



IFPA update ...

News from the Morice & Lakes Innovative Forest Practices Agreement

In November 1999 BC's Minister of Forests signed an Innovative Forest Practices Agreement (IFPA) for the Morice and Lakes Timber Supply Areas in Northwestern BC. The Morice & Lakes IFPA is developing Sustainable Forest Management Plans using innovative approaches in public involvement, forest productivity and ecosystem-based management.

Plans Adapt to Enhance Local Forest Management



The Morice & Lakes Innovative Forest Practices Agreement is taking another step in sustainable forest management in the Morice Timber Supply Area. Version 3 of the IFPA's sustainable forest management (SFM) plan is set to be rolled out by the end of March. This version of the plan will include new information incorporated from the Morice Land and Resource Management Plan and beetle infestation data from the Ministry of Forests for revising timber supply forecasts.

The IFPA, which has been in place since 2001, and partners local forest companies, government agencies and various public stakeholders, will incorporate this new information as it continues with its scenario planning process.

"As part of an adaptive management framework, our SFM plans incorporate new information as it becomes available," said IFPA manager Jim Burbee. "Land-use designations coming out of the LRMP and beetle epidemic data from the Ministry of Forests come at the right time in our planning cycle, just as we are finishing up the learning scenario phase for the Morice."

SFM planning in the M&L IFPA utilizes a public advisory group comprised of representatives of various forest sectors. PAG members represent the views and values of local interests, including recreation, small business, the environment, and forest companies.

Scenario planning teams, comprised of both PAG members and other representatives from licensees, government ministries and public interest groups, use scenario planning to visualize future forest outcomes in a cooperative setting. In the Morice TSA, six learning scenarios have been completed. These learning scenarios include base case, revised base case, forest productivity, natural disturbance, recreation and agriculture. Owing to the rapidly changing beetle situation, the Lakes TSA scenario analysis is slated for completion next year. (See sidebar for learning scenario descriptions in the Morice.)

With learning scenario analysis nearly completed, the final decision scenario for the Morice is currently being developed by scenario planning team members. The decisions scenario will strike a balance between all of the learning scenarios to

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Certification, Beetle Factored into Planning

come up with an agreed upon vision for local forest management. The decision scenario in turn will be used to develop SFM plan Version 3 in the Morice, which is scheduled for completion by March 31, 2005. Participating forest companies, such as Houston Forest Products, will be using this plan to help guide their woodlands operations in the Morice. "We look forward to making use of the new SFM plan, particularly in our landscape level planning," said HFP woodlands manager Mike Dunbar.

Certification

In the Morice, the scenario planning process has provided the stepping stone for Canfor to achieve certification in its woodlands operations through the Canadian Standards Association's (CSA) Sustainable Forest Management Standard. The independent registrar KPMG made the recommendation following an audit of the company's woodlands operations in 2003. "The innovative planning process in the IFPA has allowed our company to achieve certification," said Canfor planning superintendent Carl vanderMark. "It is one of the reasons we have been

involved in the IFPA over the past several years."

In addition, BC Timber Sales, the timber sales arm of the Ministry of Forests that develops and sells publicly owned timber to contract loggers and sawmill operators, intends to have its Babine Business Area operations certified in 2005 under ISO 14001. As well, BCTS Babine will be seeking certification under CSA for its Houston Operating Area in 2005.

"We are preparing for the certification audit and approximately 60 contractors and licensees have been trained to date," said BCTS timber sales manager Debbie Janning-Stewart. "Certification is one of the processes BCTS will be using to fulfill our commitment to good forest management, environmental protection, and worker safety in local forests." According to Janning-Stewart, certifying both business areas will position BCTS favourably in the marketplace as well.

Both BCTS certification schemes will use planning information developed through the Morice & Lakes IFPA.



Mountain Pine Beetle

The mountain pine beetle situation in central BC continues to be the overriding forest management issue. The Research Branch of the Ministry of Forests has provided the IFPA with updated projection maps and data showing expected pine losses over the coming years. Based on this analysis, it is projected that some 80%—and possibly more on a regional basis—of the lodgepole pine in the province could be affected by the year 2020. Salvage of affected wood is a forest management priority. "This obviously has huge impacts for timber supply in the IFPA area and we have incorporated this data into our forecasting models," said Burbee.

Milestones in the Morice & Lakes IFPA

Scenario planning in the Morice



1999

BC Minister of Forests signs Innovative Forest Practices Agreement for the Morice & Lakes Timber Supply Areas. The agreement partners six local forest licensees and the Ministry of Forests.



2000

Public Advisory Groups and Scenario Planning Teams are formed in each TSA as a forum for local input and feedback.

Work is begun on identifying resource values in both Timber Supply Areas.

2001

Some 160 resource values are identified in the Morice, while 100 values are identified in the Lakes. These values are to be used to design learning scenarios. Work is begun to rationalize volume of data to a manageable size. IFPA website online by the end of the year.



2002

Several studies are undertaken to acquire more natural resource management information. These include a caribou habitat study, a growth and yield study, a study on mountain pine beetle detection, a mountain goat movement study and a study of coarse woody debris. Results of these studies are provided to local resource managers through a Knowledge Transfer Session, held in Granisle on June 20th, 2002.

Scenario planning teams define and refine learning scenarios for each TSA.

Version 1 of SFM plans for both TSAs are forwarded to the government on December 31, 2002. Over 100 meetings are held with local participants in developing the plan.

Learning Scenarios in the Morice



Base Case:

follows the Ministry of Forests' Timber Supply Review (TSR) flow policies and management assumptions.

Revised Base Case:

Timber Supply Review adjusted to reflect operational practice

Forest Productivity:

emphasizes timber values above others – intensive silviculture treatment and site productivity estimates modeled



Natural Disturbance:

harvest practices guided by localized ecosystem-based targets for patch size and seral stage

Recreation:

emphasis on recreation, tourism and scenic values

Agriculture:

emphasis on agriculture and range values

IFPA Q&A

What is Forest Certification?

Consumers know they are buying wood harvested according to the principles of sustainable forest management when it is stamped as "certified." It is recognition by a qualified, independent third party that forest management meets a predetermined set of standards. Certification organizations include the International Standards Organization (ISO), the Canadian Standards Association (CSA), and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

How do IFPAs, LRMPs and Certification Work Together?

Both IFPAs and certification require a SFM plan, and all require public involvement. A single SFM plan can use objectives from all three processes, letting planners develop inclusive management strategies and implementation plans. As well, common performance indicators (measures) can be used to track progress in IFPAs, LRMPs and certification.

What is Sustainable Forest Management?

According to the Canadian Standards Association (1995), sustainable forest management is "management to maintain and enhance the long-term health of forest ecosystems, while providing ecological, economic, social and cultural opportunities for the benefit of present and future generations."

2003

Version 2 of SFM plan in the Morice Timber Supply Area is the stage for certification by the Ministry of Forests for timber operations in Houston.

Groundbreaking socioeconomic study is undertaken in the IFPA area. Study looks at community sustainability. Study is funded by the IFPA and the Canadian Forestry Service.

Final of 34 project summaries encompassing the key areas of forest productivity, ecosystem management and adaptive management are published and posted to www.moricelakes-ifpa.com by the end of the year.



Simulated computer forecast of the forest landscape in the Swiss Fire area near Houston. This image represents a snapshot of the landscape 150 years from now, using the "Revised Base Case" learning scenario.

2004

A habitat suitability modeling project in the IFPA area is completed, providing resource managers with valuable wildlife habitat information for planning purposes.

Third annual Knowledge Transfer Session is held in Burns Lake on June 18th, 2004 where 2003 project work is presented to interested forest managers.

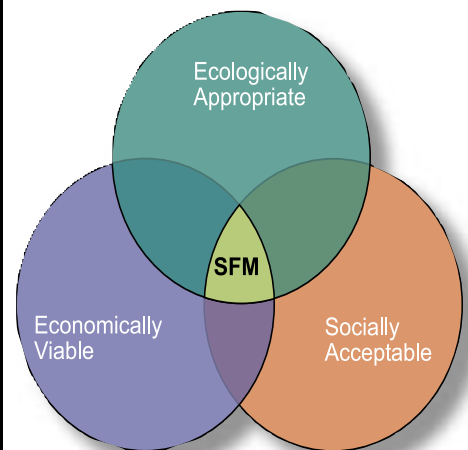
2005

Learning scenarios completed in the Morice Timber Supply Area.

Morice LRMP information and revised beetle infestation data incorporated into IFPA planning process.

Decision scenario set for completion by March 12, 2005.

SFM plan Version 3 set for completion by March 31, 2005.



Morice PAG Report

by Rob Payne, Morice Public Advisory Group Chair



The work and role of the Morice IFPA Public Advisory Group (PAG) over the past four years has been completed in conjunction with the Ministry of Forests and the two major licensees within the Morice Timber Supply Area. Through a cooperative approach and shared expertise of both technical and local knowledge, the PAG, timber companies and the BC government (Ministry of Forests), have integrated operational data with long-term goals regarding sustainable forest management. At this point in the process, all of the accumulated data and indicator measures have been developed into a weighted series of learning scenarios. Working from this information, the PAG will design a final decision scenario for the Morice SFM plan.

As a result of local and marketplace pressure, both of the major licensees in the Morice TSA are CSA certified. This certification provides their corporate customers an assurance that Morice timber comes from forests managed using sustainable principles.

Recently, due to the commitments for inclusion and transparency within the PAG mandate, new members have increased our group to 15 members. We continue to work with industry and government here in the Morice to ensure that all communities of interest and local stakeholders directly affected by forest management practices have a say in how our forests are developed and managed through time.

Morice SPT Members

Jim Burbee	Chair
Dwight Crouse	Tesera Systems Inc.
Leigh-Ann Fenwick	Ministry of Forests
Glenda Ferris*	Local Environmental Activist
Shirley Hamblin*	Bulkley Valley Cattlemen
Jim McCormack	Canadian Forest Products
Caroll Morey*	Tourism and Recreation
Rob Payne*	Industrial, Wood and Allied Workers of Canada
Ingrid Russell	BC Timber Sales
Sharon Smith*	District of Houston
Melissa Todd	Houston Forest Products
Jaret van der Giessen	Houston Forest Products
Carl Vandermark	Canadian Forest Products
Dwight Scott Wolfe	Tesera Systems Inc.

Lakes SPT Members

Jim Burbee	Chair
Dwight Crouse	Tesera Systems Inc.
Richard Vossen	Babine Forest Products
Miles Fuller*	LRMP Co-Chair, Lakes District Woodlot Association
Stuart Sinclair	L&M Lumber Ltd.
Jim McCormack	Canadian Forest Products
Tom Olafson	Fraser Lake Sawmills
Leigh-Ann Fenwick	Ministry of Forests
Russ Skillen*	Lakes District Trappers Association
Ingrid Russell	BC Timber Sales
Judy Stratton*	Northern Ecology Watch
Carl Vandermark	Canadian Forest Products
Dwight Scott Wolfe	Tesera Systems Inc.

*Also a member of the broader
IFPA Public Advisory Group



Information Pathways: Print and Web

Since 2001, the Morice & Lakes IFPA has been publishing newsletters, project reports, project summaries, and planning documents. These documents are all available on the M&L IFPA website. In addition, many project summaries have also been printed and are available in hard copy.

The M&L IFPA website includes detailed background information on the agreement and its partners. You can also find comments from IFPA participants, presentations from past information sessions, news items, FAQs, and links to other sites, including the ARC/IMS site developed to showcase natural resource features in the two timber supply areas.

Visit www.moricelakes-ifpa.com to find out more about this important agreement. To order hard copies of project summaries, contact Ritchie Morrison, M&L IFPA communications coordinator, at 250-477-5381.

www.moricelakes-ifpa.com



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