

**Morice and  
Lakes  
Timber  
Supply  
Areas**

# Sustainable Forest Management Report

(Reporting Period: April 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008)



*March 31, 2009*





Sustainable Forest Management Report

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## Lakes Timber Supply Area

British Columbia  
Canada



## Introduction

This document is the fifth annual **Sustainable Forest Management Report** for the **Morice & Lakes Innovative Forest Practices Agreement** (M&L IFPA) and addresses four years of reporting **sustainable forest management (SFM)** indicators for the Lakes Timber Supply Area (TSA).



A substantial amount of investment and effort has gone into the development of an *SFM Plan* for the TSA. With implementation of the SFM Plan now underway, a significant amount of work is required to ensure that the forest management methods and practices being used are aligned with the SFM Plan and that they are performing as expected.



The SFM Plan outlines SFM performance indicators and targets that the partner licensees of the M&L IFPA have oriented with their forest management operations. An important aspect of SFM is continual improvement, and the monitoring and reporting of measurable SFM indicators is a critical element in evaluating the overall SFM system being used and seeking opportunities for its improvement.

This summary document provides an overview of the M&L IFPA process to date and presents a synopsis of the results of indicator monitoring and reporting from April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007 to March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008.

## The Morice & Lakes Innovative Forest Practices Agreement

The M&L IFPA was awarded in 1999 and is a partnership between six regional forest licensees (Babine Forest Products, Canadian Forest Products, Decker Lake Forest Products, Fraser Lake Sawmills, Houston Forest Products, and L&M Lumber) and BC Timber Sales operating in both the Morice and the Lakes Timber Supply Areas. The overall IFPA program was designed by the Province of British Columbia to support licensees in exploring new forest management ideas within an operational setting – with the intent to enhance timber supplies, improve community stability, and better integrate social and environmental values.



The provincial **IFPA program** was designed to enable licensees to explore new forest management ideas in an operational setting – to enhance timber supplies, community stability and social and environmental values.

The program was launched to advance seven goals of government:

- *Develop socially acceptable forest management plans and practices;*
- *Conserve environmental values;*
- *Increase timber supply;*
- *Improve the knowledge base to achieve specific forest management objectives;*
- *Implement a results-based approach to management;*
- *Communicate IFPA results to influence forest management; and*
- *Promote tenure reform.*



## Sustainable Forest Management and the M&L IFPA

The principle behind sustainable forest management is to manage the forest ecosystem towards achieving a balance between social, ecological and economic values; doing so in a manner that satisfies current needs while still allowing future generations to enjoy similar benefits means planning responsibly – with insight, innovation and adaptability.

In Canada, a national framework for SFM has been developed by the *Canadian Council of Forest Ministers* (CCFM) that outlines six national criteria for SFM in Canada. In order to be applicable in the diverse local conditions and situations found across Canada, local-level values, objectives, indicators and targets are developed based on the CCFM criteria.

Developing and implementing SFM Plans for both the Morice and the Lakes TSAs is the central purpose of the M&L IFPA. These SFM Plans have been developed using enhanced approaches to public involvement, forest productivity, and natural disturbance-based management, and they are the instruments that enable the achievement of the M&L IFPA's goals.



### Canadian Council of Forest Ministers' Criteria for SFM

1. *Conservation of Biological Diversity*
2. *Maintenance and Enhancement of Forest Ecosystem Condition and Productivity*
3. *Conservation of Soil and Water Resources*
4. *Forest Ecosystem Contributions to Global Ecological Cycles*
5. *Multiple Benefits to Society*
6. *Accepting Society's Responsibility for Sustainable Development*



## M&L IFPA Public Involvement Process

The Morice & Lakes IFPA includes a significant public involvement component. In developing the SFM Plans for the two TSAs, over 100 meetings were held with local participants who represented a wide range of stakeholder interests. Well over 200 people with an interest in how local resources are managed have contributed their knowledge and expertise to the development of the SFM Plans; these dedicated volunteers from the public have helped develop the goals, objectives and indicators needed to deliver the M&L IFPA SFM Plans.

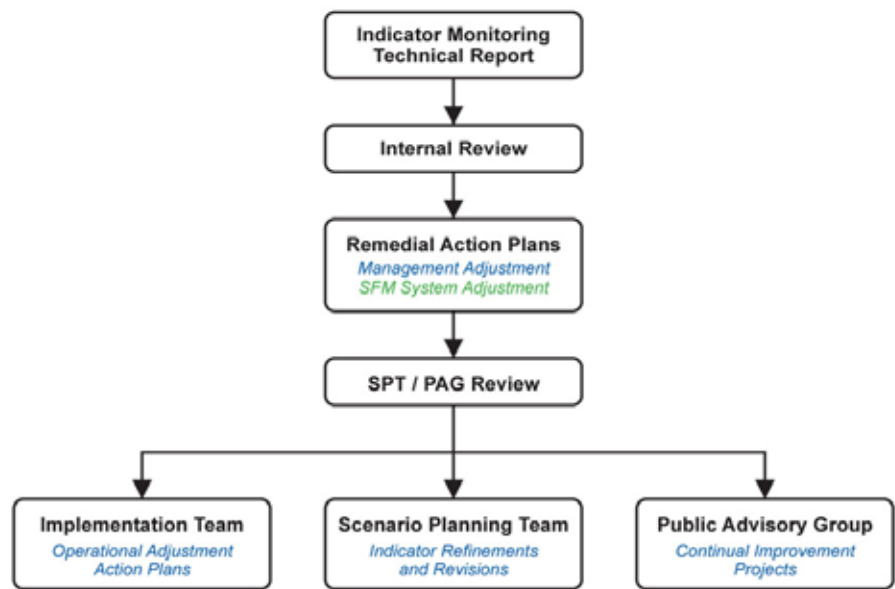


## M&L IFPA Continual Improvement Process

Continual improvement includes the incorporation of new information and knowledge as well as modifications to the SFM system as a result of what is learned from indicator monitoring. Indicator results provide a means to evaluate how well management objectives are being met, and determine whether desired values are being achieved. The continual improvement process may also reveal unforeseen issues with the SFM system being used. Addressing those issues may require adjusting the SFM system in part, or as a whole.

As part of the M&L IFPA continual improvement process (flowchart at right), a Technical Indicator Report is prepared to support each SFM Plan in terms of indicator monitoring, reporting and continual improvement.

The Technical Indicator Report compiles updated information in order to observe how management and practices are performing in relation to the indicator targets that have been established. This provides feedback to evaluate whether management and practices have been effective in achieving the indicator targets or whether adjustments are needed.



Once assembled, this information is reviewed with the Public Advisory Group(s) for their input and feedback. To ensure consistency and enable year-to-year comparisons, the licensees – and the M&L IFPA – report indicator status based on Standard Operating Procedures established for indicator reporting. In addition, comments and recommendations are provided by the licensees that assist the M&L IFPA in evaluating each indicator and making any changes that may be required. This information supports the M&L IFPA in making improvement recommendations for each indicator. Such recommendations can include operational adjustments, refinements to indicators, and continual improvement projects.

## Applications of the M&L IFPA SFM Plans

Given the significant amount of investment and stakeholder involvement in their development, the SFM Plans for the M&L IFPA have been built to suit multiple applications and requirements. As such, the SFM Plans are linked to the following programs and processes:

### *IFPA Requirements*

The primary purpose of the SFM Plans (and accompanying documents) is to provide a strategic and supporting role for the Forestry Plan required for Innovative Forest Practices Agreements under Section 59.1 of the Forest Act. ►

### *BC Forest and Range Practices Act*

Under the BC Forest and Range Practices Act, these SFM Plans can be used to support results and/or strategies contained in Forest Stewardship Plans that are submitted by forest licensees.



### *Forest Investment Account*

Under the Forest Investment Account (FIA) system, the SFM Plans provide Tweedsmuir Forest Ltd with the strategic direction to guide and support FIA investments (i.e. Land Based Investment Rationale).

### *Forest Certification Requirements*



These SFM Plans have been developed to be “certification enabling”. As such, they follow the nationally recognized Canadian Council of Forest Ministers framework for SFM. M&L IFPA licensees have been able to take the SFM Plans and utilize them – as a whole, or in part – to meet voluntary forest certification standards (e.g. CSA SFM Z809-2002). To date, three of the M&L IFPA licensees have achieved certification under voluntary and independent SFM forest certification processes.

### *BC Government Sustainable Resource Management Planning Processes*

Both of the SFM Plans have been integrated with the Land & Resource Management Plans developed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands’ Integrated Land Management Bureau (ILMB) for the Morice and Lakes planning areas. As such, there has been an effective exchange of learning and information between the M&L IFPA and the ILMB planning processes. Where applicable, the M&L IFPA indicator targets have been developed to be consistent with the Land & Resource Management Plan (LRMP) guidelines. In addition, the M&L IFPA has adopted some objectives from Sustainable Resource Management Plans (SRMPs).



### *Bark Beetle Management Strategies*



Given that the landscapes within the M&L IFPA are severely impacted by bark beetles, the SFM Plans have integrated Bark Beetle Management Strategies for the M&L IFPA area. The Plans include specific indicators and targets to address sustainable forest management in the midst of significant bark beetle infestations.

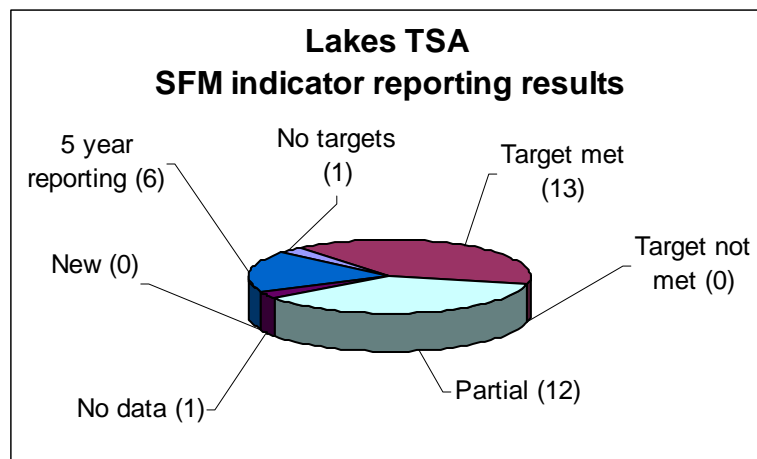
## Indicator Reporting for the M&L IFPA

This is the fourth document prepared which summarizes the annual M&L IFPA indicator reporting results. The direct application of SFM in the M&L IFPA supports ongoing efforts to make improvements in the reporting process as more information is gained and understood about SFM performance monitoring using indicators.



### Summary of Reporting Results – Lakes TSA

Figure 1. SFM Indicator Reporting Results (Lakes TSA)



The categories listed on the charts are as follows:

**“Target met”** – This refers to the number of indicators where the targets have been met (as specified in the SFM Plan).

**“Partial”** – This refers to the number of indicators where at least one licensee has not met the target (as specified in the SFM Plan). However, the majority of licensees have met their targets.

**“No Targets”** – This refers to the number of indicators where targets have not yet been established for the indicators. As such, a performance assessment cannot be completed. Further analysis is being completed to develop targets, and it is anticipated these will be in place for the next reporting period.

**“No Data”** – This refers to the number of indicators where data were not available in order to generate the modelling results (e.g. roads updates). It is anticipated these data will be in available for the next reporting period.

**“5 year reporting”** – This refers to the number of indicators that are being reported every 5 years.

**“Target not met”** – This refers to the number of indicators where the targets have not been met (as specified in the SFM Plan).

**“New”** – This refers to the number of new indicators that have been added during this reporting period. As such, monitoring results for new indicators will be reported in the next period.

**“Dropped”** – This refers to the number of new indicators that have been dropped during this reporting period. As such, monitoring results for dropped indicators will not be reported in the future.

Tables 1 – 6 shown on the subsequent pages relate to the above chart (Figure 1) and summarize the reporting results for each of the SFM indicators (in the categories described above).

Table 1. Lakes TSA Indicators (targets met)

Indicator	Indicator Number <i>M = Morice TSA</i> <i>L = Lakes TSA</i>	Targets Met?	Comments / Recommendations
Number of communications by licensee	L2	Yes	The targets have been met. No further recommendations
Number of participation opportunities by opportunity type	L4	Yes	The targets have been met. No further recommendations
Percentage of blocks meeting NAR disturbance objectives by licensee	L19	Yes	The targets have been met. No further recommendations.
Percentage of total goods and services provided by local vendors by licensee	L20	Yes	Target met. No further recommendations.
Percent of gross forest area converted to permanent access by licensee	L21	Yes	Target met. No further recommendations.
Percentage of forest management commitments completed on time resulting from consultations regarding non-timber features and interests by licensee	L24	Yes	Target met. No further recommendations.

Indicator	Indicator Number <i>M = Morice TSA</i> <i>L = Lakes TSA</i>	Targets Met?	Comments / Recommendations
Percent seral stage distribution by ecosystem and wildlife value class	L25	Yes	All targets have been met. Licensees will recommend new targets based on revised Operating Areas and review with the PAG when the 2008 monitoring report is presented.
Road density by ecosystem and wildlife value class by licensee	L38	Yes	Due to changes in the Licensee Operating Areas the targets for this indicator will be reviewed with PAG in conjunction with the 2008 report.
Road density by recreation class by licensee	L39	Yes	Due to changes in the Licensee Operating Areas the targets for this indicator will be reviewed with PAG in conjunction with the 2008 report..
Public Advisory Group established and maintained according to approved Terms of Reference	L42	Yes	Target met. No further recommendations
Percent of Harvesting by Licensee where Recommended Operational Guidelines have been applied to Retain Structural Habitat Elements	L46	Yes	Target met for Canfor, BCTS and BFP. FLSM to begin reporting on this indicator in fiscal year 2008-2009
Percentage of comments receiving response by type by licensee	L47	Yes	Target met. No further recommendations.
Ecosystem Carbon Storage by tonnes/ha. by Licensee	L49	Yes	Target met. No further recommendations

Table 2. Lakes TSA Indicators (targets partially met)

Indicator	Indicator Number <i>M = Morice TSA</i> <i>L = Lakes TSA</i>	Targets Met?	Comments / Recommendations
Number of aboriginal participation opportunities by licensee	L5	Partial	In 2007 BFP logged primarily Timber Sales and Category A (Sec 196) blocks that went through the planning (info sharing/participation) phase several years prior. So technically, BFP did not have any participation opportunities in 2007. Whenever BFP sends out referral letters there is an open ended invitation to participate/info share in the planning phases.

Indicator	Indicator Number <i>M = Morice TSA</i> <i>L = Lakes TSA</i>	Targets Met?	Comments / Recommendations
Percentage of AAC harvested by licensee	L6	<b>Partial</b>	Canfor target was not met due to applying a periodic cut to this license for accelerated harvest of Mountain Pine Beetle. The AAC was harvested in the 2002 to 2006 cut control period. The next cut control period has no allowable cut for Canfor until 2012.
Percent area less than 3m in height in stream RMAs by Sensitive Watershed by licensee	L9	<b>Partial</b>	BFP met the target in 15 of 17 watersheds. FLSM met the target in 11 of 11 watersheds. BCTS met the target in 16 of 17 watersheds. Not meeting the target could have a potentially negative impact on riparian habitat. A qualified professional will conduct an evaluation of the watershed if additional harvesting is scheduled.  Recommendation to convert to an operational indicator as analytical data resolution is not adequate for analytical indicator calculations.
Percent of area less than VEG by recreation class by licensee	L11	<b>Partial</b>	BFP met all their targets. FLSM did not meet targets in Backcountry Lakes or Recreation Areas. BCTS did not meet the target in Recreation Areas.  Recommend new targets based on new operating areas
Percent of area less than VEG by VQO class by Scenic Area by licensee	L12	<b>Partial</b>	Recreational opportunities could potentially be diminished if the visual landscape is altered too significantly  Update Operating Areas and update Scenic Area data.
Percent area retained in WTPs by LU by BEC by licensee	L14	<b>Partial</b>	The time to meet the targets will vary by LU and BEC combination and harvest rate for the LU.
Percent forest in each patch type by patch size class by BEC zone by licensee	L15	<b>Partial</b>	BFP did not meet its target in Lakes North SRMP/SBS Early and Lakes North SRMP/ESSF Mature + Old. BCTS did not meet its target in Lakes South ESSF Early and Lakes North SRMP/SBS and Lakes North SRMP/ESSF. FLSM did not meet its target in Lakes South ESSF, Lakes South SBS Early and Lakes North SRMP/SBS Early and Lakes North SRMP/ESSF Mature + Old.  No corrective action is planned at this time due to the beetle situation  Recommendation to change targets based on new operating areas and variances to reflect pine beetle situation. Report on early only as this table in the report is confusing.
Percent seral stage distribution by non-timber tenure license by forest licensee	L17	<b>Partial</b>	BCTS did not meet its target in Range Licenses. At the TSA level, all targets were met.  Recommend new targets based on new operating areas and a review of BCTS planned harvest areas in Range Units.

Indicator	Indicator Number <i>M = Morice TSA</i> <i>L = Lakes TSA</i>	Targets Met?	Comments / Recommendations
Percent seral stage distribution by LU by BEC by licensee	L26	<b>Partial</b>	BCTS met the targets in 34 of 39 categories. BFP met the targets in 28 of 33 categories. FLSM met the targets in 64 of 66 categories. There are no adverse implications for not meeting these targets.  Licensees will recommend new targets based on revised Operating Areas and review with the PAG when the 2008 monitoring report is presented.
Percent species composition of harvest volume by licensee	L28	<b>Partial</b>	BCTS did not meet its Pine target.
Benefits directed into local communities by licensee	L35	<b>Partial</b>	BFP did not meet its target. No further recommendations.
Road density index (RDI) by sensitive watershed by licensee	L45	<b>Partial</b>	BFP met the target in 13 of 14 watersheds. BCTS met the target in 13 of 13 watersheds. FLSM met the target in 12 of 13 watersheds.  Recommendation that this indicator be dropped as it is now regarded as an ineffective hydrological indicator when compared to operational indicators currently in the SFM Plan.

Table 3. Lakes TSA Indicators (no data)

Indicator	Indicator Number <i>M = Morice TSA</i> <i>L = Lakes TSA</i>	Targets Met?	Comments / Recommendations
Percentage of Identified High Risk Stream Crossings in Sensitive Watersheds with Action Plans Implemented by licensee	L7		This Indicator is expected to be effective when implemented. BCTS and BFP to implement programs in 2008.

Table 4. Lakes TSA Indicators (targets not met)

Indicator	Indicator Number <i>M = Morice TSA</i> <i>L = Lakes TSA</i>	Targets Met?	Comments / Recommendations
			There were no indicators where the Targets were not met during this reporting period.

Table 5. Lakes TSA Indicators (5-year reporting)

Indicator	Indicator Number <i>M = Morice TSA</i> <i>L = Lakes TSA</i>	Targets Met?	Comments / Recommendations
Percent area of the THLB and non-contributing forest by beetle hazard type (extreme and high) by licensee	L13	5-yr	This indicator has a 5 year reporting interval; therefore, the next reporting period is 2009
Percent species composition by BEC by licensee	L27	5-yr	This indicator has a 5 year reporting interval; therefore, the next reporting period is 2009
Total area by wildlife value class by licensee	L29	5-yr	This indicator has a 5 year reporting interval; therefore, the next reporting period is 2009
Area harvested (ha/yr) within the agriculture / settlement RMZ by licensee	L34	5-yr	This indicator was last reported in 2006. The next reporting period is 2011.
Equivalent clear cut area (ECA) by watershed by licensee	L37	5-yr	This indicator has a 5 year reporting interval; therefore, the next reporting period is 2009
Mean annual increment (m <sup>3</sup> / ha / year) by BEC by licensee	L41	5-yr	This indicator has a 5 year reporting interval; therefore, the next reporting period is 2009

Table 6. Lakes TSA Indicators (no targets)

Indicator	Indicator Number <i>M = Morice TSA</i> <i>L = Lakes TSA</i>	Targets Met?	Comments / Recommendations
Area treated by treatment type	L33	No targets	Targets have not been set for this indicator for this reporting period. This will be kept as a monitor only indicator. Recommendation that the reporting frequency be changed to 5 years.

This report provides summary information on our sustainable forest management plans and monitoring systems. Detailed indicator performance monitoring reports and recommendations for both the Morice and Lakes SFM plans can be viewed by contacting the IFPA General Manager.

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