



Backgrounder: New Ideas in Forest Management

The Morice & Lakes Innovative Forest Practices Agreement is a partnership between six regional forest licensees and BC Timber Sales in both the Morice and Lakes Timber Supply Areas. It is developing sustainable forest management plans using innovative approaches in public involvement, forest productivity and ecosystem-based management.



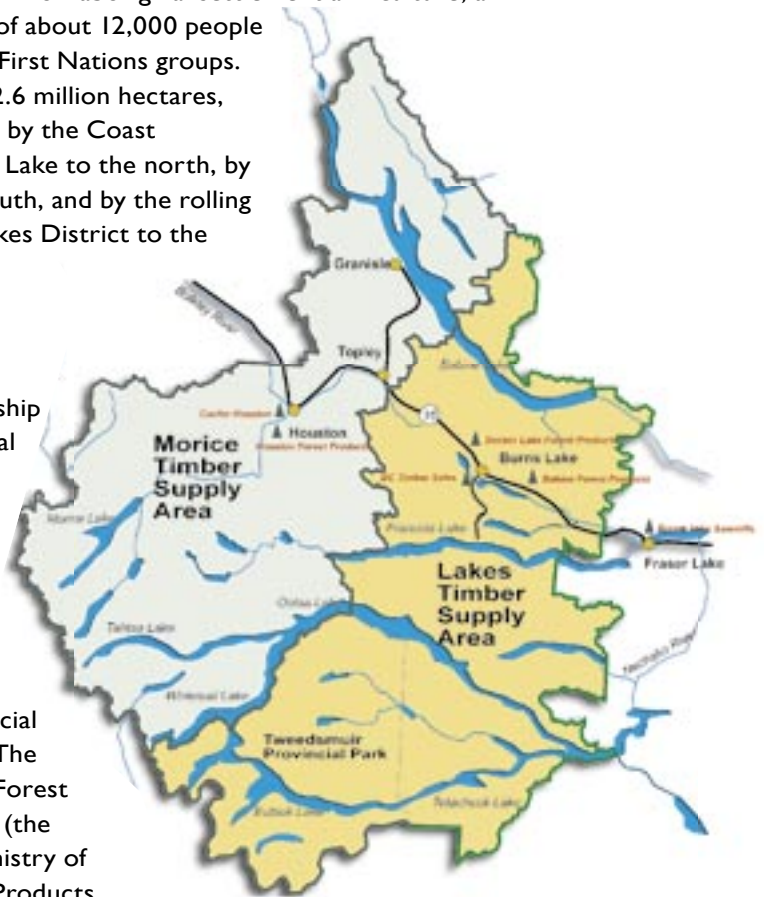
Introduction

The area encompassed by the Morice & Lakes Innovative Forest Practices Agreement (M&L IFPA) is a region of diverse landscapes, strong communities, varied recreational opportunities, productive forest lands and abundant fish and wildlife. The area has a rich history of aboriginal and non-aboriginal settlement and culture, and currently has a population of about 12,000 people in five communities and 11 First Nations groups. It encompasses an area of 2.6 million hectares, and is bounded to the west by the Coast Mountain Range, by Babine Lake to the north, by Tweedsmuir Park to the south, and by the rolling uplands and lakes of the Lakes District to the east.



Partners in Forest Management

The M&L IFPA is a partnership agreement between regional forest licensees and the provincial government that enables licensees to try out new forest management ideas in an operational setting to enhance timber supplies, community stability, and social and environmental values. The seven partners are Babine Forest Products, BC Timber Sales (the timber sales arm of the Ministry of Forests), Canadian Forest Products, Decker Lake Forest Products, Fraser Lake Sawmills, Houston Forest Products and L & M Lumber. The agreement provides the opportunity for forest companies, First Nations, communities and government ministries to work together and plan what future forests will look like.



Sustainable Forest Management and Public Involvement

The agreement is developing sustainable forest management (SFM) plans for the Morice and Lakes Timber Supply Areas (TSAs) using innovative approaches in public involvement, forest productivity and ecosystem-based management. An SFM plan shows how a specific forest area will be managed over time. It includes information on forest management objectives and practices that will lead to long-term forest sustainability, both economically and ecologically.



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To bring local residents into the process, the IFPA uses scenario planning—a people-friendly facilitated process that lets participants project scenarios into the future to see how the forest will look with an emphasis on different resource values. Each TSA has its own Scenario Planning Team made up of local residents who represent a wide variety of local natural resource interests. Since the formation of these teams in 2001, literally hundreds of planning sessions have been held, with representatives from a variety of resource interests putting forward their views on resource management. It is this commitment by representatives from government, industry, special interest groups and the community that makes this planning process so valuable. In addition to these planning sessions, consultant specialists have also been gathering additional timber supply and ecological information to be used in developing the plans.

Stability through Continuous Improvement

SFM planning in the M&L IFPA area provides long-term stability for communities in the region while enhancing both timber supply and environmental values. In addition, SFM plans are constantly monitored and evaluated using an adaptive management framework to ensure that they continue to meet social, economic and ecological needs over time. If situations change within the planning area, plans are modified or revised to meet those new conditions, leading to an environment of continuous improvement in forest management practices.

Partners

The organizations and companies noted below provide guidance and support to the Morice & Lakes IFPA.

Babine Forest Products
BC Ministry of Forests
BC Ministry of Environment
BC Timber Sales
Canfor Corporation
Decker Lake Forest Products
District of Houston
Houston Forest Products
L&M Lumber Ltd.
McGregor Model Forest Association
Natural Resources Canada
West Fraser Mills
Village of Burns Lake
Village of Granisle

