

**Morice and
Lakes
Timber
Supply
Areas**

Sustainable Forest Management Report

(Reporting Period: April 1, 2008 – March 31, 2009)



February, 2010



Sustainable Forest Management Report

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Lakes Timber Supply Area

British Columbia
Canada



Introduction

This document is the sixth 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 1st, 2008 to March 31st, 2009.

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.

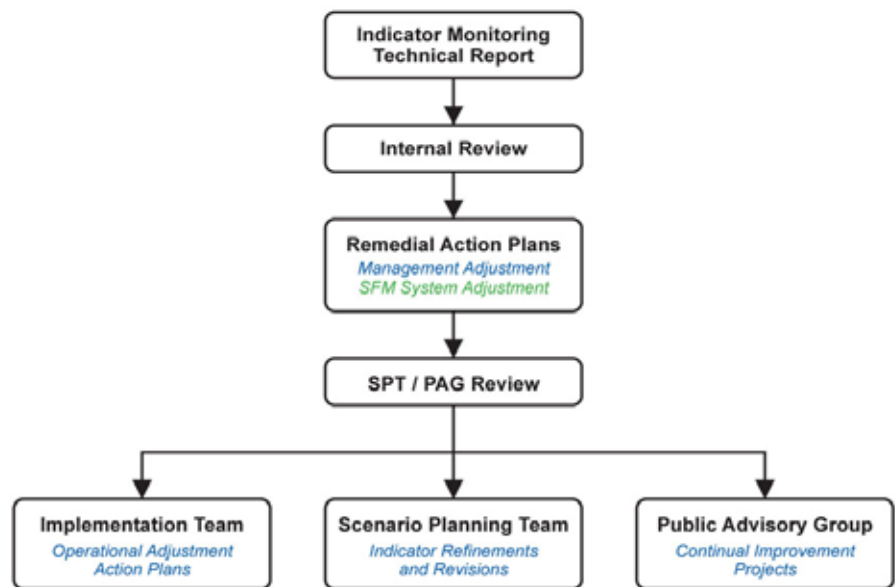


M&L IFPA Continual Improvement Process

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.

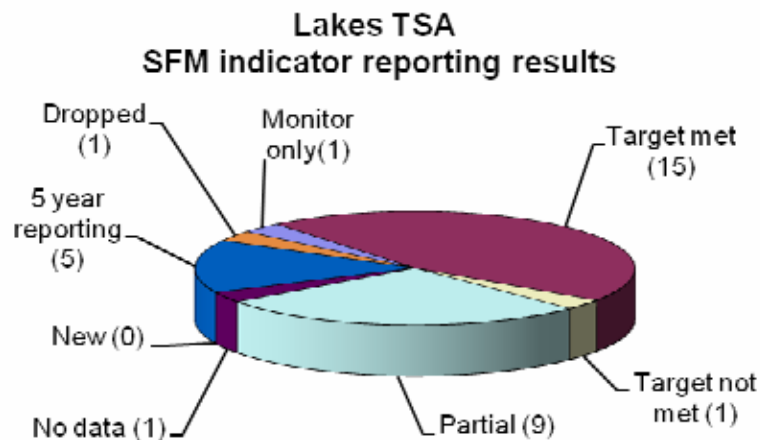
Indicator Reporting for the M&L IFPA

This is the fifth 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 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.

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

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

“Monitor Only” – This refers to the number of indicators where targets are not required. These indicators are reported for general interest only and performance assessments are not completed.

“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
Number of aboriginal participation opportunities by licensee	L5	Yes	The targets have been met. No further recommendations
Percentage of Identified High Risk Stream Crossings in Sensitive Watersheds with Action Plans Implemented by licensee	L7	Yes	The targets have been met. No further recommendations
Percent seral stage distribution by non-timber tenure license by forest licensee	L17	Yes	The targets have been met. Recommend new targets based on new operating areas.
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.

Indicator	Indicator Number <i>M = Morice TSA</i> <i>L = Lakes TSA</i>	Targets Met?	Comments / 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.
Road density by ecosystem and wildlife value class by licensee	L38	Yes	Licensees will recommend new targets based on revised Operating Areas.
Road density by recreation class by licensee	L39	Yes	Licensees will recommend new targets based on revised Operating Areas. Update with improved road data.
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 once "take or pay" issues are resolved.
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
Percentage of AAC harvested by licensee	L6	Partial	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	Partial	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. This indicator has been changed into an operational indicator that aligns with the Forest and Range Practices Act's riparian objectives. The new indicator was endorsed by the PAG in 2009 and will be reported out in the 2009-2010 reporting period.
Percent of area less than VEG by recreation class by licensee	L11	Partial	BFP did not meet the target in Recreation Sites. FLSM met all the targets. BCTS met all the targets. Recommend new targets based on new operating areas
Percent of area less than VEG by VQO class by Scenic Area by licensee	L12	Partial	BFP did not meet the target in the Babine Scenic Area (Modification VQO). FLSM met all the targets. BCTS met all the targets. Recreational opportunities could potentially be diminished if the visual landscape is altered too significantly Recommendation to the PAG to change to an operational indicator (starting 2009-2010) that aligns with the Forest and Range Practices Act.
Percent area retained in WTPs by LU by BEC by licensee	L14	Partial	BFP met all the targets. FLSM met all the targets. BCTS did not meet the target in the Babine SBSmc2. Under FRPA legislation, licensees are required to meet a specified WTP percentage over a one-year period. Therefore, licensees do not have the flexibility as before in increasing or lowering the WTP percentage within a landscape.

Indicator	Indicator Number <i>M = Morice TSA</i> <i>L = Lakes TSA</i>	Targets Met?	Comments / Recommendations
Percent forest in each patch type by patch size class by BEC zone by licensee	L15	Partial	<p>BFP did not meet its small patch targets in Lakes North SRMP/ ESSF Early, Lakes North SRMP/ ESSF Mature + Old and Lakes North SRMP/SBS Mature + Old.</p> <p>BFP did not meet its large patch targets in Lakes North SRMP/ ESSF Mature + Old and Lakes North SRMP/SBS Early.</p> <p>BCTS did not meet its small patch targets in Lakes North SRMP/ESSF Early, and Lakes North SRMP/SBS Early.</p> <p>BCTS did not meet its large patch targets in Lakes South ESSF Early, Lakes North SRMP/ESSF Early, Lakes North SRMP/ESSF Mature + Old, and Lakes North SRMP/SBS Mature + Old.</p> <p>FLSM did not meet its small patch targets in Lakes South/SBS Early, Lakes North SRMP/ESSF Early, Lakes North SRMP/ESSF Mature + Old and Lakes North SRMP/SBS Early.</p> <p>FLSM did not meet its large patch targets in Lakes South/SBS Early, Lakes North SRMP/ESSF Early, Lakes North SRMP/ESSF Mature + Old, Lakes North SRMP/SBS Early and Lakes North SRMP/SBS Mature + Old.</p> <p>No corrective action is planned at this time due to the beetle situation</p> <p>Recommendation to PAG that this indicator be dropped. Patch will be managed operationally through FRPA. Connectivity on the land base will be addressed through FRPA and through corridors reported in indicator L25.</p>
Percent seral stage distribution by ecosystem and wildlife value class	L25	Partial	<p>All targets have been met except for Deer Winter Range.</p> <p>Licensees will recommend new targets based on revised Operating Areas. Licensees will conduct a review of wildlife datasets in 2010.</p>
Percent seral stage distribution by LU by BEC by licensee	L26	Partial	<p>BCTS met the targets in 37 of 39 categories. Targets were not met in Babine West ESSF Old and Bulkley ESSF Old.</p> <p>BFP met the targets in 32 of 33 categories. Targets were not met in Babine West ESSF Old.</p> <p>FLSM met the targets in 61 of 66 categories. Targets were not met in Babine East ESSF Old, Babine West ESSF Old, Burns Lake East ESSF Old, Burns Lake West SBS Old, and Taltapin ESSF Old.</p> <p>There are no adverse implications for not meeting these targets.</p> <p>Licensees will recommend new targets based on revised Operating Areas.</p>
Percent species composition of harvest volume by licensee	L28	Partial	<p>BCTS did not meet its Pine target. BCTS harvested more pine than the target specified, in order to salvage mountain pine beetle stands.</p>

Table 3. Lakes TSA Indicators (no data)

Indicator	Indicator Number <i>M = Morice TSA</i> <i>L = Lakes TSA</i>	Targets Met?	Comments / Recommendations
Total area by wildlife value class by licensee	L29	No Data	This indicator was not reported due to logistical constraints. Actions related to improving the performance of this indicator are ongoing. Update the habitat supply modelling for selected wildlife species in the Lakes TSA. Once a habitat supply modelling FIA project is complete develop models and reporting mechanisms required to forecast and generate current status results for 2009-2010 reporting period. This indicator has a 5 year reporting interval; therefore, the next reporting period is 2015.

Table 4. Lakes TSA Indicators (target not met)

Indicator	Indicator Number <i>M = Morice TSA</i> <i>L = Lakes TSA</i>	Targets Met?	Comments / Recommendations
Benefits directed into local communities by licensee	L35	No	BFP did not meet its target. Canfor did not meet its target. No further recommendations.

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 2009-2010
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
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

Indicator	Indicator Number <i>M = Morice TSA</i> <i>L = Lakes TSA</i>	Targets Met?	Comments / Recommendations
Mean annual increment (m ³ / 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 (monitor only)

Indicator	Indicator Number <i>M = Morice TSA</i> <i>L = Lakes TSA</i>	Targets Met?	Comments / Recommendations
Area treated by treatment type	L33	Monitor only	This is a monitor only indicator with a 5-year reporting frequency. The next reporting period is 2012-2013.

Table 7. Lakes TSA Indicators (new)

Indicator	Indicator Number <i>M = Morice TSA</i> <i>L = Lakes TSA</i>	Targets Met?	Comments / Recommendations
		New	There were no new indicators incorporated into the SFM Plan in the 2008-2009 reporting period.

Table 8. Lakes TSA Indicators (dropped)

Indicator	Indicator Number <i>M = Morice TSA</i> <i>L = Lakes TSA</i>	Targets Met?	Comments / Recommendations
Road density index (RDI) by sensitive watershed by licensee	L45	Dropped	The Licensees recommended 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. The PAG endorsed this recommendation at the March 19, 2009 meeting.

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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