



WHISTLER

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF FOREST & WILDLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, October 8, 2014, STARTING AT 3:00 P.M.

In the Piccolo Room

4325 Blackcomb Way, Whistler, BC V0N 1B4

PRESENT:

Meetings to Date: 9

Ken Melamed, WORCA	8
Johnny Mikes, M-A-L	3
John Hammons, M-A-L	7
Peter Ackhurst, M-A-L	7
Bryce Leigh, AWARE	7

REGRETS:

Councillor Jayson Faulkner	3
Gordon McKeever, Chair	7
Candace Rose-Taylor, M-A-L	6
Rob Davis, M-A-L	6
Bob Brett, M-A-L	2
Kurt Mueller, M-A-L	3

Recording Secretary, Heather Beresford	9
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Public: Claire Ruddy, AWARE

Ken Melamed acting Chair.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Johnny Mikes
Seconded by Bruce Leigh

That the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee agenda of October 8, 2014.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by Johnny Mikes
Seconded by Peter Ackhurst

That the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee minutes of September 10, 2014.

CARRIED

VERBAL REPORTS

3. Updates

Council:

- N/A

AWARE:

- Canadian Wilderness Adventures ad showing ATV driving through stream. Not an environmental best management practice and should not be promoted to public.

MOTION: FWAC recommends RMOW send letter to MOFLNRO requesting commercial recreation tenure holders be advised that driving through streams is not an environmental best management practice.

Moved by Bryce Leigh
Seconded by Peter Ackhurst

- Access to public roads has been blocked by tenure holders. E.g. North Aire Mines road and Lucille Lake/Freeman Lake road.

MOTION: FWAC recommends RMOW send letter to MOFLNRO requesting commercial recreation tenure holders be advised that public access must be maintained.

Moved by Bryce Leigh
Seconded by Johnny Mikes

- Powder Mountain Cat Skiing is building a trail/road through Tricouni Meadows. FWAC questioned if the tenure holder had approvals from government to do so. RMOW staff learned that MOFLNRO Compliance and Enforcement staff is investigating.

WORCA:

- Congratulations to ACC Whistler on the newly-constructed Skywalk Trail. Beautiful but very long round trip. Discussion re: possible access improvements to shorten the loop.

RMOW:

- Wildfire Management:
 - Horstman Thinning – work underway with goal to complete it this fall.
 - Callaghan FSR fuel management project scheduled for late October/November.

Cheakamus Community Forest:

- OGMA maps and draft plan submitted to Frank DeGagne, MOF.
- Integrated Mapping project: draft EBM reserves identified; next step is to use constraints/opportunities identified to develop a longer range harvesting plan for the CCF.

- Carbon project verified by Rainforest Alliance Oct. 1 - 3/14. First response was positive. Report yet to be received. Expect to be able to sell credits before year end.
- Harvesting to continue in Brew, Wedge and Callaghan through autumn.

4. Spotted Owl General Wildlife Measures

Presentation and discussion led by Frank DeGagne, Land & Resource Specialist, MOFLNRO

General Wildlife Measures apply to access, timber harvesting and silviculture.

Two areas of the CCF are designated as "Managed Future Habitat Areas" (MFHA): Wedge and east of Daisy Lake.

Definition: MFHA means the defined areas within a Wildlife Habitat Area (WHA) that are primarily available for timber harvesting opportunities while retaining structural attributes to maintain options for all or portions of the MFHA to become future Spotted Owl habitat and, if necessary, Long Term Owl Habitat Area.

The management goal is to allow for timber harvesting with the retention of structural attributes such as large diameter trees, snags, and large coarse woody debris to enable future recruitment as Spotted Owl habitat. The attributes retained are not normally present (in quality and quantity) in stands managed for timber on "normal" 60-100 year rotations. See also the section on MFHA in *Best Management Practices for Managing Spotted Owl Habitat: A Component of the Spotted Owl Management Plan 2, Chilliwack and Squamish Forest Districts* dated July 7, 2009.

Spotted owls are on endangered species list. Population and distribution declining. BC used to be northern range, only 14 known in southwest BC. Target is 125 breeding pairs across Canada. None in CCF. Recruitment is the goal. Intent is to leave enough preferred habitat types (spaced old growth) that spotted owls could use if they come back.

Spotted owl polygons were chosen to meet targets set in last Timber Supply Review. They account for 7% of THLB. More of a volume netdown than an area netdown. There are parks and conservancies in the area to supplement spotted owl polygons identified in the Order.

Discussion re: Oregon and Washington spotted owl programs and strategies. Barred Owls have been expanding their range from Eastern North America and have been identified as a serious threat to Spotted Owls as they outcompete with Spotted Owls in their native habitat. In the U.S., A Barred Owl control program has been implemented to shoot Barred Owls in Spotted Owl habitat.

Reviewed photos of spotted owl constrained harvesting near Gates Lake.

Order directs to leave as much CWD as possible but there is concern over increasing fire risk if this is done. Mitigated by removing slash from 5m of roads. No burn piles. Fines distributed throughout the site. Operator commented that meeting the spotted owl objectives doubled the amount of time to do the work.

Discussion re: use of in-block prescribed burning to reduce fines/fuels. CCF has not burned debris. Prescribed burning can be tailored to eliminate various fuel components depending on when the burning is done in relation to fuel moisture. An appropriate prescribed burn can remove the fines (needles and very fine branches) as well as smaller limbs and branches which can carry a wildfire, while leaving coarse woody debris intact. Fines decompose within 1-2 years, so burning is most effective in decreasing risk in the first couple of years. Burning may also promotes brush growth which further decreases risk.

The CCF has already done preliminary work on laying out a Spotted Owl compliant harvest area in the Managed Future Habitat Area west of Cheakamus Crossing, but this has been put on hold to comply with the present moratorium on harvesting in the Cheakamus Crossing area.

Update on Old Growth Management Area project – CCF subcommittee and MOF met recently to finalize the map for public review.

Visual Objectives are also being reviewed. Next big MOF project after OGMA. Aiming for completion in 2016.

Frank DeGagne and Ken Melamed left meeting at 4:26 p.m.
Johnny Mikes took over as Chair.

5. CCF Annual Report

FWAC reviewed two issues raised by J. Hammons:

- i. Harvested areas reporting
- ii. Harvesting concentrated in Brew Valley.

Harvested areas reporting:

All tenure holders are required to enter harvested areas into provincial Results database. A comparison of air photos to Results polygons entered by CCF shows instances of inaccuracy. See attached: note how red dotted lines of Results polygon do not match harvested areas shown in orthophoto. Appears that planned polygons are being entered, not surveys of actual areas harvested. Timber volumes are correct because they are scaled, but the area reported is inaccurate. Concerned that credibility of CCF is challenged. FWAC considers this to be unacceptable, and recommends that steps be taken to ensure that harvest areas are accurately reported.

Harvesting focused in Brew Valley:

Silviculture plan based on premise that harvesting would be distributed throughout entire CCF THLB. But political decisions have taken Cheakamus valley and Canadian Wilderness Adventures tenure off the table for the time being. Small blocks and retention helps, but have lost ability to spread harvest out, so at this time certain areas area receive more than their share

of harvesting. This is an unintended consequence of political, not silvicultural, decisions.

FWAC wants these comments added to the 2013 annual report.

Heather and Gordon will continue working on report before bringing back at November meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Field trip on Wednesday, October 15, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Future Agenda Items:

- CCF Annual Report (November)
- Spearhead Hut Project (November)
- Alpine Trail Program (November/January)
- Elect chair; approve annual meeting schedule (January)
- Get Bear Smart Society (January)

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Peter Ackhurst
Seconded by Bryce Leigh

That the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee adjourn the October 8, 2014 meeting at 5:02 p.m.

CARRIED

CHAIR: Johnny Mikes