



Planning to meet Old Growth Objectives in the Merritt Forest District

The MOF Perspective

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MOF Perspective

- Although the responsibilities for “Landscape Unit Planning” have been transferred to the new Ministry, it is important that the MOF participate with planning projects wherever possible.



MOF Perspective

- The MOF will be responsible for the **implementation** of these plans, that is, making sure the objectives and strategies are identified in operational plans and followed on-the-ground.



MOF Perspective

The MOF also has a great deal of local knowledge and operational experience that can help ensure that planning products are achievable, and clearly understood by our clients and staff.



MOF Perspective

Because Landscape Unit Plans have the potential to create significant timber supply impacts it is important that the MOF be involved in the discussions.

It is important that the non-contributing landbase and less productive portions of the landbase be used as much as possible in meeting biodiversity objectives.



MOF Perspective

These higher level plans can also affect MOF planning such as timber supply review and AAC determinations as well as forest development planning, auditing, and tenure administration.

The MOF strongly supports MSRM in involving the community in helping to develop Landscape Unit Plans, and will be an active participant in these discussions.



MOF Perspective

The MOF strongly encourages the use of local knowledge and input to help build these plans.

Examples are: cool waters of Nooaitch Creek, or rare forest types such as the Larch stands in Tyner Lake area.



MOF Perspective

- Some of the many challenges to consider in the old growth selection process, include:

70% of the species types in the Merritt TSA are lodgepole pine, many of which are relatively short-lived and prone to Mountain Pine Beetle and other forest health issues.

The Merritt Forest District has seen catastrophic fire events on a regular basis. 1984 (Pasayten), 1998 (Lawless), 2001 (Princeton).



MOF Perspective

- The identification of non-timber values is putting more pressure on the timber harvesting landbase to protect more “sensitive” species and values such as the Tailed Frogs, fish-bearing streams, Northern Goshawks, water quality, grizzly bear, First Nations’ areas, etc...

We have a 1.5 million cubic metre Allowable Annual Cut and the NSIFPS has requested an increase, thus the harvesting pressure is increasing. Preserving the operable land base is key to sustaining the AAC at these levels.

Summary

- The Ministry of Forests, along with members of the Community, the NSIFPS, will assist the Ministry of Sustainable Resources in their task of identifying these OGMA areas. The MOF will endeavour to ensure that forest health issues are recognized and the operable forest land base is optimized for the production and protection of all resource values including timber production.