MID ISLAND FOREST LANDS ADVISORY GROUP
FALL FIELD TRIP
Thursday, October 16, 2008
2:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Minutes

PARTICIPANTS:

Gary Ardron	Acting Facilitator/Chair
Clay Carlson	Timberline Secondary School - Education
Richard Glover	Sayward Fish and Game
Lynn Nash	Member at Large
Gary Patrucco	WFP, MIFO Forester
Gary Skabeikis	WFP, MIFO Operations Forester
Janice Mathers	WFP, MIFO Field Engineer

HANDOUTS:
Harvest Instruction Map for Block K01780, Resource Management Plan map, orthophoto of Memekay / Salmon River Floodplain with traverse and stream characteristics of side channels

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2:30 p.m.	Group Departs Tyee Plaza, Campbell River.
3:15 p.m.	Pick-up Sayward participant.
4:15 p.m.	Stop #1 – Block K01780 – harvesting and harvest planning.
5:30 p.m.	Stop #2 – Salmon River habitat channel project and dinner
6:30 p.m.	Stop #3 – Sayward F&G club hatchery
8:00 p.m.	Arrive back at Tyee Plaza, Campbell River.

Stop #1 – Block K01780

Unfortunately, the General Foreman was called away and was unable to attend.

Janice – gave an overview of harvest planning and reviewed the specific values for this cutblock. In general managed resource values can include terrain stability, fisheries riparian areas, sensitive soils, water quality, wildlife, forage, recreation, biodiversity and visual quality.

Specifically, boundary and road construction adjustments were made due to geotechnical concerns. Sensitive soils are mapped so they can be avoided or managed around. Other site specific issues were reviewed including the ecology of the block and the reforestation prescription.

Operational feasibility confirmed in 2005, engineering completed in early 2006, Site Plan signed off in early 2007 and the Cutting Permit approved by MOFR in April 2007.

Gary S, Janice and Gary P presented basic information on logging methods for the block including grapple yarding and hoe chucking and answered questions. There was discussion surrounding the deactivation of roads and culverts following harvest.

Lynn Nash – How much unmerchantable timber will be left following harvest?

Residue and waste are sampled post-harvest and levels may vary considerably from block to block as a result of local factors including the existing health of the trees, degree of overmaturity of the forest, topographic conditions, slope uniformity, yarding method, etc. This block is expected to have a somewhat higher amount than usual because of significant rot noted in the roadside logs.

5:00 p.m. leave for next stop.

Stop #2 – Salmon River Habitat Channel Project

Unfortunately, the tour could not connect with Mike Gage, Chair of the Campbell River Salmon Foundation and overseer of the Salmon River Channel Project. Mike did provide some information on the project afterwards and said he would be pleased to guide a tour through the project next spring.

The 1.2km long channel connects to the head of an existing network of side and overflow channels and wetlands that eventually flows into the Salmon River. The objective of the project was to capture and provide increased water flow to the natural network so it would be better utilized as overwintering and seasonal habitat for salmonids. The constructed channel with embedded woody debris also provides good habitat and effectively increases the size of the usable network. The project cost about $350,000. The major contributor of funds was BC Hydro ($220K), with WFP contributing $75K and other conservation groups providing the balance.

Richard Glover was involved with the project and answered some questions from the group. A 2 foot diameter pipe from the main Salmon River about 100m away provides the water flow to the channel. M.Gage estimates that 30% of the total flow will come from intercepted ground water and 70% from the pipe flow.

6:15 p.m. leave for next stop.

Stop #3 – Sayward Fish & Game Club Hatchery

Richard Glover opened up the hatchery and explained the process of artificial fertilization of the spring (Chinook) salmon from the collection of brood stock in the Salmon River. The group observed the fertilized eggs in the Heath trays. In an average year 100K spring fry are produced from this facility. Once the eggs are “eyed up” they

are transported to the Quinsam hatchery. There, carefully controlled water temperatures allow for “Otolith (inner ear bone) marking” of fry that give the Salmon River fish a unique identification feature from other fish. Fry are transported back to the Salmon River for distribution.

This year a number of mature fish died mysteriously before egg takes were completed. An investigation is still underway to determine the cause.

Brood stock was collected and held for ripening during the last week of September to the first week of October.

7:00 p.m. leave for Campbell River.
8:00 p.m. arrive back at Tyee Plaza.