

Bulkley—Morice FLP

Planning Table

Version 1.03

Terms of Reference

Definitions and Acronyms

Consensus: Group decision-making processes in which participants develop and decide on proposals with the aim of acceptance by all. Consensus does not necessarily mean unanimous agreement, but simply the absence of objection. Where consensus recommendations cannot be achieved within the time frame, the Parties may either agree to extend the timeline or initiate the dispute resolution in Section 8.1.

BuMo: Bulkley and Morice

FLP: Forest Landscape Plans

FOR: Ministry of Forests

G2G Nations: Nations that have signed a government-to-government agreement (Nation to BC, and/or Canada)

Licensees: All forest license holders that operate under an FLP

Planning Table: Bulkley Morice FLP Planning Table

Representative: Consisting of people chosen to act and speak on behalf of a wider group

TSA: Timber Supply Area

Technical Decision: Decisions made by members of the Planning Table or Technical Working Groups related to technical work. Technical decisions will be made to inform recommended forest management scenarios. Technical decisions are separate from statutory decisions and do not hold statutory authority (Appendix A).

TWG: Technical Working Group

1. Provincial FLP Objectives¹

Through a collaborative process between First Nations and the Province, with input from licensees and local communities, develop a forest landscape plan that meets the following objectives:

- Managing the values placed on forest ecosystem by Indigenous Peoples
- Supporting the protection and conservation of the environment
- Supporting production and supply of timber in the forest landscape area
- Managing the values placed on ecosystems by local communities
- Preventing, mitigating, and adapting to impacts caused by significant disturbances to forests and forest health

¹ Objectives from [Bill 23 Section 2.22](#)

2. Purpose

- 2.1. This Terms of Reference provides guidance on the structure, roles and responsibilities of the Planning Table to facilitate the goal and objectives of the Bulkley Morice FLP (as outlined in the project charter, Appendix B). This will be executed through a partnership with First Nations and the Province, with key technical input from licensees.

3. Scope

- 3.1. Forest Landscape Plan with spatially explicit forest management direction.
- 3.2. Collaborative Timber Supply Review (TSR) process for the Bulkley and Morice.
- 3.3. Landscape level direction and guidance for Skeena-Stikine and Nadina Districts, that align with other initiatives.
- 3.4. Monitoring and investment plan.
- 3.5. Elements of the Old Growth Strategic Review Action Plan
- 3.6. Recommendations for amendments of Land Use Plan legal objectives if required.

4. Structure

- 4.1. The Planning Table is comprised of Nation representatives, Ministry of Forests staff and forest licensees. One Nation representative and one Ministry of Forests staff will co-chair.
- 4.2. The Technical Working Group membership will be determined and appointed by the Planning Table.
- 4.3. The Planning Table may invite expert guests to collaborate and provide guidance on identified topics.

5. Schedule and Meetings

- 5.1. Meetings will be held as deemed necessary and agendas will be developed collaboratively by the Planning Table. Best efforts will be made to circulate agendas, and all material to be presented (if available), at least one week in advance of meetings.
- 5.2. Actions will be completed as scheduled and committed to by the person(s) responsible for the action item. Items that require further investigation will be recorded and followed-up as agreed upon by the group.
- 5.3. Attendance: In the interests of efficiency and continuity, attendance at all meetings is desirable unless participation is deemed unnecessary according to agendas prepared. Multiple representatives from each group may participate and engage in the meetings, but only one representative per group will be considered towards establishing quorum.
 - 5.3.1. If a member cannot attend, they should send a designated alternate. It is the responsibility of the members to keep alternates informed of the process. Designated alternates are authorized to constitute quorum in the event that the original representative is unavailable.

- 5.4. In the event of unforeseen circumstances, such as fires or other emergencies, the scheduled meetings may be subject to rescheduling.
- 5.5. At the Planning Table, the meeting quorum will be a minimum of eight representatives to make the proceedings of the meeting valid.
 - 5.5.1. Nations must account for four quorum representatives.
 - 5.5.2. Licensee representatives must account for three quorum representatives.
 - 5.5.3. Government representatives must only account for one quorum representative.
 - 5.5.4. Any guests must be approved by the co-chairs at least one week prior to the meeting.
- 5.6. If quorum is not met, a decision will not be made during the current meeting, and the matter will be deferred to the next scheduled meeting.
- 5.7. A meeting summary will be circulated to the Planning Table members no later than two weeks following meetings.
- 5.8. Record of decisions and recommendations will be accompanied by a rationale when appropriate. Where a rationale is included in a technical decision or recommendation, both will be included in the meeting summary.

6. Data sharing

- 6.1. Any data sources brought forward will be given consideration. For data to be considered it must be replicable. If the data is superseding existing data, there must be a methodology for integration of the dataset that covers the entire project area.
- 6.2. A system for storing and distributing that is accessible and secure for all members of the planning table will be established.
- 6.3. Data provided by an organization or individual is the property of the providing entity. It will not be shared or stored in a publicly available location without owner consent.
- 6.4. Full consideration will be given to information brought forward respecting First Nations' Indigenous interests and values, including:
 - 6.4.1. how these interests and values may be impacted; and
 - 6.4.2. any operational plans and/or other information that describe how First Nations' interests and values are addressed through specific actions and forest practices.
- 6.5. Information and data generated at the Planning Table in consensus with the Nations, may be distributed to the public for review and comment via an agreed upon platform (i.e. website) or by email.
- 6.6. Best available data will be considered to develop the FLP.

7. Roles and responsibilities

- 7.1. **Nation-BC Table:** The primary purpose is for Nations and the Province to collaboratively provide scope, context, and direction for the planning table.
- 7.2. **Co-Chairs** are responsible for:
 - 7.2.1. Ensuring adherence to the project charter.

- 7.2.2. Ensuring adherence to meeting agenda.
- 7.2.3. Ensuring adherence to key guiding principles.
- 7.2.4. Request feedback from planning table on roles and responsibilities.
- 7.3. **Planning Table:** The primary purpose is to provide input to the FLP through expression of interests, review of management scenarios, and to develop recommendations to statutory decision makers. Other tasks may include working with TWG(s) and assigning tasks to the TWG(s).
- 7.4. **Technical Working Groups:** The role of the TWGs is to provide information and analysis to support the Planning Table, as well as to aid in drafting plan content. TWGs do not have formal authority to govern nor can they issue directives. The TWG serves to make recommendations and/or provide key information and materials to the Planning Table. Additionally, they are responsible for the flow of information to and from their respective collective.
- 7.5. **Other Indigenous Governing Bodies:** Nations that have small percentage overlap will be periodically informed via email.

8. Dispute Resolution

- 8.1. Where disagreements arise in the course of work conducted through the Planning Table, best efforts will be made to proactively resolve the issue internally by the next scheduled meeting. If consensus cannot be reached, the representative that dissents from the group shall identify whether the disagreement is over technical issues such as plan language or over principles;
 - 8.1.1. If the disagreement is over wording, the representative shall make best efforts to find alternative words so that consensus can be achieved;
 - 8.1.2. If the disagreement is about principles, the dissenting representative shall prepare a written report as soon as possible that succinctly states:
 - their disagreement with other representatives;
 - their reasons for disagreement; and
 - a documented alternative.
 - 8.1.3. On review of the alternative under 8.1.1 or 8.1.2 above, all representatives shall reconsider the matter;
 - 8.1.4. If consensus cannot be reached after reconsideration, co-chairs will meet internally to discuss the written descriptions and reach a decision within 10 days.

9. Review of Terms of Reference

- 9.1. The Terms of Reference will be reviewed and updated annually, as agreed to by consensus of the members of the Planning Table.

Appendix A: Decision Authority Breakdown

Decision Type	Statutory Decision-Making Authority
FLP – Includes authority to establish, amend, or cancel an FLP as applied to a geographic area.	Chief Forester. Consensus to be sought as needed with First Nations through G2G tables prior to exercising decision-making authority.

Appendix B:

Project Charter: Bulkley Morice Forest Landscape Plan

Last Updated: January 23, 2023

Purpose: To create a Forest Landscape Plan (FLP) for the Bulkley-Morice Timber Supply Areas

Context/Background: Working apolitically in consultation and collaboration with Indigenous governing bodies, Forest Landscape Planning (FLP) seeks to address the challenges of climate change and the cumulative impacts of natural and human disturbance on the land by developing direction to manage for culturally significant ecosystems and enhance ecosystem health and resiliency, while reflecting local community values. We will do this by showing respect for all living things and taking responsibility for our actions and work outcomes.

Goals and Objectives:

1. Manage the values placed on forest ecosystems by Indigenous Peoples
2. Support the protection and conservation of the environment
3. Support production & supply of timber in the forest landscape area
4. Manage the values placed on ecosystems by local communities
5. Prevent, mitigate, and adapt to impacts caused by significant disturbances to forests and forest health

Linkages and Dependencies

- Indigenous Led Initiatives
 - Lake Babine Nation—Best Management Practices, Current Condition Assessment
 - Office of the Wet'suwet'en—Yintah Management Directives, Yintah Land Status
 - Gitksan Land Management Office—State of the Forest
- Wildfire recovery, community wildfire protection plans, Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction program
- Timber Supply Review, Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA)
- Forest Carbon Initiative, Forest Enhancement Strategy
- Environmental Stewardship Initiative (Skeena), Widzin Kwah Water Sustainability Project (WWSP)
- Higher Level Plans
- First Nation agreements
- Tactical planning, provincial land use planning initiatives and landscape-level planning pilots
- Old Growth Strategic Review

Key Risks

Risk	Prob.	Imp.	Response Strategy	Resid.
Lack of connection between ongoing tables resulting in plan that is not consistent with outcomes of other initiatives			Make a deliberate attempt to build on previous work and ongoing initiatives (e.g. SSAF)	
Amount of initiatives that are occurring at one time may limit level of participant involvement			Where possible, streamline and build upon work from other projects to make more efficient	

Critical Success Factors

- Alignment of Partner Nations and Government objectives
- Commitment of project participants to new ways of working together
- Gaining the trust of the communities
- Alignment with Office of the Chief Forester on the Forest Landscape Plan
- Identification of values and scope
- Creation of a plan that meets its objectives
- Project timelines that consider the complexities of effective engagement
- Changed decision-making processes that evolve oppressive constructs and address systemic racism

Engagement and Partnerships

First Nations: Lake Babine Nation, Office of the Wet'suwet'en, Cheslatta Carrier Nation, Gitksan Lax Yip Management Office, Witsset First Nation, Wet'suwet'en First Nation, Nee Tahi Buhn Band, Skin Tyee Nation, Kitselas First Nation-Traditional Territory, Binche Whut'en, Yekoochee First Nation, Stellat'en First Nation, Takla Lake First Nation, Tl'azt'en Nation, Haisla Nation

Licensees and Industry: PIR, Canfor, Wet'zinkwa Community Forest, Babine Lake Community Forest, Dungate Community Forest, First Nation Woodland Licensees

Key Stakeholders

- Local and regional government
- Range tenure holders, hunters (recreational and guide outfitters), trappers, recreationalists (tenure holders)
- Interested community members (e.g. BV Nordic Centre, Smithers Mountain Bike Association, Community Resources Board)
- Government staff including the Nadina Natural Resource District, Skeena Stikine Natural Resource District, regional staff
- BV Research Centre and research associates

In Scope

- Forest Landscape Plan with spatially explicit forest direction
- Collaborative Timber Supply Review (TSR) process for the Bulkley and Morice
- Landscape level direction and guidance for Skeena-Stikine and Nadina District (aligns with other initiatives)
- Monitoring and Investment Plan
- Elements of the Old Growth Strategic Review
- Recommendations for amendments to legal objectives if required

Out of Scope

- Plan implementation
- Operational plan monitoring
- Short term wildfire risk reduction in the WUI

Milestones and Deliverables

Publicly announce Bulkley-Morice FLP	October 2023
Draft Current Condition Report	May 2024
Timber Supply Review	November 2024
AAC	March 2025
Draft Management Regimes	October 2025
Draft FLP	February 2026
Finalize FLP	December 2026

Project Contacts

Nation

Lake Babine Nation
Wet'suwet'en Nation
Gitksan GLMO
Cheslatta Carrier Nation

Role

Role	Name
Sponsor	Jevan Hanchard
Director	Tara Dunphy
Project and technical lead	Veronica Walker
OCF Contact	Barry Snowdon
FAIB Analyst	David Stuart
Project Coordinator, FNCS	Claire Thornton

