

First Nations Strategic Directions for Natural Capital and Cultural Resources Management - 2007

Summary of Results – Cultural Resources Predictive Modeling Workshop

April 24, 2007

Salmon Arm, BC



Workshop Purpose

- Neskonlith Indian Band (NIB), in partnership with the Okanagan Shuswap Forest District (OSFD) office delivered the workshop directed at the 11 Bands (10 participated) within the District, the Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) and the Shuswap Nation Tribal Council (SNTC) to share information identify common issues and concerns



Key Issues Identified

- Discussions focussed on 4 areas:
 1. Government relations, policy and legislation impacts
 2. Tools, processes & applications
 3. Operations and management
 4. Internal First Nations issues



Key Issues, continued

- Lack of understanding or clarity of federal/provincial government consultation & accommodation policies
- Disconnect between strategic political goals and statement and what happens 'on the ground'
- Over-riding concern that engagement in consultation processes not result in the extinguishment of Aboriginal title and rights



Key Issues, continued

- Concern for land alienations through Crown land sales, conversions of leases to fee simple
- Need for capacity building and *retention*
- Recognition by provincial government of FN referral policies and incorporation of cultural values within the decision making process of government



Key Issues, continued

- Need for co-management/joint jurisdiction, joint decision making on land use decisions
- Increased participation in business and forest development opportunities
- Integrated, more effective information management
- Recognition of intellectual property rights



Key Issues, continued

- Need to establish First Nations internal protocols
- Defining core interest areas, overlap areas and knowledge transfer
- Further discussions needed prior to initiating effective predictive modeling approaches:
 - Needs of various data custodians;
 - Data sharing protocol, confidentiality concerns;
 - Potential for developing a hybrid/integrated model



Challenges

- Lack of understanding of legislation and policies, inconsistent approaches by various agencies to consultation and accommodation
- Consultation starts too late in the planning and development cycles, and requested response times do not facilitate effective information transfer
- Confusion over which systems and processes will deliver good value for money and are scalable and durable



Challenges, continued

- Standardized training, assessment, and data storage methods and best practices are not widely employed and vary widely between First Nations
- Procedures for addressing consultation are time-consuming and expensive
- Information is often not kept current or in an acceptable digital format
- Lack of protocol between First Nations on information sharing, working relationships



Strategic Outcomes

“First Nations’ lack of input into and control over what happens in their traditional territories is the most critical issue to all First Nation communities - the primary outcome is to identify on-the-ground strategies that are responsive to First Nations concerns.”



Strategy #1

- Develop a framework for coordinating activities within the institutional, legislative and budgetary frameworks that exist in each government jurisdiction for lands and cultural resources management regimes
 - Issues and action items are identified for implementation



Strategy #2

- Build internal capacity to meet the growing responsibilities and duties within lands and resources management – *issues & actions identified*
- Bring together cross-ministerial initiatives that are being developed and form a government/First Nations working group for a coordinated effort for regional implementation – *issues & actions identified*



Strategy #3

- Create a regional forum for dialogue between First Nations and government agencies aimed at interim protection of cultural uses of lands and resources and the recognition/implementation of a cultural resources management regime as a component of shared decision making



Strategy #4

- Shared responsibility over territorial interests include several key issues for attention among First Nations:
 - establishing First Nation protocols;
 - defining core areas and areas of shared interest; and
 - transfer of knowledge for sustainable management of lands & resources



Next Steps

- Subsequent to the April 24 workshop, the Neskonlith and Adams Lake Indian Bands and the Shuswap Nation Tribal Council discussed how the outcomes could be followed up. This led to the development of the 6 point technical strategy.
- This strategy outlines the steps, tasks, timeframe and budget for implementation



Next Steps, continued

- **Activity #1** – Technical Review and Updates
 - Presentations and technical reviews by OSFD Bands, SNTC, ONA



Next Steps, continued

- **Activity #2 – Capacity Building**
 - Develop partnership consortium, including ALIB, NIB, OSFD, FN Forestry Council, ILMB, DR Systems
 - Develop technology and knowledge building strategy



Next Steps, continued

- **Activity #3 – Regional First Nation Information Management Workshops**
 - Develop Forestry Information Management Working Group
 - Develop regional First Nations workshop
 - Develop First Nations venue for Annual Forestry Information Management Workshop



Next Steps, continued

- **Activity #4** – First Nations Cultural Resources & Archaeological Assessment Tools Forum
 - Discuss the creation of a Hybrid Predictive Cultural Resources Model
 - Update/refinement of AOA and other CR assessment tools



Next Steps, continued

- **Activity #5** – First Nations Technology Council: Lands & Resources Forum
 - Develop a presentation on RTS and Referrals Processes for the provincial First Nations workshop sponsored by *GeoConnections*



Next Steps, continued

- **Activity #6** – Policy/Legislation Impacts & Changes
 - Internal review with OSFD First Nations
 - Implement new timber harvesting decisions for First Nations
 - Review of FSPs, EA and AOA requirements & issues against First Nation objectives for CR management

