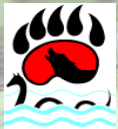


Westbank Community Forest

Open House

February 26, 2008



Westbank First Nation

What Is a Community Forest?

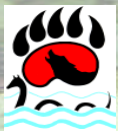
- “Area based” tenure with defined boundaries on Crown land
- Benefits are accrued to a defined “community”
- Volume to harvest per year is based upon the growing capacity of the land base
- Rights: harvest timber and build roads
- Obligations: Follow the various acts and regulations, including reforestation of areas logged, pay stumpage to the Crown, forest inventory, various surveys



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History

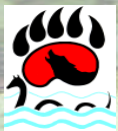
- 1999 - Discussions opened with Ministry of Forests
- 2003 – Application put forward to MoF
- 2004 – In August the license was signed
- 2004 – Operational team put together
- 2005 – Harvesting started
- 2007 – Planted first seedlings



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Community Forest - Overview

- Target harvest of 55,000m³ was selected (46,000 ha)
- Area was previously managed by BCTS, Gorman Bros. and Riverside (Tolko)
- Community Forest ranges from hot dry ponderosa pine forests near Westbank to cool moist pine and spruce stands near Sunset Lake
- Approximately 46% of mature timber is lodgepole pine
- Approximately 60% is within community watersheds
- Over 25km of boundary shared with Central Okanagan Regional District (Westside Municipality and Peachland)



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Benefits Derived From the Community Forest

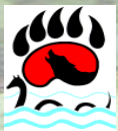
- Stabilized employment opportunities for WFN contractors
- Meaningful avenue for WFN to engage in forest management. WFN is now at the table as a participant
- Revenue stream for WFN derived from the forest industry



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Timber Development

Harvesting		
	Annual Allowable Cut	Volume Harvested
2005	55,000 m ³	32,000 m ³
2006	55,000 m ³	81,000 m ³
2007	85,000 m ³	80,000 m ³



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Silviculture

Tree Planting Program		
		Trees
2007	Actual planted	156,000
2008	Seedlings confirmed	280,000
2009	Seedlings ordered	285,000



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Mountain Pine Beetle

- Approximately 46% of the mature timber on the CF is pine
- In 2005 and 2006 first movement of beetle into the CF was noted
- In 2006 application was made to Ministry of Forests to increase the level of harvest to address beetle
- In January 2007 harvest level was increased from 55,000 m³ per year to 85,000 m³ per year
- In fall of 2007 first significant wave of beetle onto the CF was noticed



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Mountain Pine Beetle

- In the winter of 2005/06 we started to focus harvesting on pine leading stands to try to stay ahead of the beetle.
- In 2007 retention plans were developed to identify core stands at risk to beetle and to develop a strategy to retain non pine stands and timber around drainage features
- Pine mortality/hydrologic assessment currently underway to determine potential impact of the beetle for each of the drainages within the community forest.



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Crystal Mountain Controlled Recreation Area (CRA)

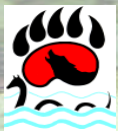
- Total area under application is 2,900 ha of which approximately 2,000 ha is within the Community Forest
- WFN has put forward a proposal to replace the area lost to the CRA with 2 distinct units:
 - Ellen Lake north of the CF
 - Headwaters/Peachland Lakes to the south of the CF
 - Anticipating resolution in the summer of 2008.



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Forest Investment Account

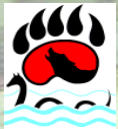
- Provincial funding available to all major licensees to promote sustainable forest management. Since 2005:
- Development of a predictive model for archaeological overview assessment (AOA)
- Fish culvert inspections to determine functioning of culverts
- Terrestrial ecosystem mapping (TEM) to develop habitat models for tree species and culturally important plant species (to be completed in 2009)



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Interface Forest Fuel Mitigation

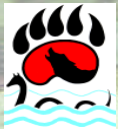
- Over 25km of boundary shared with the District of Westside and Peachland
- In 2006 WFN, RDOC and MoFR entered discussions to find a mechanism to reduce the forest fuel load along this boundary
- Provincial funding from the Community Wildfire Protection Plan program (CWPP) supported by MoFR and Union of BC Municipalities
- Phase I – Assessment and development of an operational plan, [MOU between WFN and RDCO signed Feb 25, 2008](#)
- Phase II – Implementation of the operational plan



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New License

- Current license expires in June 2009.
- WFN has indicated to MoFR that they will be applying for new license with a 99 year term
- An assessment of our progress to-date will begin this summer.
- Application to MoFR in early 2009



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Thank you for joining us

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