

**MIFLAG - Mid Island Forest Lands Advisory Group****www.miflag.org****Workshop Minutes****Meeting held in boardroom at the WFP, Menzies Bay Office****Thursday, November 6, 2014****Present**

John Andres  
Kelly Arkell  
Sandra Barnes  
Donn Fawdrey  
Richard Glover  
Norm Kirschner  
Lynn Nash  
Gerald Whalley  
Sandy White

**Member Seat**

Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource  
Dyer Logging Company Ltd.  
Campbell River Environmental Committee  
Finning (Canada) – Supplier Representative  
Sayward Fish and Game Club  
Village of Sayward  
Senior's Representative  
Strathcona Regional District  
Ranger Forest Services Ltd.

**Resource & Other**

Tony Clark	WFP, Area Planner
Tyler Field	WFP, Operations Planner
Ron Frank	Facilitator/Chair
Cindy Huber	WFP, Administration
Bruce Vinnedge	WFP, Field Forester

**Absent**

Randy Frank	K'omox First Nation
Maureen Hunter	Member at Large
Jason Kerluck	School District 72
Ron Kerr	City of Campbell River
Chief John Smith	Tlowitsis First Nation
Rick Wangler	Steelworkers Local 1-1937

**Guest**

n/a

**List of Documents:**

- Indicator Workshop Items

**A. Procedural****A i. Review procedure in case of emergency:**

Lynn Nash reviewed safety and emergency procedures

**A ii. Introduction of members**

Tyler Field – We would like to get a guest speaker for the November 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, so please think about it and we will get back to this later in the workshop.

**Indicator Review****6.5.B – The use of herbicides in the DFA is limited**

Tyler Field – We won't meet the target as is. Do we want to amend the target, change how the indicator is worded or leave as is and not meet the target?

Sandra Barnes – What herbicide is being used, where and how strong is it?

Tyler Field – All the information is in the Pest Management Plan (PMP). We use Vision Glyphosate and can summarize the percentage of active ingredient for you. We had an open house this year for the new PMP but no comments were received. Community watersheds are a "no go zone" as is the Sayward Valley proper and private land. Private land has a 200 meter buffer zone for pesticides. We advertise yearly when new blocks are to be treated and did receive feedback on a block west of Sayward which we then changed to a manual treatment. If there are concerns we can increase our "no go zone".

Ron Frank – The First Nations are in the process of responding to our PMP.

Sandra Barnes – I would like to see a map of the area being treated.

Tyler Field – The maps are in the PMP. We could write into the indicator that blocks scheduled for treatment be brought to the table for discussion. Gerald sent out information on herbicides we use. Part of the reason for the field trip was to see how it was done. I invite you to do some research and come back to the table with questions. The herbicide goes into the tree or brush, not into the ground and has a relatively short life.

John Andres – It's hard to forecast beyond the next year what areas will need herbicide treatment. Not all sites have the same brush potential.

Tyler Field – The indicator is from 2009 but things have changed whether it be management practices or brush issues. Mainly alder, maple and cottonwood are treated.

John Andres – Not salmonberry? Would be helpful to figure out what we are trying to accomplish with this indicator.

Tyler Field – There is some salmonberry, but not much. There is lots of information in the Detailed Indicator list which is on the website.

Ron Frank – What we need is an action plan to address this indicator.

Gerald Whalley – **Indicator 6.5.8**

1. The whole objective of this indicator is to emphasize NON-HERBICIDE methods for vegetation management in the DFA.
2. Chemical manufacturing companies have a lot of "tools" available to kill alder, but none of them are really needed. Their use in most cases is just a matter of personal preference.
3. Not one block that we looked at on our field trip to the BT600 area needed to be treated with herbicides. They were all mostly scattered alder that could have been treated manually just as effectively and just as cheaply as herbicide.
4. Safety of the crew is not a factor. In the 25 years I did all of MacMillan Bloedel's brushing and weeding manually, there was not one power saw accident. I used a professional crew with properly trained people.
5. In many cut blocks where alder seeds in densely, WFP is now planting to alder and thereby having no requirement to kill any alder seed in.
6. Ten years ago I supervised all of the brushing and weeding at Kelsey Bay Division without using any herbicide. WFP will tell you that at that time we had less of an alder problem to contend with. Regardless, I effectively treated at a low cost many low elevation blocks, adjacent to the Salmon River for example, that had dense alder seed in. The point is that if I could treat even one block like that manually without herbicide, then I could treat 100 blocks exactly the same way.
7. Most importantly, the whole VALUE of this Indicator 6.5.B is to LIMIT the use of herbicides. The target is that not more than 20% of brushing activities will use herbicide during the 5 year term of the PMP. Now we are going to report on how well they met that target. When I taught school I had some very friendly and likeable students who just didn't bother to put much effort into their school work. When it came to report card time I couldn't tell their parents, "Johnny only got 25% in his grades, but he is such a nice boy I am going to reduce the passing grade to 25% just for him." Likewise, during the last 5 years WFP has intentionally disregarded this indicator that demands that the use of herbicides be limited. They could have made the target but they chose not to. We at this table

are all responsible to hold them to the public commitment that they have made.

8. WFP is earning the highest profits in the entire history of the company. It can afford to emphasize non-herbicide vegetation management just as it promised.

John Andres – If information is made available, then we can look at this at the next meeting.

Tony Clark – Herbicides are not bad, WFP will continue to use them. What about alder plantations that are not going to be treated but are not included in the 20%? Managing for alder hurts the indicator.

Sandra Barnes – What about run off and build up on areas that are treated continually?

Tyler Field – A block is usually treated only once, maybe twice in a 60 year period. We are trying to include alder in our management style.

Gerald Whalley – Tony is right, the alder plantations are not captured. But the past is the past.

John Andres – Yes Tony, there is no credit applied for other areas.

Gerald Whalley – It has to be measurable.

Donn Fawdrey – Shouldn't it be measured by liters used?

Sandy White – Or by application rate?

Gerald Whalley – It would have been prudent to treat 20% of the worst areas and we would have met the target. It was wasted on scattered alder.

John Andres – There is a RESULTS tracking system that tracks blocks treated.

Tyler Field – When doing manual treatment, chain saw gas and oil leak into the ground whereas chemicals do not when using herbicide treatment.

Ron Frank – We discussed this indicator quite a bit before arriving at the 20% and agreed that using herbicides is valuable.

Tyler Field – WFP cannot live with the indicator as is. 50% would result in more effort to comply. If we are informed of specific areas, we would be happy to reduce or eliminate herbicide use there.

Tony Clark – There are some areas we simply cannot treat manually. There is the safety factor, if anything ever happened with saws, WFP would have to eliminate manual treatments all together.

Ron Frank – This table should take more interest and review the PMP.

Kelly Arkell – What is the difference in cost between manual and chemical.

Tyler Field – It's two to three times higher for manual brushing.

Gerald Whalley – It should be the same cost for manual as chemical.

Ron Frank – Safety is huge. Damage to stems is bigger with manual. If we revamp the indicator, let's make it a good one. This table should be more actively involved.

John Andres – The indicator is what it is, we do need to revamp it for the future.

Ron Frank – This table needs to understand the result of non-compliance for this, and any indicator.

Tyler Field – Is not meeting the indicator non-compliance or non-conformance?

Ron Frank – We need an action plan and everyone needs to do their research first.

**ACTION ITEM:** Ron Frank & Tyler Field to create an Action Plan with a revision target date of May 2015.

**ACTION ITEM:** Tyler Field to send a copy of the PMP to members; & a list of ingredients & percentages in Vision Glyphosate; & information on Herbicide efficacy.

**ACTION ITEM:** Members to do some research and come back to table with questions and/or comments.

**ACTION ITEM:** Ron Frank & Tyler Field to find guest speaker to discuss herbicide use on the DFA.

#### 6.4.1 – Stakeholder/First Nations participation satisfaction survey

Ron Frank – Proposed changes are simple, but the Terms of Reference (TOR) needs to be updated as well to support the changes. We review the TOR once a year or if requested and agreed upon.

- Group Evaluation #4: new wording and addition to Terms of Reference to support new wording (Membership Criteria)
- Group Evaluation #5: no new wording is required but addition to Terms of Reference to support language is required (Non-member input to MIFLAG)
- Expand all acronyms

See attached document for specifics: [TOR Proposed Amendment](#)

**Moved:** Richard Glover – to adopt proposed changes

**Seconded:** Gerald Whalley

**Vote:** Unanimous

**ACTION ITEM:** Ron Frank to update Satisfaction Survey with changes.

**ACTION ITEM:** Cindy Huber to update Terms of Reference with changes.

#### 2.2.2 – Sustainable harvesting on the DFA

Tyler Field – We should review the wording on this indicator as it does not reflect MIFLAG’s intentions - *“within the 5 year cut control period for the TFL”*

Gerald Whalley – The five year average could coincide with the Annual Allowable Cut (AAC).

Ron Frank – Do we need this indicator?

Sandy White – It gives the public proof that we use this approach.

Kelly Arkell – Isn’t AAC determined on the TFL?

Tyler Field – Yes it is.

John Andres – AAC is built by supply block is determined in the Chief Forester's Rationale.

Tyler Field – Indicator 2.2.2 is a core indicator and cannot be deleted.

John Andres – There is an interest in having a stable flow.

Ron Frank – Make a five year target, it would show the public we have an interest in maintaining stability.

John Andres – What if we logged everything in one year?

Tony Clark – There was a conscience effort to choose 50%.

Tyler Field – We could add a variance or do a five year cut control.

John Andres – If it's important for contractors to see it then yes.

Tony Clark – We could do a variance change and keep the target the same.

**Moved:** John Andres - to delete "*within the 5 year cut control period for the TFL*" and change the variance from "*none*" to "1 out of 5 years"

**Seconded:** Norm Kirschner

**Vote:** Unanimous

<b>ACTION ITEM:</b> Tyler Field to update Indicator 2.2.2 with changes.
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#### 1.1.1 – Ecosystem types found on the DFA

**Moved:** Gerald Whalley – to make the variance 0.5%

**Seconded:** John Andres

**Vote:** Unanimous

<b>ACTION ITEM:</b> Tyler Field to change Indicator 1.1.1 variance to 0.5%.
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1.2.1 – The habitat for focal species, including species at risk exist on the DFA

**Moved:** John Andres - to remove “OGMA” from the target; change target to “Area (ha) of UWR and WHA remains the same or increases from year to year”

**Seconded:** Sandy White

**Vote:** Unanimous

**ACTION ITEM:** Tyler Field to update Indicator 1.2.1 with changes.

1.1.2 – Species composition of forests on the DFA

Tyler Field – On small areas the target of 2% will not be met. The variance should also take into account where leading species is Cypress, regeneration is not growing at higher elevation due to elk browse. Numbers will increase steadily each year.

John Andres – We should look at something different for these smaller areas.

**ACTION ITEM:** Ron Frank & Tyler Field to talk to Michele de Bellefeuille about Indicator 1.1.2.

**ACTION ITEM:** Cindy Huber to e-mail Workshop Action Item list to members.

**9:00 p.m. Meeting Adjourned**

**NEXT MIFLAG-WFP REGULAR MEETING – MIFO Menzies Bay office**

**Thursday November 20, 2014**

**5:30 PM dinner; Meeting from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM**

*Please confirm attendance by the Tuesday prior to the meeting to assist in meal planning.*