

Spruce Beetle Working Group Meeting Oct 30, 2015

Participants

Denise Hogue-FLNRO, facilitator	Kevin Hoekstra, FLNRO	Cindy Holland, FLNRO
Jacek Bankowski, FLNRO	Mike McLachlan, Project coordinator	Nathan Voth, FLNRO
Mike Byl, FLNRO	Carl Pollard, CNC Research forest	John Pousette, FLNRO
Robert Hodgkinson	Kevin Charlston, Canfor	Greg Rawling, FLNRO
Shannon Carson, FLNRO	Cecil Gray Lakeland/ Winton	Diane Nicholls, FLNRO, Chief Forester
David Bryden, CNC Research Forest	Albert Nussbaum FAIB, FLNRO	
Mike Jull-Aleza Lake Forest	Doug Perdue, Dunkley	
Darwyn Koch Sinclair	Jim Sayle, FLNRO	
Stacy Perkins, FLNRO	Jeremy Greenfield- BCTS	
Keith Taite, Carrier	Jonathan Taylor BCTS	
Trevor Joyce L& M Lumber	Aaron Day BCTS	
Shawn Rice, FLNRO	Chief Alec Chingee MLIB	
Sarah Cotter Canfor	Kelly Izzard FAIB	

Person Responsible	Action	Timeline
Mike McLachlan	Make changes to Terms of Reference TOR from this meeting. Circulate by end of next week.	Nov 6
Jacek Bankowski	Receive any further TOR comments and forward to Mike M.	Nov 6
Denise Hogue	Send out a doodle poll with either Nov 26 or Nov 27 as next meeting date and if you can't attend.	Nov 6
Denise Hogue	Revisions to district overview map as data received	
Denise Hogue	Send Chief Forester a synopsis of this meeting esp any actions planned by this group	Nov 6
Mike McLachlan; others	Get TOR and other docs circulated prior to meeting to allow time for review. Exceptions are if there's a need for discussion at time of release.	
Jacek Bankowski	Provide example probing deliverable	Nov 6

1. TOR (Mike MacLachlan) Room divided into subgroups which provided feedback relative to the Terms of Reference. Input was around information risks; communication plans; operational issues; impact on mid term timber; landscape values/ LOWG work; partition implications; crucial timelines for action; access challenges. Also how to get consensus with TOR?? Need for consistent data standards to report out infestation levels, Mike McLachlan to consider feedback, revise TOR and circulate to group.

2. FLNRO Probing Update (Jacek B.): met with licensees Oct 8 and have compiled the ground survey/shape file data provided and put on FTP site (<ftp://ftp.for.gov.bc.ca/DPG/external/!publish/Spruce%20Beetle/>). 3 levels of survey- 1)provincial overview flights 2) walkthrough with pixel probing 3) operational assessments such as cruise, grid probing. District has completed contracts for 2823 ha of walkthrough probes in Wichicka; Missinka, Arctic. % of infested pixels ranged widely from 0 to 57% (% of infested pixels roughly indicates the % of area with infestation from both trees with live beetle/larvae ie codes 1 to 4). This info is in Lakeland's operating area and will be passed over to Cecil Gray. Provided an example of probing contract work. **(See attachment)**. Notice that area of attack delineated within the larger polygon. Often needs grid probing to really know where infestation is. Survey info has 2 purposes: TSR vols affected & operational sanitation / salvage. Showed spreadsheet of consolidated licensee probe information which is on the FTP site. Operationally we will need to triage which sub areas of the polys to action.
3. FLNRO update (Denise H.): reviewed a consolidated map with 4 zones: special management zones like FSW, caribou; monitor and probe; sanitation 2015/16; sanitation 2016/17. Purpose is to provide a visual representation of current sx beetle infestation in PG and an overview of the current management activities in response to the infestation. Derivative of the overview flights, ground information and working group updates. Map will be posted on district FTP site.

Additional information: Scans of jpegs of the provincial overview survey are on [https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/HFP/external/!publish/Aerial Overview/2015/scans/](https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/HFP/external/!publish/Aerial%20Overview/2015/scans/) and will be transformed to pdf by mid Nov.

4. Copper Sulfate trial in Mackenzie (Bob H.): trial of various concentrations of copper sulfate for a pre-attack lethal trap tree efficacy was not completely successful. Copper sulfate is injected into live unattacked tree and given several weeks to allow translocation. Then tree is felled to attract beetle and kill the beetle. Potential is to provide lethal trap trees in remote locations without the need for follow up harvest. Trial had good translocation of copper sulfate and good population of beetle. But did not kill beetle. May need a stronger dosage or a new product. MSMA is no longer registered for use and so that lethal trap tree tool is not available.
5. Diane Nicholls Chief Forester presentation: partition will bear close watching—existing spruce partition does not speak to live or dead spruce. Given prior IBM harvest how do we manage the other values? If this Sx working group made a proposal regarding handling of the partition, CF would like to hear it and will consider it in her decision making. CF will look into methods in the appraisal system for infrastructure. Good spruce and beetle inventory information is needed for good TSR. See attachment. Chief Forester flew both PG and Mackenzie that afternoon and will provide her impressions.
6. Canfor Update Sarah Cotter: ~480 ha assessed. **Anzac:** Camp is being set up 3 hrs from town. Expect 4 seasons of logging. Utilizing trap tree bundles strategy. **War Lake** (East of Carp Lake) some beetle in remnant patches of old Sx **Chuchinka** 50-70% hit in 75% Sx stands. ~ 15,000

m³ expect harvest winter 2016 for next 3 seasons. No major infrastructure issues. **McGregor** : lots of Caribou High and Caribou corridors. McGregor suspension bridge is due for replacement in 2018. Are collecting data and may reprioritize bridge timing. A25 merged BEC wet trench zone is in deficit and they are working on a strategy. At PAG meeting in Bowron, the public received info well re possible Sx beetle.

7. Winton Global (Cecil Gray): **Bills Ck:** ~2100 ha assessed. 3 bridges. Probes showing 10-90% attack. Cruised 400 ha at 49% attack. **Merton Lakes** 40% attack. Attack # are based on both probing & cruising. Figuring out trap trees.
8. CNC Research Forest (Dave Bryden): **parcels in Chuchinka** are at 48% attack. Dependent on actions of others. Parcels E, F C, D have attack. Can they log spruce and leave balsam? Have a 120,000 m³ AAC but 400,000 m³ attack delineated.
9. BCTS (Johnathon Taylor): ~2200 ha assessed. Had a recci contract in Hominka, Angus, Firth. 11/15 polys had beetle ranging from 5-80% 4 blks had 40-80% Will develop 2 TSLs in Hominka. Expect info by Dec. Term of TSL licence is still fixed which minimizes ability to sanitize harvest. Working on that licence aspect at higher level.
10. Carrier Keith Taite: flight showed tiny pockets only.
11. Ecosystems Kevin Hoekstra, Shannon Carson: **Caribou & UWR** UWR overlays with attacked spruce polys in Narrow lake, Hellroaring, Everett. General Wildlife Measures for Caribou High and corridors do allow some harvest. Before an exemption to GWM order will be given, must ensure all actions outside the UWR are completed. See decision tree that actions will have net benefit to Caribou, in 2009 report. **Fisheries Sensitive Watersheds** Some overlap in Seebach. For proposed FSW in Hominka, Missinka have 2 yrs for FSPs to adapt. Likely 20% ECA. Some subbasins in Anzac and Missinka have ECA challenges. Draft Wildlife Habitat Areas Anzac bull trout spawning GWM (no harvest, no roads) if 'not practicable' work with FLRNRO staff. LOWG group is working on spatialization of the non-spatial Landscape Biodiversity Order. See attached presentation.
12. Group Check-in Comments. What do you want out of the group and what do you think group needs to do?
 - Consider splitting the special management areas into partially and fully constrained by attack level
 - Smaller groups may be necessary to discuss/gather information/work on developing advice/strategies that can be brought to the next meeting; chair is needed
 - Incorporate today's feedback into the Terms of Reference
 - Gather and collate as much on the ground data as possible to better define attack levels and the extent of the infestation; define with volume estimates
 - Better data will aid in better management decisions and defining clear objectives

- What should data / information look like? Define frequency of data collection/collation; set objectives relative to existing information
- Compare on the ground information (e.g. probes, walkthroughs, cruise information) to the aerial recce information
- Applied research ideas for research forests; e.g. able to react quickly using trap trees
- Improve certainty of partition. What happens in PG affects AAC for rest of TSA.
- Look in into how to build trap tree strategy into operations (e.g. BCTS TSLs)
- Clarify objectives and definitions of sanitation and salvage. Make clear decision points between sanitation and salvage. Need clear boundaries.
- Getting input from experts (e.g. Bob) on trap tree locations
- First clean up the pine. Protect forest as much as possible for wildlife to address First Nations values. Don't necessarily have to do the same as what we did for Pli beetle.
- How to incorporate timing of harvest into TSL's as a management strategy
- Achieve balance between landscape and beetle. What will the landscape look like when we're done?
- Link beetle group and LOWG group.
- Need both landscape and stand level tools.
- Partial cutting can be very viable in SxBI stands. Dynamics of Sx beetle attacked stands are not all the same
- Multiple entries for sanitation are expensive. Questionable whether investments can be captured in operations.
- Consolidated map is very useful and keep it updated.
- Move timelines up to catch the beetle.
- Determine how big an infestation is behind an access constraint \$\$\$. List /map any access constraints to harvesting a poly.
- Small Scale Salvage can be a tool; e.g. small pockets.
- Use consistent language on beetle attack %--very wide range in meanings & collection method
- Keep informed of the situation



117-4 Walkthrough
Package Oct 25.pdf



Chief Forester.docx



MtCaribou_FH_mgt.p
df



Spruce Beetle
Meeting Oct 30th- with



IMG_1033.JPG



IMG_1034.JPG