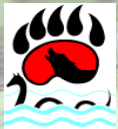


Westbank Community Forest

Open House

November 17, 2009



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 assessments



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History

- 1999 - Discussions opened with Ministry of Forests
- 2004 – In August the license was signed
- 2004 – Operational team put together
- 2005 – Harvesting started
- 2007 – Planted first seedlings
- 2009 – Pilot license replaced with a 25 year license



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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)
- Range from hot dry ponderosa pine forests in the east 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 30km of boundary shared with West Kelowna and Peachland)



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Benefits Derived From the Community Forest

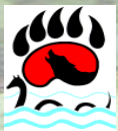
- Stabilized employment opportunities for WFN contractors
- Meaningful avenue for WFN to engage in forest management within its traditional territory. WFN is now at the table as a decision maker
- Revenue stream for WFN derived from the forest industry



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Timber Development

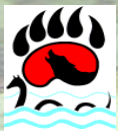
Harvesting		
	Annual Allowable Cut	Volume Harvested
2005	55,000 m ³	32,000 m ³
2006	55,000 m ³	81,000 m ³
2007	85,000 m ³	80,000 m ³



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Silviculture

Tree Planting Program		
		Trees
2007	Actual planted	156,000
2008	Actual planted	300,000
2009	Actual planted	401,000



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Mountain Pine Beetle

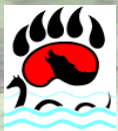
- Approximately 46% of the mature timber on the CF is pine
- In 2005 and 2006 first movement of beetle into the CF was noted
- In 2006 application was made to Ministry of Forests to increase the level of harvest to address beetle
- In January 2007 harvest level was increased from 55,000 m³ per year to 85,000 m³ per year
- In fall of 2007 first significant wave of beetle onto the CF was noticed
- Since 2006 we have harvested 80% pine



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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
- In 2008/09 pine mortality/hydrologic assessments were completed 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)

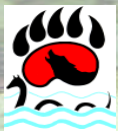
- Total area under application is 2,900 ha of which approximately 1,800 ha is within the Community Forest
- WFN has put forward a proposal to replace the area lost to the CRA with a unit north of Big White
- The Derickson block is within WFN tradition lands and includes Derickson Lake



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Forest Investment Account

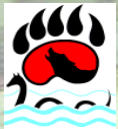
- Provincial funding available to all major licensees to promote sustainable forest management. Since 2005:
- Development of a predictive model for archaeological overview assessment (AOA)
- Fish culvert inspections to determine functioning of culverts
- Terrestrial ecosystem mapping (TEM) to develop habitat models for tree species and culturally important plant species (to be completed in 2010)
- VRI – New forest inventory



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Forest Fuel Mitigation

- Over 30km of boundary shared with the West Kelowna 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



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Forest Fuel Mitigation (cont'd)

Phase I

- Assessment and development of an operational plan,
- MOU between WFN and RDCO signed Feb 25, 2008



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Forest Fuel Mitigation (cont'd)

- Phase II – Implementation of the operational plan



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Thank you for joining us

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