



# 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.

**Wildlife**



## Habitat Suitability Modeling: Describing Where Animals Live

An IFPA-funded habitat study in the Morice & Lakes area is providing key wildlife information for resource managers by ranking habitat for various wildlife species.

Habitat suitability modeling – essentially using available information to describe where animals live -- has been completed on seven wildlife species in the region. These species include northern goshawk, moose, grizzly bear, mule deer, northern caribou, marten, and fisher. Ardea Biological Consulting of Smithers has rated habitat within the IFPA area for these species using information from

existing field information (GPS collars and plot data), scientific literature, and expert opinion of local and regional scientists.

The process is a complex one and involves the use of statistical software along with outputs from a model developed by Prince George-based Tesera Systems Inc. that predicts important habitat components for periods extending over hundreds of years.

“Over time, habitat supply for the species can be predicted and used as an input into forest management,” said Ardea senior biologist and owner, Laurence Turney. He added that the models

are essentially “supply” models in the same sense as a timber supply model and can be used in the same way for long term habitat and timber management planning.

“The goal of this project is to develop detailed species-habitat suitability models for the M&L IFPA area,” said Turney. “This will give local resource managers the opportunity to assess the effects of different management scenarios on wildlife habitat over time.” The models will show the location of high quality

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## Information Session Well Attended



Don Morgan of the Ministry of Forests' Research Branch delivered presentations on the Northwest Data Sharing Network and on the Bulkley Valley Centre for Natural Resources Research and Management.

Some 50 people participated in the Third Annual Morice & Lakes IFPA Knowledge Transfer Session, held at the Tweedsmuir Rod and Gun Club in Burns Lake on June 18, 2004.

It was a chance for regional natural resource managers to find out more about the IFPA and projects completed during the 2003/2004 fiscal year.

"We saw some familiar faces as well as some new people this year," said Morice & Lakes IFPA manager Jim Burbee. "Those who attended were treated to some informative presentations from a variety of speakers."

The event is held annually to extend out innovative results to the broader natural resource community. A key objective of the IFPA is to ensure that project results are extended in this way. The session is part of a communications program that includes a website and extensive publishing program.

In addition to project reporting, the day's presentations included an update on the SFM planning process, news on Canfor's recent forest certification, and a Morice LRMP update from the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management. As well, information was presented on the Northern Data Sharing Network and The Bulkley Valley Centre for Natural Resources Research and Management.

"Many of our partners in the region took the opportunity to share information, as well as find out more about project work related to the M&L IFPA," said Burbee.

Presentations on IFPA projects included:

- Indicators of Community Stability for the M&L IFPA Region
- A Forest Productivity Tactical Plan for the Morice & Lakes TSAs
- M&L IFPA SFM Plan Update
- Morice TSA Base Case Analysis

A mini-proceedings of the event, as well as the agenda, can be found at [www.moricelakes-ifpa.com](http://www.moricelakes-ifpa.com)



Jim MacCormack (left) of Canfor, enjoys a conversation with Geoff Recknell, planning forester with the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management.



Carl Vandermark (left), planning superintendent with Canfor, in a discussion with Jim Burbee, Morice & Lakes IFPA manager.

## Data Sharing Network Means Collaboration

In the information age, data is the foundation upon which much of society's structures are built. Many are creating data, some are managing it, and marketers are mining it. In the end using and sharing data is the key to creating information and knowledge.

Barriers to data sharing are being overcome in the Morice & Lakes IFPA through the Northwest Data Sharing Network (NWDSN). The project, partially funded by the M&L IFPA, has been working to integrate data to reduce costs to data owners (licensees, government, academia, etc.) with a view to ultimately improve decision-making about land-use in the region by having a common information resource to work from.

The network minimizes redundant efforts in data gathering and provides a single source of high quality information that has been validated on the ground.

The NWDSN has a website ([www.nwdsn.org](http://www.nwdsn.org)) and FTP site for resource managers to access resource

information such as:

- Proposed harvesting activities
- Existing roads and harvest openings
- Fisheries information
- Forest health risk ratings and overviews

The network is all about collaboration, coordination and cooperation between data users and producers. Partners in the network are required to coordinate their own participation in order to gain the data efficiencies it can create. With recent trends towards results-based forest management, forest licensees, First Nations and other stakeholders now have a more active role in inventory and data collection.

"The network is neither government, nor industry focused," said Don Morgan, NWDSN executive director. "It's a group that has come together around a common vision and goal of accessing and managing high quality natural resource data."

Enhanced data sharing and access means more efficient and effective use of

data, which costs land-based resource managers an enormous amount to acquire. "As we have experienced in the IFPA, data is the major obstacle to, and cost of, planning for future landscape conditions," said Morice & Lakes IFPA manager Jim Burbee. "Resource managers cannot meet expectations of their employers or the public without having common data standards, and better data management and access to biophysical information."

In addition to the M&L IFPA and its partners, participants include the Office of the Wet'suwet'en, the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management (Skeena Region), the Ministry of Forests (Skeena-Stikine Forest District), the Babine office of BC Timber Sales, and the Bulkley Timber Supply Area Steering Committee Licensees. The network also has partnerships with the University of Northern British Columbia and the Bulkley Valley Centre of Excellence.

## 2004 M&L IFPA Publishing Program

Several new summary publications have been added to the roster of documents published by the Morice & Lakes IFPA. Ten activity summaries have been added so far in 2004. These summaries outline project work completed by consultants under contract to the IFPA or partner companies during the

2003/2004 fiscal year. They can be downloaded from the IFPA's website at [www.moricelakes-ifpa.com](http://www.moricelakes-ifpa.com), or printed versions are available by contacting Ritchie Morrison at 250-477-5381.

# in Series	Title	Publish Date	# Pages	Author(s)
35	Results of Operational Trials to Manage Coarse Woody Debris in the Northern Interior	April 2004	4	Ruth Lloyd, Consulting Ecologist
36	Indicators of Community Sustainability for the Morice & Lakes IFPA Region	April 2004	4	Norah MacKendrick and John Parkins, Canadian Forest Service
37	Non-Alpine Habitat Use and Movements of Mountain Goats in North-Central BC	April 2004	8	Laurence Turney, Ardea Biological Consulting
38	Indicator Reporting Standard Operating Procedures	April 2004	2	Kevin Pettersen and Dwight Scott Wolfe, Tesera Systems Inc
39	Habitat Modelling for the Morice & Lakes IFPA	May 2004	8	Laurence Turney and Anne-Marie Roberts, Ardea Biological Consulting
40	Development of Growth and Yield Curve Sets to Support Morice & Lakes IFPA Requirements	May 2004	4	Steve Voros, Dwight Crouse, Carol Ann Crouse, Tesera Systems Inc.
41	Base Case Resource Analysis of the Morice Timber Supply Area	May 2004	8	Dwight Scott Wolfe and Steve Voros, Tesera Systems Inc.
42	A Forest Productivity Tactical Plan for the Morice & Lakes Timber Supply Areas	May 2004	4	Larry McCulloch, LM Forest Resource Solutions
43	Economic Impact Modeling in the Morice & Lakes IFPA Region	June 2004	4	Bill White and Mike Patriquin, Canadian Forest Service

PUBLISHING

2004



**Parting Shot:** participants in the Morice & Lakes IFPA Knowledge Transfer Session take a break in the proceedings and enjoy an informal discussion.

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## Habitat Modeling

habitat for different species so that forest development plans or proposed recreation developments, for instance, can be altered to conserve this habitat.

Developing the models is a painstaking process. This is because of the many variables that make up habitat for different species. For instance, coming up with a winter habitat suitability model for caribou meant looking at lichen abundance, risk of predation from wolves, and motorized winter recreation in the Telkwa Range, an area populated by several caribou herds. A model for grizzly bear required information on the availability of plant forage species and the location of spawning salmon within the rivers and streams of the Morice and Lakes Timber Supply Areas.

The majority of the models were developed by Anne Marie Roberts, a habitat ecologist working with Turney at Ardea. “Anne-Marie did the lion’s share of the synthesis,” said Turney, adding that all of the models had input from and were reviewed by local and regional scientists.

“There is no doubt the results from the habitat suitability project will provide the M&L IFPA and its partners with improved information for management and conservation of wildlife species and important habitats over the long term,” said M&L

IFPA manager Jim Burbee.

To be truly predictive, more time and effort will be required with the models and the underlying data and assumptions, said Turney, looking to the next step in the process. “It is an ongoing process. The models will be further developed, validated, reviewed and verified over time, removing more and more uncertainty as we move ahead. As well, improvement and verification of data that the models rely on, such as ecosystem mapping, is required.”

Field verification of the model outputs will be implemented shortly, and the models may be adjusted once this information is collected.

## On the Web:

For more info on the Morice & Lakes IFPA:

[www.moricelakes-ifpa.com](http://www.moricelakes-ifpa.com)

For more info on the Northwest Data Sharing Network:

[www.nwdsn.org](http://www.nwdsn.org)

## 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
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

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	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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