



bulkley valley - lakes district
airshed management society

2008 Burn Operators Forum

Proceedings

September 10, 2008

Houston BC

Attendance:

Name	Organization
Ben Weinstein	MOE – Skeena/BVLD AMS
Laurie Gallant	BVLD AMS/Footprint Environmental Strategies
Barb Hall (AM only)	MOE – Skeena
AJ Downie	MOE – Skeena
Uwe Gramann	MOE – Skeena
Doug Bysouth	Burns Lake – Hampton Affiliates/BVLD AMS
Jeff Walsh	Bulkley Fire Zone, BCFS Protection Branch
Brian Atherton	Bulkley Fire Zone, BCFS Protection Branch
Dan Metcalf	Independent licensee
Colin Vandergaag	Houston Forest Products
Paul Schwarz	West Fraser Mills – PIR, Smithers/BVLD AMS
Walter Tymkow	CANFOR Houston
Marcia Bond	T-Mar Chipping
Ross Hyam (AM only)	Burns Lake Community Forest
Richard Norton (AM only)	NEWPRO
August Meutzner	Nadina Woodlot Association
Mike Buirs	BC Timber Sales-Babine Business Area
Allen Johnson	Burns Lake Native Development Corporation
Sandy Maclean	Bulkley Fire Zone, BCFS Protection Branch
Regrets: Dave Duncan	BC Timber Sales/ BVLD AMS
Regrets: Janette and Dean Daly	Bulkley Woodlot Association

<p>FORUM OPENING</p> <p>ADOPTION OF AGENDA</p> <p>2007 PROCEEDINGS</p>	<p>Laurie Gallant opened the forum at 10:05, welcomed the participants and introduced herself as facilitator and recording secretary. A roundtable of introductions followed.</p> <p>The Agenda was adopted with the addition of an optional tour of the Houston Air Quality Monitoring Station.</p> <p>Minutes from the 2007 Forum were discussed noting that all action items were completed as written or with an alternative action; minutes from all previous forums are posted on the dedicated Burn Operators Forum page of the BVLVD Airshed Management Society website at http://cleanairplan.ca/fhdb.shtml</p>	
<p>ROUNDTABLE REPORT ON UPCOMING BURN SEASON.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Allen J. – has a community wildfire protection mandate with Burns Lake Native Development Corp. - have treated 100 plus hectares – 2m pruning height on matured conifers and trimming out fuels – have 30 piles on every hectare – most often prescription is to burn it. If partner has a chipper then that is the prescription – everything is fired back into the bush. Env. Canada Venting Index is consulted but due to heavy fogs forecasts not that reliable. Not using Custom Venting Forecast service yet, didn't know about it. ● Q: does OBSCR apply to Federal lands? A: not really but smoke migration is the issue. yet to be tested in court. ● Paul S. – 4300 piles north and south of Smithers, many close to town. Also about 300 near Buck Flats, some near Ootsa lake, some near south end of Francois Lake, and some near Dekaze lake. Much less than 2007. About 2000 of piles may not be ready for this year – too fresh. Best management practices employed. Mostly all dead pine – lots of beetle salvage at east end. Burning will likely start end of October) ● Q: where can people get a list of piles and who to contact? A: best to contact individual operators. ● Colin V – also less than 2007 about 4000– starting second week in October. North Babine Lake – 1000 piles and most is south of Ootsa. Lots of balsam; some wet stuff. ● Q: how are piles on private land handled? A: Agreements made on purchase agreements. ● Brian A. – regulatory body – looking at private land hazard assessments – more Telkwa to Houston. Will start inspections and will issue instructions to remove hazard as needed i.e. pile and burn. ● Q: have any studies been done on hazard of dead standing wood versus pile? A: yes but more focused on how it will burn during different phases done for standing wood – hazard higher where piles also involved. ● Walter T: about 5000 first week in October for starting; fuel loading and reduction strategies being tried – not sure of impacts yet. ● Dan M – successful year in 2007; lots of backlog cleaned up in Kispiox area. This year more in Topley area and lots near permanent residents. 500 piles. Will wait until there is a bit of snow. ● Mike B – BCTS – sells 25 blocks/yr; estimating about 7500 piles 	<p>ACTIONS:</p>

	<p>to be burned. Licensees obligated to burn. Mainly south of Hwy 16 for burning area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Q: How to reach licensees most effectively – noted that BCTS pays for CVF service. A: MOE and BCTS to work together. ● August – president of Nadina Woodlot Association – information sharing can be challenging. Only 13 cutting permits this year. Estimate 100 piles. Significantly less. Area being affected is shifting to Houston area. ● Jeff W– here to gather information, not burning themselves – concerned about holdovers for spring; will have some prescribed burns for spring. Sandy also a counterpart. ● Ross H.– approx. 5000 piles, 90% dry pine – backlog to deal with. October start weather dependent. All close to Burns Lake. ● Doug B– 1300 piles – down from last year – not as much harvest and good season last year so are very current. Across from Babine Lake (north) for most burning and along Hwy 16 corridor; looking at last two weeks of October. ● Q: Weather – how is fuel moisture? A: Brian – very low numbers. ● Brian A.- Hazard abatement focus. Pile burning is so different from 10 years ago – piles are cleaner and go much quicker. ● Ben W: Agric. and landclearing piles not sharing these characteristics. ● Q: Richard looking for volumes and characteristics. A: Woody debris mostly 4 inch tops and lots of rot. Ben will see if we can quantify piles and proximity to towns. Is 10 m3 per hectare an accurate benchmark? 1.5 piles per hectare has been a figure used in the past. Average pile size from Uwe – average size of 21 feet seems high. Varies by area. Lower in height as going eastward. ● will be hard to get to a reasonable estimate of emissions for this sector – updating assumptions from 2002 emissions inventory for last year's work on dispersion modelling. ● how much organic material is available in pile for diversion is the question. 	<p>Colin V. to look into biomass estimates for Houston.</p>
<p>OBSCR UPDATE</p>	<p>Ben Weinstein provided an overview of OBSCR consultations to date and options for moving forward.</p> <p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● important to note regional variations – one size doesn't fit all. ● 2 years definitely no good for phasing out open burning, not sure about 5 years ● HSSZ- High Smoke Sensitivity Zone – limiting diameter may be a solution ● how long should smoke release period be? Doug – we do burn quickly, don't have a long release period i.e. 96 hours then less than 5% of original smoke release volume; 48 hours also talked about – seems like a reasonable timeline. 	<p>Ben to check on status of Nadina Burn Plan – confirm renewal before last week of September.</p>
<p>BURNING ALTERNATIVES</p>	<p>RDBN Call for E of I for Wood Waste Utilization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Laurie outlined information that Regional District of Bulkley Nechako is looking for noting due date of September 30, 2008. Copy of document circulated. 	<p>Contact Janine Dougall at RDBN for more information at</p>

	<p>NEWPRO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● overview and questions fielded by Richard Norton, General Manager ● panelboard manufacturing plant located in Smithers ● min. of 10,000 tonnes per year short for full capacity and are shutting down 3 days/month now which affects employees etc. May equate to 2800 piles. ● are currently sourcing from Morning Glory sawmill, looking for more sources ● have access to grinder for slabs ● also talking to Wet'suwet'en Community Forest ● prefer to come behind loggers and take out what they want ● can hide 10% of anything in particle board BUT don't want to encourage bark. everything is fibre including limbs. ● application to FP Innovations to bring up grinder ● goal is not to create a cost burden for anyone but \$600/hr for grinder and then transportaiton costs to plant; opportunity is real expecially within 10 km of plant <p>Wood Residue Forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● overview of April 11-08 event and questions fielded by Barb Hall ● Examples of entrepreneurial solutions for wood waste utilization; also presentations on BC Hydro call for bioenergy call for proposals and BC Biomass Strategy ● Overall trend is an increase in global use of pellets ● no proceedings from event but agenda and speaker contacts available and will be posted at cleanairplan.ca <p>T-Mar Chipping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● overview and questions fielded by Marcia Bond ● loggers can bring debris directly to their operation – looking for newer debris including butt ends, tops – some rot okay etc; max diameter of 12 inches, min of 2 inches. ● can handle monthly volume of 6000 m3 ● have chipping operation out at Broman Lake and sell to CANFOR in Prince George ● have some waste at end of process which may be of use to somebody else ● can take minimum of 4 or 5 foot lengths, longest is 18 feet ● also applying to FP Innovations for funding 	<p>250-692-3195</p> <p>Laurie to post agenda and speaker contacts for MOE's wood waste forum at cleanairplan.ca</p> <p>Allen can provide e-mail addresses for FN contacts for wood waste sourcing.</p> <p>LG to contact RDBN and MOE (Barb) about compiling joint inventory and posting on cleanairplan.ca website for RDBN through to Terrace (note some funding still available from 16/37 CFDC but use it before expiry date – check on this)</p>
<p>NEW PROJECTS AND FIELD TRIALS</p>	<p>City of Kamloops Wildland/Urban Interface Slash Pile Burning Study 2007. Study is posted on www.cleanairplan.ca</p> <p>Ben and Laurie reviewed new funding available from FP Innovations (replacing FORINTEC) - \$600K over 3 years available for projects that assist with woody debris management.</p>	<p>Laurie to post media announcement about funding dated August 19.</p>
<p>CUSTOM VENTING FORECASTING OVERVIEW AND 2007 RESULTS</p>	<p>Uwe Gramann, Air Resources Technician provided overview.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● see Powerpoint presentation posted on cleanairplan.ca ● 4:30 pm is the target time for Uwe ● Proposal from Uwe: issuing forecasts from Sunday to Thursday with Friday and Saturday upon request 	<p>Burn operators and supervisors can contact Uwe for CVF at 250-847-</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Feedback: if weekend is looking predictably bad this is fine; can fall back on EC forecast ● Consensus – Sunday to Thursday with reminder on Thursday about weekend service options. ● Feedback on Synopsis: burn/no burn is fine; otherwise it is fine but doesn't really need to be too technical. ● General feedback: Awesome job last year. Seems like air quality is generally improving. 	7547. 2007 Burn Season Report is in draft format and will try to finalize before end of September.
AMS WORKPLAN	<p>Laurie provided a brief overview AMS structure, mandate, current Board of Directors and active committees and campaigns. Five active committees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Idling Reduction ● Woodstove Exchange ● Clean Air Plan update ● Woody Debris Management ● AGM planning (event in early June) <p>For a description of all committees including purpose and membership, see www.cleanairplan.ca. An invitation was extended to join a Committee or the AMS Board, to seek out air quality and climate change information and request education materials and website content.</p>	Anybody can contact BVL D AMS and/or One Sky for support materials and information related to the Vehicle Idling Reduction Campaign.
DISPERSION MODELLING	<p>See Powerpoint presentation by Ben posted at www.cleanairplan.ca. Q: how has beehive burner shutdown affected air quality? A: Too soon to say based on limited timespan of data but overall air quality in 2007 show improvement over previous years.</p>	Please send scenario requests and comments on dispersion modelling to Ben.
NEXT STEPS	<p>Proceedings and all presentations will be available on website by Friday Sept 12 at 4 pm.</p> <p>Divert as much as you can from burn piles – current options are NEWPRO and T-Mar Chipping</p> <p>Have a safe season, follow best practices and spread the word about available information and opportunities to get involved with Woody Debris Management Committee.</p> <p>Q: Evaluations from previous years have been used to shape agendas – how did you like this year's format? A: Like new focused format – can use again next year, enjoyed high level of interaction, maybe next year return to Burns Lake to get smaller operators again.</p>	<p>Update Burn Operators e-mail list – everyone to send contacts directly to Ben.</p> <p>Send suggestions for speakers and topics for 2009 event to Laurie or Ben.</p>
CLOSING	The 5 th annual Burn Operators Forum was closed at 3:30 pm.	