



FNTC Workshop Panel: First Nations/ Govt/ Industry

AOA Process and Model *for forest development in the Kamloops TSA*

*(AOA: Archaeological Overview Assessment)
(TSA: Timber Supply Area)*

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Presenters

- **John Jules**, Cultural Resource Management Department, Kamloops Indian Band. AOA Steering Committee First Nation archaeology representative.
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History of collaboration



- **1998/ 1999:** Archaeology Branch contracts SNTC & ARCUS to improve the 1995 AOA into a 1998 AOA model. Then Kamloops District contracts SNTC to revise the 1998 model, into a 1999 model.
 - **A tri-party AOA Steering Committee established of First Nations, Government and Industry**
 - The Committee develops the AOA 'process'- see Brochure on website (link on last page)
- **2000:** The AOA Steering Committee pilots in 3 First Nation communities, and endorses the "1999 AOA model and process".



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History continued



- 2002:** The AOA Steering Committee recommends implementation of the 1999 AOA model & process to the District Manager, who sends an official notification to implement, to Forest Licensees.
- The Committee develops 'Guidelines' for the AOA process- (website link last page)
 - The Committee sponsors RIC archaeology training for First Nations

2002 on- Committee meets regularly.



2007/2008: The Committee is in process of reviewing and updating the AOA model.

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AOA Steering Committee Current Members



1. First Nations: Secwepemc Nation reps: John Jules - Kamloops Band; Lea McNabb- Skeetchestn; *prior* Nancy Jules - Simpcw. SNTC: Aaron Higgonbottom, Jeremy Boyd.

2. Government: Ministry of Forests:
- Kamloops District- Shane Berg, District Manager, Jamie Jeffries, Judy Steves (now of ILMB) &
- Clearwater Forest District - Abbey Bates

3. Industry: Forest Licences reps: Tolko- Michael Bragg; Weyerhaeuser- Kurt Freudenberger, BC Timber Sales - Zoran Boskevich; West Fraser- Kane Copely; Canfor- Dave Dobie



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Role of Steering Committee



In past: developed and recommended the AOA model and process (see summary in Brochure on weblink provided on last page)

Operational: to oversee, monitor, review implementation of the revised 1999 AOA model & process. To develop the AOA Report template. To track results.

- To recommend revisions to the 'process' to address situations (e.g. Forest Fire (2003) or Mountain Pine Beetle (2004 +))

Strategic: To utilize arch assessment results and updated data to look at opportunities to refine the model and the process. Electronic database compiled annually. Intend to have electronic field card report - which flows into electronic database.



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Why revise the 'old' AOA?



Main intents in 2002:

1. **Intent #1:** To involve First Nations more directly in the arch assessment process by developing a business relationship with licensees to conduct the archaeological assessments.
2. **Intent #2:** To seek greater precision in the model's ability to predict the occurrence of archaeological evidence by the incorporation of traditional use and cultural information. And to increase the operational accuracy of the model to the 1:20,000 scale.
3. **Intent #3:** To make the process more cost effective and efficient for all interested parties.



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The *old* AOA



"Model": 1995 model at a scale of 1:250,000

"Process":

- Archaeologist not from community
- Didn't involve the depth of community cultural traditional use knowledge
- Steps: Office review, PFR (preliminary field review), AIA (archaeological impact assessment) with excavation
- First Nation reps often hired by the archaeologist to be on the crew. Considered 'token' by First Nations.



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“New” revised AOA process



Steps 1-3 completed by First Nations in a business relationship with forest licensees. Rationalise each step- as to which sites need more detailed assessments. Recommend mitigative strategies.

- Step 1: office review
- Step 2: preliminary field review (PFR)
- Step 3: comprehensive field survey

Step 4: archaeological impact assessment (AIA) as required. Completed by an archaeologist (recommended by FN community); under permit with Archaeological Branch.



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Guidelines for ‘new’ process



Guidelines were developed and recommended by the Committee:

- Qualifications for FN contractors
- Recommended fee schedule
- Process for addressing overlap areas – lead Band concept
- Expedited AOA processes for some situations
- Database tracking assessments for future model update

The ‘guidelines’ are updated as a living document and posted on the website (link on last page.)



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First Nation AOA work Qualifications:



- A minimum of RIC/RISC standards "Archaeology Training for Crew Members"
- Contact list endorsed by Chief and Council of contractors/workers who can do AOA contract work - and of sign-off archaeologists.
- Work signed-off by First Nation archaeologist or other archaeologist endorsed by Band.



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Why use a digital model?

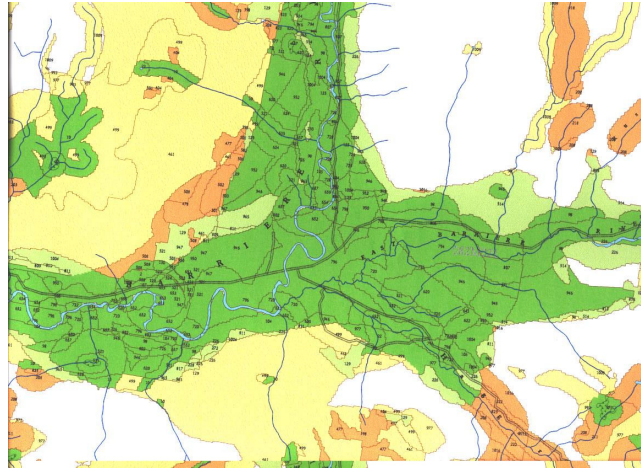


- A tool to assess the risk or potential for finding archaeological evidence
- Scale of zoning is for forestry
 - suggests areas of *high and medium* potential- that could require more detailed field assessments
 - suggests areas of *low* potential - that could have no further assessment.
 - can be used as a tool to support expedited processes.



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1:20,000 Map Sheet of Model



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Digital Info Management



- Currently the digital 'model' resides with District, and the Committee is considering options to have First Nations be the host.
- Some Bands are gaining expertise in the digital manipulation of the model (Adams Lake)
- Currently the tracking database is manually compiled from Arch assessment reports completed by FN contractors.
- We are working on an electronic field card for First Nation contractors- with database consistent with model

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1. What's been achieved?



Intent #1: Involve First Nations directly?

- Local FN communities are receiving the financial benefits, of direct contracts- as a monopoly to First Nation contractors.
- AOA Steering Committee meets regularly with ongoing dialogue to monitor/improve process and model. General approach is by consensus recommendation.
- Improved FN capacity- funded RISC training for archaeology, FNs achieving qualifications needed.
- Enhanced relationships and improved communication between three parties
- Some FN communities going electronic (Skeetchestn)



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2. What's been achieved?



Intent #2: Achieve better digital model?

Funded through MFR/FRBC/FIA:

- AOA model *improved* from 1:250,000 scale – to a 1:20,000 scale (1998/99)
- Contracted SNTC to incorporate cultural heritage values in logic statements and wildlife inventories, slope and aspect, and forest types of cultural importance (1999)
- Contracted annual update of known arch sites on AOA maps.
- Contracted annual tracking of results in database -provides real layer of info to compare with model
- Contract to assess gaps of model (e.g. outdated layers)
- **AOA model is predominantly accurate**



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3. What's been achieved?



Intent #3: More effective for all parties?

- FN's carry out the majority of field work
- Model requires more ground to be assessed than the 1995 model, so costs are generally higher due to increased field presence. However, this extra cost is offset by the value associated with First Nation involvement.
- Committee endorsed some expedited processes
- Where appropriate, mitigative strategies assist in avoiding higher costs of AIAs.
- Lead band concept minimizes extra work in overlap areas
- Maintaining baseline qualifications for FN crew is a cost
- Time associated with steering committee is a cost.



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Opportunities



The AOA Steering Committee is working on the following:

- Refine the model.
- Go electronic (only a few Bands currently)- electronic reporting could flow into electronic tracking database and flow into review of the model
- Improve the tracking of mitigative strategies
- Improve the quality of the final report
- Increase Band capacity (e.g. there are Bands without qualified members)
- Develop a protocol to share the 'model and process' with other parties



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Conclusion



- First Nations are seeking to implement this AOA process with other agencies & in other TSAs
- Parties could work together to develop a process that works for your business/community.. See where this might fit with your business/ structure
- Implement in small steps over time
- Pilot a trial run in your organization
- Use this AOA process as a catalyst to move forward in relationship building and enhancing communications between parties



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Website LINK



Web-link to the key AOA documents
-brochure, guidelines, report etc-
(listed under 'Archaeology')

[www.for.gov.bc.ca/dka/
DistrictPoliciesProcedures/
TableofContents.htm](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/dka/DistrictPoliciesProcedures/TableofContents.htm)



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