



MIFLAG 2013 ANNUAL REPORT



Who Are We? 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 (WFP) Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) system at the Mid Island Forest Operations.

The Mid Island Forest Lands Advisory Group operates under Canadian Standards Association Z809-08 Forest Certification.

Our Mission as volunteer members is to represent the values of our communities, our stakeholder groups, and ourselves in order to ensure Sustainable Forest Management practices on the Defined Forest Area.

This is accomplished by: developing, tracking, discussing and continually improving a set of 'Criteria and Indicators' related to these values; and by having an ongoing dialogue with Western Forest Products representatives to ensure that the environment of the Defined Forest Area, and the communities which rely on them, are sustained.

Our Representatives range from many community stakeholder groups and First Nations from the surrounding communities, including Sayward and Campbell River.

The Defined Forest Area (DFA) is the land base on which MIFLAG advises Western Forest Products and includes approximately 157,000 hectares of provincial crown forest land within Block 2 of Tree Farm License 39. This includes much of the Memekay River, White River and Adam River watersheds as well as portions of the Salmon River watersheds.

Accountability is a strength of the Canadian Standards Association Z809 (CSA Z809) found through the process of public stakeholder and First Nation participation to MIFLAG and in auditing, by third party auditors, to ensure compliance with agreed upon measurables, which are called indicators. MIFLAG currently has 41 indicators measuring and tracking a range of items from respect for First Nations values, public education and outreach, to stakeholder and First Nations satisfaction with the process. There are indicators reflecting environmental, social and economic aspects of sustainable forest management and forest certification. These indicators have been developed by MIFLAG with agreement by WFP in our effort to measure continued improvement in Sustainable Forest Management while truly reflecting the community values and interests expressed by MIFLAG representatives.

Certification of Western Forest Products Mid Island Forest Operations (MIFO): Since May 1999, MIFO has successfully passed all audits and MIFLAG continues to express our community and First Nations values through this forest certification process.

Mid Island Forest Lands Advisory Group

MEMBERSHIP IN MIFLAG OVER THE PAST YEAR

2013 was a year of stability for the MIFLAG Active Members with the exception of the retirement of one of our most active, energetic and communicative members Mr. Colin Buss, a Registered Professional Forester and representative to MIFLAG for the Campbell River Chamber of Commerce (CRCCO). Colin was famous for his communication skills, photography during field trips and meetings, and voluminous reports to MIFLAG and to the CRCCO. Colin is missed for his enthusiasm, friendly manner and for always 'being there' when needed. We wish Colin well in his retirement.

2013 saw Standing Member Cindy Fife, RPF, MIFO Certification Forester to our MIFLAG table 'move on'. She has taken a new assignment at the Kelsey Bay Dryland Sort. Cindy has been seen around the meeting room prior to recent MIFLAG meetings and so continues to be in touch. Thank you to Cindy for championing our MIFLAG interests to WFP.

Cindy Fife's replacement, Tyler Field has quickly gotten 'up to speed' with our long-standing MIFLAG table and has started with a strong emphasis on analysis and communications—something the MIFLAG table needs to address some of the issues facing us.

As always, the MIFLAG members continue to invite local First Nations to participate in MIFLAG. During 2013 this participation has been infrequent, however, the importance of First Nations involvement and information sharing drives the MIFLAG table to strive for First Nations involvement.

MIFLAG could not exist without the dedicated Active Members representing Stakeholder Groups and First Nations, or without the talented and hardworking Standing Members of WFP-MIFO supporting the MIFLAG table. Our thanks go out to each and every one of you for working so hard for Sustainable Forests and Sustainable Communities.

MIFLAG MEMBERS SPEAK

MIFLAG works by consensus but our members have their stakeholder/First Nation perspectives and their own viewpoints and key values which they represent to MIFLAG. Here is what some of our members had to say about MIFLAG in 2013:



Campbell River Environmental Committee Representative: The Campbell River Environmental Committee continues to monitor WFP Mid Island Forest Operations in the management of:

1. Dryland sort water quality entering near the mouth of the Salmon River;
2. Use of herbicides on the Defined Forest Area; and
3. The Salmon-Brewster Horse Trail

WFP staff have been diligent about training and assisting work crews to have the best safety record possible and have worked extremely hard to develop the required roads to reach the high harvest levels in 2013.

MIFLAG and WFP sent letters to local First Nations inviting them to participate in MIFLAG so their thoughts can be expressed and their input included. One young

man from the K'ómoks First Nation, Randy Frank came, joined in the discussion with everyone and appeared to enjoy sharing.

MIFLAG is an informative group, interesting, thought provoking and includes our input to sustainable forest management in the DFA. We look forward to further discussion and ratification of these items in the near future.

--- Sandra Barnes

Village of Sayward Representative: At the MIFLAG table I am working for:

1. Protection of Recreational Areas used as unofficial RV sites but not official Recreation Sites;
2. Protection of the Salmon-Brewster Horse Trail;
3. Ongoing efforts to clean up runoff from the Kelsey Bay Dryland Sort;
4. The annual issue of dust control from trucks travelling to the Kelsey Bay Dryland Sort;
5. Education of the public regarding the purpose and mandate of MIFLAG to Sayward;
6. Gathering of operating and safety information from MIFLAG and Contractors to share with the public;
7. Collecting useful information from other members of MIFLAG that sometimes is useful for my area. The MIFLAG membership is from a wide spectrum of the area and a large mix of careers and experiences that can sometimes give others examples and ideas for their areas, and;

MIFLAG gives the membership of the table a platform to inform the forest industry of interests and concerns of our Stakeholders (and First Nations). --- Norm Kirschner

Member at Large: As a long standing member of MIFLAG it is my personal belief that it is important to be an active citizen in our Community--Being an active member of the table when the Forest Economy is thriving has been a very positive experience. Western Forest Products' employees are to be commended on their commitment to keeping our' Forests Sustainable for Future Generations.' --- Maureen Brinson

Senior's Representative: Many of the Senior's in the MIFLAG catchment area are retired Prairie "immigrants" and know very little about sustainable forest operations in our area. Through distribution of our Annual Report and a public presentation to the Senior's group this year, we have helped to increase knowledge in this local population cohort and engender increased interest in the role of MIFLAG, Sustainable Forestry and Western Forest Products in our area. --- Lynn Nash

Ministry of Forest, Lands and Natural Resources Representative: MIFLAG is an excellent group to work with. I always enjoy the company and the engaging, lively discussions on a wide range of interesting topics. The meals are always fantastic and a very nice perk for attending. --- John Andres



Active Members		Standing Members	
John Andres	MFLNRO	Tony Clark	Western Forest Products
Kelly Arkell	Dyer Logging Co. Ltd.	Michel de Bellefeuille	Western Forest Products
Sandra Barnes	CR Environmental Committee	Tyler Field	Western Forest Products
Maureen Brinson	Member at Large	Jeff Ternan	Western Forest Products
Donn Fawdrey	Finning (Canada)		
Randy Frank	K'ómoks First Nation	Alternates	
Richard Glover	Sayward Fish & Game Club	Al Braybrook	Village of Sayward
Jason Kerluck	School District 72	Frank Jamieson	CR Environmental Committee
Ron Kerr	City of Campbell River	Rob Lemcke	Finning (Canada)
Norm Kirschner	Village of Sayward	Bill West-Sells	Sayward Fish and Game
Rod Naknakim	Laich-Kwil-Tach Treaty Society	Support Staff	
Lynn Nash	Seniors Representative	Ron Frank	Facilitator-Shelterwood Forest Management Ltd.
John Smith-Chief	Tlowitsis First Nation	Cindy Huber	Administration
Rick Wangler	United Steelworkers Local 1-1937	Taisa Brown	Recording Secretary
Gerald Whalley	Strathcona Reg. District Area A		



Former Member Colin Buss with Ron Frank

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

2013 was a year of hard work and busy times. Your Stakeholder and First Nation representatives to MIFLAG continued to improve the MIFLAG-WFP indicators to better reflect your community values and the effectiveness of these indicators to track Sustainable Forest Management of the Defined Forest Area of Western Forest Products Mid-Island Forest Lands Operations.

Members found it difficult to find time in their busy schedules to hold a full complement of meetings this year, but pressed on and continued to address Annual Indicator Reviews, issues of the day, and to ensure the values and interests of the surrounding communities, stakeholder groups and First Nations were represented. First Nations continue to be invited to host and or participate in regular MIFLAG meetings.

Issues this year, while many, focused on the protection of the Salmon-Brewster Horse Trail with continued work on a 'Recreation Indicator' championed by Sayward representatives Richard Glover (Sayward Fish and Game Club), Gerald Whalley (Regional District of Strathcona Area A) and Norm Kirschner (Village of Sayward). Another issue kept in the forefront by the Sayward Fish and Game Club representative Richard Glover was the continued concerns about water quality and fish impacts of runoff from the re-activated Kelsey Bay Dryland Sort. This led to much discussion at the MIFLAG table, and analysis and some action by Western Forest Products to improve the situation. The MIFLAG table has agreed that the Horse Trail issue and the Kelsey Bay Dryland Sort issue will remain on the MIFLAG agenda until resolved.

MIFLAG was pleased to see the continued improvement of Health and Safety at the WFP-MIFO this past year and looks forward to continued improvement in the future. It is good to see so many jobs for employees, contractors and suppliers to the MIFO-DFA in these relatively good times for the forest sector economy.

The Chair would like to once again thank the families of our MIFLAG members for doing without their loved ones while they represent our Community and First Nation interests, in the efforts to ensure sustainable forest management and sustainable communities at the MIFLAG table. The Chair thanks the MIFLAG members and WFP staff who 'give it their all' in their commitment to MIFLAG, to sustainable forests and to their stakeholder and First Nation members. You are making a difference! Thank you to WFP-MIFO for providing the needed technical and professional support to ensure MIFLAG can do our job. The meals this past year have been exceptional and the coordination and administrative support has been consistent. WFP staff has engaged with MIFLAG on some difficult issues and the communications and continued efforts to transparency have been appreciated.



In this year's MIFLAG review of Stakeholder and First Nation's satisfaction, there is overall satisfaction but with improvement needed in the process, better membership selection criterion and in collaborating with other local decision making processes. These concerns resulted in not meeting the high expectations of MIFLAG Indicator #6.4.1—Stakeholder/First Nation Participation Satisfaction and led to a review of this indicator by MIFLAG in an effort toward ongoing improvement of the process.

This year's public outreach event at the Pier St. Market was another success with MIFLAG interacting with over 40 people mainly in the 21-30 and the 51+ age category. In 2014 the MIFLAG public outreach will once again be at the Pier Street Market on Sunday September 7th, 2014, so please stop by and give us some input!!

Thank you to our most interesting Guest Speaker Mr. Jeff Ternan, Manager of MIFO for our December 5th, 2014 MIFLAG Christmas meeting and dinner. Mr. Ternan provided us with an interesting, comprehensive and up to date report on the WFP operations, issues and economic conditions at MIFO.

If you are interested in finding out more about MIFLAG, Forest Certification, the Mid-Island Forest Lands Operations of WFP you may contact any one of your representatives listed in this Annual Report, contact the Chair of MIFLAG, or visit the MIFLAG website at: www.MIFLAG.org.

As always, it is my pleasure and honor to act as the MIFLAG Facilitator/Chair. I am most appreciative of the opportunity if affords me to work closely with such a talented, knowledgeable and dedicated group of Stakeholder representatives, First Nations members and WFP representatives.

