

Morice LRMP
Sector General Interest Statements
Draft #1 (January 2003)

NOTE: THESE GENERAL INTEREST STATEMENTS WERE GENERATED DURING A ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION AT AN EARLY TABLE MEETING. THEY ARE NOT INTENDED TO BE EXHAUSTIVE, NOR HAVE ALL SECTORS YET PROVIDED STATEMENTS. FOR DETAILED INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECTOR(S) IN WHICH YOU ARE INTERESTED. CONTACT INFORMATION IS PROVIDED ON THIS WEB SITE UNDER MEETING INFORMATION/PROCESS CONTACTS/SECTOR CONTACTS.

Agriculture written submission taken from Agriculture Sector presentation
Morice Agriculture people are:

?? Multi-skilled people who enjoy the farming/ranching lifestyle. Many have off farm incomes ie trappers, woodlot operators, guides, logging contractors, forestry consultants, teachers, school bus drivers....

Morice Agriculture production includes:

?? Food production; crop production; agro-forestry and agro-tourism.

Morice Agriculture Issues include:

?? The Right to Farm. People in agriculture want the opportunity to use their land for the desired agricultural enterprise be it intensive agriculture (greenhouses, hogs, sheep, dairy, poultry, feedlots, vegetable crops) or extensive agriculture (cattle ranching, hay & grain crops, or agro-forestry).

?? Availability of Arable Land most extensive agriculture operations require a lot of land to crop in order to acquire the economics of scale needed for a viable hay farm or cattle ranch.

Arable land is not moveable , there is a static supply. There is a need to identify what is left on Crown Land.

Some of our best land in Houston is within the municipal boundaries where the focus is to remove it from the ALR for industrial and residential uses.

?? Availability of good Crown Range potential for the beef industry in the Morice is huge, when tied to availability of summer pasture or range.

Good Crown range expansion opportunities exist

High value crown range is not moveable.

A number of forest “types” make up Crown range (open range, meadows, deciduous forests, wetlands, cutblocks, road right-of-ways).

?? Forest Encroachment of Grasslands many of our “open ranges” or “grasslands” are reverting to softwoods and hardwoods over time.

Burning as a range management tool is becoming too restricted due to liability and air quality concerns.

We need alternative strategies to deal with preserving our grasslands as is.

?? Quality and Quantity of Water water quality IS important to ranchers and farmers, we don't want our livestock or our families drinking contaminated water.

Science based decision making is critical.

Irrigation water needs are increasing as weather patterns change.

Reasonable access to water on Crown range is vital.

- ?? Integration of Timber and Range Management the Crown range as a forage resource co-exists on most areas with the industrial or “working forest”.
Timber and range managers must work co-operatively to optimize range and timber values at key levels of planning and especially during a bark beetle epidemic!
Remember that range values are not fully transferable from area to area.
- ?? Wildlife must be managed holistically wildlife management opportunities on private land exist (private landowners need to be encouraged and recognized for their wildlife stewardship role).
Wildlife populations both predator and prey, need to be managed to maximize value (economically and ecologically) while minimizing conflict with agricultural operations.
- ?? Sustainable Forage resource on Crown ranges forage resource is renewable and sustainable if well managed by tenure holders.
Noxious weeds must be controlled.
Degradation of ranges from unregulated user’s (ATV’s) must be minimized.
Ranges dependent upon timber harvesting openings to provide forage opportunities require a staged rate of harvest.
- ?? Morice Agriculture. Ranching and agriculture revenues to the Crown are less than mining and forestry. BUT this is a renewable, fully sustainable resource that historically helped pioneer our communities and will likely always be a key framework of our communities. Local agriculture offers us a local product, flavour and choice that is unequalled by “global imports”.

Motorized Recreation written submission

Vision

Our vision of the LRMP area encompasses the promotion of good family activities, where parents, children, extended families and small groups can go and experience the backcountry and all it offers together. Many times motorized vehicles are the only means of access for disabled people and family groups. Through these backcountry experiences people develop strong family ties and value systems that will build a cohesive community with both spiritual and healthy lifestyles and respect for other recreational activities. We believe this is all attainable while supporting good economic growth and protecting natural resources in the area

In many local towns (Houston Granisle) motorized recreation plays a big part of local economy. Businesses affected include but not limiting to are restaurants, gas stations, pubs, repair shops, automotive shops, corner stores sport shops etc. These activities also help build stronger bonds between neighbouring townships, businesses as well local friendships.

Many areas used are accessed through old roads put there from mining, logging, fire guards, settlers etc, over many years. A good many of these roads have turned into all season multi-use trails some have also been deactivated to preserve them for years to come.

If any access is to be denied it should be on area by area basis, due to the fact not all users have the same values in the same area or in the same season.

To understand this, one must look at who, and how this involves them;

here are examples;

lake fishing - boats

river fishing – boats

snowmobiling –snowmobiles

heli skiing – helicopters

back country skiing – planes, helicopters, snowmobiles

prospecting- quads, 4-wheel drives, snowmobiles

trapping – quads, snowmobiles, trucks

mountaineering – trucks, planes, helicopters

This does not include all, but alot of these forms of recreation also have a business side as well, people who make a living offering these type of back country experiences.

Winter activities cannot be treated the same as summer activities.

In all we believe that access to and the curiosity of the backcountry is our inherited right and an expression of our northern lifestyles.

-family groups and disabled access to back country

-good economic growth

-protect natural resources

-variety of areas

-livelyhood from this kind of use

-look at motorized recreation area by area

?? What is the implication of motorized use on other values? Study in Revelstoke. Yellow stone. Les has these studies.

Guides and Trappers written statement

?? The forest values in the LRMP be managed by a holistic approach recogniizing the economic, cultural, historical values of all participants.

?? The sector believes it also is a legitimate user of the timber resource.

?? Both Guides and Trappers hold legal tenures throughout the entire land base which includes proposed protected areas. Our interest is to exercise this tenure unless it is mitigated by negotiation or compensation.

Conservation and Environmentinterim submission

?? maintain functioning, resilient ecosystems across LRMP through time (natural ecosystems over time resilient recognize things do change -)

?? Site series by ? within range of natural variability – estimate of NDT's – best estimate – patterns and amount of old (seral stages) return period and temperal scale

?? Concern that wild young forests may disappear

?? Representing ecosystem in FEN's, stand level retention PA (number of different ways

?? Areas unfragmented by roads particularly around wildlife

- ?? Preserve rare and endangered species (hydro, deciduous etc, grasslands)
- ?? Preservation of rare and special ecosystems
- ?? Variety of ecosystems?
- ?? Eliminate weeds
- ?? Structure in managed and natural forest recognize value of dead and down trees
- ?? Tree health at expense of ecosystem health
- ?? Recognition of intrinsic value
- ?? Maintaining future options

Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat written submission pending

Labour written submission

- ?? be involved in decision making regarding land use decisions, AAC designations, SFM plans, discussions regarding access for mining.
- ?? ensure maximum utilization of labour force in the Morice Forest District in resource extraction ie mining, forestry and manufacturing. Included in this would be the construction of processing facilities. Included in the manufacturing would be small business ie Corwood and Pleasant Valley Remanufacturing.
- ?? ensure resources in the Morice Forest District be mined, logged, etc by local contractors; manufactured by local processing facilities using the local labour force.
- ?? utilizing the local labour force exclusively will result in increased opportunity for community stability and increased infrastructure over the short and long term.

Small Business and Woodlots written submission pending

The following key points were captured during discussions:

- ?? logging contractors wish the Annual Allowable Cut to be maintained
- ?? Woodlot licensees would like to see larger woodlots which would provide economic viability and sustainability.

Subsurface oral presentation

Vision – functioning resilient mining industry through time

-access and right to develop

-work

access- large landbase looked at low level increasing to find mine area

right to develop - once met regulations then can proceed to develop

-concern for small operators ?

-decline in industry over 30 years

-First pass (grass root)– walking through bush, (helicopter or current road) stake claim, then look at possible road access can't get permit to explore. Need for road access increase as get closer to mining.

-possible mine could last for 100 yrs even possible 1000 years in Babine district

-reclamation – make plans from the start, put up a bond to do reclamation, most companies do that as work

(Glenda - Mines become permanent waste storage)

Non-Motorized Recreation written submission

- ?? We are interested in preserving the wilderness.
- ?? The word “sense” has been used extensively in conjunction with the previous statement. We take issue with words like “sense” and “representative”, in that they can be construed to mean token.
- ?? We are interested in the quality of life values that come from a quality recreation experience. The quality statements refer to wilderness activities that help create healthy bodies and minds, which in turn create healthy communities. Healthy communities are more than just dollars in pockets.
- ?? Proper and respectful management of the resources is required to maintain or enhance the values that contribute to quality recreation. Many of the values that are required are tied to features that are not flexible across the landscape.
- ?? Access is important. That does not necessarily mean creating access., but could also or rather mean restricting destruction of, or degradation of access. An example being; having to walk through large cutblocks to reach what is left of a trail.
- ?? Visual quality is important. Currently Visual Quality Objectives (VQOs) are set from low areas, roads, lakes and rivers. It is time to consider views from higher elevations. The technology to implement this type of planning is already available and in place in some areas. The words “aesthetically pleasing” relate to this issue.
- ?? Limiting environmental and noise pollution are important.
- ?? Designation of non-motorized area will be a priority, as motorized recreation and activities can easily overrun and compromise non-motorized activities and values. This issue takes into account a “Small Lake Strategy” that will include designation of some lakes as non-motorized.
- ?? We are generally supportive of “Protected Areas” realizing that there is currently not a representation of the full diversity of biological, natural and cultural heritage resource and recreation opportunities. This is particularly evident in the under-representation of mid and low elevation ecosystems.
- ?? Access to the decision making process will continue to be a priority.

Fish and Fish Habitat written submission

- ?? · Ensuring aquatic ecosystem integrity and function.
This includes ensuring functional riparian habitats and old growth forest ecosystems.
- ?? · Maintaining or increasing wild fish populations over time.
- ?? · Ensuring that water flow patterns are appropriate to maintain habitat and support historical populations of all fish species in the planning area.
The goal would be to maintain natural hydrologic patterns.
- ?? · Ensuring that water quality is optimal for fish production.
- ?? · Ensuring clear, measurable objectives and indicators are included in the LRMP.

Tourism written submission

To create a sustainable future for our children where tourism in the Morice will integrate the resource values to enhance current tourism operations and future tourism prospects by insuring scenery, fish and wildlife abundance and viewing opportunity in a wilderness setting for mid and back country experiences and provide meaningful input into the improvement of forest practices while working to optimize quality of life and contribute to the economy through successive generations.

Tourism Sector Values include but are not limited to:

First Nations Cultural Influence
Visual Quality
Water Quality
Abundance of fish and fish habitat
Wilderness
Natural and Cultural Heritage
Biodiversity
Old growth forests with orchids
Abundance of wildlife through connectivity
Aesthetic values.

5 Goals to a Desired Future State

- 1 a place where people from all over the world continue to come to enjoy a sustainable tourism industry sensitive to cultural and environmental values.
- 2 certainty in the land base for tourism activities.
- 3 contribute to the diversification of the economy, while incorporating measures to maintain, increase and protect local tourism and tourism opportunities.
- 4 a place where First Nations can develop and maintain a working relationship as a tourism sector with tourism land base.
- 5 be involved in resource planning and management strategies in areas of interest and in catastrophic situations such as bark beetle strategies as they affect current/future tourism interests.

Licensees to be taken from Licensee sector presentation

Local Sustainability

- ?? Land allocated to timber harvesting should contribute to maximizing the amount of meaningful employment in forestry related industry over the long term.
- ?? Recognize the importance of timber in the areas economy, land use for industrial forestry should be managed to maintain and maximize the quality and quantity of productive forest.
- ?? Forestry should not be conducted on lands where timber returns are marginal and better returns or value would be gained by allocating the land to other resource concerns or interests.
- ?? Land allocation decisions should maximize ongoing economic returns and contribute to optimizing the long term resiliency of all communities and settlements in proximity to the planning area.

- ?? Land allocation for specific uses should be managed in a way that identifies particular values and potential impacts and protects the quality of life and health of residents living in proximity to the activity (excessive noise, air pollution, fire safety, scenery degradation).
- ?? If land is to be withdrawn from uses that would otherwise contribute to social values, traditional use or the economic health of communities, there should be strong attributes and sound arguments for their protection.
- ?? Cultural heritage values should be identified and appropriately protected from land use that would significantly diminish their quality
- ?? Attributes of identified heritage sites should be protected from land uses that would significantly diminish their quality.

Local Government

Purpose

The purpose of the Local Government Sector is to provide a balanced representation of all interests, issues and resource themes in discussions and negotiations at the Morice LRMP Table in an effort to provide residents of the Plan Area with communities (municipal or rural) that are economically, socially and environmentally sustainable.

Composition

The Local Government Sector consists of all elected officials and staff from the Village of Granisle, the District of Houston and the Regional District of Bulkley – Nechako. This group of individuals could be referred to as the Local Government Sector *caucus*.

Representation

Inherent in the nature and operation of a local government – municipal or regional district – is the representation of **municipal** and **rural** residents, respectively. As such, the Local Government Sector represents everyone who lives, works and recreates within the LRMP Plan Area. In essence the “public” is the Sector’s *constituency*.

Scope of Interests

Local Governments, as part of their day to day operations and purpose, make decisions and advocate for issues and concerns that relate to the environment, the economy and social aspects of communities for the benefit of municipal and rural residents. While the direct association of local government may be to the settlement theme the Sector’s interests expand far beyond this resource value. Each resident’s quality of life is effected by each of the resource values have been identified for discussion and general management direction: timber, protected areas, settlement, cultural heritage, subsurface resources, agriculture / range, botanical forest products, recreation, tourism, fish / aquatic habitat, visual quality, wildlife, biodiversity, riparian issues, hunting / guide outfitting / trapping, access and water (quantity and quality).

Provincial Government written submission

Vision

To optimize economic development of the province's natural resources, protect ecosystem integrity and enhance community well-being for all British Columbians, now and in the future

Goals

Economic Prosperity

Key Objectives:

- ?? Diversified and expanded resource based economy
- ?? Investor confidence in BC's natural resource economy
- ?? A business climate that makes BC a leader in the global economy
- ?? Fair and balanced access to the Province's land and resources
- ?? Optimized long term benefits from BC's land and resources
- ?? Fair return to the people of the Province from land and resources

Ecological Integrity

Key Objectives:

- ?? Conserve key biodiversity interests
- ?? Maintain self-sustaining and productive ecosystems
- ?? Protect human health and safety
- ?? Establish and utilize performance standards and targets that are science based

Social Well-Being

Key Objectives:

- ?? Social and economic health of all British Columbians
- ?? Self reliant resource based communities
- ?? Long term benefits from land and resource management
- ?? Fair and effective resolution of resource management conflicts

Sound Governance

Key Objectives:

- ?? Economic, ecological and social needs are incorporated into land and resource management decisions
- ?? Streamlined and less costly regulations
- ?? Resource management that is harmonized with other agencies and governments
- ?? Timely, proactive and participatory decision making mechanisms
- ?? Resource data that is standardized and easily accessible
- ?? Clear accountability, including monitoring and reporting
- ?? Strong enforcement of established standards
- ?? Public trust in land and resource management decisions

SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLES

Integration – Ensuring that resource management decisions integrate economic, environmental and social considerations for the

Science-based decision making - Making justifiable decisions informed by science-based information and risk assessment.

benefit of present and future generations.

Accountability – Setting performance-based standards and indicators and implementing mechanisms for compliance, auditing and reporting on progress towards sustainable resource management. An effective enforcement regime is a key part of accountability.

Efficiency – Maximizing the net benefits arising from the allocation, development and use of natural resources.

Transparency – Establishing open and understandable decision-making processes including consulting with key interests prior to making decisions. Transparency also includes the public release of monitoring and compliance records, and tracking of sustainability indicators.

Innovation – Encouraging innovative approaches technologies and skills to ensure the sustainability of natural resources.

Continual Improvement – Learning from the past and looking for new and improved approaches to resource management.

Shared Responsibility – Encouraging co-operation among First Nations; federal, provincial and local governments; industry and non-governmental organizations in developing and implementing resource management policies.

Competitiveness – Ensuring that British Columbia remains internationally competitive by removing barriers to investment and promoting open trade.

Certainty - Making timely and clear resource management decisions within a predictable and understandable regulatory framework.

Communication

The Prince Rupert Regional Inter Agency Management committee, a group of senior managers for the various government ministries, will act as a Morice LRMP advisory committee. The IAMC meets monthly and will be updated by the government table member, and will provide input and policy direction on specific issues.

Accountability

The government table member has authority to represent provincial government interests during table negotiations. Due to the wide range of disciplines and tremendous volume of regulation and policy that the government table member must deal with, the member may request time to consult with members of the government technical team or with senior managers on certain issues, without delaying table progress. The decision on the final package of table recommendations rests with Provincial Cabinet.

First Nations observer status only so declined to comment at this time.

Open Chair comments on Local Sustainability from Glenda Ferris

- ?? to ensure sustainability, social, environmental, economic and First Nations interests need to be in balance.
- ?? Table will need to keep re-visiting “sustainability” and should define it.
- ?? “Community” should be looked at in the large sense not a site specific sense ie town.

Open Chair comments on Provincial Government direction from Glenda Ferris

- ?? LRMP should build on the provincial information and create a Morice version.

Open Chair comments on Provincial Government direction from Christoph Dietzfelbinger

- ?? provincial statements only pay lip service to the meaning of the concept ‘sustainability’
- ?? several instances of text contradicting the headers and pre-ambles in recent documents such as the Recreation Stewardship Panel report and the Results Based Code.