

**Memorandum of Understanding
Between Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Limited
and
Sierra Club of Canada
On the formation of a Main River Advisory Group**

Corner Brook Pulp and Paper (CBPP) and Sierra Club of Canada jointly acknowledge:

- a) that CBPP, by virtue of its license agreements, retains ownership of all standing timber in the Main River watershed with the exception of those parts it has already donated for the public good and enjoyment;
- b) the ecological significance of the old-growth boreal forest in the Main River watershed;
- c) the need to identify environmentally appropriate and scientifically credible harvesting methods and practices for this particular watershed; and
- d) the need to ensure that any activities taking place in the watershed occur in such a manner as to retain all critical ecosystem components at the stand and landscape levels.

CBPP and the Sierra Club of Canada agree to jointly convene an Advisory Group, the Terms of Reference of which are attached to and part of this Memorandum of Understanding.

CBPP will:

- a) limit forestry activity in the Main River watershed in 2001 to a small number of operational level trials using method other than "clear cut" and with a total area not to exceed 200 hectares, with cut blocks laid out so as to minimize impacts on 'wilderness' values; and
- b) not construct any new roads in the Main River watershed in 2001.

The Sierra Club of Canada will:

- a) work actively to facilitate constructive dialogue between CBPP and other environmental organizations;
- b) refrain from public criticism of the logging carried out in the Main River watershed in 2001, provided that this logging is carried out within the spirit of this agreement; and
- c) refrain from carrying out any actions aimed at influencing the purchasing decisions made by customers of CBPP.

After the Advisory Group has submitted its report, CBPP and the Sierra Club of Canada will jointly convene a forum to review and discuss the recommendations of the Advisory Group.

This agreement does not replace or supercede any existing legal or regulatory rights and responsibilities, and is without prejudice to any current or future legal actions related to logging in the Main River watershed.

This Memorandum of Understanding shall be in effect from October 2001 until April 2002. CBPP and the Sierra Club of Canada will review this Memorandum of Understanding prior to its termination and will consider its renewal at that time.

On behalf of
Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Limited:

D. Kevin Sheahan

Date:

On behalf of
Sierra Club of Canada:

Elizabeth May

Date:

Main River Advisory Group

Terms of Reference

The Main River Advisory Group is jointly convened by Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Limited and the Sierra Club of Canada.

PURPOSE

The Main River Advisory Group will assess and report on what conclusions can be drawn regarding how and what extent, if at all, logging might be carried out in the Main River watershed in a manner that recognizes and supports the integrity, viability, diversity and extent of all structural components of the old-growth boreal ecosystem.

ACTIVITIES

The Advisory Group will:

- a) Assess and evaluate the information obtained as a result of modified logging trials carried out in 2000 and 2001.
- b) Advise Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Limited on further studies needed and on an appropriate ongoing monitoring regime to evaluate the impacts of modified logging trials on the old-growth ecosystem components of the Main River watershed.
- c) Offer recommendations or advice on the appropriate intensity, spatial distribution, and return interval of harvesting in the watershed.

The Advisory Group may, as appropriate, consider and offer recommendations pertaining to landscape-level implications of logging in the Main River watershed and the potential impacts of modified logging (as well as the road infrastructure to support it) on ecosystem health, landscape connectivity, forest biodiversity, aquatic habitats, wildlife and wilderness values.

Operating Principles

The Advisory Group recognizes and agrees to be guided by the following principles:

- a) **Adaptive Management** is a means of working towards the dual goals of achieving management objectives and gaining reliable knowledge at the same time. The principle of adaptive management is important in devising, implementing, monitoring and assessing new logging methods in the Main River watershed.
- b) The **precautionary principle** will guide the final conclusions and

recommendations of the Advisory Group. This principle emphasizes the need for care and caution when there are threats of serious or irreversible damage to the natural environment, and scientific uncertainty shall not be used to postpone measures to prevent environmental degradation.

Deliverables

The Advisory Group will prepare a report to be completed by March 31,2002. In formulating its conclusions and recommendations, the Advisory Group will strive to reach consensus. Where consensus is not possible, the full range of views held by Advisory Group members will be adequately and fairly reflected in the report.

The report will be a public document.

Membership

Members:

Louis Belanger, Université Laval
Peter Duinker, Dalhousie University
Thom Erdle, University of New Brunswick
Faye Murrin, Memorial University

Advisor:

John McCarthy, University of British Columbia

Co-Convenors:

George VanDusen, Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Limited
Martin von Mirbach, Sierra Club of Canada

Members serve in a voluntary capacity but will be fully reimbursed for legitimate expenses.

Other people may be invited to participate as observers in meetings of the Advisory Group to give their advice and share their expertise.

Expenses

The direct costs associated with meetings and conference calls of the Main River Advisory Group will be shared by Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Limited and Sierra Club of Canada. Costs associated with logging and monitoring will remain the responsibility of Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Limited.