



# 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.

# Plan Updated in the Morice Timber Supply Area

## Version 3 of Sustainable Forest Management Plan Completed

After several months of onerous analysis work and with critical contributions from the public, Version 3 of the Morice & Lakes IFPA's Sustainable Forest Management Plan (SFM) Plan in the Morice has been completed.



SFM

According to IFPA manager **Jim Burbee**, the plan represents a new and effective tool for forest resource management in the Morice. "It's a challenge to manage for multiple objectives simultaneously within a given forest planning area—this SFM plan helps us manage that complexity and bring it down to ground level."

The Morice TSA contributes resources and wealth to both the provincial and local economies. About half of regional employment is based on forestry activities. But the Morice is also an important landscape for non-timber resources like fish and wildlife, recreation, and agriculture. Add the mountain pine beetle epidemic and you've got a complex forest management setting. The challenge is to develop a plan that balances economic, environmental and social interests. Version 3 is a refinement of earlier plans, based on public reviews of alternative

management scenarios, as well as technical and management reviews by IFPA partners. The new plan also incorporates knowledge gained from the Morice Land and Resource Management Plan and new information generated from IFPA continual improvement projects.

"With our planning process in the Morice, we have identified key resource values and how they should be measured," said Burbee. "Now that we have implemented the monitoring and continual improvement processes, we have a working tool to link forestry operations to strategic landscape goals. It's not perfect, but it's working, and it will continue to improve over time."

Since the start of the M&L IFPA in early 2000, well over 200 people have contributed local knowledge and expertise to the identification of resource values, man-

agement strategies, and indicators. Over 100 meetings have been held within the M&L IFPA planning area to solicit technical and community input. Many more scenario planning sessions were held in which options for resource management were discussed and analyzed, leading to a "decision scenario", which forms the basis of Version 3.

"The decision scenario minimizes beetle losses while managing for all of the other social, economic and ecological values in the TSA," said Canfor planning superintendent **Carl Vandermark**. "And we expect to be able to achieve this without causing midterm harvest levels to fall below the projected long term harvest level."

The decision scenario uses knowledge and best management practices provided by learning scenarios developed earlier in

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## Version 3 Completed

the planning process. In addition to input from the learning scenarios, information from other planning processes like the Morice LRMP was incorporated into the decision scenario. “We incorporated key management direction identified in the Morice LRMP,” said Vandermark. At the same time, the LRMP was able to make use of some IFPA planning work, like the identification of key recreation features.

A vital part of the planning process in the Morice was the use of a public advisory group (PAG) and scenario planning team (SPT). Through this innovative public involvement process, local communities and interest groups were part of the planning process from early on, instead of reviewing plans after the fact. There were several new members added to the Morice’s public advisory group (PAG) over the last several months, and their contribution, along with the members who have been with the process over the past four years, was critical, according to Burbee.

“PAG members have persevered through evolving planning processes and technical challenges to get us to this stage in our SFM planning process,” said Burbee. PAG members represent a number of interests, including the local community, forest companies, mining, fish and wildlife, the environment, and tourism.

PAG member **Les Kearns**, representing fishing guides, joined the advisory group in January 2005 and at first found the sheer amount of planning information a bit daunting. “It was a steep learning curve at first, and I’m still learning more about the process as we move forward, but my background in education admin-



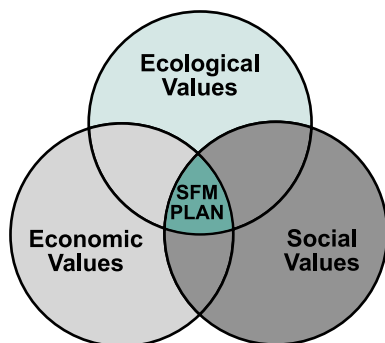
SFM Plan minimizes losses due to mountain pine beetle epidemic

istration has helped with some of the planning concepts, such as indicators and accountability,” he said. Kearns, a recently retired school principal and long-time resident of Houston, feels good about the scenario planning process. “Only time will tell but I feel confident that we are doing what we can to maintain the values that we all feel are important on the landbase in the Morice, including fisheries and the other non-timber resources.”

During the analysis of learning scenarios, it was possible for scenario planning team members to see how certain values, such as fisheries and timber harvesting, would interact, and decide if these values could be managed together. From here a decision scenario was formulated and analysis undertaken, projecting scenarios into the future.

Version 1 of the Morice TSA SFM Plan was completed in October 2002 and Version 2 was finalized in 2004. Both of these earlier versions were milestones in themselves, and represented considerable efforts by public participants, the supporting analysis group Tesera Consulting Inc., and employees of both participating companies and provincial government ministries.

“This truly was a team effort, and I think the substance of Version 3 of the Morice SFM plan reflects this,” said Burbee.



## BC Timber Sales to Use IFPA Plan for Certification

BC Timber Sales, one of seven partners in the Morice & Lakes IFPA, is looking to achieve third-party certification on lands it manages in the Morice Timber Supply Area. Through participation in the M&L IFPA sustainable forest management planning process, the government agency expects to have CSA certification by November of this year.

BCTS has been involved as a partner with the IFPA since planning began in the Morice in 2000. “We have been involved in the creation of the Morice SFM plan and we can now, along with licensees, use the plan for certification purposes,” said Brian Westgate, planning officer with BCTS in Burns Lake. (In addition to CSA certification in the Morice, BCTS is also seeking ISO 14001 certification in its Lakes, Morice and Bulkley/Cassiar business units.)

With the indicators and targets developed by the Morice public advisory group, BCTS will be able to demonstrate that it is practicing sustainable forest management on lands that it manages. “Our participation in this planning process shows that we are committed to a balance between economic, social and environmental values,” said Westgate. He added that there is a very strong public component to the IFPA planning process, which is also a requirement for CSA certification.

*BC Timber Sales is the arm of the Ministry of Forests which develops, markets and sells timber on public forest lands.*

## Lakes Planning Gearing Up

Planning efforts are expected to pick up in the Lakes Timber Supply Area in the coming months as IFPA partners work on a new Lakes TSA sustainable forest management (SFM) plan, slated for completion by March 2006.

“An analysis of current forest management practices in the Lakes has been completed,” said IFPA manager Jim Burbee. “This ‘base case’ analysis will provide a baseline for comparison as we look at various forest management scenarios over the coming months.”

With the impact of the mountain pine beetle epidemic driving all forest management decisions in the region, a beetle mitigation strategy is an essential component to the planning process. “The most urgent task for local resource management is to define practical strategies to lessen the impact of the mountain pine beetle on the landscape, and test the effects of these strategies,” said Burbee. “The IFPA planning process in the Lakes TSA has been redefined to address this



A mountain pine beetle mitigation strategy is an essential part of the planning process in the Lakes

need.” The redesign of the planning process will mean a focus on two learning scenarios, pared down from an initial suite of seven. These two learning scenarios are 1) the beetle mitigation scenario and 2) the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) scenario. Scenario planning is an innovative technique in the IFPA whereby participants visualize different possible outcomes of the forest landscape by emphasizing different resource values.

Recent work on beetle mitigation and analysis has meant that the public advisory process—a key innovation of the

IFPA planning process—has been inactive in the Lakes for some time. Energizing this process will be a planning priority over the coming months.

“Public participation in the planning process—from all interested sectors—is critical and we will be striving to put together a public advisory group and scenario planning team very shortly to help define future forest management in the area,” said Burbee.

With input from the public, the planning process helps participating forest companies achieve certification. “To meet re-certification requirements through the Canadian Standards Association, we plan to have Version 2 of the Lakes TSA SFM plan prepared by March 2006,” said Babine Forest Products planning forester Richard Vossen, a member of the Lakes public advisory group.

## Carbon Accounted for in Local Forests

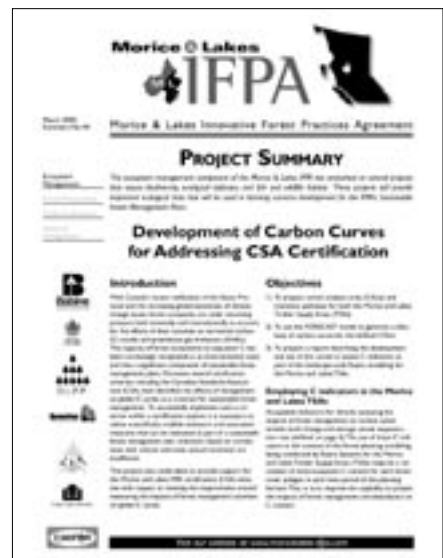
With Canada’s ratification of the Kyoto Protocol, and a global emphasis on reducing greenhouse gases, all industrial sectors in Canada are attempting to come to terms with how their businesses affect the atmosphere. In this context, the forest industry is under increasing pressure to account for the effects of their activities on carbon stocks and greenhouse gas emissions.

The Canadian Standards Association, one of the forest certification bodies in Canada, has now identified carbon accounting as a criterion for sustainable forest management. Forest companies who wish to have their forestry operations certified—so that consumers know they are buying wood that comes from forests that are harvested using principles of sustainability—must now show how their management activities affect global carbon cycles.

An important study recently funded by the M&L IFPA is helping local forest companies measure the impact of their forest management activities on global carbon cycles, and in the process, meet requirements for certification.

“We need to demonstrate how we retain the natural processes by which carbon is removed from the atmosphere and stored in forest ecosystems,” said Canfor planning superintendent **Carl Vandermark**. “Forests are seen as carbon sinks, so the quicker you can get the forest regenerated after harvest, the quicker carbon can be removed from the atmosphere and stored.”

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The Carbon Curve Development Study can be found on the M&L IFPA Website, along with other M&L IFPA projects.

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The previous approach to calculating forest carbon storage was to simply look at the mean annual increment (growth) of a forest and correlate this to carbon storage, a logical approach since trees are composed of approximately 50% carbon. To gain more detailed information, the IFPA study, undertaken by Brad Seely of FORXX Consulting, uses modeling of growth and yield data of selected forest species combined with ecosystem data to understand carbon storage in managed and natural forest stands.

The study compared natural versus managed forests and noted differences in ecosystem carbon storage and average sequestration (or absorption) rates. Natural stands have more organic matter (debris and snags) laying on the ground and therefore have more carbon. Managed stands, on the other hand, have smaller initial pools of carbon because

harvested material is removed from the site. Since managed stands begin with less carbon and have relatively fast growth rates, their average sequestration rate climbs much more quickly than for natural stands.

The study identified two indicators that partner companies can use to monitor their management activities with respect to carbon: ecosystem carbon storage, an estimate of total carbon per land unit for a specific stand age; and average sequestration rates, which estimates the rate of change in ecosystem carbon storage over time.

“Using these indicators, we can look at carbon storage over the full term of this 250 year SFM plan in the Morice,” said Vandermark.

### Morice SPT Members

- |                       |                             |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Jim Burbee            | Chair                       |
| Dwight Crouse         | Tesera Systems Inc.         |
| Leigh-Ann Fenwick     | Ministry of Forests         |
| Shirley Hamblin*      | Pleasant 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



## Join us at Open House Events

The public is invited to join us for open house events in the coming months in both Houston and Burns Lake. The events will showcase recent IFPA planning efforts and provide information on future directions in natural resource management in both the Lakes and Morice Timber Supply Areas. Watch local newspapers for locations and times. For more information, call Ritchie at 250-477-5381.

### On the Web:

To find out more about the Morice & Lakes IFPA, and to view recent versions of SFM plans, visit our website at:  
[www.moricelakes-ifpa.com](http://www.moricelakes-ifpa.com)

Here you will find background information on sustainable forest management planning, activity summaries and reports, and archives of our newsletters and news items.



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