

LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Northeast Roundtable Date:	April 16, 2020
Update Prepared By:	Shayla Blue, Land and Resource Coordinator, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (MFLNRORD)
Updated Presented to Roundtable by:	N/A

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Contact	Genevieve Paterson, Lands and Resource Specialist Genevieve.Paterson@gov.bc.ca 250-877-1211
Ministry/Agency	Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
Description	<p>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.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

<p>Project Information Links</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provincial information on COVID-19 can be found here: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support • 1997 Fort St. John Land and Resource Management Plan https://landuseplanning.gov.bc.ca/p/5deeb36ce7c4150024a5ac33/project-details; • Modernizing Land Use Planning Fact Sheet https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/natural-resource-use/land-water-use/crown-land/land-use-plans-and-objectives/factsheets/modernizing_land_use_planning_factsheet_jun2019.pdf
----------------------------------	---

PROJECT UPDATE DETAILS

<p>Update Highlights</p>	<p>Ongoing Discussions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing the Provincial State of Emergency is the priority for all governments; as such, the Province is taking a slower approach to engagement with communities. • The Province is working on developing a draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for the LRMP with interested First Nations and concluding Treaty Land Entitlement. • The TOR will outline the process to update the LRMP, including engagement with industry, stakeholders and the public. • Identifying roles and responsibilities of Provincial, Indigenous and Local governments. • Timelines for sharing a draft TOR with industry, stakeholders and the public is uncertain at this time. • Developing a strategy on how to engage with communities amid the Covid-19 crisis, including the Northeast Roundtable – utilizing online venues. • Application of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) to land use planning, and other regional initiatives, including improvements to the Northeast Roundtable – please see the UNDRIP presentation delivered at the Northeast Roundtable on March 4, 2020 by Lauren Whyte, Arbutus Consulting. • Identify what community and stakeholder involvement looks like. • Identifying LRMP linkages to other regional and provincial initiatives to provide a full and complete picture - e.g. information collected on specific values from the Regional Strategic Environmental Assessment, and herd planning for caribou (Chinchaga, Pink Mountain and Graham herds) from the Caribou Recovery Program.
<p>Key Dates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To Be Determined
<p>Meeting Reference Materials</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A

LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

STATUS REPORT ON ACTION ITEMS

Date Assigned	Item for Follow Up / Action	Assigned To	Status Update
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	Completed. Draft provided with Sept 4, 2019 minutes
January 22, 2020	Ian to provide presentation on LRMP highlights and gaps at next Roundtable	MFLNRORD	Completed March 4, 2020.
March 4, 2020?	Look into an information session on <i>Water Sustainability Act</i>	MFLNRORD	Open
March 4, 2020?	Present LRMP engagement plan	MFLNRORD	Open

