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| Northeast Roundtable Date: | March 4, 2020 |
| Update Prepared By: | Genevieve Paterson, Land and Resource Specialist, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (MFLNRORD) |
| Updated Presented to Roundtable by: | N/A |

**PROJECT OVERVIEW**

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| Project Contact | Genevieve Paterson, Lands and Resource Specialist  [Genevieve.Paterson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Genevieve.Paterson@gov.bc.ca)  250-877-1211 |
| Ministry/Agency | Ministry of Forests, lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development |
| Description | British Columbia’s Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is working in partnership with interested First Nations, coordination with local government and other interested parties to prepare for an update to the Fort St. John Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP). The LRMP, originally developed in 1997, is a set of strategic policies governing the management of Crown land and resources within the Fort St. John Timber Supply Area, the planning area. The LRMP identifies resource management zones and protected areas and sets out objectives and strategies that govern how land and resources are managed.  The Fort St. John LRMP is a sub-regional plan covering approximately 4.6 million hectares that was approved by the B.C. government. The plan was produced through a four-year public process that involved a variety of interest groups. The resulting LRMP provided broad social choices through land use planning and provided objectives and strategies for managing Crown land and resources (both surface and sub-surface).  The LRMP Update Project follows the B.C. government’s commitment to a Modernized Land Use Planning Program. The LRMP update is a priority project under the umbrella of the provincial program. Growth and increasing demand in the natural resource sectors, increasing management complexity, and relations between the Province and First Nations have led to this Project. A number of independent regional initiatives have been undertaken to address priority issues, and an update to the LRMP will provide the platform for integration and implementation of results from these initiatives.  The timing of the LRMP update has also been influenced by Treaty right litigation between Blueberry River First Nation and the Province of B.C. This update is also intended to provide the opportunity for other interested Treaty 8 First Nations to work in partnership with the Province in the design and delivery of an updated plan.  Updating the LRMP will require contributions from local communities, industry, stakeholders and the general public to inform the development of future management directions. A key feature will be enhanced government-to-government collaboration with First Nations including incorporating new land-related management approaches that reflect traditional ecological and cultural information. |
| Project Phases and Schedule | **Phase 1 – Scoping: January - December 2019**  During this phase, First Nations and interested parties from local governments, industry, stakeholders and the public were invited to share their interests and concerns related to land use in the Fort St. John LRMP area, as well as their views about the topics and opportunities that an updated LRMP might address.  This information will be used to inform the scope of the update project, the form that public involvement might take, and the technical components needed for planning.  Comments received from the public during initial engagement activities has been compiled by Urban Systems Ltd. into a “What We Heard” report that was made publicly available in April 2019. The What We Heard report is a thematic summary of input from participating parties including local governments, industry, stakeholders and the public related to the LRMP Update Project. During Phase 1 the Province worked with Treaty 8 First Nations in BC to introduce the LRMP update and identify opportunities for collaboration in the planning process.  **Phase 2 – Technical Planning: December 2019 - 2022**  In spring 2019, the technical planning work to update the LRMP began. This work will integrate the advice received in the scoping phase with information from First Nations, technical experts and other sources. Involvement of interested parties from local governments, industry, stakeholders and the public will be key components. It is anticipated that producing an updated land use plan will take two years. |
| Project Information Links | * Provincial LRMP website: <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/fortstjohn-land-resource-management-plan-review/> * LRMP Phase 1 Stakeholder Engagement What We Heard Report <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/458/2019/07/2019-07-04-LRMP-What-We-Heard-Report_FINAL.pdf> * 1997 Fort St. John Land and Resource Management Plan <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/458/2019/07/2019-07-04-LRMP-What-We-Heard-Report_FINAL.pdf> |

**PROJECT UPDATE DETAILS**

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| Update Highlights | * To be presented in March 2020 |
| Key Dates | * To Be Determined |
| Meeting Reference Materials |  |

**STATUS REPORT ON ACTION ITEMS**

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| **Date Assigned** | **Item for Follow Up / Action** | **Assigned To** | **Status Update** |
| **January 22, 2020** | Ian to provide presentation on LRMP highlights and gaps at next Roundtable | MFLNRORD |  |
| **September 4, 2019** | Finalize draft website for review at October Roundtable – include Q&A tab | MFLNRORD | Closed |
| **September 4, 2019** | Revise Northeast Roundtable TOR to include objective of promoting inclusive socio-economic consideration for all land and resource initiatives | MFLNRORD | Draft provided with Sept 4, 2019 minutes |
|  | Look into an information session on *Water Sustainability Act* | MFLNRORD | Open |
|  | Present LRMP engagement plan | MFLNRORD | Open |
|  | LRMP presentation provided to participants | MFLNRORD | Closed |
|  | LRMP engagement, update on regional  consultation and website | MFLNRORD | Closed |
|  | Determine remaining number of Roundtable sessions | MFLNRORD | Closed |