



# WHISTLER

## MINUTES

### REGULAR MEETING OF FOREST & WILDLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2017, STARTING AT  
3:00 P.M.

In the Flute Room  
4325 Blackcomb Way, Whistler, BC V0N 1B4

File: 8221.03

Name	Meetings to Date: 10
<b>Present:</b>	
AWARE, Claire Ruddy, Chair	8
Council, John Grills	3
Member at Large, Colin Rankin	6
Member at Large, Candace Rose-Taylor	5
Member at Large, Arthur DeJong	9
WORCA, Todd Hellinga	6
Member at Large, Kathi Bridge	6
<b>Regrets:</b>	
Member at Large, Mac Lowry	4
Member at Large, Trevor Burton	6
Member at Large, Derek Bonin	9
Member at Large, Johnny Mikes	7
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	
Heather Beresford	10

Adoption of Agenda

### ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by A. DeJong  
Seconded by T. Hellinga

**That** the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Forest &  
Wildland Advisory Committee agenda for November 8, 2017.

CARRIED

Adoption of Minutes

### ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by K. Bridge  
Seconded by C. Rose-Taylor

**That** the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee minutes for October 11, 2017.

CARRIED

## Verbal Reports

### Council

- Community Forum, November 2
- Cathy Jewett won by-election
- Prism Lands – moving forward to rezoning. 100 acres to RMOW. Consider options for reducing wildfire risk on the property.

### AWARE

- “Whistler’s Old and Ancient Trees” map/brochure/website almost complete. Community Foundation of Whistler funding.

### WORCA:

- Planning season
- Application submitted to Recreation Sites & Trails BC for alternate access to Flank Trail/Sproatt system
- Drafting long term vision based on public input

### RMOW:

- Callaghan FSR, Alpine Meadows and CCF#5 fuel thinning projects scheduled for autumn 2017
- Trail Planning Working Group – meeting November 16
  - AWARE member assigned to TPWG as permanent member to provide representation for FWAC and WBAC. Add TPWG notes and newsletters to FWAC and WBAC agendas.
- 2018 Program: Cheakamus Lake Road with CCF, Kadenwood/Big Timber

### Cheakamus Community Forest:

- Open House on October 27; Board meeting November 9

## Cheakamus Community Forest 2018 Harvesting Plans

Presentation by Tom Cole, Forest Manager for Cheakamus Community Forest regarding proposed 2018 harvesting plans.

<http://www.cheakamuscommunityforest.com/maps-and-harvesting-plans/>

- To date CCF harvested ~16,000 m3 from Wedge 02 & 08, Callaghan A01, and CCF5/Alpine Meadows (N01) fuel thinning project.
  - ~8,000 m3 from Wedge in combination with thinning
  - ~5,000 m3 from Callaghan A01
  - ~3,000 m3 from CCF5/Alpine Meadows
- 2018 Plans

- Fee 01 – build road, log in 2019
- CK01 – upgrade FSR, conventional logging and potential heli-logging on south flank of Whistler Mountain. Concerns expressed by FWAC due to proximity to recreational trails and visual impacts. WORCA not supportive and provided letter to CCF Board of Directors (attached as Appendix A)
- CCF seeking support from FLNRO on maintaining Forest Service Road status on road through quarry and over to Basalt Valley Road. Provides preferred alternate route to Loggers Lake Road.
- Fuel thinning project – Cheakamus Lake Road.

Discussion:

- Improve maps for ease of reading. Include recreation trails/features.
- Request for CCF data to be available on RMOW GIS.
- CCF sent response to FWAC's 2016 annual report
- FWAC recommended better integration of communications and planning between harvesting and fuel management projects
- Cheakamus East main fuel treatments should avoid disturbing the spacing trials and other treatment areas that are used for interpretation
- Cheakamus 10 fits well with the purpose of the interpretive forest and potential of moving the gate towards the park boundary is positive
- Callaghan (Edna, Metal Dome, etc) sites situated on long slopes with significant runoff and potential slope stability issues. Water management and minimal ground disturbance will need to be considered during road construction and logging to minimize erosion and mass wasting
- Is the carbon footprint of heli-logging contrary to community and CCF priorities?
- Request that CCF improve transparency and share more financial information with community

FWAC CCF Field Trip

A presentation by Heather Beresford, RMOW Environmental Stewardship Manager, regarding the FWAC CCF Field Trip.

FWAC CCF Field Trip occurred on October 26, 2017. Comments from spring and fall 2017 field trips are basis for annual FWAC CCF report.

Discussion and comments:

- Need to integrate CCF tenure, fuel management and regular harvesting. Resolve the policy disconnects.
- Projects that thin trees to 250-300 stems per hectare are more effective at reducing percent crown cover and lowering risk

- Connect the planning between CCF areas, Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and municipal lands
- Regular harvesting sites could remove more debris and meet fuel thinning prescription standards, and contribute to fire breaks. Explore opportunities for provincial funding.
- Large debris pile at Wedge 08 will be ground and taken to Callaghan composter using Forest Enhancement Society funding.
- Merchantable timber sales from the fuel treatment areas within the CCF tenure helps offset the cost of the treatments and contributes to the annual allowable cut
- Riparian areas should be omitted from treatment – lower risk due to vegetation type, and helps retain biodiversity
- Roadside manual fuel reduction may be more efficient by dragging slash away from road versus chipping
- Decay and herbaceous growth over time will also reduce road side fuel hazard
- Retention and planting of deciduous species on skid trails will assist in maintaining a lower fuel hazard
- Long term monitoring plots needed to evaluate the effectiveness of the fuel treatments over time to learn and inform prescriptions
- Skid trails should avoid crossing streams or at a minimum remove excess slash from channel during skid trail restoration
- Small cable logging methods can minimize the need for temporary skid trails

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

- Next meeting December 13, 2017
- January agenda: FWAC priorities list review; elect chair; Whistler Interpretive Forest – discuss who is responsible; make recommendation for future management.

#### **Future Agenda Items:**

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#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by A. DeJong

**That** the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee adjourn the November 8, 2017 meeting at 4:59 p.m.

CARRIED



CHAIR: C. Ruddy



RECORDING SECRETARY: H. Beresford

## **APPENDIX A – WORCA Letter to CCF Board regarding proposed Cheakamus01 harvesting plan**

November 4, 2017

Whistler Off-Road Cycling Association Comments

Cheakamus Community Forest- 2018 Planned Harvesting and Fuel Treatment

To the CCF Board of Directors,

WORCA have reviewed the 2018 planned harvesting and fuel treatment plans presented by the CCF and would like to offer the following comments for consideration. We have appreciated the collaborative nature of the relationship between our organizations and continue to see opportunities to work together to achieve outcomes that seek to serve both parties in a productive fashion in the years ahead. WORCA helps manage, maintain, and build a non-motorized recreation trails for locals and tourists alike that provides economic impact to our local, regional, and provincial economies in excess of \$20 million per year, just for the trails that we manage in the valley. WORCA takes this responsibility seriously and provides the following feedback with that in mind.

One thing that would greatly enhance public understanding of the planned harvesting maps would be the inclusion of recreation trails to help our members, and the general public, better orient themselves in understanding the potential impacts of proposed harvesting on local recreation values. We continually receive comments that our members do not understand where these proposed harvest areas are, and more effort needs to be made in this regard as the trail data was provided by WORCA to the CCF. Please include recreation trails in future mapping.

We have reviewed the proposed harvesting plans against our trail inventory and interests, and generally do not have concerns in most of the areas. In C10/C15, these areas enhanced access and harvesting activities will allow WORCA to act on plans identified in our long term trail development process by connecting existing trail networks with continuous singletrack and add diversity to our recreation trail network. When harvesting is complete these areas will provide opportunities for the community to realize trail connections to and from the existing, but isolated, Jane Lakes network which we have been reactivating with the support of the RMOW over the past 2 years, with further works in 2018 planned. WORCA would encourage the CCF to focus activities in these areas now so as to get ahead of any potential increases in recreational use with anticipated future recreation trail development.

We do NOT support the inclusion of “C01” as a planned harvesting block and would like to re-iterate that we feel harvesting, much less heli-logging, is not appropriate in the immediate Cheakamus Crossing/Function Junction area. This block is located directly in the middle of high use and value recreation trails immediately adjacent to Cheakamus Crossing and Function Junction and clearly visible from both of those locations and highway 99 for those travelling north. “C01” is the obvious remaining patch of old growth on the west flank of Whistler Mountain, in an area significantly impacted by extensive clear-cut logging in the past.

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The "C01" planned block is surrounded by some of the highest use trails in the south end of Whistler, including trails accessed via the Whistler Bike Park within the controlled recreation area. The microwave road (West Side Whistler) is one of the busiest access routes in town as it is one of the first to open in the spring and last to close in the fall, in addition to regular winter use as a dog walking and snowshoe route. It is used by hundreds of riders per week accessing AMPM, It's Business Time, Tunnel Vision, and others. Lower Babylon, See Colours and Puke, High Side, HiHi, and Highline also make up pieces of a highly used loop for intermediate riders. The proposed heli-logging in this area seems excessive and unnecessary while the drop site is within one hundred meters of High Side and HiHi and a main parking area for people viewing the suspension bridge over the river. Use is so prevalent from all sides that controlling public access during harvesting and hauling will be extremely challenging.

Connected with the higher elevation old growth on the western flanks of Whistler, and the last remaining bits in the valley close to Function Junction, this patch of mixed age old growth, provides one strip of nearly continuous old growth from the valley to alpine and should be retained as such for habitat diversity. We believe this block should be preserved in its current form and harvesting should be shifted to planned areas in C10/C15 as these areas are not currently used for recreation or highly visible and therefore would be minimal impacts in that regard.

Working with Tom on our Interpretive Forest Far Out/Flashback trail connection plan in conjunction with the proposed fuel treatment prescriptions along Cheakamus Lake FSR (Eastside Main) corridor has shown that we can work together to enhance our forest and protect our community infrastructure while also smartly expanding and connecting our existing trail recreation opportunities in a high use and highly valued area. These fuel reduction efforts are extremely important to the community and will additionally allow for easier and faster trail development after the forest is opened up. This a perfect example of how we can work together for the benefit of the community.

WORCA looks forward to continuing our cooperation and collaboration with the CCF to help realize our trail development goals and plans into the future. Thank you for considering our comments and concerns.

Regards,

Whistler Off-Road Cycling Association, Board of Directors

