

NIWAG 2002 ANNUAL REPORT



Photo: Heather Pate – “Mechanical Harvesting in Blowdown” – Amor de Cosmos Creek Watershed



Photo: Heather Pate – “Member at large, Heather West and Facilitator Ron Frank counting growth rings” - Big Tree Creek Watershed



Photo: Fae Hansen – “October 2002 Field Trip” – Stove Cr. Mainline

Youth – North Island College: Bringing members of the community together to share information and concerns is a powerful tool. Both my constituents and I have been introduced to the big picture of sustainable forest management. I hope to see the NIWAG continue to grow and contribute to the dynamic forestry industry, working towards sustainable forest management and the wellbeing of all that are impacted by the industry.

Facilitator Chair: 2002 saw NIWAG mature into a functioning and effective Public Advisory Group. Stakeholder and First Nation representatives have had 3 years to become familiar with how Canadian Standards Association Z809 certification standards work, how the NIWAG committee can effectively relate to Weyerhaeuser and to the independent Third Party Auditors (QMI). NIWAG’s set of Indicators is gradually changing to reflect more closely the values and goals of the Stakeholders and First Nations, and sensitive issues are being addressed ‘head-on’. NIWAG members have shown great commitment in taking part in regular monthly meetings, twice-yearly field trips and workshops and speaking and participating in public forums.

I see the main challenges for NIWAG over the next year as;

- Maintaining and building trust between sectors at the NIWAG table, as major changes to forest legislation, policy and business climate (often global pressure) continue to promote rapid changes and threaten some of the various values represented;
- Maintaining the full range of representation around the NIWAG table at a time when internal, local, regional, provincial, and global pressures are upon us all to change the way business is done;
- To focus not just on our values and goals and reflect them in our indicator set, but also to ensure a strong flow of communications from NIWAG to the community and from the communities to NIWAG. It is critical that NIWAG truly represent the many sectors of our communities from which we come.

It has been a challenge and a pleasure to serve as the Facilitator/Chair of NIWAG during the 2002 calendar year.

For More Information:

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North Island Woodlands Advisory Group was formed in October 1998 to be a permanent and independent body providing organized and regular community input to the development, implementation and ongoing improvement of Weyerhaeuser’s Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) system at North Island Timberlands. The Canadian Standards Association Z809 forest certification forms the core structure of NIWAG’s activities.

North Island Timberlands was certified under CSA Z809 and ISO 14001 in May 1999. Weyerhaeuser remains committed to maintaining certification on the Defined Forest Area (DFA), which includes TFL 39 Block 2 and private lands at Iron River (230,000 total hectares). North Island Timberlands has been audited regularly and has successfully passed all audits.

Photo: Fae Hansen – “Blocked in” – NIWAG fall field trip – Big Tree Creek



North Island Woodlands Advisory Group

MEMBERSHIP

NIWAG is a group representing the diversity of the local communities, including First Nations, municipal and regional government, environmental and community organizations and interested individuals. The diversity of representation and of individuals continues to provide a wide range of values, goals and viewpoints. Some community members have been with NIWAG since its first meeting in 1998.

NIWAG has: a Facilitator/Chairperson, a Minutes Secretary, 2 Weyerhaeuser staff (Standing Members) and 14 members from the community (Active Members);

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| • First Nations – Hamatla Treaty Society | Chief John Smith |
| • Campbell River Environmental Council | Quentin Dodd |
| • Sayward Fish and Game Club | Richard Glover |
| • North Island College | Heather West |
| • Regional District of Comox Strathcona | |
| • District of Campbell River | Bill Matthews |
| • Village of Sayward | Doug Dyson |
| • Ministry of Forests (Observer) | John Andres |
| • Forest Dependent Business | Gordon Olafsen |
| • Forest Contractors | Ted Arkell |
| • Chamber of Commerce | Maureen Brinson |
| • Union – IWA | Ted Klettke |
| • Member at Large – Community | Heather Pate |
| • Member at Large – Seniors | Fae Hansen |

Members of NIWAG wrote and abide by the Adopted **Terms of Reference and Mandate** and review them annually.

ACTIVITIES

In 2002, NIWAG held: 10 regular meetings, 1 weekend daylong workshop on Indicators, and 2 field trips.

The year began with a panel discussion on the state of the coastal forestry industry with panelists from West Island, Port McNeill, North Island and BC Coastal Group head office. Although the certification process applies to a Defined Forest Area within Weyerhaeuser's North Island Timberlands, the DFA is impacted by wider regional, provincial and international events and situations. NIWAG frequently must wrestle with impacts from outside the DFA, requesting resources and information from the company in order to stay current. This has been one of the most difficult areas for NIWAG – finding and measuring values that are constantly affected by external forces.

NIWAG asked for and received information on a wide variety of issues and concerns. Log exports, the Softwood Lumber dispute with the USA, and the new provincial results-based Forest Practices Code were discussed. The Employee and Family Assistance Plan, consolidation of the operations, and closure of the Eve River worksite and Kelsey Bay dryland sort were monitored and debated.



NIWAG also provided detailed comments to the Ministry of Forests on the Sayward Forest Landscape Unit Plan.

The CSA's revision of its Z809 standards was brought to the table and after discussion, NIWAG decided to delay review of the changes until after the regular company audit in spring 2003, which would be conducted under the current standards. NIWAG will review the new CSA standards in September 2003.

NIWAG also met with members of the Quality Management Institute (QMI) audit team in May. Key questions for the audit team related to membership and activities in other advisory groups, as compared to NIWAG and to how to evaluate the work of the auditors. QMI auditors reported that NIWAG is one of the longest-standing groups and has taken on activities, such as field trips, public education sessions and inter-group communications that most other groups do not do. NIWAG was once again assured its input into the certification process and audit is vital.

Catastrophic windstorms in December 2001 created large areas of blow-down in several parts of the DFA. As a result, Weyerhaeuser adjusted both the timing and location of some of its harvest, and cleaned up much of the wind-throw. Field trips in October last year and again in May took NIWAG members to Big Tree Creek to see the effects of the wind storms and how harvesting of the fallen timber was done. Stream rehabilitation and ground compaction during mechanical harvesting was also a focus of the field trips.

Through the year, NIWAG struggled in two key areas:

- 1) The content and format of regular reports on internal issues to the company and DFA. Ongoing discussions between Weyerhaeuser and individual members of NIWAG will continue until this matter is resolved.
- 2) Expressing and recording values in social and economic areas. The workshop in November was dedicated to getting values recorded. Subsequent steps will include finding goals and objectives by which to measure these values.

NIWAG also continued to lobby Weyerhaeuser for a second promised workshop for all advisory groups within the company's BC Coastal Group. The joint workshop did not take place as anticipated in 2002 but was slated for May 2003. NIWAG members value the importance of sharing information and experiences with other advisory groups, a sentiment shared by others in the group. Communication has continued between the groups.

The North Island Sustainability Assessment, a pilot project started in 2001 using a framework designed by Dr. Robert Prescott-Allen and introduced conceptually to all BC Coastal Group advisory groups at the 2001 joint workshop, was nearing completion at the end of 2002. Members of NIWAG formed part of the initial work team and interest in the results remains keen. Funding from the Forest Investment Account was secured and an initial report is expected in early 2003.

NIWAG MEMBERS SPEAK

NIWAG works as a whole but its members have their own viewpoints and key values. Looking back at 2002, NIWAG members had this to say about the process:

Village of Sayward: The Village of Sayward is at the NIWAG table because:

We want local jobs for local Sayward people. . .

Regional District of Comox Strathcona: "I first joined NIWAG as the representative for the Regional Board of Comox Strathcona as I felt it important for a couple of reasons: **1.** Weyerhaeuser is the biggest landowner by far in the constituency I served, and **2.** They were the biggest employer of my taxpayers. Because of these factors Weyerhaeuser's success or failure in a world market has a huge impact on us in three ways: a) Through taxes they pay a large share of both local and provincial programs. b) As employers their success has the ability to enhance our standard of living. c) Thirdly, as a major purchaser and therefore economic driver in our community and the surrounding areas they can help us enjoy healthy economic growth.

After retiring, I realized that as a long time citizen of the area, I still have a keen interest in the values that were important to me as an elected official. My financial security, like many is dependent on the forests and the resources and jobs they provide. Much of my leisure time is spent enjoying the forests both in exercise and art. As a mother and grandmother, I want to see future generations benefit and enjoy life near and in the forests as I have. If this is to happen, I must continue to use my voice and efforts to help sustainable forestry now. To this end, I am grateful for the opportunity to represent their interests as a "seniors," member-at-large of NIWAG."

Campbell River Environmental Council: The 2002 calendar year was a challenging one for the Environmental Sector in its involvement with NIWAG. At the end of the year there were still questions to be resolved regarding important aspects of the three-legged sustainability stool and the certification process within the Division. Included in those were matters to do with representation, reporting, the dryland-sort consolidation or amalgamation program, the implications of increasing contracting-out and local staffing cutbacks, and an unfortunate trespass by heavy machinery into a section of stream officially designated as fish bearing. The sector remains committed to the process, however, in the hope of continuing improvements with the co-operation of Weyerhaeuser representatives.

Member at Large from the Community: As a member of NIWAG since it started in 1998, I have found the certification system and process to be the most clearly linked way to get community values and advice onto the real forest lands. Because the process allows for individual, communal and dissenting viewpoints by including them, NIWAG can show Weyerhaeuser a more comprehensive picture of what is important to the communities in and near its North Island Timberlands.

It takes time, commitment and a lot of energy to learn about forestry, economics and social values and then apply both values and objectives to the DFA. While the process isn't perfect and our use of the system is maturing, this is an endeavor I personally commit to on a long-term basis.

