

# Prince George SFMP PAG Subcommittee meeting

5:30 – 9:00 PM, December 7, 2006

Civic Centre (Room 202-3), Prince George, BC

## MINUTES

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### In Attendance:

#### Public & First Nations:

Jocelyn Campbell  
Anne Migvar

Dave King  
Dave Stevenson

#### Steering Committee:

**Subcommittee Chair:** Kerry Deschamps – Canfor  
Shane Neukomm – Carrier  
Tim Sproule – BCTS  
Cecil Gray – Lakeland Mills

#### Advisors & Observers:

Shannon Carson  
Karl Bachmann  
Darwin Coxson  
Rhonda Thibeault

Nathan Hentze  
Leanne Kaupp  
Patience Rakochy  
Ryan Zapisocki

Angie Gignac  
Matthew Feagan

**Facilitator:** Roxanne Yanishewski (Roxanne Yanishewski & Associates)

**Scribe:** Dwight Scott Wolfe (Roxanne Yanishewski & Associates)

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1. Welcome & Introductions
  - a. Welcome by the chair of the PAG Subcommittee
  - b. Reviewed evaluation results of PAG November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2006 meeting.
2. Reviewed Agenda - Agenda accepted.
3. Reviewed Minutes – PAG Subcommittee adopted November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2006 Subcommittee minutes as written.
4. Develop criteria and strategies to identify “quality”
  - a. Attendees were spilt into three table groups and asked to discuss the following statement: “List the Attributes that you would use to determine “quality” in old forest.” Each table group brainstormed a list of attributes and then presented their results to the other groups.

**b. Table 1: L = Landscape level; S = Site level; M = Metrics**

- Time since stand initiating event (M/S)
- Diverse stand structure (S)
- Stands contributing to other values (S/L)
- Level of connectivity to similar stands in Ecozone (L)
- Proximity to legislated reserves (L)
- Species diversity (S)
- Amount of interior old forest (S/L)
- Mosses and lichen diversity (S/L)
- Good stand structure (S/M)
- Presence/ability to supply habitat for any “listed” species (S/L/ M)
- Site productivity (S)
- Intact suite of naturally occurring habitat elements (S)
- Known habitat of Old Growth dependent species (S/L)
- Water / moisture (L/S)
- Living / live forest (S/M)
- Ability to provide benchmark data for species composition / age distributions and landscapes (M)
- Macro-aspects that relate to site productivity (aspect/elevation) (S)
- Edge to area ratios (M)
- Relative amounts of wildlife trees and snags (S)
- Large trees (S)
- Larger contiguous patches (L)
- Adjacency/proximity to natural or man-made disturbances (L)
- Understory regeneration (S)
- High quality wildlife habitat (L/S)
- Rare Ecosystems (L)
- Diversity of Coarse Woody Debris by decay class (S)
- Current protection status in Management Plans (S)
- Presence of Animals using Habitat (L/S)
- Presence of Cultural Identifiers (S)

- Diversity of Snags by size class (S)
  - Presence of rare and old growth indicator lichens (S)
  - BEC zone classes (L)
  - Diversity of topography (L)
  - Anecdotal Information (L/S)
- c. Table 2: M = Montane-specific; P = Plateau-specific
- Lack of stand destroying events (P/M)
  - Existence of stand veterans (P)
  - Site productivity is high (M)
  - Old, Woody (CWD), Layered canopies, Snags. aka OWLS (M)
  - Connectivity with other old stands (M/P)
  - Horizontal and vertical structural complexity (M)
  - Well-developed A horizon (M)
  - Mixed age classes with oldest trees being near their age limit. (M/P)
  - Abundance of coarse woody debris (M/P)
  - High numbers of snags (M/P)
  - Interior forest condition (M/P)
  - Large canopy stature (M)
  - Well-developed shrub layer (M/P)
  - Rare forest type (M/P)
  - Supports a good variety of Old Growth wildlife species (M/P)
  - Lichen and moss species (old growth indicator species (M/P)
  - Potential for long-term survival (M/P)
  - Features of topography that promote old growth. Montane – toe slope, bench. Plateau – isolated by water features.
  - Climax old forest (M/P)
  - Soils characteristics (M/P)
- d. Table 3
- Species diversity (richness)
  - Structural diversity (alive, dead, vertical, horizontal)
  - Under-story shrubs / plants

- Douglas-fir on the plateau
  - Standing dead and dying tree component
  - Rare ecosystems (uncommon, uniqueness to the area)
  - Unique attributes (large trees, oldest)
  - Ecosystem health (natural range of variation)
  - Wind firmness
  - Wildlife habitat – old seral dependent species
  - Adjacency to recruitment areas (age class, movement, interior condition)
  - Coarse woody debris (except for pine)
  - Size and shape (shape index)
  - Natural range of variation regarding disturbance for ecosystem
  - Represented in different BEC zones
  - Mosses and lichens (Pine- terrestrial lichen; The Rest – arboreal lichen)
  - Representative portion of slope, aspect, elevation, position, cross-valley continuity
  - Number of cavities in trees (for species needing them)
  - Recreational value / tourism / cultural / spiritual / viewing ( WOW factor – educational value)
  - Ancient forests
  - Old fire jumps
  - Connectedness to protected areas / parks
  - Representative of leading species and contribution to the stand
  - Large Organic Debris (LOD) providing stream stability (healthy riparian structure)
  - Healthy mychorizae
  - Tall, straight, knot-free trees
  - Mean annual increment (MAI) reduced for 80 years (i.e. after MAI leveled off)
- e. Attendees were asked to discuss the following question: “What criteria should be used to determine which attributes to use?” Each table group brainstormed a list of criteria and then presented their results to the other groups.
- f. Table 1:
- Measurable

- Cost effective
- Legal requirements
- Operationally Feasible
- Clarity / Meaningful / Relevant
- Meets the needs of other species
- Data availability
- Stand versus Landscape

g. Table 2:

- Measurable
- Stand Type
- Stand Age
- Is the data available
- Stand age
- Topographic Features
- GPS
- Matrices of several attributes
- Supportive research / data
- Cost
- Plateau vs. Montane
- Landscape vs. Stand-level
- Risk to survivability

h. Table 3:

- Should be in an inventory
- Easily identified through aerial photography / satellite imagery
- Track/ monitor
- Measurable
- Science-based information or ability to organize into something useable
- Feasible / usability
- Realistic / effective – relates to the value to be used / desired
- Able to map

5. Next steps: Manning, Cooper & Associates will work with the information provided by the PG PAG Subcommittee and provide a draft report in mid-March 2007.

6. Evaluation forms distributed, completed, and collected.

7. Next Meeting:

a. Old Growth Sub-Committee Meeting: Mid-March

8. Actions

<b>ID#</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>WHO</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
Nov 23 – 01	Update Old Forest Quality Work Plan by reversing order of 1 and 2.	Roxanne Yanishewski	Dec 7, 2006	
Nov 23 - 02	Provide paper on bird species associated with late successional forests to subcommittee group.	Kerry Deschamps	Dec 7, 2006	Completed.
Nov 23 - 03	Review eco-section methodology and provide to Roxanne Yanishewski.	Dave King	Dec 7, 2006	Completed.