

**Heather Pate - Member at Large from the Community** – I represent a general point of view without a specific sector to report to and from. My concerns this past year were more about other viewpoints and finding ways to get them into the discussions and then build indicators that will reflect their needs. My other role has been to lobby for and support interactions between fellow advisory groups and to take part in activities that engage broad community interests and certification professionals. In 2003, this meant talking with the CSA auditors; participating in the Forest Certification Watch Conference and Trade



Photo: Ron Frank – “Improved visual quality” – Teachers Corner

Show; BC Coastal Group “advisory groups workshop” and meeting with NIWAG members between regular meetings. I am committed to finding representative, reliable and feasible indicators that tell NIWAG and our broader community something important about the North Island Timberlands DFA.

**John Andres, R.P.F. – Ministry of Forests** – I work as Stewardship Officer in the Campbell River Forest District office. This job involves working with a broad cross section of people interested in managing our forests and all the values within them. My personal observation is that NIWAG provides a valuable opportunity for



Ron McLaughlin’s presentation on Raptors (Eagles, Hawks and Owls)



Photo: Fae Hansen: “Heather Pate, Member at Large and facilitator Ron Frank” - Dalrymple Creek Trail

exchange of ideas between Weyerhaeuser and local communities - a sounding board if you will. My participation at NIWAG gives me the chance to hear first hand about various issues as they are perceived in the community and at the same time, I can help the group by providing a Ministry of Forests-oriented perspective.



**Maureen Brinson - Campbell River & District Chamber of Commerce** – As a representative of the Campbell River and District Chamber of Commerce, I feel that it is important to play an active role in the certification process. As a voice of business it is important to bring our community needs and concerns to the table. Over the past 3.5 years I have learned a great deal about the certification process, and the forest industry and the effects it has on our communities. With all of the changes and obstacles that we have faced over the past 18 months it is important to keep communities needs in the forefront. Working together with Weyerhaeuser leads to positive benefits for our community. Community input plays a valuable role in a sustainable forest, which is important to keeping a sustainable community.

**Ronald Frank, R.P.F. - Facilitator/Chair Message** – We are in our sixth year of operation and the issues that concern us are becoming more contentious and demanding of our efforts than ever before. Difficult economic times, changing forest practices, global influences on how business is done and years of economic pressures on our communities, our First Nations and our stakeholders keep NIWAG a dynamic, information packed and view-shaping forum. There seem to be more questions than answers and our efforts to capture the true values of our communities and stakeholder groups in the form of Criteria and Indicators has been driven more by reaction to recent events and incidents than to long-term vision. Even as we deal with these pressures, provincial processes erode the land base that makes up the DFA .



Xmas meeting – Ron Frank, Rob Harder

Within this milieu of opinion, ever-changing relationship between the Defined Forest Area, employment, land-base, and world demand for our products, I recognize the strength of the NIWAG table emerging. The strength of the NIWAG table is trust and a sharing of anything and everything, which may help to create more stability in our communities and in the defined forest area. I see the stakeholders and First

Nations representatives return monthly to the NIWAG table to learn, to share information and ideas and to grapple with the difficulties of this ever-changing time.

There is no doubt in my mind that these difficult times are shaping a new model of Community-Forest sustainability and stability through the efforts of the First Nations, Sectoral representatives, and Weyerhaeuser representatives at the NIWAG table. Each representative is grappling with the issues and without exception, making every effort to find the right path, the right indicator, or the right words to reach into the future. For this, as Chair, as a Community member, and as a human being, I thank each of the NIWAG members.

**For More Information:**

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# NIWAG 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

North Island Woodlands Advisory Group was formed in 1998 to be a permanent and independent body providing organized and regular community input to the development, implementation and ongoing improvement in Weyerhaeuser’s Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) system at North Island Timberlands. The Canadian Standards Association Z809 (CSA 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 by independent third party auditors and has successfully passed all audits.



NIWAG field trip to Weyerhaeuser dryland sort – Kelsey Bay.

## 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 1988.

NIWAG has: a Facilitator/Chairperson – Ron Frank; a Recording Secretary – Agnes Goldstone, Weyerhaeuser staff (Standing Members) – George Nyman, Rob Harder, Don Carlyle, Randall Dayton; and 14 members from the community (Active Members);

- First Nations – Hamatla Treaty Society      Chief John Smith
- Campbell River Environmental Committee      Quentin Dodd
- Sayward Fish and Game Club      Richard Glover
- North Island College      Heather West (Jan – May)
- Timberline Secondary School      Clay Carlson (Nov – Dec)
- Regional District of Comox-Strathcona      Peter Rambo (Jan – Sept)  
Heather Sprout (Oct – Dec)
- 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 (Jan – June)  
Bill Harrison (Nov – Dec)

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

Compilation and editing credits: Heather Pate, Quentin Dodd and Maureen Brinson.

## ACTIVITIES

In 2003 NIWAG held: 10 regular meetings, 2 weekend workshops on Indicators and 2 field trips.

NIWAG continued to wrestle with the need to work on issues within the DFA as set out in the CSA Z809 certification and the constant impacts from events and issues affecting forestry in the province. Over the past 5 years, the members have learned a great deal about the DFA, forestry, forest economics and politics. Nonetheless, there is always something new to learn and the challenge remains to stay current with all aspects of forests – environmental, social and economic.

### Key issues in 2003 included:

- Vegetation Management – in January, Weyerhaeuser reported that harvesting now taking place in second growth at lower altitudes required dealing with undesirable plant species that negatively affect the ability of desirable tree seedlings to achieve their potential.



Concerns were raised about both the location and types of vegetation management that may be used. Through the year, information was provided on vegetation management and the spring field trip concentrated on viewing locations that represented several types of problems and possible solutions. NIWAG members were concerned about water quality, potential after-effects on non-target species and whether non-pesticide methods could be used. The discussion continued into 2004.

- Local Issues – a variety of issues were brought to the table and were dealt with either by additional information being provided or by specific actions. An example was a concern over the access to the derelict ships used as a breakwater in Kelsey Bay. The ships are deteriorating and could be dangerous for someone climbing on them. Weyerhaeuser had a consultant investigate and evaluate the ships. A fence was built to provide more security and environmental concerns over rusting steel were dealt with by NIWAG and Weyerhaeuser. Regular reports were provided prior to NIWAG meetings on oil/fuel/other contaminant spills and human resources. These became regular agenda items rather than last minute additions to the agenda. Both NIWAG and Weyerhaeuser have found this to be a successful way to keep current with local issues.
- Certification Watch Conference – in March, members of NIWAG, fellow Advisory Groups members from Port McNeill, Powell River, and West Island and Weyerhaeuser staff attended this high profile conference which focuses on forest certification. Weyerhaeuser provided an opportunity for the Advisory Groups to participate in the associated trade show with a booth located where every conference attendee had to pass. Collectively, Advisory Group members spoke with hundreds of people interested in forest certification and brought forward the importance of public advisory group participation in certification. With financial support from Weyerhaeuser and scholarships from Certification Watch, 2 Advisory Group members attended this conference.
- Certification Watch field trip – following the conference, Weyerhaeuser hosted the portion of the field trip exploring Variable Retention in the DFA.
- BC Coastal Group workshop – members of all BC Coastal Group advisory groups met in Nanaimo to share insights and information with each other and with Weyerhaeuser staff and management. Each advisory group reported on their activities to the whole group and presenters provided ongoing education. A key presentation was on the North Island Sustainability Assessment project (see NISA below). While each advisory group has individual challenges, all had common interest in issues and events that affect the BC Coastal forest region. This was the second such workshop and it is strongly recommended that annual workshops continue.
- North Island Sustainability Assessment (NISA) – The NISA project was completed with funding from the Forest Investment Account. A technical review of the NISA done during the completion phase revealed several important points: 1) the project which seemed small and relatively straightforward at the start, grew into something more detailed, complex and expensive than anticipated; 2) conducting an assessment only on the North Island Timberlands DFA was not possible as the DFA and the people who live in it or next to it are intimately linked with a much broader region; 3) the foundation work done by the original team (NIWAG members, Weyerhaeuser staff and management and R. Prescott-Allen) needed technical support for data collection; and 4) members of the NISA team brought back new skills in finding, developing and improving indicators. The preliminary results of NISA, even with the concerns listed above, did reveal that North Island Timberlands scores relatively high in both Human and Environmental Well-being.
- Employer/employee relations – estranged relations between Weyerhaeuser and the IWA continued throughout the year. Issues include contracting out and dealing with reporting safety concerns as well as BC Coastal issues in the forest industry. After a period of absence, the IWA resumed regular attendance at NIWAG. By bringing employee concerns to the certification process, indicators that deal with the values and goals important to this group can be included in a more powerful way. NIWAG is committed to including all representative values.
- Developing indicators – in general, NIWAG has struggled to develop human well being indicators since the beginning of certification for North Island Timberlands. Environmental indicators were often already being measured and were more easily developed. In 2003, a leap forward took place in developing human well being indicators. These included a First Nations' employment indicator, a herbicide use indicator, a research into herbicide alternatives indicator and a proposed 'no net loss of land from the Defined Forest Area' indicator.



- Defining information needs – NIWAG members make a major time commitment to achieve the level of understanding of issues and forestry 'talk' and review supporting information for indicators. All of this, and more are required to become effective representatives at the NIWAG table. There is a constant struggle to determine what information is needed as opposed to what information is wanted by individual sectors. The goal is to have adequate information to assess the sustainability of the Defined Forest Area. The struggle continues to find the balance between needed information and 'extra' information for NIWAG as a whole.
- Guest speakers – Included Cindy Fife's presentation on An Integrated Pest Management Approach for NIT; Rick Wangler, IWA presentation and report on parent company employees; Glen Dunsworth's presentation on Adaptive Management – 5 Year Review; Mike Larock's presentation on standing stem harvesting; Ted Kimoto's presentation on First Nations Protocol for BC Coastal Timberlands; and concluding with Ron McLaughlan's presentation on raptors (eagles, hawks and owls), which included beautiful mounted examples of the raptors found on Vancouver Island.
- Volunteer hours – Weyerhaeuser began a formal recognition of volunteer hours spent by NIWAG members on certification. Members who attend 25 meetings receive a thermos travel mug with the NIWAG logo and those hardy souls who attend 50 meetings receive a nylon briefcase with the NIWAG logo embroidered on the front. The rewards were presented at the December meeting.
- Stakeholder Presentations – a new regular agenda item was added to provide NIWAG members with a five-minute opportunity to build better understanding about their sector's identity, purpose and concerns.

## NIWAG MEMBERS SPEAK

NIWAG works as a whole but its members have their own viewpoints and key values. Looking back at 2003, NIWAG members had this to say about the process:

**Councilor Bill Matthews - District of Campbell River** – I feel, as an elected representative for the District of Campbell River, that NIWAG provides a very helpful tool and great insight into all aspects of an important segment of our community. The issues involved directly affect our economy, our environment, our outdoor recreational needs just to name a few highlights. I distribute the minutes of the meetings through the District Council agenda, which gives further exposure to this important process

**Richard Glover - Sayward Fish and Game Club** – The Sayward Fish and Game Club view the NIWAG table as a good place to get and share information on what is going on in the Defined Forest Area with Weyerhaeuser. We remain extremely concerned about Weyerhaeuser's plans to apply herbicides in the Sayward Valley.

**Quentin Dodd - CR Environmental Committee** – The past calendar year has been a difficult one for the Environmental Sector on NIWAG. Many different issues and concerns have emerged to some degree regarding different facets or aspects of the whole sustainability question. Unfortunately, it still requires some work to obtain sufficient information to get a handle on the full extent of each of the concerns, and there is still a sizeable information gap when it comes to developing a full picture of sustainability within the North Island Timberland Division. Some improvements have been made in reporting and in the development of adequate criteria by which to assess the situation. Environmental matters have received heightened attention and reporting. Having said that, the Environmental Sector continues to have to press for a clear understanding by all concerned that the sustainability tripod has three legs - environmental, social and economic - which all need suitable consideration at the NIWAG table. The sector remains extremely concerned about representation at NIWAG meetings and especially about the impacts of Weyerhaeuser's ongoing shift towards contracting out in the Division – not to mention the almost complete lack of any kind of detailed reporting to NIWAG, especially from the Contractor Sector, about those impacts.

