



Morice & Lakes Innovative Forest Practices Agreement

Scenario Planning

Technical Report

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Scenario Planning Technical Report

1.0 Purpose of Report

The following Technical Report captures the essence of the Scenario Planning Process used by the Morice & Lakes IFPA. A series of archive reports have also been prepared to provide a valuable resource for future Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) exercises. The archive reports chronicle the evolution of the discussions from concept to the point where the information was incorporated into the December 2002 SFM Plans and the Base Case Information Packages for both Timber Supply Areas (TSAs). Ongoing refinements to the resource management objectives, strategies and indicators will be captured in revisions to the IFPA Information Package. The Scenario Planning Archive Reports and the Information Package can be found at the Morice & Lakes IFPA website – www.moricelakes-ifpa.com.

2.0 Background - The Morice & Lakes IFPA

Innovative Forest Practices Agreements (IFPAs) are provincial programs that are intended to encourage new approaches to forest management. These programs were designed to enable licensees to explore new forest management ideas in an operational setting in order to enhance timber supplies, community stability and social and environmental values. IFPAs are agreements between major forest companies and the BC Minister of Forests, and are mandated under the Forest Act (Part 4) ([section 59.1](#)) through the Innovative Forest Practices Regulation. Each IFPA is voluntary, locally based, and industry-led, with its own unique focus and priorities.

The Morice and Lakes IFPA (M&L IFPA) was awarded in 1999. It is a partnership between six regional forest licensees (Babine Forest Products Company, Canadian Forest Products Ltd, Decker Lake Forest Products Ltd, Fraser Lake Sawmills, Houston Forest Products Company, and L&M Lumber Ltd) and the BC Ministry of Forests Timber Sales Program¹ in both the Morice and Lakes Timber Supply Areas.

The M&L IFPA program, in particular, is founded on the development of sustainable forest management plans for both the Morice and Lakes TSA that accommodate a wide range of resource uses and interests.

3.0 Scenario Planning

The *Scenario Planning* process, which was used to identify and capture the detailed management objectives, strategies and indicators required for SFM has been recognized as one of the true innovations realized by the Morice & Lakes IFPA. While other public involvement processes have delivered varying levels of detail regarding Land Use Planning or resource management, the M&L IFPA scenario planning process has delivered the most detail, and the highest levels of expectation for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) in this province.

During the period from April 2000 to December 2003, over 100 people participated in dozens of meetings in order to scope the requirements for SFM Planning in both the Morice TSA and the Lakes TSA. The participants represented a broad cross-section of the communities of interest in each TSA. Their collective efforts have been captured in a database structure that provided the foundation for the December 2002 SFM Plans and will culminate with the delivery of 15 learning scenarios and two decision scenarios.

¹ Formally the Small Business Forest Enterprise Program (SBFEP)

3.1 Participants

In the early stages of the M&L IFPA, it was recognized that public involvement and participation was critical in undertaking the necessary steps to design an SFM system and implement SFM on the M&L IFPA land base. In organizing the development of this system, it was necessary to establish working groups with expertise, technical experience and local knowledge to effectively develop landscape strategies that could be implemented on the M&L IFPA land base.

3.1.1 Public Committees

The two key public involvement committees are the Public Advisory Groups (PAG) and the Scenario Planning Teams (SPT) that operate at the TSA level.

The PAG is comprised of members who represent the spectrum of values and interests within the TSA community including local business, economic development, small business, contractors, ranching/agriculture, trapping, guiding, recreation, hiking, tourism, woodlots, labour, environment, and local government. The PAG provides a local forum for input and feedback into the SFM planning framework development for the M&L IFPA and the SFM Plan.

The SPT is a working group that develops the resource management objectives, strategies, indicators and future forest scenarios necessary for the delivery of the SFM Plan. Each SPT is comprised of individuals who represent the PAG, the M&L IFPA proponents, and the resource agencies. Functionally, the bulk of the "hands-on" public involvement in the SFM planning process and the development of the SFM Plan rests with the SPT members. The public members of the SPT report out to the PAG on a periodic basis and, through the PAG, to the community at large.

3.1.2 Technical Committee

The primary role of the Technical Committee is to develop and oversee the implementation and continual improvement of the SFM Plans. This committee reviews the work of the Scenario Planning Teams and proposes management strategies and commitments for approval by the Strategic Committee, incorporates them into SFM Plans and designs technical programs to support their continual improvement. Furthermore, this Committee determines management targets and monitors results. Each license and the timber sales program is represented on the Technical Committee by staff at the divisional forester or operations superintendent level. Technical representatives from the MOF, MSRM and MWLAP also sit on the Technical Committee. Also, Technical Advisory Committees for Forest Productivity and Ecosystem Function and an operations-oriented Implementation Team act as subcommittees to the Technical Committee to provide further domain expertise in focused subject areas.

3.1.3 Resource Specialists

In many instances, resource specialists are required to provide professional input, guidance and technical expertise to the technical committee/subcommittees and the public committees. The input of these specialists is critical in developing landscape strategies that are technically sound and achievable. Resource specialists are consistently required to provide input at key meetings to develop landscape strategies, research professional/technical information between meetings, provide input into key documents that are supported by landscape strategies (i.e. SFM Plan, M&L IFPA Forestry Plan), and provide input and support for programs to support the development and

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implementation of landscape strategies (e.g. performance monitoring and reporting program, continual improvement program)

3.2 Steps of the Scenario Planning Process

Scenario planning is part of an integrated system of working towards SFM. The SFM system employed for use in the M&L IFPA is adapted from the *“McGregor Approach to SFM”*. Within this system, scenario planning is utilized to organize a wide range of local values/uses into various alternative futures. Through this process, many activities (public involvement, data gathering and processing, GIS activities, resource analysis (via spatial modelling, indicator and monitoring development) support the needs of scenario planning, and similarly, scenario planning produces subsequent information necessary to progress with the detailed analysis of future alternatives (i.e. “learning scenarios”), and the operational implementation of management strategies guided by the development of the “decision scenario”. *Figure 1* following outlines the various steps used for scenario planning in the M&L IFPA; furthermore, these steps are described below.

Identifying Values/Issues

In the M&L IFPA, scenario planning is a highly participatory process, involving substantial input from local public representatives, and augmented by input from industry, government agencies and resource specialists (as described in *Section 3.1*). One of the critical early aspects of scenario planning is inviting local participants to become involved in the Public Advisory Groups, and from there, as representatives on the Scenario Planning Teams. The ongoing public participation maintained throughout the implementation, evaluation and continual improvement of the SFM system is a cornerstone of the M&L IFPA.

Given that the representatives participating in the scenario planning process represent a wide range of interests, one of the first steps was to identify “values/issues” which reflect the current situation of the TSAs from the perspective of the local participants involved in the scenario planning process.

Following this input, a framework was developed to categorize these interests. As a result, the multi-disciplinary Scenario Planning Teams developed the following “resource” categories to represent the range of values and interests.

- Agriculture
- Community Stability
- Landscape and Stand Biodiversity
- Minerals and Energy
- Recreation
- Timber
- Watershed and Riparian
- Wildlife

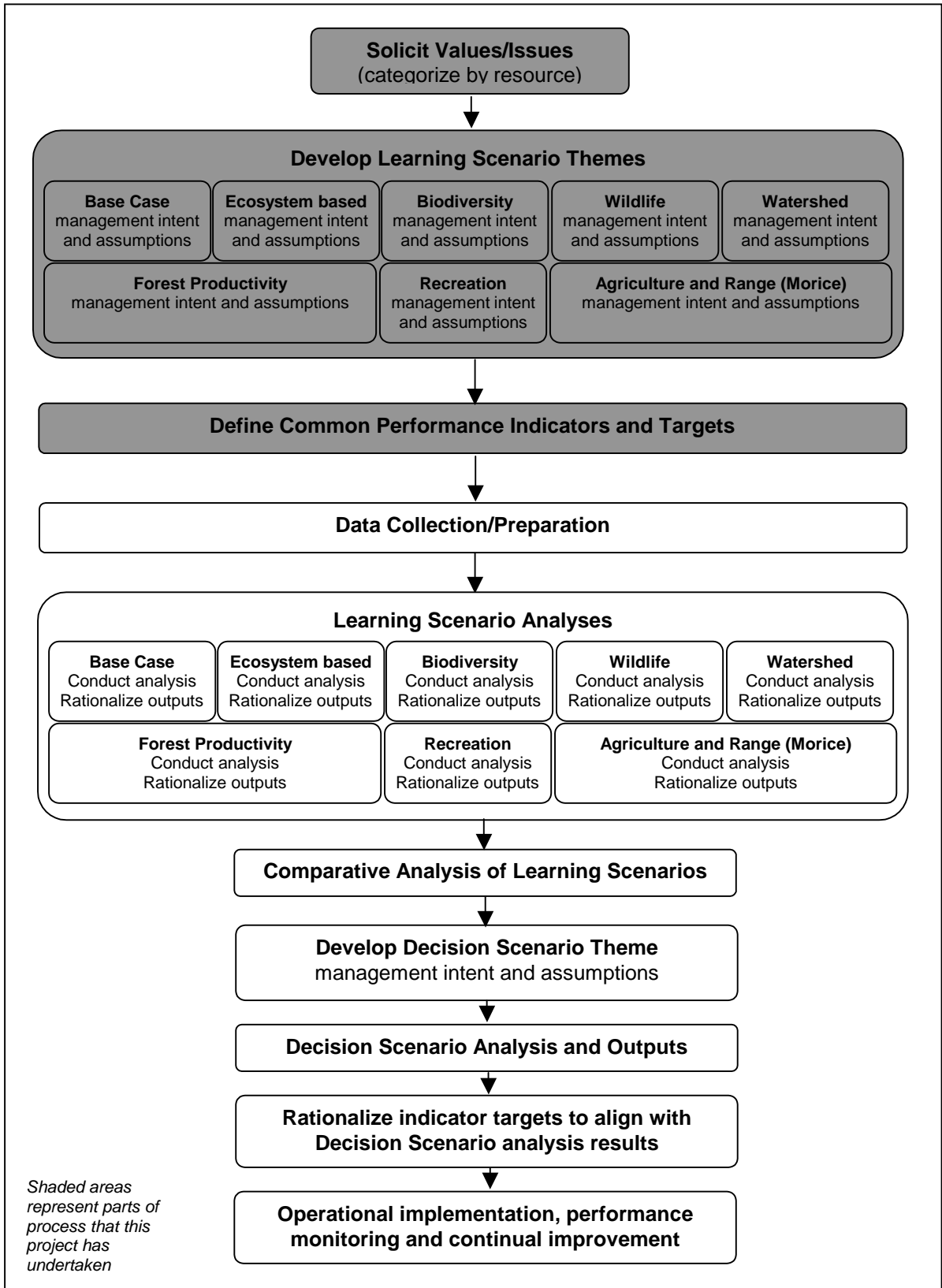


Figure 1: Steps in the M&L IFPA Scenario Planning Process

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Developing Learning Scenario Themes (management intents, assumptions, indicators and targets)

Through this process several themes emerged which reflected a broad spectrum of “possible futures” to guide sustainable forest management. These themes formed the foundation for developing learning scenarios. As a result, the M&L IFPA Scenario Planning Teams developed eight different learning scenarios:

- Base Case: Follows the BC Ministry of Forest’s Timber Supply Review harvest flow policies and management assumptions.
- Forest Productivity: Emphasizes timber values over other resource values. Intensive silviculture treatments and more accurate site productivity estimates will be modelled.
- Ecosystem-based Management: Timber harvesting practices are guided by localized ecosystem-based targets for patch size and seral stage.
- Biodiversity: Emphasis on landscape-level and stand-level biodiversity values.
- Watershed: Emphasis on watershed and riparian values.
- Wildlife: Emphasis on species-specific management objectives rather than landscape-level objectives.
- Recreation: Emphasis on recreation, tourism and scenic values.
- Agriculture and Range: Emphasis on agriculture and range values (Morice TSA only).

For each learning scenario, the SPT developed statements of management intent for each value/issue within the applicable resource categories. These statements provide a means to further develop management assumptions and performance indicators with management targets. These indicators will allow the M&L IFPA to assess the effectiveness of management and practices toward meeting the management intent of each learning scenario. Performance indicators and targets also provide a means to compare the various learning scenarios during the comparative scenario analysis (using indicator forecasts), and help to ultimately develop the management intent, management assumptions, and indicators/targets for the decision scenario.

4.0 Scenario Planning Archive Reports

A series of archive reports (listed following) have been created to chronicle the evolution of scenario planning discussions from concept to the point where the information was incorporated into the December 2002 SFM Plans and the Base Case Information Packages for both TSAs. These documents provide a valuable resource for future SFM exercises. The archive reports are available from the M&L IFPA website – www.moricelakes-ifpa.com.

4.1 Morice TSA Scenario Planning Archive

A detailed report on the results of the scenario planning exercises conducted in the Morice TSA.

4.2 Lakes TSA Scenario Planning Archive

A detailed report on the results of the scenario planning exercises conducted in the Lakes TSA.

4.3 Morice TSA Complete Indicators List

A detailed list of all the SFM-related indicators discussed during scenario planning sessions in the Morice TSA.

4.4 Lakes TSA Complete Indicators List

A detailed list of all the SFM-related indicators discussed during scenario planning sessions in the Lakes TSA.

5.0 Contacts

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