

1999 Annual Report

North Island Woodlands Advisory Group



Background

North Island Woodlands Advisory Group (NIWAG) was formed in October 1998 as a permanent and independent body to provide organized and regular input to the development, implementation and improvement of Weyerhaeuser's Sustainable Forest Management [SFM] System at North Island Timberlands (formerly MacMillan Bloedel North Island Woodlands). At the conclusion of 1999, NIWAG consisted of members and alternates representing:

- B.C. Ministry of Forests (*observer status*)
- Campbell River Chamber of Commerce
- Campbell River Environmental Council
- District of Campbell River
- Dyer Logging
- IWA
- Kwakwilt Laich-Kwil-Tach Council of Chiefs*
- Regional District of Comox-Strathcona
- Sayward Fish & Game Club
- T-Mar Industries
- Village of Sayward

NIWAG was chaired in 1999 by independent facilitator Ron Frank of Shelterwood Forest Management, Courtenay. Several Weyerhaeuser representatives also participated in NIWAG as Standing (non-voting) Members or as resource personnel as requested.

NIWAG held 13 regular meetings and three special event dinners in 1999. All NIWAG sectors were consistently represented by members or their alternates.

North Island
Timberlands was the
first operation in Canada
to be jointly certified
under the International
Standards Association
and the Canadian
Standards Association
in May 1999.

Achievements & Significant Activities

Mission Statement and Terms of Reference:

As a new group, NIWAG recognized that it was important to clearly define its purpose and working procedures as soon as possible. A Mission Statement and Terms of Reference, subject to ongoing review and improvement, were approved by NIWAG on March 10, 1999.

NIWAG, through representation of a cross-section of interests from our local communities shall:

1. Provide input to the development, implementation and continual improvement of the Sustainable Forest Management of MacMillan Bloedel North Island Woodlands.**
2. Contribute to the identification of local values, goals, indicators and objectives that are consistent with the requirements of ISO and CSA standards and Forest Stewardship Council principles and criteria.
3. Represent the sectors of our communities from which we come by respecting the NIWAG Code of Conduct, participating fully in NIWAG, informing our constituents and our communities with timely information about NIWAG matters and by informing NIWAG of input from our constituents and the public.

* Supplementary to NIWAG, a separate consultation process has been maintained with Comox First Nation.

** Excerpted from NIWAG Mission Statement approved March 10, 1999. Weyerhaeuser acquired MacMillan Bloedel on November 1, 1999.

Canada's first CSA forestry certification:

NIWAG provided extensive input into the development of North Island's Sustainable Forest Management Plan (*Version 2.1, April 5, 1999*). This plan was a critical element in North Island's 1999 Canadian Standards Association certification for Sustainable Forest Management. North Island was the first operation in Canada certified to the CSA standard.

North Island was also certified at the same time to the ISO 14001 environmental management system standard.

NIWAG recognized that the Criteria and Indicator set included in the Sustainable Forest Management Plan requires further work in several important respects. In particular, the socio-economic indicators and objectives need refinement. These will be a subject for group discussion during the SFM Plan annual review in 2000.

Education:

Ongoing education is an important requirement for effective group functioning of NIWAG. In addition to regular reports from Standing Members and North Island personnel, NIWAG received a number of special presentations designed to increase members' understanding of forest management issues in general and of North Island's operations in particular.

These educational presentations included:

- Mr. Glen Dunsworth (Biodiversity)
- Mr. Peter Koefed (Timber Supply Analysis and Forest Management Planning)
- Dr. Peggy Allan and Mr. Eugene Wilson (Hinton, Alberta, Weldwood Advisory Group)
- Mr. Robert Hrubes (Forest Stewardship Council)
- Mr. Pat Phillips (Proposed MB Compensation Plan and Private Forest Landowners' Best Management Practices)
- Mr. Rick Adams (North Island Local Purchasing Procedures)
- Mr. Bryce Bancroft (Variable Retention Silviculture)

NIWAG members attended several outside events in 1999, including:

- A speech by MB CEO Tom Stephens to a breakfast meeting of the Campbell River and District Chamber of Commerce, February 24.
- MacMillan Bloedel Annual General Meeting, Vancouver, April 21.
- A field trip to view North Island harvest practices, Iron River area, May 29.
- Forest Resources Advisory Group workshop, Hinton, Alberta, September 24-26.



Issues of Community Interest:

NIWAG members play an important role in facilitating discussions regarding issues of specific community interest. North Island's responsiveness to broadly held community values is a key part of the operation's commitment to Sustainable Forest Management. Some issues can be effectively addressed by providing information to NIWAG members. Other issues require more extended discussion between company personnel and community members. In 1999, these issues included:

- B.C. government proposal to transfer ownership to MB of certain Crown lands in compensation for expropriation of various MB assets (timber and tenure rights).
- Acquisition of MB by Weyerhaeuser Company. (NIWAG sought and received written confirmation from Weyerhaeuser senior management that the new company will continue to respect both the NIWAG process and MB's previous commitments to SFM and the certification program.)
- Partnership Agreement with Campbell River, Comox, Tlowitsis, Kwiakah and Cape Mudge First Nations.
- Kelsey Bay dryland sort.
- Dust control activities on logging roads in several areas; smoke and ash from the Kelsey Bay burner.
- Coordination of development and road deactivation with trail building by the Sayward Estuary and Trail Society.

Year 2000 Activities:

Having successfully completed the significant tasks of Advisory Group organization and the 1999 Sustainable Forest Management Plan leading to CSA certification, members began in November to consider future activities. Prospective Year 2000 activities include:

- Expansion of membership to include other sectors.
- Increasing NIWAG's public profile.
- Review and assessment of North Island performance under the 1999 Sustainable Forest Management Plan.
- Review and improvement of the Sustainable Forest Management Criteria and Indicator set.

For more information:

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