

## Public Advisory Group (PAG) for PA FMA Area Brief on the Meeting of August 20, 2020

17 participants attended the meeting, from organizations in 8 interest categories.

Guest participant Carly Madge is a Master of Environmental Studies student at Dalhousie University. Her thesis project is on incorporating community informed **wildfire risk reduction strategies into forest harvesting plans** in the PA FMA area - and collaboration and learning that support adapting to and being able to live with expected increases in wildfires. [Carly would like to interview local people about this idea and perspectives on adapting to wildfires. If you are willing to have a conversation with her, please email \[carly.madge@dal.ca\]\(mailto:carly.madge@dal.ca\), or call her at \(902\) 414-7411.](#)

### Terms of Reference for the PAG

Revisions to the 2013 PAG Terms of Reference are proposed, and key points discussed were:

- The PAG membership is intended to represent a broad range of interests, resource uses, community values and geographic areas within the PA FMA area
- The primary purpose of the PAG is to provide input on the development and implementation of the Forest Management Plan (FMP) and act as a forum for information exchange between Sakâw and regional groups and organizations. Sakaw proposes to prepare and distribute a short brief of key items discussed at the meeting (*this document*), to make it easier for members to share PAG information with their respective organizations.
- The PAG is an advisory body that seeks consensus on any recommendations made [Please email Diane \(\[gm@Sakaw.ca\]\(mailto:gm@Sakaw.ca\)\) with any comments on the document by October 1<sup>st</sup>.](#)

### Update on Increased Hardwood Retention

Hardwood stands are concentrated on the west side of the FMA area, which is why the hardwood mills were built there. Overall there is more aspen in the FMA area than there is a market for, and underutilization of hardwood on the east side of the FMA area (farthest from the mills) due to lack of market demand. Sakaw has been given approval to leave increased hardwood retention in areas on the east side for 3 years starting April 1, 2020. This can occur in softwood-leading areas that have incidental hardwood in them and must avoid stranding/isolating hardwood stands. Hardwood suckering is expected to be less if the parent trees are not cut, and sites will be assessed to ensure the hardwood is being renewed.

Hardwood retention levels will not increase on the west side (exceptions for the east side do not change requirements on the west). Harvest on the west side is capped at the sustainable levels for that area. An average of 9% retention is left in harvest events (where the harvesting is clustered). Where increased hardwood retention is left it cannot exceed 50% in spruce leading blocks, and 25% in pine leading blocks.

### Update on Woodland Caribou

The boreal population of woodland caribou is listed as 'threatened' and is a key species of concern in the PA FMA area. The federal government developed a recovery strategy for the boreal population, and last July Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment released a Range Plan for caribou for the "SK2 Central" area that largely encompasses the PA FMA area. The FMP contains a strategy for managing caribou habitat that was based on a draft of the SK2 Central range plan, and an FMP approval condition was to align the FMP with the final range plan within a year of its release. That deadline was recently extended to April 1, 2021. Sakaw is encouraging the SK government to consider new things that will help ensure approaches taken work for both caribou and people.

**Next Meeting** – To review progress report on implementing the FMP. **Tentative date: Oct 14, 2020, 9 am**