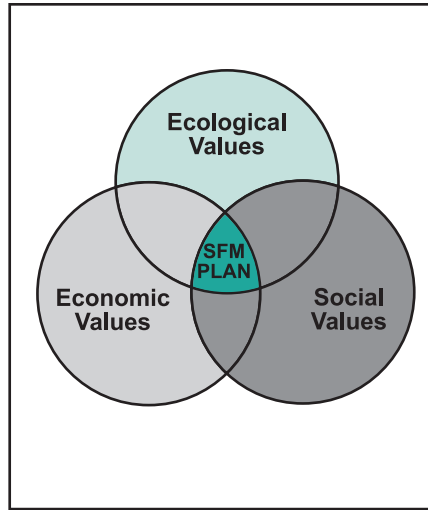


SFM Plan continued from page 1

Forest licensees involved in the Morice & Lakes IFPA include Canfor, Houston Forest Products, Babine Forest Products, Decker Lake Forest Products, L & M Lumber and West Fraser Timber. In addition, the BC Timber Sales Programs in both TSAs are partnered in the agreement. Input into the SFM plans was also provided by provincial agencies including the Ministry of Forests, the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection and the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management.

Visit www.moricelakes-ifpa.com to view SFM Plans for the Morice and Lakes Timber Supply Areas.



Morice SPT Members

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Mike Buirs | Ministry of Forests |
| Jim Burbee | Chair |
| Glenda Ferris* | Local Environmental Activist |
| Shirley Hamblin* | Bulkley Valley Cattlemen |
| Jim McCormack | Canadian Forest Products |
| Carroll Morey* | Tourism and Recreation |
| Rob Payne* | Industrial, Wood and Allied Workers of Canada |
| Ingrid Russell | Ministry of Forests |
| Sharon Smith* | District of Houston |
| Melissa Todd | Houston Forest Products |
| Laurence Turney | Ministries of SRM/MWLAP |
| Jaret van der Giessen | Houston Forest Products |
| Carl Vandermark | Canadian Forest Products |
| Steve Voros | Tesera Systems Inc. |
| Dwight Scott Wolfe | Tesera Systems Inc. |

Lakes SPT Members

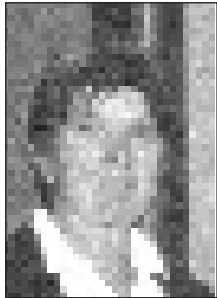
- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Jim Burbee | Chair |
| Bill Chapman | Babine Forest Products |
| Miles Fuller* | LRMP Co-Chair, Lakes District Woodlot Association |
| Manuel Kindt | L&M Lumber Ltd. |
| Jim McCormack | Canadian Forest Products |
| Tom Olafson | Fraser Lake Sawmills |
| Jim Richard | Ministry of Forests |
| Russ Skillen* | Lakes District Trappers Association |
| Judy Stratton* | Northern Ecology Watch |
| Laurence Turney | MSRM and MWLAP |
| Carl Vandermark | Canadian Forest Products |
| Steve Voros | The McGregor Group |
| Mike Watson | Ministry of Forests |
| Dwight Scott Wolfe | Tesera Systems Inc. |

*Also a member of the broader IFPA Public Advisory Group



The People and the Process

Perspectives from scenario planning team and public advisory group members



Shirley Hamblin
Bulkley Valley Cattlemen
As the local agriculture representative on both the scenario planning team and public advisory group I have found this planning process to be a very interesting and educational experience. My experience as a rancher and range agrologist has helped me bring agricultural and range issues to the table. I firmly believe that given sincere consideration of other resource users, the operations of the timber industry can have a positive role in the management of our forests & rangelands that will provide stability to our communities. This is the reason I became involved and why I stay involved. I hope our work will lead to some truly innovative forest management that will bring benefits and better understanding of this Crown land to all users. I look forward to evaluating the results of our analysis and working towards the final decision scenario.



Tom Olafson
Forestry Operations Supervisor
Fraser Lake Sawmills
Our company is committed to responsible stewardship of the environment, so participating in the development and implementation of the SFM Plan through the Morice & Lakes IFPA makes sense. The initial thrust of the IFPA agreement was to develop innovative projects aimed at improving forest productivity while at the same time following principles of sustainable forest management. This is even more important today with the ongoing beetle epidemic in the Lakes TSA. With the introduction of the Results Based Forest Practices Code and the Forest Investment Account, we see the SFM plan as a means to support their implementation.



Mike Buirs
Planning Officer
Ministry of Forests
I've been a part of this process from the beginning as a member of the Morice scenario planning team, providing input as a representative of the Ministry of Forests. In addition I've participated on both the technical advisory committee and the forest productivity sub-committee. It was a rocky start but things smoothed out over time. I'm very supportive of this process because it involves the community in innovative ways and will help better define forest management strategies in the area. It will help pave the way for long-term resource stewardship.



Laurence Turney
Manager, Ecosystem Function, M&L IFPA
As manager of the ecosystem component of the Morice & Lakes IFPA I help coordinate technical projects like habitat studies. These projects help the technical committee and the scenario planning teams in developing ecological indicators and values in the planning process. I also represent two provincial government ministries on the technical committee and the scenario planning teams. Gathering data to an operational level, as we have done here, means we have lots of information to analyze and process. In the short term we will have to pick key issues to thoroughly explore. Through the development of a range of resource management scenarios we will give people a good understanding of what can happen in our forests. This data can also be shared with other resource management practitioners to improve forest management.

Please visit www.moricelakes-ifpa.com for more comments from scenario planning team members, and for more information on SFM Plans.

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

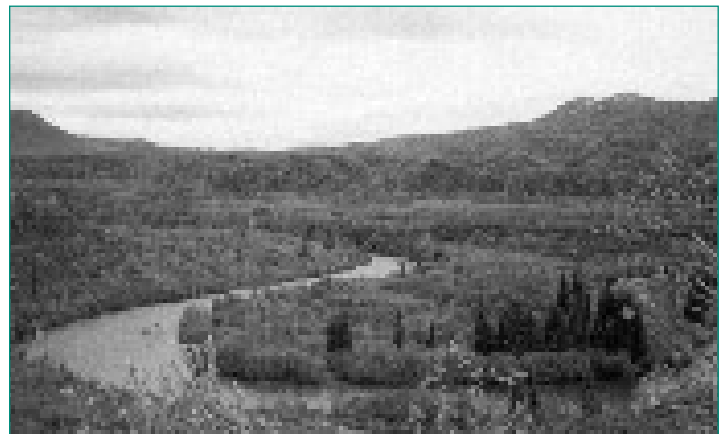
Jim Burbee, RPF, IFPA Manager
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Web site: www.moricelakes-IFPA.com

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.

Local Communities, Licensees and Government Partner on Sustainable Forest Management Plans



The Morice & Lakes Innovative Forest Practices Agreement has produced Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Plans for each of the Morice and Lakes Timber Supply Areas. IFPA participants, including representatives from local communities, forest licensees and government ministries, gave their endorsement of the documents in late December 2002.

A Forestry Plan component, a provincial government requirement in the IFPA process, was forwarded to the Ministry of Forests for their approval on December 31, 2002.

The plans are a collaborative effort between the public, forest licensees and managing government agencies to implement sustainable forest management throughout the landbase, which encompasses 2.6 million hectares.

"This is a major milestone, said M&L IFPA manager Jim Burbee. "What we have

strived for throughout this process, which began in early 2000, is to identify implementable operational, on-the-ground measures to achieve long-term sustainable forest management taking into account economic, ecological and social perspectives." To achieve this, the program has been exploring innovations in the core program areas of public involvement, forest productivity and ecosystem-based management.

In developing the plan, over 100 meetings were held with local participants representing a wide range of stakeholder interests. This public input process was established early in the planning process and will continue into the future. So far, well over 200 people have contributed local knowledge and expertise to the identification of resources and management strategies for the planning area. Public input was received through scenario planning teams and members of public advisory groups. The scenario planning process is a key innovation of the M&L IFPA. (For perspectives from scenario

planning team members on the SFM process, please see page four, People and Process.)

The plan itself is complimentary to Land and Resource Management processes because it forges a link between these higher-level plans and the more detailed/operational plans required with the new Results-Based Forest Practices Code.

This version of SFM and Forestry Plans satisfies government requirements for IFPA agreements and provides guidance for forest investments. Subsequent versions will include requirements for forest certification and the province's Forest Stewardship Plan. "The SFM Plans will adapt as new information becomes available and the situation changes," said Burbee. "Sustainable resource management is a long term and evolving activity, and this is how we see these plans."

[continued on page 4](#)



Ecosystem Management

Goat Habitat Study Uses GPS to Track Animals



Mountain goat wearing GPS collar walks with kid in the Nadina Mountain area south of Houston.

Wildlife management has taken some high-tech twists and turns in recent years. There is perhaps no better example of this than a Morice & Lakes IFPA-funded project that tracks the movement of mountain goats and assesses their habitat in the Nadina Mountain area, south of Houston.

Laurence Turney of Ardea Biological Consulting has been tracking, photographing and collaring goats in the area, in the central portion of the Morice Forest District, since 1996. The overall goal of the project is to provide guidelines for forest development activities that will improve the conservation of mountain goat habitats and populations in the area. “We need to understand the habitat needs of the animals so that we can incorporate this information into the IFPA and other planning processes,” said Turney.

Houston Forest Products is getting useful knowledge that will aid in their forest planning efforts. Melissa Todd, wildlife biologist with the company, says that the study is asking questions which can only be answered with the use of high-tech tracking hardware. How small, seemingly isolated populations of goats—living on satellite bluffs and creek canyons—are connected to one another is a key study question. Todd would also like to know how isolated goat populations are related to the larger

alpine populations existing elsewhere in the timber supply area.

“Answering these questions will allow us to plan at a strategic landscape level for connections between habitats,” said Todd. “It will shed some light on the influence of harvest pattern, road density and road network pattern at a landscape scale on movements between isolated goat habitats.”

The project uses state-of-the-art GPS (Global Positioning System) collars to gather movement information on the herd.

The collars are attached by traditional means: individual goats are trapped using a clover trap baited with salt. Once the trap door closes, researchers are alerted by a telemetry device and head to the site to attach the collar and get samples from the animal. “Gathering samples and attaching the collar usually takes about 15 minutes,” said Turney.

Once the collar is attached it collects pinpoint location information as the goat wanders throughout its range. Three goats were collared with the high-tech devices in the summer of 2001. “One collar unfortunately failed after about three weeks so the data was limited on that one, but the other two stayed put until last summer, when we

flew in to the site to retrieve them,” said Turney.

The collars can be released from the animal using remote control, retrieved by honing in on a telemetry signal, brought back to the office and plugged into a computer. Mapping software installed on the computer indicates where the animal traveled while wearing the collar.

The GPS collars offered up 3400 points of data for researchers to analyze. From this mass of information, the project team selected 140 GPS points to investigate in the goat habitat area. Turney and his crew of six spent five days last summer camped in the study area putting in field plots at the pre-selected sites. Information gathered at the plots included ecological inventory information as well as evidence of goat use, like beds, hair, or pellets.

The plots were located in varied terrain, from typical cliff/bluff habitats to dense forests. “We’re somewhat surprised by how much time mountain goats spend in forested areas,” said Turney.

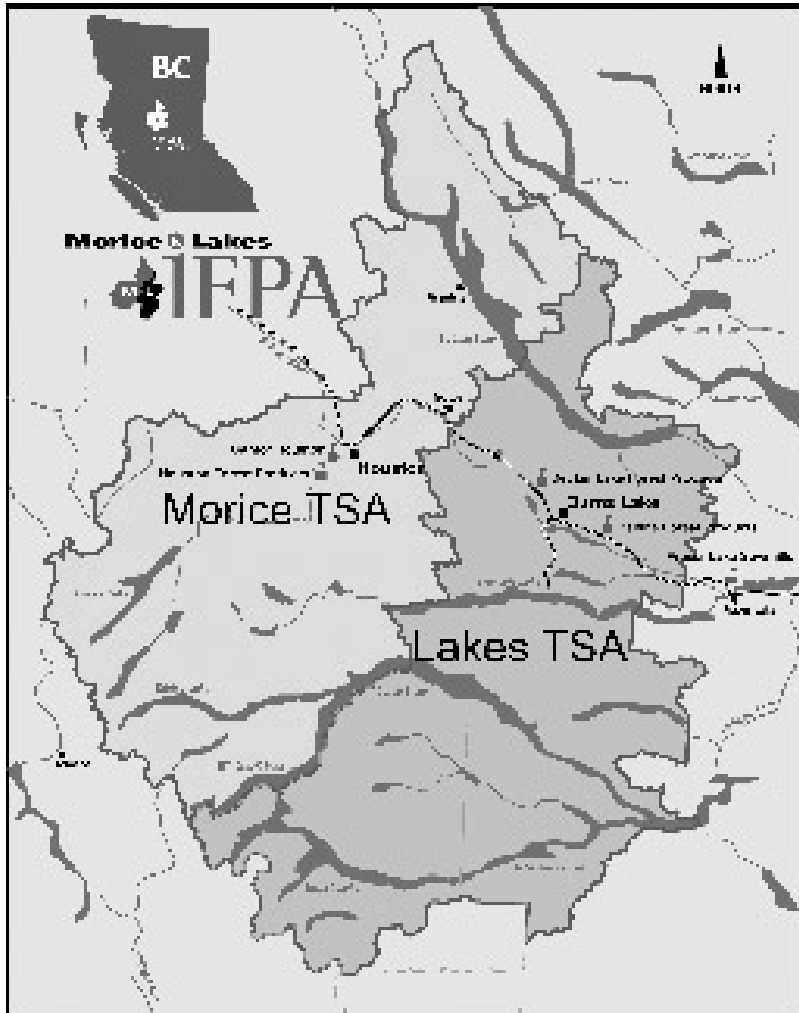
Through the winter months, Turney and his team will be analyzing the data collected so that it can be incorporated into resource management scenarios being developed by the Morice & Lakes IFPA.



Laurence Turney uploads information from a GPS collar to a laptop computer.

Sustainable Forest Management

SFM Means Planning, Coordination, Collaboration



According to the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (1992), sustainable forest management is defined as: 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.

Since the inception of the Morice & Lakes IFPA in early 2000, this has been the framework supported by all participants in the process. This planning process has been a comprehensive exercise involving local communities, forest licensees and provincial government ministries.

The planning area comprises 2.6 million hectares, 12,000 people, five communities and 11 First Nations groups. With many rivers, lakes, recreation areas, and wildlife populations, the area presents many challenges to ensure all values are considered in the planning process. The IFPA enables forest licensees to try out new forest management ideas in an operational setting to enhance timber supplies, long-term community stability, and social and environmental values.

The current version of the SFM Plans were approved by IFPA participants and a Forestry Plan was submitted to the provincial government on December 31, 2002.



Public Involvement

The scenario planning process, using scenario planning teams in each TSA, is one of the key innovations of the M&L IFPA.

Since the process began, some 100 meetings have been held with contributions from 200 individuals representing a variety of sectors. In scenario planning, participants formulate a variety of scenarios for managing the forest. Each scenario is then projected into the future so that resource trade-offs can be visualized.



Forest Productivity

IFPA projects undertaken over the past two years seek to better understand factors affecting forest productivity.

Project emphasis is on improving the productivity of the landbase, increasing the area of productive forest and developing more accurate site productivity estimates. Some 20 projects have been undertaken in the planning area, including forest health studies, silviculture studies, and mapping and remote sensing projects.



Ecosystem Management

Assessing biodiversity, ecological attributes and fish and wildlife habitat are all important activities within the ecosystem management component of the

IFPA. In the past two years some 17 projects have been undertaken, including assessment of habitat for mountain goats, caribou, fish and goshawk. Understanding natural forest patterns, like insect infestations and fires, is another key area of investigation.



Beetle management

It is not possible to carry out comprehensive forest management planning in the Morice and Lakes without taking into consideration spreading bark beetle infestations.

It is estimated that some 5.7 million hectares (twice the size of Vancouver Island) and 900 million cubic metres of timber volume are at risk in the Central Interior. The beetle epidemic, which represents a huge agent of change in the forests of the Lakes and Morice Timber Supply Areas, is factored into the M&L IFPA planning process.

New Ideas In Forest Management