



Klahoose First Nation



Cortes Forestry General Partnership

April 1, 2015

Community Meeting March 30, Manson's Hall and Community Field Tour Larson's Meadow Road

Larson's Meadow Road Field Tour

On March 30, 2015, the Community of Cortes Island was invited to a 'Walk in the Woods' at Larson's Meadow Road to view and discuss the proposed 1st harvest at the Cortes Forestry General Partnership (CFGP) Community Forest Agreement. The intent of this tour was to provide details about the upcoming harvest and to hear any recommendations or concerns of members of the community. Attending on behalf of the CFGP was myself (John Marlow, R.P.F., General Manager), as well as Bruce Ellingsen and Bob Tracey, CFGP Directors, and Matt Cuscianna, CFGP Field Engineer. Also attending was John Ross of Buttle Lake Resources who has tentatively been contracted to complete the hoe-chucking. Approximately 12 community members attended this field tour. Points of discussion included:

- Why is 1st harvest at Larson's Meadow Road (LMR) Area
 - Identified as central location with moderate / good timber value
 - Minimal road building help the economics of the 1st harvest
- Timing of Harvest – some concern with spring harvest and impacts on wildlife populations (nesting birds), and fragility of trees in regards to harvest during time of sap flow.
 - Nesting bird considerations referred to Cortes birding community as well as referrals to MFLNRO (old Ministry of the Environment)
 - Review of current research (UBC studies in regards to selection harvest and nesting birds), and consideration of the magnitude of the operation (15ha total, or <0.5% of Community Forest Lands) led to a general acceptance that the impact of the proposed harvest is minimal and commencement at the CFA is good for the community.
 - Sap flow issues can be mediated by replacing damaged leave trees with others (i.e. if tree damaged during falling, the fallers are to select a similar tree for retention). The retention strategy allows for replacement.
- Availability of logs to local processors
 - General discussion that long-term it is hoped that all logs can be at least partially processed on Cortes Island. For the purpose of the LMR project it is understood that supply will exceed demand and the majority of the logs are expected to be sold off-island. A "local price" will reflect the current open market price less any costs associated with getting the logs off island (hauling, sorting, scaling, towing, etc.). These prices will be available nearer to the harvest date.
- Silviculture Plan
 - The LMR project is generally designed as an "Irregular Shelterwood Silviculture System" where approximately 100 trees / ha of the dominant (larger) trees are planned for long-term retention. This system is based on silviculture systems on Quadra Island where this level of retention provided old growth and biodiversity benefits while still allowing sufficient light to the forest floor to allow for successful regeneration of Douglas fir.

Community Meeting Manson's Hall

Following the field tour, the group reconvened at Manson's Hall. At this meeting Kathy Francis, Kevin Peacey, and Kristen Scholfield-Sweet, all directors of the Cortes Forestry General Partnership joined to discussion. Some discussion of the LMR project continued but the focus of the afternoon meeting was the Forest Stewardship Plan and Community Forest plans for this summer.

Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP)

The FSP was originally submitted shortly after Christmas and was available for public review for a 2-month period concluding on March 1. Several comments were received during that period and responses were provided for all comments. Following the public review period, minor revisions were made to the FSP and a final version has been submitted to the MFLNRO for approval. Following is a summary of public comments

- **Firewood.** Several comments were received from members of the public concerning the lack of firewood on Cortes Island. The response from the CFGP is that firewood will be made available post-harvest and the yarding contractor (hoe-chucking) will be advised to forward all wood, including firewood, to roadside to make available for firewood.
- **Silviculture.** Questions raised about invasive plant issues (Scotch Broom) and efforts to eradicate possibly with chemical. The CFGP response is that chemical treatments of competing vegetation will not be practiced at the Cortes CFA and that good silviculture techniques (prompt planting with good, healthy stock) will generally shade out any competing vegetation. Should brush control be required, manual brush removal will occur.
- **Local residents concern.** Specific comments received from neighbours of the LMR area. These concerns will be specifically addressed with a field tour with the affected resident including agreements on harvesting / retention plans.
- **Anvil Lake Trail.** Concern expressed that the Anvil Lake Trail was not indicated on the draft FSP. That trail has been added to the final version of the FSP submitted for approval.
- **Nesting Birds.** As above – discussion about the timing of harvest in regards to nesting bird impacts. Response as discussed above in this Operational Report

Summer of 2015 and UBC Summer Students

Commencing at the beginning of May we will have 2 university students working at the CFA for this summer. Zoltan Mityok and Ruby Carrico are both students of Community Forestry at the University of British Columbia (UBC) and will be joining us for the summer to help get to know the Community Forest lands. Matt Cuscianna, a Cortes island resident, has been hired to coordinate summer student activities this summer. A short list of the tasks for Matt and Zoltan and Ruby this summer include

- Detailed mapping of riparian ecosystems adjacent to harvest areas
 - This will both provide excellent ecosystem mapping and will also be training in the use of iPad field data collection.
- A overview reconnaissance of the entire 4000ha(+/-) of the Community Forest Lands
- Creation of a preliminary Access Management Plan for the CFA Lands to develop some sense of how the CFA lands will be accessed in the long-term.
- Forest engineering for the 2nd CFA harvest
- Old Growth Management Area field assessments
- Possible Site Index / Mean Annual Increment (MAI) project

Both the field review and the community meeting were positive, informative activities with great participation by all. Any further discussion or comments can be directed to myself, or any of the Executive Committee of the Cortes Forestry General Partnership.

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