



MIFLAG 2006 ANNUAL REPORT

In summary, MIFLAG found 2006 to be another year of dramatic change in the Defined Forest area, MIFLAG Forest Certification and the forest industry in general. The strength of the MIFLAG table was clearly demonstrated as we “pulled together” at three different certification tables, which required major commitment, time and energy.

MEMBERS SPEAK

Richard Glover—Sayward Fish and Game Club

MIFLAG has changed/added/deleted some indicators and we are getting familiar and developing a working relationship with Western Forest Products. As Stakeholders, MIFLAG is important because it “keeps us in the loop” so we know what is going on in the Defined Forest Area. We keep improving on the environmental aspects of Sustainable Forest Management so this certification system seems to be working. We were concerned that we didn’t know about the removal of the A Branch bridge until it was gone.

Clay Carlson—Education

Now that we only meet with Western Forest Products every two months, it seems like there is something missing. We need to find a way to bring continuity back into our process. It is very important to the group to keep updated with local concerns and the evolving issues concerning our land base. The diverse nature of the group members has provided a unique look at how these issues affect our community. The Western Forest Products’ representatives take great pains to inform us and take our concerns seriously. This has resulted in a committed group feeling that we are part of a valued process that makes a difference on environmental concerns and the social welfare of our communities.

Group members and representatives have gone out of their way to bring information, and provide interesting experiences for both students and the larger community. I have found membership with this group to be a very challenging and rewarding experience.

John Andres—Ministry of Forests and Range, C.R. District

This is a great group! I get a lot of value from the MIFLAG both personally and professionally. It is great for the public to get together and discuss these important issues. I wish I could participate more!

Morgan Ostler, Regional District of Comox-Strathcona

A growing understanding of forestry practices through attendance at MIFLAG meetings is assisting me in addressing questions about logging issues with the general public. The commitment of forest companies to sustainability of their product and lands is always a concern with communities such as Campbell River and the Regional District. A slow-down in the woods has a direct economic impact on our local industries and residents. Through this opportunity to represent the City and the District on the advisory group, I feel confident that MIFLAG is sincerely concerned with the issues of sustainability and the environment, as well as the particular requirements of our First Nations.

Maureen Brinson—Campbell River Chamber of Commerce

I would really like to have more First Nations’ input to the MIFLAG table. We should always keep the door open for First Nations. Hopefully amending the MIFLAG Terms of Reference will help.



MIFLAG - July 2006

Message from the Chair—Ronald Frank

Once again it was a pleasure and a privilege to Chair and Facilitate such a dedicated and knowledgeable group of people as we had around the MIFLAG table in 2006. While we still have some charter members of the table present, the pace of changing faces at MIFLAG seems to have “picked up”. I have appreciated, so much, the input of each of those who have helped over the year. Without each of you, we would not be MIFLAG. I am going to miss the regular input of those who have moved on: Quentin Dodd, Heidi Schrader and Cindy Fife.

MIFLAG is not the same, nor as effective, without the regular First Nations involvement at our table. This is a critical element of our strength and I have been directed and am committed to continue to promote First Nations involvement in this Forest Certification.

MIFLAG continues to develop new and better **Indicators** to measure our various Stakeholder and First Nation **Values**. We are getting used to the more “linear” approach of the new CSA-2002 Standard and we are also enjoying some of the “fruits of our labour” when we look back and see the trends in our data sets over the past 8 years!

I hope MIFLAG finds greater certainty and a slower pace of change in 2007. MIFLAG needs to “catch our breath” and come to terms with working three different tables to express our Community and First Nations values over a fragmented land base. With new faces at the MIFLAG table, we need renewed opportunities for learning and bringing new members “up to speed” on what Forest Certification is all about. More importantly, we need to learn how we work together, on behalf of our Sectors and First Nations to reflect our Values in Sustainable Forest Management on the Defined Forest Area. I look forward to continued improvement towards Sustainable Forest Management and Sustainable Communities in 2007.

Photos courtesy of Ron Frank and Rod Goldstone

For More Information:

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Mid Island Forest Lands Advisory Group (MIFLAG) is an independent body providing organized and regular input to the development, implementation and ongoing improvement of Western Forest Products’ Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) system at Mid Island Forest Operation (previously North Island Timberlands). Since 1998 you knew this group as NIWAG (North Island Woodlands Advisory Group), but with changes to the Defined Forest Area, it has been renamed MIFLAG.

Input comes from a range of First Nation and Stakeholder representatives from the surrounding Communities including Sayward and Campbell River, Comox and Cape Mudge. The Canadian Standards Association Z809 (CSA Z809) **forest certification** forms the core of MIFLAG’s activities.

The land-base on which MIFLAG advises Western Forest Products Mid Island Forest Operation is called the Defined Forest Area (DFA) in the Forest Certification Process and includes 157,500 hectares of land within Block 2 of Tree Farm Licence 39.

The strength of this process lies in the auditing of the process by Third Party Auditors to ensure compliance with agreed measurables, which are called Indicators. MIFLAG currently has 41 indicators measuring a range of items from variable retention harvesting to public education, communication and consultation in an attempt to measure continued improvement in Sustainable Forest Management and to truly reflect the Community Values expressed by MIFLAG.

To date, MIFLAG has successfully passed all audits and continues to express not only the values of our Communities as reflected by the 14 stakeholder and First Nations representatives, but concerns regarding issues which are still in process.



Field Trip to White River Slide May 2006

Mid Island Forest Lands Advisory Group

Field Trip to White River slides May 2006



MEMBERSHIP

In 2006 the following First Nation and Stakeholder Groups were participating members of MIFLAG:

- **Chief John Smith/Art Wilson** First Nations/Hamatla Treaty Society
- **Bill Harrison** Seniors' Representative
- **Lynn Nash** Community Member at Large
- **Jim Work/Rick Wangler** United Steelworkers Local 1-363
- **Maureen Brinson** Chamber of Commerce
- **Richard Glover** Sayward Fish and Game Club
- **Ziggy Stewart** City of Campbell River
- **Ashley Stuckless*/ Ken Fear** Forest Contractors to Western Suppliers to Western
- **Ron Chapman** C.R. Environmental Committee
- **Julie Sigurdson** Timberline Secondary School Education
- **Clay Carlson** Regional District of Comox-Strathcona
- **Morgan Ostler**
- **Heidi Schrader*/ Pat Cunningham** Village of Sayward

*(Indicates MIFLAG members who left MIFLAG during 2006. Many of the members were displaced by Municipal and Regional elections while others left their respective stakeholder groups or moved out of town.)

Observer Status:

- **John Andres** Ministry of Forests and Range

Western Staff:

- **Gary Skabeikis, R.P.F./ Cindy Fife, R.P.F.** Responsible for the Public Advisory process to Western Forest Products Mid Island Operations
- **Don Carlyle** Human Resources Manager
- **Randall Dayton, R.F.T.** Area Engineer, WFP, Mid Island
- **Ken Mackenzie, R.P.F.** Manager, WFP, Mid Island
- **Michelle deBellefeuille, R.P.F.** Regional Certification Coordinator

Administrative Support to MIFLAG:

- **Agnes Goldstone** Recording Secretary/Administrative
- **Ronald Frank, R.P.F.** Facilitator/Chair

In 2006 we said goodbye to Cindy Fife, our former WFP Certification Forester. Gary Skabeikis is our new Certification Forester. The Tlowitsis First Nation left the Hamatla Treaty Society and as a result there are now two First Nations representatives to the MIFLAG table: **Chief John Smith** for the Tlowitsis First Nation and **Art Wilson** for the Hamatla Treaty Society. Chief Smith has not been available to the MIFLAG table in 2006 and Art Wilson has not been available through much of the year. First Nations lack capacity to be involved in everything they are concerned with. The MIFLAG membership is very concerned about this and continues to welcome First Nation participation at the MIFLAG table. In an effort to make the MIFLAG table more welcoming to First Nations, MIFLAG is currently considering a revision to the MIFLAG Terms of Reference, which addresses First Nation concerns about the MIFLAG meetings being considered consultation.

ACTIVITIES

During 2006 MIFLAG reduced regular meetings from one per month with a break in the summer, to one meeting every two months. This was due to additional certification tables MIFLAG chose to participate in, when the former NIWAG Defined Forest Area (area over which the CSA Certification applied) was broken into three parts: the 20% portion taken back under Provincial Legislation and attributed mainly to B.C. Timber Sales (BCTS), and the Private Land areas taken out, also allowed for under new Provincial Legislation, and held by a new company called Island Timberlands. These private lands are mainly in the Oyster River-Iron River area with smaller holdings in the Salmon River Valley and at Menzies Bay.

During 2006 MIFLAG held 5 regular meetings, 2 field trips, 1 workshop to develop and review indicators and 1 small and very enjoyable Christmas Party. Mr. Don Heppner, Ministry of Forests, gave a detailed report on the Mountain Pine Beetle. Members were surprised to learn that the Mountain Pine Beetle was present, in low numbers, within the Defined Forest Area.

MIFLAG held the most successful community outreach to date with a kiosk at the Pier Street Market in Campbell River on September 24, 2006. Many members of the public visited the MIFLAG booth, held conversations with the MIFLAG members and WFP and BCTS staff present. Seedlings were handed out to those who wanted to take them home and plant them and MIFLAG Annual Reports were passed out. While we are reaching the 30+ year old people at this venue, children and youth were noticeably lacking. MIFLAG is looking for other venues for our public outreach where we can reach these younger people.



Field Trip to Naka Creek September 2006

KEY ISSUES AND CHALLENGES FOR MIFLAG IN 2006

2006 was another year of great change for MIFLAG. This was the first year for the new Stakeholder Satisfaction Indicator and clearly the MIFLAG membership wishes that there was more First Nations participation at the MIFLAG table. The membership also pointed out that they wish for more participation by the labour (union and non-union) and contractor representatives. Clearly stakeholder and First Nation representation is one of MIFLAG's main challenges for 2007.



Field Trip to Naka Creek September 2006

New Licences in the Defined Forest Area

Provincial legislation allowed for the Provincial Government to "take-back" 20% of the Allowable Annual Cut (AAC) of the Tree Farm Licence (TFL) 39, Block 2, and approximately 20% of the land base. Most of this harvest and its supporting land base was given to BCTS to manage. A smaller percentage of it is being shared among First Nations allotments, Woodlot Licences and Community Forests. MIFLAG is working with BCTS to develop a forest certification table to address BCTS CSA forest certification needs.

The purchase of Cascadia by Western Forest Products (WFP) during the year, led to the renaming of the DFA to WFP Mid Island Forest Operation. Another change to the DFA map was the removal of Island Timberlands' private lands. MIFLAG is also working with Island Timberlands to certify these lands to CSA. This is a significant amount of work for MIFLAG and takes a lot of our time and energy.

Transition to the New CSA Z809-2002 Standard

MIFLAG and WFP completed the transition to the new CSA 2002 standard from the original CSA Z809 1996 Standard. The outcomes were:

- a) More linear organization of the Values, Goals, Objectives, Indicators and Targets of MIFLAG;
- b) Standardization of the MIFLAG Terms of Reference; and
- c) Addition of Public Participation Indicators to measure Stakeholder and First Nations' Satisfaction with the MIFLAG CSA Certification Process.

Some issues MIFLAG focused on this year were:

- a) Safety—MIFLAG continued to work on a Safety Severity Indicator to better reflect our Value (all workers getting home safely) and temper the meaning of the Medical Incident Rate (MIR) indicator, which has been a major area of continual improvement since the start of CSA Certification for this DFA. WFP is now one of the many companies to be registered with the SAFE Companies Initiative of B.C. Forest Safety Council.
- b) WFP Mid Island Operations took over from Cascadia Forest Products in June of 2006. The last half of 2006 turned out to be a good one for MIFLAG with an improved Company-MIFLAG level of communication and openness as well as a building level of trust and co-operation. WFP, Mid Island Operations Manager, Mr. Ken Mackenzie, participates regularly at the MIFLAG table, which adds a renewed level of communication, knowledge and trust to the MIFLAG table.