

**Vanderhoof LRMP  
Implementation Monitoring Committee Meeting**

**Minutes**

**November 21, 2003**

Friday, November 21, 2003  
9:00am – 4:00 pm  
Village Green Inn - Vanderhoof

**Attendants**

---

Heather Cullen  
Traci Leys-Schirok  
Marc Imus  
Kevin McCarty  
Brad Hawkes  
Wayne Ray  
Cheryl Scott  
Anita Bailey  
Jay Hallett  
Allen Ray  
Ken Kristianson  
Nathan Voth  
Art Kaehn  
Dave King  
Corinne Koftinoff  
Jennifer Lewyer  
Terry Lazaruk  
Darryl Bokvist  
Bill Thibeault

Mark Todd  
Sam Campesp  
Maru Naulin  
Cecil Gray  
Mike Pritchard  
Mike Dittaro  
Colonel Anderson  
Dave Rozek  
Garry Holter  
Kelly Peacock  
Elisabeth Doery  
Manuel KindtHeather Thomson  
Barry and Marion Mills  
June Wood  
John Blackwell  
Bruce Middleton  
Steve Dodds  
Barry Doblin  
Frank Craig

## Minutes

---

- ❖ ***Welcome, introductions and agenda overview*** – Tracy Leys-Schirok (Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management)
- ❖ ***Draft Vanderhoof LRMP Implementation Report***– Tracy Leys-Schirok (Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management)
  - Brief presentation and discussion on recently completed LRMP Implementation Report
- ❖ ***Vanderhoof CNRC*** – Heather Cullen (Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management)
  - Status of LRMP implementation and Monitoring
    - LRMPs continue to provide foundation of social direction for land and resource management.
    - LRMP Implementation Monitoring Committee Tables will continue.
    - LRMP Implementation Monitoring Committees serve as a communication process between communities and government with regard to how LRMPs are being implemented.
    - Important link
    - Government does not plan to re-open or amend LRMPs.
    - However, if there is a specific (strategic, not operational) land and resource issue it could be addressed if there is a strong business case or pressing need.
    - Effectiveness Monitoring will not be done by government, as was originally proposed (5 years after the approval date).
    - LRMP objectives are and will be implemented through more detailed planning processes such as Landscape Level Planning, FRPA enabled objectives and Forest Licensee Certification Processes.
    - CNRC's are the main means of public involvement for these processes
  - LRMP Implementation Monitoring
    - Monitoring Committee Summary (1999 to 2003) – listing of activities will be mailed out in December
    - LRMP Implementation Progress Report – distributed at the meeting and a comment sheet was provided for your feedback
  - Structure and Mandate of CNRC's
    - A structural chart of the CNRC's was reviewed
    - Main functions:
      - Learn about local resource management plans, planning processes, & related issues
      - Provide recommendations & opinions on proposals to sponsors.
    - CNRCs will not:
      - Create a plan
      - Replace LRMPs

- Replace First Nations consultation or treaty processes
- Progress of CNRC's to date
  - 2 meetings - June 03 and Sept 03
  - Terms of Reference
  - Examples of Processes CNRC might be involved with
  - Issues of interest survey
  - FIA Group presentation on Priority Projects
  - Mountain Pine Beetle Management Up-date
- Relationship of CNRC's to LRMP's
  - New plans guided by LRMP direction
  - Builds on knowledge and relationships of LRMP participants
  - Doesn't replace LRMP monitoring committee

❖ **Licensees Perspective of CNRC – Darryl Bokvist (Slocan)**

- Explained his role in CNRC
- He has presented at CNRC meetings on the Sustainable Forest Management Planning that Slocan is doing
- Slocan is developing a public advisory group for the Sustainable Forest Management Planning process.
- *Question from the LRMP Monitoring Committee:*
  - Who will be involved in this process?  
Reply: Slocan, Canfor, LTM, Lake Land, BCTS, and the public

❖ **Interaction of Mountain Pine Beetle Disturbance, Fire Ecology and Dynamics**  
– Dr. Brad Hawkes (Canadian Forest Service)

- The following project objectives were examined:
  - Effects of MPB on stand structure/composition and regeneration
  - Effects of MPB on growth of residual stems
  - Effects of MPB on coarse woody debris dynamics (standing trees and fall-down rates)
  - Effects of MPB on fuel loading, structure and fire hazard
  - Reevaluation of the Heath and Alfaro (1990) study of Douglas-fir release at Bull Mountain.
  - Recurrence of Mountain Pine Beetle and Fire
  - Establishment of new plots in southern interior to extend ecological range of knowledge
  - Investigate modeling techniques to project stand structure, and CWD dynamics, MPB susceptibility and fire potential.
- *Questions from the LRMP Monitoring Committee:*
  - Were you tracking re-growth in this project? Reply: not at the time, but hopefully in the future if funding permits. They are planning to put intensive plots in for this if funding permits.
  - Is there a means to determine the location of the isotherm? Reply: yes, the line has moved up north over the last 12 years.
  - Has anyone thought of selectively logging the larger trees, because they are the ones that allow the beetles to reproduce (they can't brood long enough in the small trees)? Reply: not sure.
  - Will prescribe fires kill lichen? Yes.

❖ ***Influence of Stand Age and MPB on Stand Structure in the SBS*** – Craig Delong (Ministry of Forests)

- Objectives of project:
  - Determine if there are notable structural and functional differences between mature (AC 5-7) and old (AC 8 & AC 9) stands
  - Identify old growth attributes
  - Develop a method to rate stands relative to attributes relating to old growth function
  - Determine if stand age is a reliable predictor of old growth functionality
  - Determine the influence of MPB
- Significant stand attributes associated with old forest
  - large trees and snags
  - average tree and snag size
  - number of trees with cavities with wildlife potential
- Mechanisms to improve
  - large blocks reduce chances of taking only the highest quality stands
  - large patches of >100 year old stands can be integrated into old growth strategy
- Development of a strategy for long-term monitoring of MPB effects
  - *Objectives:*
  - Provide maps and other tools for efficient location of study plots in MPB killed stands that are not harvested
  - Develop a standard protocol and tools for plot establishment and recording of plot metadata to ensure plot security and efficient transfer of plot information to all land managers
  - Co-ordinate long-term plot measurement and security to avoid duplication of measurements and reduce risk of plot integrity being compromised.
- *Questions from the LRMP Monitoring Committee:*
  - How soon will this information be incorporated into planning processes? Reply: as early as next year
  - Will this work form policy or is it just recommendation? Reply: this work is recommendations and it is up to MSRMC to develop policy. His information will be incorporated into policy.

❖ ***Bark Beetle Management in BC Update*** – Barry Dobbin (Ministry of Forests)

The following topics were addressed:

- Mountain Pine Beetle biology
- Expansion of Mountain Pine Beetle from 2000 to 2002 in B.C. (source: MOF annual aerial surveys)
- Factors contributing to beetle expansion
- 6.8 million m<sup>3</sup> MPB Uplifts in AAC have occurred due to beetles
  - This brings the total AAC's for each district of these to:
  - 2962000 for lakes
  - 12244000 for PG

- 3248000 for Quesnel
  - 3768000 for Williams Lake
  - 160000 for TFL42
  - 300000 for TFL 5
- Review of timber supply impacts in 12 severely infested units - case study
  - While it cannot predict the future, it is a useful tool to capture projected outcomes if the set of assumptions hold true.
  - Key assumptions & things to think about
- Timber supply outlook
- Initiatives and strategies for beetle management
- Bark beetle control tactics
- Present Focus
  - Harvest as much as possible green attacked stands of pine - understanding that market conditions and capacity will play a role
  - Spend money and resources where most likely to have an impact - concentrate efforts in suppression BMU's for STT and harvesting as well as harvesting in Holding BMU's
  - Utilize best information available for proven tactics while research explores better.
  - Have not switched to salvage priority yet. May come to that soon. The shelf life study will assist that decision.
- A summary of the TSR
- Events and next steps for beetles
  - Brief forest industry & local mayors in PG
  - Oct. 30 Release *Timber Supply & MPBs* at CFS symposium, Kelowna
  - Late Oct. Completion of 2003 aerial survey analysis
  - Nov. 12-14 IRM Conference in Prince George
  - November Community symposium to hear about the issues and develop solutions for a BC Bark Beetle Strategy
  - Nov./Dec. Bark Beetle Strategic Framework (MPB Task Force) - operational strategies
  - Nov. onwards - Review AACs?
  - Ongoing - Provincial Bark Beetle Co-ordinator taking speaking events
- *Questions/comments from the LRMP Monitoring Committee:*
  - Who can have access to funding for timber management? Reply: industry, government, and private landowners
  - What other resource values are you considering? Reply: all the resource values in the Forest Practices Code.
  - What will likely happened if there is a fire season in Vanderhoof and who do we talk to about fire issues? Reply: protection foresters have all the knowledge.
  - There were questions regarding locally noticed occurrences of brittle trees following infestation and breakage close to ground level and whether possibly linked to other forest health factors? Reply: the answer is unknown with respect to other forest health factors and would not be verifiable without data collection in the area in question. So, while it may be attributable to wood drying

out after being killed by beetles, and a local occurrence, we are unable to give more detail at this time.

- Comments were made that the 15 year shelf life is overly optimistic for Vanderhoof. 15 years is used as an average in the Timber Supply calculations for a broad area. Ongoing shelf life studies should help better assess this factor.

❖ ***Mountain Pine Beetle Situation Vanderhoof Forest District*** – Nathan Voth (Ministry of Forests)

- *Topics of discussion:*
- Graph showing hectares of MPB damage
- What does the graph tell us?
  - ~ 60% of the mature pine in the THLB has already been attacked and killed by MPB
  - at least 85% of the mature pine in the THLB will have been attacked and killed within 2 years, unless we get two consecutive cold weather events
  - the main MPB infestation will have moved outside the Vanderhoof Forest District within 3 years
- What does it look like from the air?
  - the only live trees remaining will be deciduous, spruce, pine less than about 40 years old and a small percentage of the mature pine
- Where do we go from here?
  - continue the harvest of green attack to reduce the spread of MPB into neighboring districts
  - develop and implement a salvage strategy
  - identify and implement opportunities to minimize timber supply shortfalls and impacts on other resource values
- *Questions/comments from the LRMP Monitoring Committee:*
  - What will be the seed source if we lose all our trees? Reply: we have 5-10 years of inventory, some natural regeneration, and not all sites have to be replanted with pine.
  - Maybe we should look at developing grasslands to diversify the landscape (grasslands used to be natural in this area).
  - Are there any impacts on spruce in pine-based stands? Reply: there are pockets of spruce beetles in the district.

❖ ***Vanderhoof Ungulate Winter Range process*** – Tracy Leys-Schirok (Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management)

- Provided a handout on the status of UWR developments for the Vanderhoof Forest District.
  - Vanderhoof Mule Deer Winter Range was approved Oct. 6, 2003.
  - Vanderhoof Caribou Winter Range was proposed on May 15, 2003.

❖ ***Landscape Objective Working Group (LOWG)*** – Tracy Leys-Schirok (Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management)

- Provided an explanation of LOWG and its current activities and status.

- Presently working on biodiversity objectives
- ❖ **Planlink** – Tracy Leys-Schirok (Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management)
  - Described what planlink is and why it is useful to the LRMP Monitoring Committee
    - Planlink is an interactive web-based tool for reviewing and querying LRMP and other planning documents
    - Asked the table to review the site and provide feedback
  - *Questions from the LRMP Monitoring Committee:*
    - How do we get information onto Planlink? Reply: Dave Leman is the lead on this project. ---Do we want to provide his contact info?
    - Does it provide resource coverage's and how current would they be? Reply: No.
    - Will the website include draft plans in order for them to be reviewed and commented on? Reply: Not sure.
- ❖ **Open Discussion** – time to discuss the LRMP in general
  - This was an opportunity for all the participants at the meeting to engage in open discussion around issues, concerns and ideas regarding LRMP implementation
  - See attached discussion notes.
- ❖ **Upcoming Conferences in 2004** – Tracy Leys-Schirok (Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management)
  - Announced the following conferences: