

5th Annual Burn Operators Forum

- Key Questions for this afternoon:
 1. What else can we do differently to further reduce emissions from forest debris management?
 2. How are we doing on reducing emissions from other sources?
 3. How useful was this Forum?

Housekeeping

- Announcements

- Consensus approach to decision making with emphasis this afternoon on

- accepting the concerns and goals of others as legitimate.
- focusing on interests and concerns rather than on positions and demands.
- committing to fully explore issues and search for solutions in a problem-solving atmosphere.
- reaching decisions which best serve the welfare of the community rather than the welfare of a particular organization or group.

- Role of facilitator is to direct as necessary to ensure that the goals of the forum are met, which also means that

- all voices are heard
- our scribe is capturing agreements and actions
- we stay on topic
- we finish on time

Agenda overview

Afternoon

- Alternatives to burning revisited
- Roundtable
- Related BVLD air quality initiatives
- Improvements for the coming year and outreach efforts: open discussion on all topics
- Next meeting and event evaluation
- REFRESHMENT BREAK around 3:00
- Wrap up by 4:00

Morning

- Welcome and Introductions
- Highlights from 2006 Forum
- Status of Wood Processing Industry Code of Practice
- Status of District Level Burn Management Plans
- Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation (OBSCR) overview
- 2006 Air Quality and Burning Season Report
- Roundtable

Reducing Emissions: Revisited

- Several ideas have been reviewed over the years and are included in the Clean Air Plan
- There are also ideas in Plans from other regions
- Have we fully explored each idea to understand the barriers and opportunities for these methods?
- Are we ready, willing and able to jump on a new solution when it appears?

Reduce emissions and visual hazard

- Move away from broadcast burning
- Cleaner burning – smaller piles, less dirt
- More coordination to avoid overloading airshed
- Enforcement of OBSCR
- Burn bans
- New Burn Plans adopted with emission reduction recommendations
- Annual Burn Operators Forum
- CV Forecast service
- Education on best practices
- Inventory of current and project wood residue from all generators (i.e. forestry, BC Hydro, others?)

Reduce volume of debris burned

- Biomass energy systems such as bio-mass boilers for district heating systems and combined heat and power systems (CHPs)
- Value added products such as panel board and pellets for large sawmills
- Public firewood salvaging
- Forest Stewardship Plans: set higher cutblock CWD levels
- New timber grading policies
- Inventory of current and project wood residue from all generators (i.e. forestry, BC Hydro, others?)

Clean Air Plan Review – 2006

- Reduce slash burning; focus on reducing quantity of slash to be burned by leaving logging debris on the ground
- Kalum LRMP Section 2.2.4 Biodiversity, Objective 6, Strategy 6.3: "Encourage development and use of a variety of methods to retain or restore biodiversity at the stand level. For example, long butting of trees, leaving logging debris on the ground rather than pile and burn, leaving blow down rootwads in place, identifying living trees as future snags or wildlife tree patches, leave some second growth thickets unspaced and some brush unmanaged."
- Do other LRMPs have air quality objectives and strategies?
- **Community Feedback** - Morice LRMP has air quality objective. Can emphasize reduction in future workshops. Clean Air Plan needs to address change in timber grading; Interpretation of pile and burn seems to vary – more education needed?

AMS Board Responses to 2006 suggestions

- Timber grading rules have recently changed – much (about 90-95%) of the dead and dry grade is now sawlog grade and thus a mandatory utilization grade; this may be helpful in reducing burning as less dead and dry material will be left on harvest areas.
- Another recent change is the development of the full 'take or pay' concept with respect to the stumpage system in BC – any cubic metre of utilizable timber left on the block is charged full stumpage, which encourages removal.

AMS Board responses to 2006 suggestions

- With respect to the Kalum LRMP reference to pile and burning, our interpretation is that this is a reference to burning in the bush, as a silviculture technique to increase plantable spots, and not roadside burning to reduce slash accumulations at the roadside as a result of harvest. Roadside burning is the dominant form of burning now.
- Many harvest areas have woody debris objectives, and other objectives, to maintain or enhance biodiversity. A number of local harvest operators (forest companies, small business operators, Ministry of Forests) have forest certification programs where managing woody debris on their harvest operations is a part of their certification.