

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.

Canfor Certified Through IFPA Process

The Morice & Lakes IFPA has hit another milestone in its sustainable forest management (SFM) planning process.

As a result of huge efforts in public involvement and data analysis by the IFPA, the Houston Operations of Canadian Forest Products in the Morice Timber Supply Area have been recommended for certification to the Canadian Standards Association's (CSA) Sustainable Forest Management Standard. An independent registrar made the recommendation following an audit of the company's woodlands operations in early November 2003. This means Canfor's forestry operations conducted under their Morice Forest License conform to the principles of sustainable resource management.

"We set out to create SFM plans that were certifiable for partner forest companies," said M&L IFPA manager Jim Burbee. "This was an especially challenging undertaking because CSA recently raised the standards for certification." Burbee added that the new SFM plan for the Morice TSA is one of only two SFM plans in Canada that meet the new standard.

According to Carl vanderMark, planning superintendent for Canfor, certification through the IFPA is a key accomplishment for the company.

"We have been involved with the M&L



Canfor, Houston Operations, has been recommended for certification to the CSA's Sustainable Forest Management Standard.

IFPA over the years for a number of reasons, including the fact that we could achieve certification through its innovative planning process." said vanderMark. "We feel this planning process will continue to provide the framework to meet other higher level planning needs as well."

The SFM planning process is 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.

The M&L IFPA process began in early 2000 to implement 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.

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Version Two of SFM Plan Moves Forward

Using public involvement as the key element, the M&L IFPA has acquired the data and information necessary to move forward to the next stage in the sustainable forest management planning process. Version Two of the Morice & Lakes IFPA SFM plan—which provides the basis for certification for Canfor in the Morice Timber Supply Area—is now complete.

From April 2000 to December 2003, over 200 people—representing a broad cross section of interests within the IFPA area—participated in dozens of meetings to identify and develop the resource management objectives, strategies, indicators and future forest scenarios necessary for the delivery of SFM plans. The scenario planning teams (SPT) and public advisory groups (PAG) in each TSA are the primary means through which communities participate in the process.

All of these efforts, along with input from resource management specialists, have now been incorporated into a

database that provides the foundation for sustainable resource management planning now and into the future. Ultimately, this planning process will culminate in the delivery of ten learning scenarios and two decision scenarios that will provide the backdrop for SFM in the planning area for years to come.

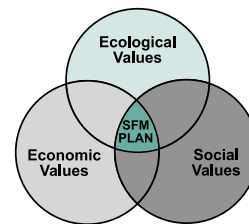
“The truly significant feature of the planning process in the Morice & Lakes IFPA is the fact that we have developed a multiple resource analysis as opposed to the traditional single resource timber supply analysis,” said IFPA manager Jim Burbee.

What this means, according to Burbee, is that some 48 resource value indicators are simultaneously forecast so that their expected interactions can be observed. The analysis looks at the expected outcome of management activities (such as harvesting) for any resource and for any point in time over the analysis timeframe of 250 years (see visualizations below). On the other hand, a simple timber

supply analysis looks only at expected timber supply over a specified time period.

Planning information generated through the scenario planning process of the IFPA also has utility beyond the IFPA itself. This information can also be used for Forest Stewardship Plans and certification by additional operators in the IFPA area. As well, the provincial government can use the planning information in developing Sustainable Resource Management Plan objectives.

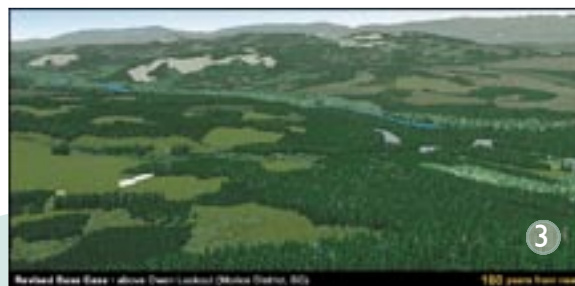
To see data layers derived through the Morice & Lakes IFPA, visit www.moricelakes-ifpa.com and link to the Arc/IMS website from the home page.



Computer Simulations Construct Future Scenarios

The four computer-generated images below are a simulated forecast of the forest landscape in the Swiss Fire area of the Morice Timber Supply Area. The view is from Owen Lookout looking northwest. These images are snapshots within a 250 year planning timeframe using the “Revised Base Case” learning scenario. This follows the Ministry of Forest’s assumptions for timber harvesting over the next 300 years with adjustments

for operational practice. As different learning scenarios—with different resource emphases—are applied to the landscape, different landscape patterns will emerge. These different learning scenarios (see page 3) are ultimately analyzed to arrive at a final decision scenario, which is the optimum compromise between all possible scenarios.



Socio-economic Study Looks at Local Communities

The social sciences and forestry planning are rarely seen as connected disciplines.

But a new socioeconomic study, funded by the Morice & Lakes IFPA and led by the Canadian Forest Service, is taking a look at community sustainability within the IFPA area.

As part of the study, several indicators were developed that will bring socioeconomic issues to the SFM planning process in the M&L IFPA. These new indicators measure the resources and assets available to local communities and whether these communities can meet their desired goals. They measure everything from ecological integrity and economic vitality to community well-being and recreation opportunities.

“This is relatively ground-breaking work,” said M&L IFPA manager Jim Burbee. “Bringing the social sciences in to the forestry planning process in the IFPA is an exciting innovation.”

The Canadian Forest Service researchers who undertook the study, Norah MacKendrick and John Parkins, gathered information on local concerns and issues

through household surveys, workshops and interviews in the communities of Houston, Burns Lake and Granisle, as well as the Southside area. To arrive at their findings they combined this local information with a review of existing community sustainability literature.

The study’s key findings for the IFPA area include:

- education attainment and school enrolment are low
- the area population sees limited choices for employment
- there is a high level of trust among community members and fairly strong commitments by residents to stay in the community
- racial discrimination was perceived to be a significant problem in Burns Lake
- on the ecological front, two areas of concern are the increase in red and blue listed vertebrate species in the last six years, and the small increase in air quality advisory days between 2001 and 2002,
- economic vitality indicators illustrate that the region has little economic diversity, an increasing unemployment

rate that exceeds the provincial rate, and a rising number of low-income families

- the region has had some new employment opportunities created through local agency funding
- civic vitality is very strong in the IFPA region, with most of the region showing strong levels of social support and volunteerism.

According to the authors, the report findings will be of interest to both forest managers and community members.

“The study provides socio-economic indicators that will help monitor sustainable forest management, and community well-being in general” said co-author MacKendrick. Parkins added that the study also identifies unique areas for investment in IFPA communities, such as the expansion of education facilities and the support of substance abuse intervention programs.

In addition, communities can use the indicators developed in the report to systematically track how the community is doing over time and measure areas of community concern.

Scenarios Help Stakeholders Visualize Future Forests

In scenario planning, different stakeholders in the process work together to explore what alternative forest landscapes are both desirable and possible in the future. It is a participatory method for thinking about the future in a cooperative setting. What would the landscape look like in 100 years if we put all of our management emphasis on recreation? On timber supply? On biodiversity? Scenario planning helps answer these questions. Scenarios are currently being developed for both the Lakes and Morice Timber Supply Areas.

Over the past two years in the Morice TSA, five learning scenarios have been agreed upon by participants. These learning scenarios can now be analyzed and modelled so that the resource trade-offs can be visualized. Stemming from these learning scenarios, a decision scenario can be derived. This is a composite scenario demonstrating the best management practices of the learning scenarios.

The five Morice TSA learning scenarios are as follows:

Base Case (completed):

follows the Ministry of Forest’s Timber Supply Review (TSR) flow policies & management assumptions.

Revised Base Case (completed):

TSR adjusted to reflect operational practice.

Forest Productivity:

emphasizes timber values above others—intensive silviculture treatments and site productivity estimates modeled.

Ecosystem-based Management:

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

Recreation:

emphasis on recreation, tourism & scenic values.

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Certification

In developing SFM plans, over 100 meetings have been held with local participants representing a wide range of stakeholder interests. 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.

Version 2 of the SFM Plan for the Morice TSA, which details the base case analysis that set the stage for Canfor's certification, is complete and will be made available on the Morice & Lakes IFPA website.



Integrated Resource Management Conference

The Morice & Lakes IFPA participated at the recent Integrated Resource Management Conference, held at the civic centre in Prince George from November 12 to 14, 2003. The conference featured top notch speakers from the natural resource management sector in BC and Alberta. Presentations were also made by visiting resource professionals from Australia.

A wide variety of perspectives were heard at the conference, including representatives from forest products companies, first nations, resource communities and the wilderness tourism sector.



Carl vanderMark makes presentation at recent IRM conference in Prince George

Carl vanderMark, a member of the Morice scenario planning team, is shown at left making a presentation on "Approaches to Integrated Resource Management." Vandermark's presentation highlighted Canfor's involvement in the IFPA and the company's recent CSA certification, made possible through the planning efforts of the IFPA.

The M&L IFPA had a display set up at the event and dozens of participants dropped by to pick up publications and chat with communications coordinator Ritchie Morrison. According to Morrison, some 300 publications were distributed at the event.

Morice SPT Members

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| Mike Buirs | Ministry of Forests |
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| 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 | 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

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| Carl Vandermark | Canadian Forest Products |
| Steve Voros | Tesera Systems Inc. |
| Mike Watson | Ministry of Forests |
| Dwight Scott Wolfe | Tesera Systems Inc. |

*Also a member of the broader IFPA Public Advisory Group



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For more information on the Morice & Lakes Innovative Forest Practices Agreement, visit our website at www.moricelakes-ifpa.com. Here you will find past issues of our newsletters, recent news releases, background information and dozens of innovative project publications and reports in portable document format (including Version 2 of the SFM plan and the socio-economic study featured on page 3).

