

**Spray Lake Sawmills
Public Advisory Committee
SLS Boardroom
Oct 24th, 2019**

Present: Ken Birkett, Liz Breakey, Erik Butters, Doug Collister, Joe Nickel, Denise Nickel, John Buckley, Jacqueline Nelson Jason Mogilefsky, Matt Denney, Rob Berndt

Absent: Tim Giese, Daniel Grant, Scotty Many-Guns, Mike Korman, Judy Stewart, Corey Stoneman

Meeting commenced at 11:30 p.m.

Review of agenda

- No new items added

Agenda item – Update on winter harvesting & hauling activities

- SLS went through the General Development Plan (GDP) content. Starting with the production table and moving to the map SLS highlighted where operations are currently and where the harvesting contractors will move to in the winter.
- Question from the PAC – on the GDP there is a DTA with all zeros, why is that.
- This comes from a deciduous timber authority (DTA) which has never been acted upon, nor is SLS planning to harvest any deciduous at this point. There is none planned in the GDP.
- Discussion from the PAC on how we are losing grasslands to aspen trees largely because of lack of fire on the landscape. Changing the composition of the landscape and leading to larger fuel loading and higher risk of catastrophic wildfire.
- SLS carried on with a summary of the winter operations.
- PAC – Concern raised over the proximity of one resident to the Longview storage yard.
- SLS – Resident and SLS share the same access and their dwelling is quite close to the storage yard. SLS has been working with this resident for some time now to try and balance their needs with SLS production needs. SLS is hoping to have him carry out some work in the storage yard which could be a win-win situation.
- PAC – How does SLS handle private timber?
- SLS – We do harvest private timber, typically in the past have not advertised for acquisitions. Most of the purchases are through word of mouth.

Agenda item – FMP Update

- SLS handed out a GANTT chart for the FMP development. A lot of the technical building blocks have been completed for the plan and now we are putting it all together to complete the harvest modeling.

Agenda item – Landbase and yield curve update

- SLS showed two maps that describe the landbase – first was the active landbase (aka contributing), which is the area within the FMA that is harvestable, based on current physical and economical assumptions. The second is the opposite and shows the areas that were netted out (aka removed), based on numerous criteria.
- Roughly speaking about 1/3 of the FMA area is removed from the landbase for various reasons, the other 2/3 is productive in terms of forestry. Both the Yield curves and the landbase have been submitted to the GoA for their review and agreement.

Agenda item – SHS & Non-Timber assessments

- SLS handed out a one page description of the non-timber assessments that will be conducted within & outside the spatial harvest sequence (SHS) modeling work.
- PAC – the plan is described as a 200 year plan where you plan 20 years of harvest. Why say 200 years, when only 20 is included in the SHS.
- SLS – the idea is to harvest today at how fast the forest is growing. Because of the age class imbalance of the current forest, we must find what is the lowest growth point over the 200 year and harvest at that level. We then focus on the 20 year to get a good idea of where operations will be conducted. The plan is also required to be re-done every 10 years as well, to adapt to changes in policy and updates to inventory.
- PAC – looks like a lot of the bird species included on the non-timber assessment component use conifer habitat.
- SLS – as the plan progresses and we have a better idea what the model is telling us, the idea is to bring back these non-timber assessments and review with the PAC.

Agenda item – Visual Quality Management Strategy Map

- SLS showed a map of the high visual quality areas within the FMA. This is a follow-up to the information that was discussed in April. The map is still in draft form, as some additional areas need to be added. The process relies on a very computationally intensive viewshed tool bar in a geographic information system. The idea is to not preclude forestry from these areas, but rather know when we are planning to harvest in one of these polygons that it is visually sensitive and try to manage the impact with various strategies.
- PAC – Discussion around value of viewshed and how it can be different from ecological values.

Agenda item – Timeline and next steps

- SLS will be looking to meet again soon once a lot of the non-timber assessments are ready to be reviewed. This could be around Christmas, but most likely will be in the new year

Adjourn: 2:40 p.m.