

John Gregson

From: Erik Holbek <Erik@econ.ca>
Sent: Friday, April 13, 2018 4:27 PM
To: John Gregson
Subject: FW: W1475 Inquiry Follow UP
Attachments: W1475_Recommendation Analysis & Proposal.pdf

From: Wahl, Doug FPB:EX [mailto:Doug.Wahl@bcfpb.ca]
Sent: April-13-18 1:33 PM
To: Ted Gullison
Cc: Coggins, Sam FPB:EX; Erik Holbek
Subject: W1475 Inquiry Follow UP

Hello Ted – I received some information from Erik Holbek upon his return from holidays about CDF management on woodlot 1475. I understand you are enquiring about implementation of Glen Dunsworth's proposal. As we discussed, the Forest Practices Board does not have the authority to require a licence holder or government to implement standards of forest practice (such as adhering to the attached guidelines). Rather, in a complaint investigation, the Board examines compliance with FRPA/*Wildfire Act* and whether forest and range practices are appropriate and/or effective. From the information that has been provided to me, it appears that the licensee is exceeding FRPA's requirements for retention, although I have not reviewed the licensee's woodlot licence plan nor have I examined harvesting in the field. Based on the information available to me, my suggestion is that considerable planning effort has been applied by the licensee to address CDF values.

Through several phone conversations, you and I talked about how the establishment of this woodlot licence is essentially a land-use decision. This is because at the time the woodlot was established, it was well known by government that the area included CDF. Also, for the licensee to meet the established AAC within a defined area, there are fewer management options compared to a larger agreement area, such as a forest licence or tree farm licence. In effect, it is a decision made by government about whether the area is within the timber harvesting landbase.

I want to thank you for bringing your concerns to our attention and hope that the information is helpful to you. I also appreciate Erik's help in describing intended CDF management on the woodlot.

As it has done for a number of years, the Board will continue to observe government's approach to CDF management. The file is now closed.

Doug Wahl, RPBio
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From: Erik Holbek
Sent: March-24-18 4:44 PM
To: 'doug.wall@bcfpb.ca'

Cc: 'John Gregson'
Subject: W1475 Inquiry Follow UP

Hi Doug,

Further to our phone conversation last week, here is some more background on the management of John Gregson's woodlot W1475 in Lantzville.

In 2016 some Lantzville residents expressed concern about the management of the woodlot. Among them was Ted Gullison, RP Bio, Niels Schwarz and Glen Dunsworth, RP Bio. Glen made a set of recommendations with respect to management of the woodlot that were considered, analyzed and summarized in the attached implementation report. I believe this is the report that Ted Gullison would have been referencing in his inquiry. Since the preparation of this report one block (15-01) has been harvested, Leroy Main has been extended and Rose Road has been constructed. Glen was involved in a peer review of the pre-harvest prescription for block 15-01 and was onsite during some of the harvesting operation. The Leroy Main extension is shown on the map included with the report and Rose Road is located west of Hardy Creek (balancing the harvest between the Hardy Creek and Knarston Creek areas was an original management plan commitment).

We are in the process of planning new blocks for harvest this year and intend to adhere to the commitments made in this report including:

- Designate physically or operationally isolated wood as reserves;
- Maintain average block level retention of 10% and keep track of ecosystem representation;
- Increase variation in retention levels among blocks and over the rotation. As discussed on the phone the scale of this variation is limited by the small size and AAC of the woodlot as well as public perception as variation towards a larger opening with less retention may not be favourably received);
- Use dispersed and group retention to help manage trails/recreational experience and re-establish trails where they are unavoidably impacted. It is worth noting that there has been a significant amount of new trail construction in the past two years although much of it is in areas already reserved from harvest;
- Protect wetlands and other habitat; and,
- Voluntarily reduce the AAC by 10% to account for the block level reserve commitment and monitor over time. There is no planned MP amendment.

A larger reserve network was also proposed by Glen but analysis showed this would have resulted in a further 16% reduction in the THLB on top of the 10% that was agreed to and a 26% reduction in harvest was not accepted.

The Lantzville Woodlot Advisory Group (LWAG) was formed around the time of the initial advertisement of the woodlot licence in order to work with interested Lantzville residents. As I understand it, the frequency of meetings declined as public concern regarding the woodlot lessened. None of the recent concerned citizens were on the original LWAG although they have been invited in the recent past. John has increased the frequency of meetings again they occur at least once prior to the completion of any new harvest plans (which in the recent past has only been Block 15-01 and the roads noted above). The next meeting is scheduled for April 16.

As we discussed my impression is that concerns around harvesting in the woodlot are largely based on impact to recreation experience and, perhaps to a lesser degree among many interested parties, CDF conservation. I think the licensee is doing a good job of balancing the multiple competing interests on this small land base.

Please feel free to call or email if you need more information or would like to discuss further. I will be out of the office from March 26th to April 10th but will check my emails periodically and will be available on my cell when there's service.

Best regards,

Erik Holbek, RPF