

**Sakâw Askiy
Public Advisory Group Meeting
August 20, 2020
Zoom Video Conference**

Participants:

Interest Category	Organization	Name
1_Environment & Wildlife	Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society	Gord Vaadeland
1_Environment & Wildlife	Prince Albert Model Forest	Sarah Schmid
1_Environment & Wildlife	Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation	Jim Vancha Richard Petersen
3_Municipalities and Communities	RM of Big River	John Teer
4_Community Associations	Prov. Assoc. of Resort Communities	Doug Allan
5_Cottage Owners Associations	Whelan Bay Cottage Owners Association	Crystal Rinas
6_Recreation & Tourism	Saskatchewan Snowmobilers Association	Leah Switzer
6_Recreation & Tourism	Big River Recreation & Conservation	Gord Olson
10_Forestry	Vermette Wood Preservers	Brian Clavier
13_Gov't, Advisors & Resource People	Forest Service Branch	Mark Doyle
13_Gov't, Advisors & Resource People	Meadow Lk Mechanical Pulp (Sakaw	Tammy Hossain
13_Gov't, Advisors & Resource People	Tolko Industries Ltd. (Sakaw Shldr)	Michelle Young
13_Gov't, Advisors & Resource People	BBNR Management Solutions, Facilitator	Carl Neggers
13_Gov't, Advisors & Resource People	Sakaw Askiy	Michelle Thompson Diane Roddy
14_Guests	Dalhousie University (Masters Student)	Carly Madge

Meeting Convened 9:00 a.m

Agenda:

1. Introductions – Who we are and Who we represent
2. Meeting Purpose
3. Review of Key Elements in Terms of Reference
4. Update on Increased Hardwood Retention in FMA
5. Update on Woodland Caribou – Federal-Provincial Agreement
6. Next Meeting - FMP Annual Report

Introductions: Diane Roddy, Carl Neggers (Facilitator)

Carly Madge, a Master of Environmental Studies student at Dalhousie University, introduced herself and the project she is working on. She is working on a thesis project in partnership with Sakâw Askiy to look at

incorporating community informed and accepted wildfire risk reduction strategies into forest harvesting plans. Carly is working with Sakaw shareholders, local stakeholders, and community members to determine the areas of highest priority for reducing wildfire risk and increase support for mitigation efforts that could be included in harvesting plans. Her project includes a social science aspect, looking at collaboration and learning that support adapting to and being able to live with expected increases in wildfire in the FMA area. Her thesis is part of a larger project, Climate Learning and Adaptation for Northern Development, to assess climate adaptation solutions for northern Canada's renewable resource sectors. **Carly would like to interview local people about this idea and perspectives on adapting to wildfires.** [If you would be willing to have a conversation with her, please email carly.madge@dal.ca, or call her at \(902\) 414-7411.](mailto:carly.madge@dal.ca)

Meeting Purpose:

"To discuss various stakeholder interests that support the long-term sustainability of our shared forest resource and find mutual consensus that improves forest management under the FMP"

Review of Key Elements in Terms of Reference: Carl Neggers

Proposed revisions to the 2013 Terms of Reference for the PAG were circulated in advance of the call, and Carl asked for any feedback or comments on each of the major sections in it.

Key points and clarifications were:

- Sakaw is looking to collaborate and maintain good will with others who have an interest in the 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 Sakaw and regional groups and organizations. It is proposed that Sakaw prepares and distribute a short of key items discussed at the meeting, to make it easier for members to share PAG information with their respective organizations.
- The PAG is an advisory body rather than an approval agency (forest management decisions must comply with contractual and regulatory requirements).
- 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 VOITs referred to in the document stand for "Values, Objectives, Indicators and Targets". They are forest management strategies with targets established in the FMP for the PA FMA area. More information will be available at the next meeting.
- The planning team that worked on the FMP consists of Forest Services, Sakaw, Sakaw shareholders and PAG representative Gord Vaadeland.

Today's discussion is an initial review of the revised, draft Terms of Reference. PAG members have the opportunity to submit suggested changes. [Please email Diane \(gm@Sakaw.ca\) with any changes you want to see by October 1st](mailto:gm@Sakaw.ca), and approval of the revised Terms of Reference will be discussed at the next meeting.

Update on Increased Hardwood Retention in FMA:

Underutilization of hardwood on portions of the FMA due to lack of market demand

Approval to leave increased hardwood retention for 3 years

- *starting April 1, 2020*
- *avoid stranding/isolating hardwood stands*
- *assess annually to ensure hardwood is being renewed*

Mixedwood areas (with both hardwood/deciduous and softwood/coniferous trees) are a challenge as there are more hardwood trees in the FMA area than the current mills can use. Hardwood mills with wood allocations in the FMA area, located on the west side of the area, have an abundant supply of raw material that is close to their mills. There is less of a market for the hardwood on the east side of the FMA area.

This has been an issue for several years (with lack of markets for hardwood in softwood leading stands on the east side of the FMA area). Approval was provided recently for leaving higher levels of hardwood retention for 3 years, with restrictions.

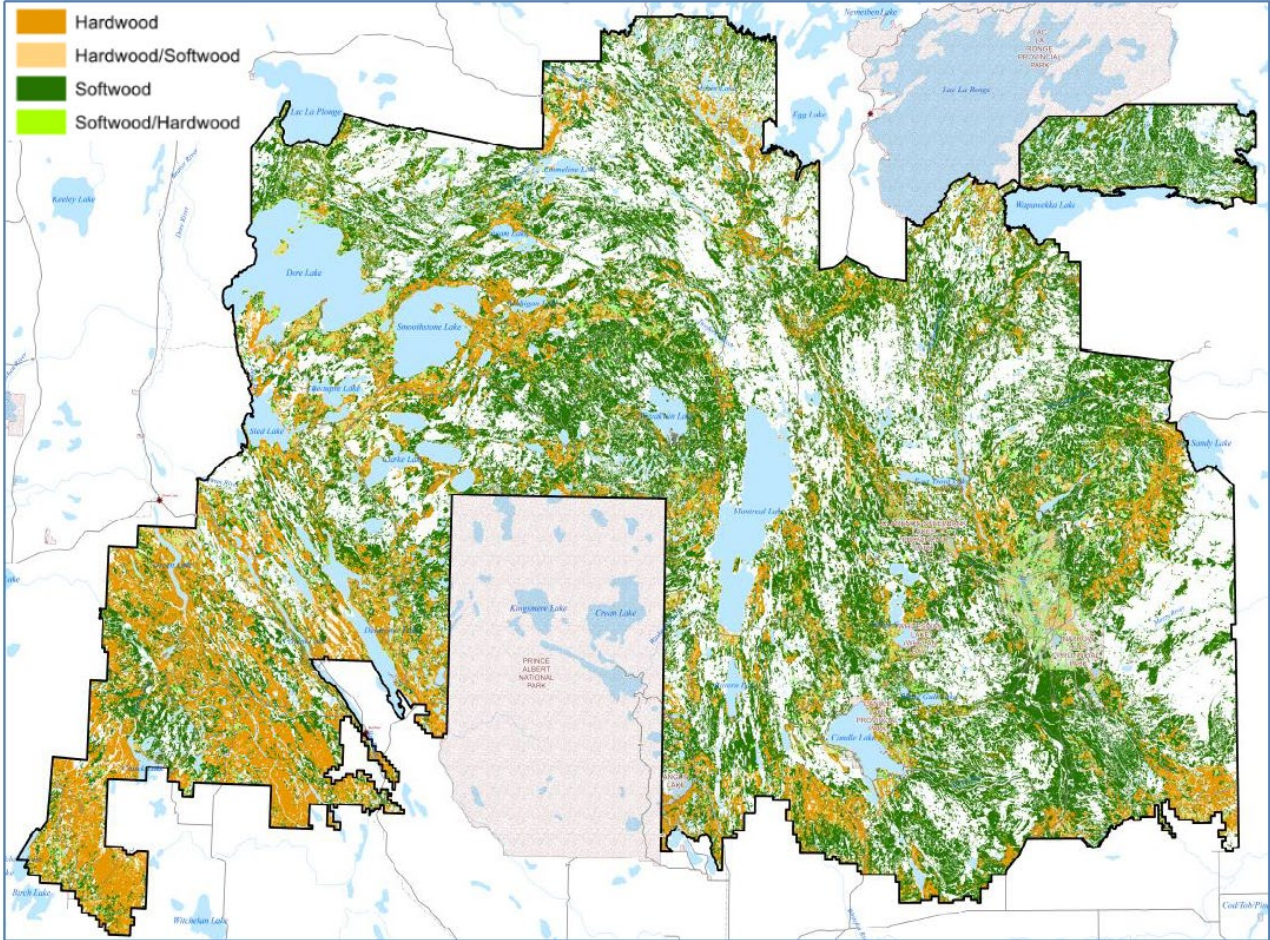
The hardwood retention levels will not increase on the west side; exceptions for the east side do not change the requirements on the west. Sakaw shareholders do not harvest more than what has been determined as the sustainable level for that area. The 9% average retention level does not apply across the FMA area, but to each harvest event. A harvest event (where the harvesting is clustered, or aggregated) is done to emulate natural disturbances patterns.

We will be watching hardwood regeneration more closely during the 3 year period as a concern has been raised about whether the hardwood (aspens) regeneration, which occurs from root suckering, will be adequate if the trees are not cut down. There is currently not an action plan in place for if this happens, but there are options available. Less root suckering is expected than if the trees had been cut down, but it is still likely to be sufficient.

What is the maximum amount of increased hardwood retention that can be left?

- In spruce leading blocks there cannot be more than 50% dispersed retention in the logged portion of the block
- In pine leading blocks there cannot be more than 25% dispersed retention in the logged portion of the block

The following map shows where the hardwood is located on the west side in the FMA area, reflecting why the hardwood mills were built there.



Update on Woodland Caribou – Federal Provincial Agreement:

Species at Risk (Federal)

SK Range Plan for Caribou Habitat (PA FMA area)

Align FMP with Range Plan

The boreal population of woodland caribou is listed under the federal Species at Risk Act as ‘threatened’ and is a key species of concern in the PA FMA area. Environment Canada developed a recovery strategy for the woodland caribou boreal population in 2012. The federal government is pursuing implementation of that recovery strategy with the provinces. Last July Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment released a Range Plan for Woodland Caribou for what is called the SK2 Central Area - which largely encompasses the PA FMA area. The goal of the Range Plan is to “achieve and maintain a self sustaining Woodland Caribou population by managing habitat availability, while allowing for continued economic activity in northern Saskatchewan.”

The FMP contains a strategy for managing caribou habitat that was based on a draft of Saskatchewan’s range plan. An FMP approval condition was to align the FMP with the final range plan within a year of its release, and 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 as this plan affects how the forest industry and others work in the area.

It was clarified that there 3 administrative units in the SK2 area: the range plan for SK2 Central has been finalized, and the range plans for SK2 West and SK2 East are in progress.

There is some harvesting in one of the newly added priority caribou habitat areas SK2 Central this year (Tier 1 Area “P”) aimed at cleaning up areas where harvesting was already started.

If you see a caribou please report it <http://biodiversity.sk.ca/ReportaCaribou.php> to help track where these sightings are.

Next Meeting – To review progress report on implementing FMP:

Proposed and poll responses indicated ~~October 20, 2020~~ @ 9:00am worked for all present.

Unfortunately that date is now not going to work, and **Diane will be testing for availability on Wednesday, October 14, 2020 @ 9:00 am**

Meeting Adjourned 10:14 a.m.