

WHISTLER

MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING OF FOREST & WILDLAND ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2016, STARTING AT 3:00 P.
In the Flute Room
4325 Blackcomb Way, Whistler, BC V0N 1B4**

File: 8221.03

Name	Meetings to Date: 7
Present:	
Councillor Steve Anderson	4
Member at Large, Arthur DeJong	7
Member at Large, Derek Bonin	6
Member at Large, John Hammons	5
WORCA, Craig Mackenzie	6
AWARE, Claire Ruddy (since March)	4
Member at Large, Johnny Mikes	6
Member at Large, Rob Davis	4
Member at Large, Trevor Burton (since June)	2
Regrets:	
Member at Large, Candace Rose- Taylor	4
Recording Secretary	
Heather Beresford	7

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Adoption of Agenda

Moved by J. Hammons
Seconded by J. Mikes

That the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Forest &
Wildland Advisory Committee agenda for September 14, 2016.

CARRIED

Adoption of Minutes

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by J. Hammons
Seconded by D. Bonin

That the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Forest &
Wildland Advisory Committee minutes for July 13, 2016.

CARRIED

S. Anderson arrived at 3:10 p.m.

Motion to Elect Chair

Moved by J. Mikes
Seconded by A. DeJong

That Claire Ruddy serve as FWAC Chair until January 2017; and

That Derek Bonin serve as FWAC alternate Chair until January 2017.

CARRIED

Discussion re: FWAC member terms

- Peter Ackhurst replaced by Trevor Burton
- Claire Ruddy replaced Bryce Leigh for the AWARE seat
- John Hammons, Gordon McKeever and Rob Davis terms complete and will be replaced by year end.

VERBAL REPORTS

Verbal Reports

Council:

- SLRD approved Canadian Wilderness Adventures applications. Proponents working on plan details.

Craig Mackenzie arrived at 3:15 p.m.

AWARE:

- GIS student completed an interactive “story” regarding ancient trees
- 2017 projects include alpine monitoring and advocacy

WORCA:

- Lord of the Squirrels descent trail complete
- Improved existing overgrown trail to Jane Lake
- Building Cut Above in Stonebridge area

RMOW:

- Brio fuel thinning project partially complete, will finish remaining area in fall 2016 or spring 2017
- Comprehensive Wildfire Plan being developed
- Planning autumn project for Callaghan fuel thinning
- Discussion re: apparent conflict between Firesmart principles and existing tree covenants

Cheakamus Community Forest:

- Access Management Planning underway; incorporating FWAC access management principles

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- CCF Fall 2016 harvesting plans: P02a, A02 (a,e,f,g), W08c, W02 (b,c,d), Callaghan fuel thinning.
- CCF 2017 field work planned for layout: Cheak01, Cheak15, fuel reduction at R04, Cheakamus Lake Road, and Loggers Lake Road.
- Applied to new Forest Enhancement Society for fall 2016 funding to complete Callaghan fuel thinning and future projects.
- Discussed news that more recreation sites are planned for the Sea to Sky Corridor. Concerns throughout corridor with garbage, wildfire risk, and lack of toilet facilities at the informal camping sites, and concern that new sites won't be able to be monitored effectively.

ACTION: Invite Bob Cunneyworth, FLRNO Natural Resource Officer Supervisor, to a FWAC meeting to discuss Compliance and Enforcement policy, program and issues, and Alistair McCrone, RSTBC to discuss recreation sites plan.

CCF Annual Report

A discussion led by H. Beresford regarding the 2015 annual report to the CCF.

FWAC reviewed the draft and made final revisions. Annual report is attached to minutes as Appendix A.

Moved by D. Bonin

Seconded by J. Hammons

That FWAC approves the final version of the 2015 CCF Annual Report for distribution to the CCF Board and RMOW Council.

CARRIED

FWAC Priorities & Tasks

A discussion led by J. Mikes regarding the FWAC priorities and tasks for 2017 and future.

Opportunity to reflect on current FWAC priorities and tasks against Terms of Reference, and make suggestions for potential changes.

Discussion re: balance of topics. Seems heavily weighted toward Cheakamus Community Forest. Addressing technical forestry questions at FWAC table may not be best use of time. Consider more use of subcommittees. FWAC wants to address each Terms of Reference area more equally.

Potential new topics for 2017:

- Review one Commercial Recreation Operator plan and operations annually
- New FLNRO recreation sites – Alistair McCrone
- Compliance & enforcement – Bob Cunneyworth
- BC Parks & Recreation Sites and Trails BC
- Wildlife issues
- Independent Power Projects
- Wildfire Planning

ACTION: Send out Terms of Reference. Each member prepare a short list of potential topics for 2017 & 2018.

Other Business

OTHER BUSINESS

October Field trip – H. Beresford to send out doodle poll with potential dates.

Future Agenda Items:

- Field Trip (October)
- MOF Visual Quality Objectives (confirm timelines with MoFLNRO)
- MOF Fire Management Plan (confirm timelines with MoFLNRO)
- Bob Cunneyworth, Compliance & Enforcement
- Alistair McCrone, Rec Sites & Trails BC (new rec sites)

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by C. Mackenzie

That the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee adjourn the September 14, 2016 meeting at 5:01 p.m.

CARRIED

CHAIR: C. Ruddy

RECORDING SECRETARY: Heather Beresford

Appendix A: 2015 FWAC Annual Report to CCF

2015

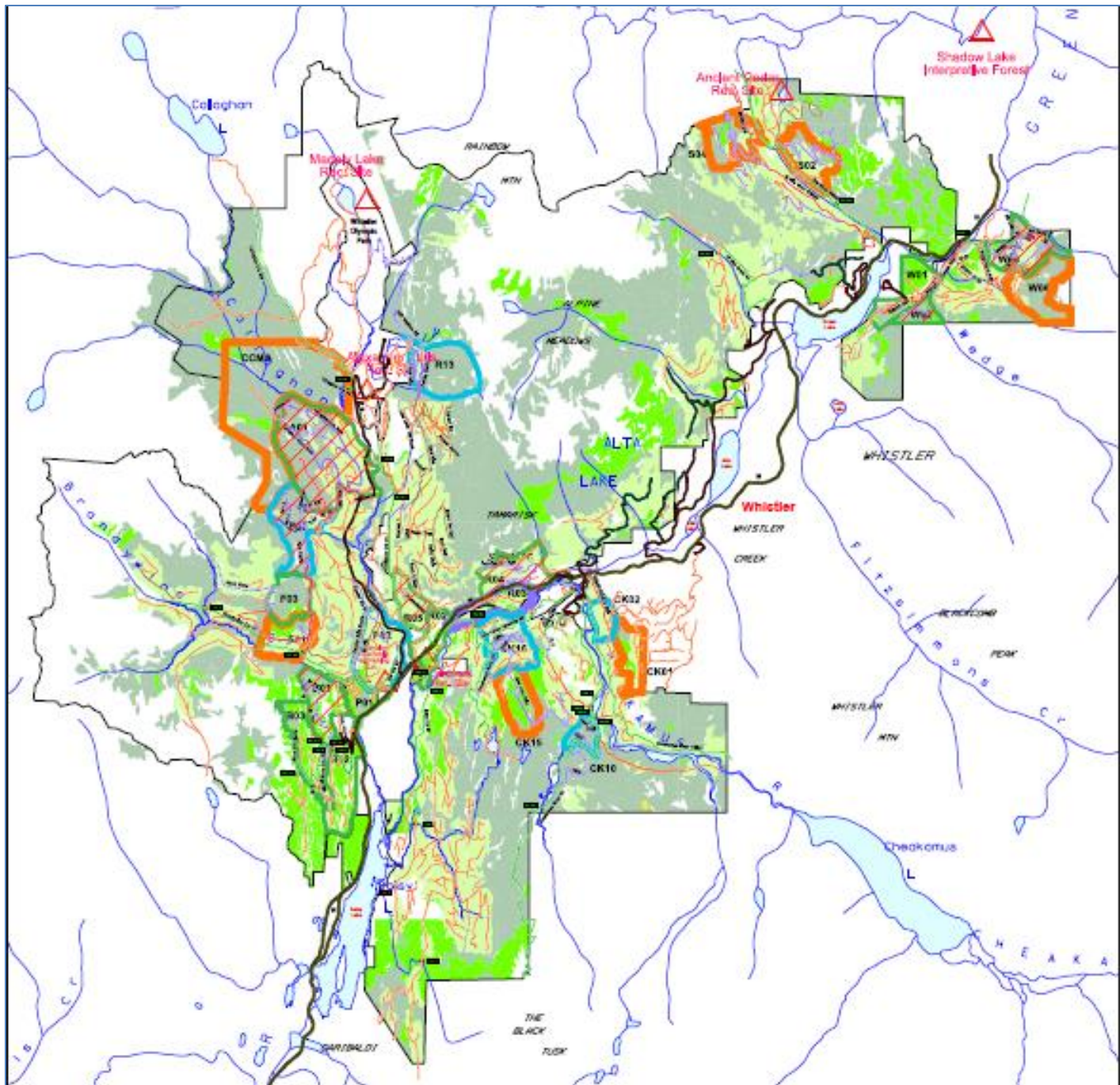
FOREST & WILDLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT ON 2015 CHEAKAMUS COMMUNITY FOREST HARVESTING



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Compartment Area Key Map



Introduction

The Cheakamus Community Forest (CCF) operates under the K3V forest license and is one of more than 50 community forests in British Columbia. Situated on more than 33,000 hectares surrounding Whistler, the CCF was established in 2009, when the Lil'wat Nation, Squamish Nation and Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW) jointly signed a 25-year tenure with the provincial Ministry of Forests and Range. Together, these three equal partners oversee the management and operation of the forest under the auspices of the Cheakamus Community Forest Society, an independent not-for-profit organization.

The purpose of the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee's (FWAC) annual report is to provide recommendations for forest management improvements to the RMOW Council, the CCF Board of Directors and to the forestry operations contractor. Field observations are drawn from a field trips held in May 2016. Minimal logging occurred in 2015 due to the abrupt withdrawal of Richmond Plywood in the spring and the early forest fire season. Those remainder of the 2015 harvesting plans will be implemented in 2016.

The Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee considers five key factors in its analysis and provides a rating:

Analysis Factors	Report Card Mark
Is the CCF using best management practices to respect ecological principals and maintain biodiversity?	B
Do the CCF operations match the annual harvesting plans and other guiding documents?	B
Are the harvesting operations sensitive to visual impacts? And were other measures applied to minimize impacts on the shared use of the forest, particularly regarding tourism?	B
Does the fuel management harvesting bring the CCF closer to community FireSmart objectives?	A
Does the harvesting reflect balancing access with protecting habitat and other values?	Access goals are in development

Table 1: Harvesting Summary 2015

Comp	Area	# of Opening	Ave Opening	Contractor	Perm Roads	M3
P02A	4.9 ha	1	4.9 ha	Sqomish LP	No	798.0
P02 C-G	8.3 ha	5	1.7 ha	Skytech Yarding Services	Upgrade	2,628.5
R05	5.5 ha	1	5.5 ha	Skytech Yarding Services	Yes	117.10
W02	0	0	0	JR Trucking	No	78.1
Totals	18.7	7	2.7		Total M3	3,621.7

A total of 3,621.7m3 was scaled under the K3V. A total of 7 openings created a total gross harvest area 18.7Ha with an average opening size of 2.7ha. 3 of the 7 openings left moderate levels of retention and 4 with low levels of tree retention. P02A and R05 were both incomplete at year end.

Table 2: Harvesting Unit Rating according to adherence to silviculture strategy

Unit Name	Comments	Rating
Callaghan Fuel Thinning (R05)	Met the fuel thinning prescription but it may not have thinned enough to most effectively reduce fire risk	B+
P02 (a)	Debris to composter at no cost to CCF. Retention OK.	B
P02 (c, f, g)	Good screening from road, watercourses protected. Could have been more retention of more larger trees	B-

Discussion

FWAC is encouraged that CCF including fuel thinning in the harvesting plans, and suggested CCF consider planting more deciduous trees to continue to lower fire risk.

FWAC encourages more cable logging systems rather than ground based logging to minimize impacts to the ground and protect the soil and water.

Consider thinning second growth stands by removing approximately two thirds of the stems and one third of the volume resulting in the retention of the most dominant trees that have the greatest potential for growth and to sequester carbon into the future

Retained trees need to be protected from scarring to optimize growth and maintain tree health.

FWAC appreciates the open discussion with the CCF foresters, and finds the field trips very informative.

Field Observations (May 5, 2016)

General comments:

- CCF needs to consider carbon sequestration when planning harvesting. Taking too many young plantations may compromise carbon obligations.
- Encourage CCF to use harvesting methods and equipment that impact the forest floor less, minimize water erosion.
- Encourage CCF to develop a long term prescriptions for each opening, full life cycle of the stands to have a better overall understanding of management goals including wildfire and biodiversity goals.
- Encourage CCF to make firewood available and to alert public to the locations. A good opportunity to connect public to CCF and its benefits.

Compartment Planning Unit: Callaghan Fuel Thinning Project (C3 North)

- RMOW funded, CCF carrying out operations.

- Thinning along Callaghan Road started in 2014, continued in 2015 and finishing spring 2016
- 9 hectares total, \$10-15,000/hectare to treat; log sales returned \$5000/ha
- Following B.A. Blackwell prescription for shaded fuel break. Goal is to reduce ladder fuels that can carry fire into the crown, and to reduce crown density to reduce risk of crown fires
- Lessons learned: it's very expensive to handle wood numerous times to get it to the road for loading, so now building central trail into sites to move material more efficiently
- Discussion re: efficacy of leaving so many trees on site. Consider leaving only 200 stems/hectare. Fire risk would be lower for a longer period of time. Remember that this work needs to be repeated in future as trees grow back in. Also consider scaling up to thin hundreds of hectares. RMOW needs to budget on a 20 year cycle by determining how many hectares need treatment and divide by 20. Also plan for future maintenance treatments which are required every 20 years at approximately \$1000 per hectare.

Compartment Planning Unit: Powder02 (g)

- Powder 02 is broken into various retention levels
- Powder 02 (g) is a 1.3 hectare area, with 350 stems/hectare
- 1 plot per hectare reviewed to determine tree density. Government requires CCF to track trees over time. Important for provincial RESULTS tracking system and the carbon program.
- Prescribed to leave 50% of trees as selected by machine operator.
- Coarse Woody Debris (CWD) is deficient. CCF is planning on two trees per hectare to fall down in future as CWD or to cut down two trees in future. This retention strategy should fill in the CWD. Previous slash burning removed it first time around.
- Some selective pruning of trees in past.
- Allowed to leave some slash piles behind.
- Some fuel reduction value. Not as clean on the ground as fuel thinning sites. 200,000 kg of limbs hauled out with no tipping fee. Cost \$10,000 per hectare compared to \$30,000 for the very clean sites. Could choose to do more sites like this and save money, get more hectares done.
- FWAC noted that this is a regeneration harvest and could have taken more out. Disagrees with going into young plantation because it's a lost opportunity for future. Discussion of growth curves. These trees are cut at least 30 years earlier than their maximum growth and value; also significantly more harvest area is needed to produce the same volume. By taking trees out now, it's a lost future opportunity for getting more value out of the trees. Although in some markets, the smaller trees have value compared to older trees. Commercial thinning could be an option, but the market needs to be good and trees close to the road to reduce costs. A long-term commercial thinning timber sale may be an option to allow contractors to invest in thinning-specific equipment.
- Document objectives for doing this site and what is planned for future. Such a document gives the next forest managers a plan to review and understand.
-
- This is an area of high hazard fuel identified by Community Wildfire Protection Plan.
-
- Is there a self-guided tour opportunity? Does it make sense to put something together to help explain what's taking place on the ground. Commitment to deliver interpretive aspects were written into the Forest Stewardship Plan and are delivered in the Whistler Interpretive Forest. There are signs in place but not particularly public friendly information as it's very dense and dry. CCF could target school groups for guided tours.

Compartment Planning Unit: Powder 02 (c, f)

- Discussion on quality of seedlings and silviculture responsibilities. Operations generally don't have to replant as much anymore as seedling quality has improved.
- For the sake of biodiversity, it would be good to mix in some white pine, but blister rust resistant planting stock is hard to get.
- Stocking approach is "don't do the same thing everywhere." This approach provides a variety of trees for different markets and habitats.
- Removed 200,000 kg of wood waste to composter, remainder will be burned.
- Area will be replanted with fir and cedar
- This is an old road system that was reopened and connects to Brandywine and Blackcomb Snowmobile's winter route.
- Direct access to Callaghan paved road blocked by boulders. CCF needs a permit to connect to MOTI highways.
- Retention of unharvested roadside buffer somewhat isolates roadside slash from heavily travelled Olympic Road.



Figure 1: Coarse Woody Debris P02 (c, f)



Figure 2: Debris Pile P02 (c, f)

Compartment Planning Unit: P02 (a)

- P02 (a) is adjacent to the Brandywine snowmobile parking. The area was cat logged 50 years ago.
- Current logging maintained trees along the road to shield views from Highway 99.
- Existing old roads used.
- Brush taken to composter.
- Work was finished in May.
- Commercial thinning would work well on this site. Trees ages/types were variable after previous logging. With commercial thinning, still maintaining a well-stocked stand.



Figure 3: Old road system reopened in P02 (a)



Figure 4: Logs piled next to snowmobile parking lot

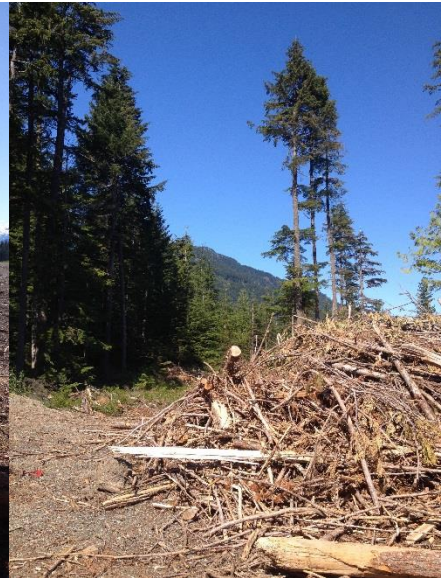


Figure 5: Debris Pile P02 (a)

FWAC Comments on 2015 Harvesting

Excerpt from Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee minutes from May 11, 2016 containing comments on field trip observations.

- FWAC is encouraged that CCF including fuel thinning in the harvesting plans.
- Encourage more cable logging systems rather than ground based logging to minimize impacts to the ground and protect the soil and water.
- Consider thinning second growth stands by removing approximately two thirds of the stems and one third of the volume resulting in the retention of the most dominant trees that have the greatest potential for growth and to sequester carbon into the future
- Trees retained need to be protected from scarring to optimize growth and maintain tree health
- Discussion re: planting more deciduous to reduce fire risk.
- FWAC appreciated the open discussion with the CCF foresters, very informative.

Recommendations

- Significant debris piles should be burnt.
- FWAC made recommendations for appropriate levels of Coarse Woody Debris (CWD) in its May 2014 memo to the CCF Board (see Appendix C for more details). FWAC recommends:
- CCF implement the recommendations
- Update the EBM Plan with revised CWD levels
- Implement a CWD/WT monitoring and reporting system for each harvesting unit.
- FWAC recommends the CCF consider and incorporate the FWAC Access Management Planning principles received by Council at the July 12, 2016 meeting, and develop access management guidelines to guide the decision-making process when reviewing new access/roads against visual, environmental and public recreation values. This would provide consistency for decisions.

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- FWAC recommends that the CCF more closely follow the silviculture strategy's approach to opening size and retention levels.
- FWAC recommends the CCF implement a rigorous monitoring program related to EBM goals, CCF principles, and harvesting objectives. It could take the form of an after harvest biodiversity report card that is prepared annually for each new opening that FWAC and other members of the community could use to assess progress towards EBM objectives. It would report on items such as final opening size, wildlife trees (numbers, species, broad size/wildlife habitat suitability class and distribution), wildfire hazard, and CWD levels. FWAC further recommends that the CCF consider participating with the RMOW remote sensing/aerial photography program to ensure that the CCF is covered in future programs and then utilize orthophotos as part of this analysis. The CCF could also consider the use of drones to capture aerial views for sharing on its website.
- FWAC recommends that the CCF continue providing informal feedback through field trips and attending FWAC meetings as well as prepare an annual written memo for responding to FWAC recommendations in this report.

Summary of Actions Taken on Previous Recommendations

Recommendations from the 2013 – 2014 FWAC Annual Report to CCF:

FWAC recommends the CCF develop access management guidelines related to commercial & public recreation access that consider visual, environmental and public recreation values.

ACTION TAKEN: Included in Integrated Resource Mapping and analysis project and the 2016 planning process for the CCF's access management plan.

FWAC recommends that the CCF and/or the RMOW should push the province for a stronger commercial recreation referral process involving more stakeholders.

ACTION TAKEN: None.

FWAC recommends that the CCF Board of Directors consider the following recommendations and after decisions are made, update the Silviculture Strategy and Standard Operating Procedures with the changes.

- FWAC recommends CCF implement a revised Coarse Woody Debris policy as per the STAND LEVEL BIODIVERSITY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE CHEAKAMUS COMMUNITY FOREST dated May 21, 2014 and provided to the CCF Board of Directors. The document's recommendations are:
 - FWAC recommends the definition and density of CWD be revised to match the Chief Forester's recommendation of 23 pieces/hectare in CWHds-mm-ms, each being a minimum of 20 cm in diameter and 10 m in length.
 - Sustain 50% of the naturally occurring amounts of down wood at the landscape level.
 - Managed stands may be insufficient.
 - Sustain a range of size and decay classes of down wood.
 - Ensure that some large pieces are retained.
 - Provide both aggregated and dispersed down wood.
 - Retention of wood – first, as trees, then as logs – is critical for many species.
 - Don't do the same thing everywhere.

ACTION TAKEN: CWD approach revised on the ground where possible, but silviculture policy not updated.

FWAC emphasizes the need for CCF to implement a rigorous monitoring program related to EBM goals, CCF principles, and harvesting objectives. It could take the form of an after harvest biodiversity report card that is prepared annually for each new opening that FWAC and other members of the community could use to assess progress towards EBM objectives. It would report on items such as final opening size, wildlife trees (numbers, species, broad size/wildlife habitat suitability class and distribution), wildfire hazard, and CWD levels.

ACTION TAKEN: CCF implemented a monitoring plan in 2016 to meet carbon and EBM Plan requirements.

FWAC recommends that the CCF Silviculture Strategy should be revised to include the role of understory trees.

ACTION TAKEN: Under review