

**Spray Lake Sawmills
Public Advisory Committee
SLS Boardroom
March 9th, 2020**

Present: Erik Butters, Daniel Grant, Joe Nickel, Denise Nickel, John Buckley, Jacqueline Nelson (via phone) Norma Ruecker, Jason Mogilefsky, Matt Denney

Absent: Ken Birkett, Liz Breakey, Doug Collister, Tim Giese, Scotty Manyguns, Mike Korman, Judy Stewart, Corey Stoneman, Richard Right Hand

Meeting commenced at 11:40 p.m.

Review of agenda

- No new items added

Agenda item – Review of FMP Planning Process

- SLS went through an update to the forest management plan, reviewed the Winter 2020 FMP information package that's available on the SLS website.
- Reviewed the time frames and various time scales which forest management planning operates at: 200- year timber supply model and forecasting of non-timber assessments, with a focus on 20 year operational plan and renewal of the plan every 10 years. Reviewed various components that are required to get to the technical analysis we are looking at today; starting with vegetation inventory (AVI), combined with collecting tree growth information, linking with Values Objective, indicators and Targets and future reporting.
- Reviewed some of the public consultation efforts to date
- Reviewed the VOITs and how they are linking to forest management plan,
 - Additional VOITs have been added around integration with other users (primarily with trails) and aesthetics (visual quality management strategy and generation of view-shed map that catalogs the high visual sensitive area)
- PAC Question – what can be done about adjacent areas that are not within the forest management area for fire risk
- SLS – SLS's is tasked with a management plan for the FMA. From a source water protection standpoint, the City of Calgary lead a collaborative effort with a forestry fire consultant team, AAF, AEP and Parks Canada completed a fire hazard assessment and action plan. The City consulted with SLS along with many other stakeholders
- PAC Question – Was the land lost from the creation of the parks in the Castle area ever replaced?
- SLS – no it was not, there was not any unallocated green zone that was/is available to be allocated for forest management

- SLS is looking for PAC input on the information being presented (Timber Supply Analysis/spatial harvest sequence map and the non-timber assessments linked to the VOITs) and advice on how SLS can best consult on this information

Agenda item – Update of Forest Management Plan

- SLS provided a GANTT chart for the FMP development which indicates plan milestones and progress made. Many plan technical building blocks have been completed and now we are putting it all together to complete the harvest modeling.

Agenda item – Timber Supply/ Non-timber assessment/ Spatial Harvest Sequence Modeling

- Went through a number of graphs and figures that relate to the VOITs and future forest projections
- Reviewed projections including
 - a 20 -year spatial harvest sequence map,
 - the annual allowable harvest level (AAC),
 - operation metrics,
 - forest seral stage changes,
 - comparing to pre-industrial condition forest,
 - watershed indicators (equivalent clearcut area), and finally
 - the identified species for modeling (Brown Creeper, Varied Thrush, Ovenbird, Marten, Grizzly bear, Barred Owl).
- PAC – SLS’s management area is in two Land-use Framework boundaries; the South Saskatchewan and the North Saskatchewan, and the North Saskatchewan plan is not completed, is this accommodated in the plan?
- SLS – In the N. Saskatchewan boundary, there are one or two sites that have a designation under the public lands act as a DRS that could potentially change to a Provincial recreation area when the plan is completed. This was handled in the Net Landbase stage of the management plan and the area(s) have been removed from the contributing landbase and are not eligible for forest harvesting.
- PAC- What is the desired forest age
- SLS – The minimum harvest age is set at 80 years, currently due to fire suppression, the forest is much older than it would be naturally. Time zero (present time) is being used as a baseline and the targets and reporting are to be compared to current conditions. GoA has tailored the process to review the management plan from that standpoint. The Pre-industrial condition is to be used to inform targets rather than set targets and the natural condition provides a reference for what the forest likely would have been like before human intervention and the suppression of wildfires.

- PAC – when presenting to the public try and tell a story to convey the information SLS is intending and focus on the successes, such as the number of trees planted.
- PAC –Trappers like to harvest pine marten how does that impact pine marten? GoA is responsible for monitoring/managing marten, SLS has been tasked with modelling Marten habitat as a fine filter old growth habitat indicator.
- PAC –How are Grizzly Bear impacted?
- SLS –The TSA scenarios (low to high) didn't negatively impact the quality of Grizzly Bear Habitat as access management is the larger issue. SLS is not planning to increase open road densities.
- PAC – An Oven Bird is a type of Warbler it might make sense to have some information for folks at the open house to know a little about the species
- PAC –It looks like the marten indicator are the most sensitive to changes simply because most of the FMA is considered Marten habitat the public should know that
- PAC –its important to explain how and why the various wildlife and ECA models react if people just see red on a graph they will automatically think its bad.
- PAC – Back in the 30's 40's there were family run sawmills all around here. There was more berries and grass. Today its getting tougher for grazing due to all of the encroachment of brush and trees.

Agenda item – Timeline and next steps

- SLS will be scheduling another meeting for mid to late May 2020. Matt will send out a doodle pole for all members to respond. SLS is planning is to have another open house to consult on the draft FMP in June, 2020 and SLS will be submitting the FMP by September 30, 2020.

Adjourn: 2:30 p.m.