitor and report out on the area of good to best old forest quality by NDU merged BEC in the Prince George Forest District. Include map with report.
- C: To revisit the model every 5 years (periodically) or when improved inventory data sets are available specifically to update intrinsic indicators and rankings.
- Comments:
 - ~ Peer review would be very valuable.
 - ~ Focus on how the model is working and provide continuous improvement attributes.

5. Next Meeting:

- a. PAG Meeting: January 24, 2008
- b. Location: Civic Centre, Room TBA
- c. Time: 5:30 PM
- d. Agenda: TBA

6. Actions

ID#	ACTION	WHO	DEADLINE	STATUS
Nov 15 - 01	Provide link to iMAP in next minutes.	Dwight	ASAP	
Nov 15 - 02	Provide copy of maps to those Subcommittee members who have emailed request to Janine Gervais (Janine.Gervais@canfor.com)	Janine	ASAP	