



PROJECT SUMMARY

Ecosystem
Management

Forest Productivity

Public Involvement

Adaptive
Management

Developing and implementing Sustainable Forest Management Plans for both the Lakes and Morice Timber Supply Areas is the central objective of the Morice and Lakes Innovative Forest Practices Agreement. The adaptive management cycle and public involvement are both important components of this planning process.

Learning Scenario Information Package: Preparation and Delivery



Introduction

In progressing toward sustainable forest management (SFM) in the Morice & Lakes Innovative Forest Practices Agreement (M&L IFPA) planning area, hundreds of resource values were identified as requirements for sustainable resource management on both Timber Supply Areas (TSAs). There is also a requirement for spatial modelling and analysis of a variety of scenarios. In order to facilitate the preparation, review and management of the data inputs and assumptions for the spatial analysis, a database format was created for the standard Timber Supply Information Package.

Many of the management assumptions have been revised to incorporate the additional details required to complete a spatial analysis of each learning scenario in the Morice TSA and the Lakes TSA. In addition, land use decisions developed through the recently completed Morice Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) and the Expedited Timber Supply Review for the Lakes TSA have been incorporated.

The M&L IFPA Technical Committee agreed in 2003 to the creation and maintenance of a Timber Supply Information Database to document data inputs and assumptions. Tesera Systems Inc. developed the initial template for this database. The information package database is now being used to store detailed management assumptions for the four learning scenarios being

delivered for the Morice TSA and the base case learning scenario in the Lakes TSA.

Scenario Descriptions

- The Morice *recreation scenario* has been designed to ensure that recreation, tourism and scenic values are paramount over other resource values. Management assumptions for other resource values will only be applied when they are beneficial to recreation tourism or scenic values.
- In the Morice *natural disturbance scenario*, localized ecosystem-based targets for patch size and seral stage guide timber harvesting practices. This scenario attempts to mimic the spatial and temporal landscape patterns associated with natural processes such as fire, insects, disease and windthrow. This scenario will test the theory that all people-oriented and naturally-oriented resource objectives are achieved through ecosystem-based management. Natural succession will also be implemented.
- In the Morice *forest productivity scenario*, timber values are paramount over other resource values. Timber production is maximized based on intensive silviculture treatments and more accurate site productivity estimates. Many areas currently excluded from the timber harvesting land base under the Morice base case are rolled back into

timber production. Harvest flow policies remain consistent with the provincial Timber Supply Review (TSR).

- In the Morice *agriculture scenario*, agriculture and range values are paramount over other resource values. Agriculture and Range values are optimized by gradually expanding range tenure area during the harvest schedule planning horizon and providing targets intended to maintain or enhance the quality of range tenure lands. Harvest flow policies are optimized to maintain harvest flow relative to agriculture and range values that may adversely influence harvest flow. Harvest flow policies are optimized through intensive silvicultural practices and increasing the timber harvesting land base area by inclusion of area that was not utilized in the base case scenario.
- The Lakes *base case scenario* will mimic the TSR II base case, as well as the Lakes LRMP requirements. However, the IFPA base case will recognize the inherent differences between the aspatial modeling approach used in TSR II and the spatial modeling approach used under the IFPA. In addition, the IFPA base case will make use of and incorporate more current inventory information than was available under TSR II.

This document describes the process used and outlines the content revisions needed to update the Timber Supply Information Package with detailed data inputs and assumptions for the IFPA learning scenarios.

Objectives

- Refinement of modelling assumptions for the recreation, forest productivity, ecosystem-based management and agriculture scenarios in the Morice TSA.
- Incorporation of modelling assumptions related to land use decisions identified in the Morice LRMP.
- Refinement of modelling assumptions for the base case scenario in the Lakes TSA.
- Incorporation of modelling assumptions related to the Expedited Timber Supply Review for the Lakes TSA.
- Development of a Ministry of Forest-style Information Package Report based in content from the Information Package Database.

Methods

M&L IFPA Information Package Database Updates

The M&L IFPA Information Package contains a series of tables. In order to incorporate more detailed management assumptions for each learning scenario, the following tables were updated:

Assumptions and Criteria Table

This table is linked to the indicators table and lists each value/issue by TSA. This table defines management assumptions for each value issue by scenario. It also contains hyperlinks to detailed documents in Microsoft Excel.

Indicators Table

This table is cross-referenced to the Assumptions and Criteria Table. It contains indicator definitions and criteria used to measure each indicator (including hyperlinks to detailed documents).

Netdowns Table

This table has been designed to store information related to the netdown methodologies that will be followed to determine the timber harvesting land base for each learning scenario. It will contain specific descriptions for each netdown applied, attribute criteria used to tag fragment polygons as netted and assumptions used to identify netted polygons.

Appendices Table

This table contains a cross-reference and hyperlinks to detailed external reports that provide additional information required to support the learning scenario analysis.

Glossary Table

This table contains a cross reference and definitions for words and phrases found in the Information Package Database.

Summaries of the revisions to the information package are circulated to the members of the M&L IFPA Technical Committee. The Technical Committee is provided with the opportunity to comment and endorse the quality of the information.

Information Package Report

The Ministry of Forests has requested that a “Ministry of Forest-style” Information Package Report be prepared for the base case analysis in each TSA. In order to complete this task, the Information Package Database was used to assemble the information for each table required in the Information Package Reports.

Results

This Information Package Database is designed to be a “living document” with additional information being added to the database as each subsequent analysis is undertaken. The complete Information Package Database is available from the Morice and Lakes IFPA.

Discussion

The level of resource modelling and analysis detail required for SFM planning at a TSA level far exceeds that which is required for conventional timber supply analysis. The information component of this project is further complicated by additional requirements such as spatial modeling, and the analysis of a variety of scenarios and modifying management assumptions so they remain consistent with current forest practices and policy direction. In order to facilitate the preparation, review and management of the data inputs and assumptions for the spatial analysis, a database format was created for the standard Timber Supply Information Package. This approach has helped expedite delivery of the resource analysis work while at the same time ensuring that all the necessary data inputs and assumptions have been documented so that the results of each scenario is defensible. This information package can now be linked into existing or planned SFM systems and become a valuable part of the continual improvement process.

Recommendations

As a result of the effort invested in the preparation of the M&L IFPA Learning Scenario Information Package, the following recommendations should be considered when developing Information Packages in the future:

- Database formats for complex information packages should be adopted as a standard for SFM planning and reporting purposes.
- A database format information package can assist with the streamlining of review and approval processes.
- This information package format should be linked into existing or planned SFM systems and become a valuable part of the continual improvement process.

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