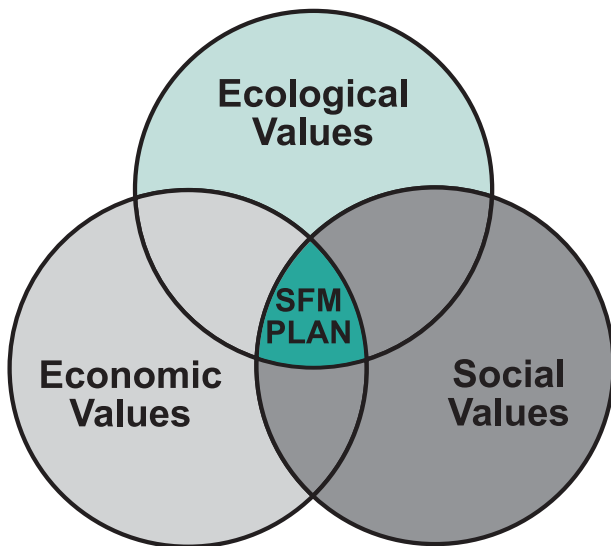


# IFPA update...

## 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 aims to develop a Sustainable Forest Management Plan using innovative approaches in public involvement, forest productivity and ecosystem-based management.

### Sustainable Forest Management Plan Version One of SFM Plan Nears Completion



Version One of the M&L IFPA sustainable forest management plans for the Morice & Lakes Timber Supply Areas (TSAs) will be ready by early 2003. These early versions—one for each TSA—will spell out ways to achieve optimum forest management based on current practices and assumptions—what's known as the "base case scenario." The base case is what the Ministry of Forests uses to predict future timber supply.

"We have had a lengthy public process to get to this point," said Morice & Lakes IFPA manager Jim Burbee. "Getting through the public advisory process to agreed sets of values, objectives and indicators is a huge accomplishment."

The enormous planning and data collection efforts required to produce the SFM plan make it one of the largest natural

resource analyses of its type ever undertaken in the province. "Conventional analyses such as Timber Supply Reviews analyze how timber extraction impacts other resources," said Burbee. "In this analysis we're looking to optimize multiple resource value indicators simultaneously."

Another key innovation of the Morice & Lakes IFPA is the use of scenario planning to enable public participants to work together with forest licensees and natural

resource management experts in defining resource values, objectives and indicators. (See page four for comments from scenario planning team members)

Now that these indicators have been defined, in the coming months scenario planning teams will be working on developing learning scenarios. These are forest management strategies grouped together into similar themes. Once all learning scenarios are completed, a final decision scenario will be produced which reflects input from all participants. This will form the basis of Version Two of the sustainable forest management plan.

For each scenario a forest estate modeling program will help assess the effect of various options for forest management and practices going into the future. Those options will range on one extreme from ecosystem-based management to increased timber harvesting on the other.

"When we run one of the resource emphasis scenarios like the wildlife emphasis scenario, we'll be able to compare the performance of all indicators for each resource value from that scenario against the base case," said Dwight Scott Wolfe, who is facilitating the development of the SFM plans. By next year, he predicts, graphs will be prepared showing how an indicator performs under various scenarios.

An enormous amount of information has been compiled on computers to aid in the modeling process—everything from updated forest inventory information to ecosystems, and wildlife habitat to road networks. "There's probably 70 to 100 different data layers that we're organizing," Wolfe said.

Wolfe expects another 10 to 15 meetings in each TSA before each team reaches a decision scenario.



- TWO** Project Results Published  
Knowledge Transfer Session
- THREE** Forest Productivity
- FOUR** People and Process

**Extension**

# IFPA Project Results Published

The Morice & Lakes IFPA recently published a series of project summaries describing work in forest productivity, ecosystem-based management and sustainable forest management planning. The publications are part of an extension effort by the agreement to share project information with forest resource managers and interested members of the public.

The IFPA's communications program, started last year, has also produced a web site, overview brochure, newsletters and a thematic display for open house events.

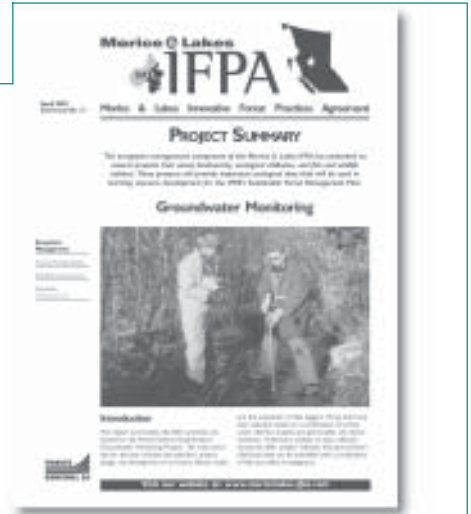
"We need to connect with people with different knowledge levels on resource management and with different needs for information," said IFPA communications coordinator Ritchie Morrison. "Our current program, through print and web, has both technical and public components."

The technical side includes project summaries, like the one shown at right,

while newsletters and brochures have been distributed to the wider public. "Our web site was designed to cater to both audiences," said Morrison. All publications being produced by the agreement are also posted to its web site in portable document format (pdf) at [www.moricelakes-ifpa.com](http://www.moricelakes-ifpa.com).

"All of this is, of course, in addition to the important communications work being done by members of the scenario planning teams and public advisory groups in each TSA, who participate in the planning process and provide information to their constituents in the community," said Morrison.

To order technical documents, back issues of the "IFPA Update", or for copies of Morice & Lakes IFPA brochure, contact Ritchie Morrison at 250-477-5381. E-mail [ritchie@tetradcom.bc.ca](mailto:ritchie@tetradcom.bc.ca).



A full list of technical project summaries are listed below. Contact the M&L IFPA for ordering information.

1. *Development of an Indicator Monitoring Protocol*  
Length: Two pages Author: The McGregor Group
2. *Problem Forest Type Rehabilitation Trial*  
Length: Four pages Author: Dave Yole
3. *Strategic Recommendations for a Growth & Yield Program*  
Length: Four pages Author: J.S. Thrower & Associates
4. *Genetic Improvement: Interactions with Silviculture & Disease*  
Length: Four pages Author: Isabella Point Forestry
5. *Public Involvement & Adaptive Management*  
Length: Four pages Author: The McGregor Group
6. *Volume Gain From Low Stump Harvesting*  
Length: Four pages Author: Timberline Forest Inventory Consultants Ltd.
7. *Road & Landing Impacts & Timber Supply*  
Length: Eight pages Author: Timberline Forest Inventory Consultants Ltd.
8. *Operational Adjustment Factors & Silviculture Surveys*  
Length: Four pages Author: The McGregor Group
9. *Successional Pathways*  
Length: Four pages Author: ESSA Technologies Ltd.
10. *Mountain Pine Beetle Green Attack Detection*  
Length: Four pages Author: Earth Imaging Inc.
11. *Caribou Habitat Use in the Morice Forest District*  
Length: Four pages Author: Ecoscape Biological
12. *Coarse Woody Debris in Harvested & Unharvested Sites*  
Length: Eight pages Author: Ruth Lloyd
13. *Groundwater Monitoring*  
Length: Four pages Author: Patrick Hudson

## Information Shared at KT Session

Some 70 natural resource managers from Prince George to Smithers attended a knowledge transfer session organized by the Morice & Lakes IFPA in Granisle on June 20<sup>th</sup>.

The purpose of the session was to relay project information to the natural resource management community in the region. Representatives from forest companies, government ministries and consulting groups—as well as interested members of the public—attended the full-day session.

"Part of the mandate of the Morice & Lakes IFPA is to extend knowledge gained from our projects to all interested parties," said IFPA manager Jim Burbee. "We were pleased to see this interest in the work we have completed so far."



*Larry McCulloch delivers a forest productivity presentation to participants at Granisle event.*

Presentations fell into one of three project areas: forest productivity, ecosystem-based management and community involvement/planning. IFPA consultants and project managers made some 14 different half-hour presentations on a variety of topics, from remote sensing of beetle attack to an update on the sustainable forest management plan currently being developed by the agreement.

**Continued on page 4**

## Forest Productivity:

# Increasing Timber Supply in Managed Forests

Several important projects in forest productivity were undertaken on behalf of the Morice & Lakes IFPA during the last fiscal year. “We want to better understand forest productivity and the factors which enhance it,” said IFPA forest productivity manager Larry McCulloch. “In areas that are designated as managed forest land, there are a variety of ways to look at improving forest productivity.” According to McCulloch, this can include intensive silviculture treatments, increasing the area of productive forest land or improving site productivity estimates. “The key is to meet timber management objectives while also maintaining ecological and social objectives.”

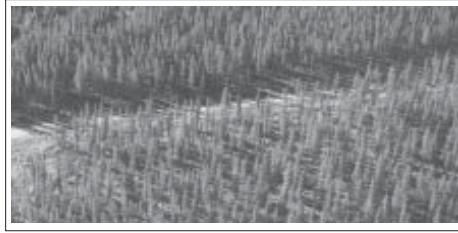
Potential projects were selected by an IFPA forest productivity subcommittee comprised of forest licensees and government representatives. Once the projects were identified, local and provincial consultants were contracted to examine these opportunities and report back with data and knowledge to IFPA partners. This knowledge will provide direction to the IFPA’s own sustainable forest management plan and useful information for the wider resource management community throughout the region and province.

Two M&L IFPA forest productivity projects are profiled below.

## Forest Genetics

Improving forest productivity through genetics is widely viewed by forest managers as a cost effective management option. Research conducted by the genetics section of the Ministry of Forest’s Research Branch shows that genetics can increase timber volume per hectare and improve both wood quality and resistance to pests. The BC Forest Service estimates that by 2007 approximately 75% of all reforestation will be with genetically improved seedlings.

The Morice & Lakes IFPA genetics project—carried over from the Babine Forest Products Enhanced Forest Management Pilot Project in 2001—has been looking at genetic improvement and its interactions



with silviculture and disease for the past two years.

Forest geneticists Sally John and Jean Brouard of Isabella Point Forestry were examining links between planting density, genetics and branch length when they noticed a high incidence of comandra blister rust in some lodgepole pine families and a low incidence in others. Comandra blister rust is a big problem in lodgepole pine stands within the Lakes Timber Supply Area. The fungal disease develops into diamond-shaped cankers that can completely girdle and kill a tree.

The geneticists saw an opportunity: “Because the parentage of the trees is known, we realized our study also offered an excellent opportunity to develop a population of lodgepole pine with a natural ability to resist rust infection,” said John. The forests ministry and M&L IFPA licensees are cooperating in further tests to enable orchard production of new seedlots with even better rust resistance. The ministry has also realized the importance of the findings by designating several provenances of lodgepole pine as “comandra resistant” and suitable for deployment in high-risk areas.

Long-term work continues on the role of crown architecture and tree spacing in influencing growth performance in lodgepole pine stands.

## Problem Forest Types

Forests that have low timber value or contain species that can’t be utilized commercially are called Problem Forest Types (PFTs). They are a problem because, although they are within an area that is managed for timber production, their apparent growth potential is low. For this reason they are removed from

the landbase when timber supply calculations are made. The Morice & Lakes Timber Supply areas have 185,351 hectares of forest classified as PFT.

Can these forests be rehabilitated? A project recently undertaken by the IFPA is looking to answer that question. Dave Yole, a consultant based in Telkwa, has set up experimental trials in the Swiss Fire area of the Morice Forest District, some 40 kilometres southwest of Houston. Wildfire consumed the high-elevation area in 1983. The burned snags resulting from the fire were subsequently harvested and some portions of the remaining area were then windrowed (piled and burned). Following the fire, some areas naturally regenerated with high levels of lodgepole pine.

“The site is an excellent candidate for this research,” said Yole. “It’s made up of very dense 18-year old lodgepole pine that came in after the fire.” He added that the soils were naturally compacted, which provided an opportunity to experiment with innovative subsoiling techniques to help improve productivity.

The trial was established in the summer/fall of 2001 and includes four treatments: control, rehabilitation (clear trees with cat), rehabilitation with subsoiling (dragging a ripping blade behind a bulldozer to shatter compact soil layers and improve soil drainage) and juvenile spacing. Subsoiled areas were planted in July of this year to provide a comparison between natural and plantation stock. As well, Yole took several post-treatment soil measurements this summer.

The trial design could be expanded to other PFT categories (for instance, older age classes) if these stands become a priority. “If we’re going to manage burned areas like the Swiss Fire for timber values, we should consider how we might improve conifer growth,” said McCulloch. “This will be an interesting project to watch over time, particularly in comparing growth rates between the natural and planted areas.”

*Next issue: Roads and Landings and Beetle Detection.*

## Granisle Session

According to IFPA communications coordinator Ritchie Morrison, who organized and facilitated the event, it was a challenge to fit all of the presentations into one day. “Squeezing this much information into one day was a challenge,” he said, “but I think many participants benefited from the range of topics covered.” Morrison added that printed project summaries were available at the session and most participants picked up several copies.

“There was a lot of material to cover and the information was definitely being put out there,” said IFPA ecofunction project manager Laurence Turney, who made

several presentations over the course of the day. He added that the information flowed both ways. “Participants questioned the results from projects and that’s an important part of a session like this.”

For those resource managers or interested members of the public who were unable to attend the event, printed project summaries are available by calling Morrison at 250-477-5381. (See page 2 for a current list of project summaries.)

All project reports are also available on-line at [www.moricelakes-ifpa.com](http://www.moricelakes-ifpa.com).

## The People and the Process

Perspectives from scenario planning team and public advisory group members



**Jim Burbee**  
Manager,  
M&L IFPA

It has been a long and arduous process to get to this point where we can begin simultaneous analysis for multiple resource values in both TSAs. Analyses of this magnitude have not been previously done in the province. There have been huge data challenges finding information to model resource management indicators for this many resource values. The public participants in both TSAs have contributed enormously to allow planners to connect their interests to attainable forecasting information.



**Rob Payne**  
Millwright, Industrial, Wood & Allied Workers of Canada  
My role as a member of the scenario planning team is to ensure that the interests of IWA members as well as other citizens of the Morice Forest District remain paramount in any decisions affecting the forest industry. Issues such as land use designation, cut controls, AAC determinations, along with a host of other concerns need to be discussed and analyzed to ensure long term community stability. One of the main outputs of the IFPA is to create a sustainable forestry management plan. This, in time, will result in a more viable industry as well as more stable communities for all citizens in the district. By using a balanced approach to the harvesting of timber in our region, all interest groups will be able to enjoy the benefits of the forest resource.



**Carol Morey**  
Lodge Owner  
Tourism & Recreation  
I’ve been working through this process since early 2000 and it’s a big commitment. It’s also gratifying because information I’ve provided has resulted in a tourism data layer which will now be used in the scenario planning process. And I like the fact we’re working with detailed on-the-ground resources—it’s more meaningful when you can picture actual trees, fishing lakes and picnic tables. I feel strongly about the tourism opportunities available here in the Morice- the area has spectacular tourism features that we can share with the world. By participating in this plan, I feel I’ve been able to put forward the best possible scenario for the tourism sector.



**Melissa Todd-MacMillan**  
Biologist,  
Houston Forest Products  
My interests, as a biologist, are focussed on biodiversity, forest ecology and fish and wildlife habitat management. As far as the IFPA planning process goes, it provides a scientific framework for forest management. It gives all of us an understanding of future forest conditions based on clean data and information rather than on assumptions. As well, all participants get a common understanding—through scenario planning and modeling—of what we want the landbase to look like.

## Morice SPT Members

<b>Mike Buirs</b>	Ministry of Forests
<b>Jim Burbee</b>	Chair
<b>Glenda Ferris*</b>	Local Environmental Activist
<b>Shirley Hamblin*</b>	Bulkley Valley Cattlemen
<b>Jim McCormack</b>	Canadian Forest Products
<b>Carol Morey*</b>	Tourism and Recreation
<b>Rob Payne*</b>	Industrial, Wood and Allied Workers of Canada
<b>Ingrid Russell</b>	Ministry of Forests
<b>Sharon Smith*</b>	District of Houston
<b>Melissa Todd</b>	Houston Forest Products
<b>Laurence Turney</b>	Ministries of Sustainable Resource Management & Water, Land and Air Protection
<b>Jaret van der Giessen</b>	Houston Forest Products
<b>Carl Vandermark</b>	Canadian Forest Products
<b>Steve Voros</b>	The McGregor Group
<b>Dwight Scott Wolfe</b>	The McGregor Group

## Lakes SPT Members

<b>Jim Burbee</b>	Chair
<b>Merima Domazet</b>	Ministry of Forests
<b>Bill Chapman</b>	Babine Forest Products
<b>Miles Fuller*</b>	Land and Resource Management Plan Co-Chair, Lakes District Woodlot Association
<b>Manuel Kindt</b>	L&M Lumber Ltd.
<b>Jim McCormack</b>	Canadian Forest Products
<b>Tom Olafson</b>	Fraser Lake Sawmills
<b>Jim Peebles*</b>	Logging Contractor
<b>Jim Richard</b>	Ministry of Forests
<b>Russ Skillen*</b>	Lakes District Trappers Association
<b>Judy Stratton*</b>	Northern Ecology Watch
<b>Laurence Turney</b>	MSRM and MWLAP
<b>Carl Vandermark</b>	Canadian Forest Products
<b>Steve Voros</b>	The McGregor Group
<b>Brian Walker</b>	Fraser Lake Sawmills
<b>Mike Watson</b>	Ministry of Forests
<b>Dwight Scott Wolfe</b>	The McGregor Group

\*Also a member of the broader IFPA Public Advisory Group

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

<b>Babine Forest Products</b>	<b>Houston Forest Products</b>
<b>BC Ministry of Forests</b>	<b>L&amp;M Lumber Ltd.</b>
<b>BC Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management</b>	<b>McGregor Model Forest Association</b>
<b>BC Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection</b>	<b>Natural Resources Canada</b>
<b>Canfor Corporation</b>	<b>West Fraser Mills</b>
<b>Decker Lake Forest Products</b>	<b>Village of Burns Lake</b>
<b>District of Houston</b>	<b>Village of Granisle</b>

For more information on the Morice & Lakes IFPA, contact:

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