



BC Interior Project Workshop Notes

February 2008

Preamble

The workshops were organized between December 2007 and February 2008. General timing for the workshops was dictated by the production schedule for the regional atlas and associated content. The dates selected allowed for sufficient development to have occurred, while still allowing for changes to be made to the functionality or content of the atlas. Specific dates were selected based on the availability of key regional contacts.

Workshops were 2 hours, with the first half focused on progress made on NCC's BC Interior Project since our last site visit in June 2007 and the second half providing a hands-on review of the atlas, atlas functions and content. A specific focus of the first half of the workshop was to review the lists of conservation features selected as targets for the study, to describe how conservation goals will be set for each target, and conceptualize how targets and goals influence the outcome of the assessment. A break was held half way through, allowing workshop attendees to break into small-group discussions and review hardcopy maps of some of the regional atlas data content.

Workshops were hosted by The Nature Conservancy of Canada's Dave Nicolson, Manager of Conservation Information and GIS services, and Sara Howard, Aquatic Ecologist. Pierre Iachetti, Director of Conservation Science and Planning, attended the Prince George workshop and Barb Pryce, Okanagan Program manager, attended the Kamloops workshop.

Attendees and comments from each workshop are provided below.

Prince George – February 19, 2008

Name	Affiliation	Contact
Rachel Botting	Assistant Research Ecologist - BC Ministry of Forests and Range	Not for general distribution, NCC maintains a master contact list. Please contact us for more information.
Phil Burton	Manager, Northern Projects - Canadian Forest Service University of Northern BC	
Justin Calof	Planning Officer - BC Integrated Land Management Bureau	
Stephanie Campbell	Land Use Planner - BC Integrated Land Management Bureau University of Northern BC	
Criag Delong	Regional Landscape Ecologist BC Ministry of Forests and Range	
Vanessa Egginton	Research Climatologist - BC Ministry of Forests and Range	
Pierre Iachetti	Director Conservation Science and Planning - Nature Conservancy of Canada	
Leslie Mckinley	Senior Ecosystem Officer - BC Ministry of Environment	
Theo Mlynowski	University of Northern BC	
Beryl Nesbit	Habitat Specialist - BC Integrated Land Management Bureau	
Lisa Poirier	University of Northern BC	
Bruce Rogers	Regional Research Ecologist - BC Ministry of Forests and Range	
Nancy-Anne Rose	University of Northern BC	

Quesnel – February 20, 2008

Name	Affiliation	Contact
Tracy Bond	Baker Creek Enhancement Society	Not for general distribution, NCC maintains a master contact list. Please contact us for more information.
Amanda Davey	BC Ministry of Forests and Range	
Steve Day	Canfor	
Michael Fowler	Region 5 President - BC Wildlife Federation	
Kristin Hendry	BC Ministry of Forests and Range	
Al Hunter	West Fraser Mills	
Lee Naeth	Tenures Technician - BC Ministry of Forests and Range	
Michael Pelchat	Stewardship Officer - BC Ministry of Forests and Range	
Ted Traer	Woodlot Forester - BC Ministry of Forests and Range	
Ryan Wertz	Tolko Industries	

Williams Lake – February 21, 2008

Name	Affiliation	Contact
Kris Andrews	Williams Lake Field Naturalists	Not for general distribution, NCC maintains a master contact list. Please contact us for more information.
John Cathro	Williams Lake Indian Band	
Ray Coupe	Research Plant Ecologist - BC Ministry of Forests and Range	
Nola Daintith	Regional Silviculture Specialist BC Ministry of Forests and Range	
Marg Evans	Cariboo Chilcotin Conservation Society	
Bert Groenenburg	South Carrier (Chilcotin) Tribal Council - Community Planning and Economic Development	
Harry Jennings	Stewardship Specialist - BC Ministry of Forests and Range	
Shawn Meisner (& guest)	Tolko	
Mike Simpson	Fraser Basin Council	
Mike Stalberg	BC Ministry of Environment	

Kamloops – February 22, 2008

Name	Affiliation	Contact
Alex Bursac	City of Kamloops	Not for general distribution, NCC maintains a master contact list. Please contact us for more information.
Tom Dickinson	Kamloops naturalists	
Bruce Harrison	Ducks Unlimited Canada	
Francis Iredale	BC Ministry of Environment	
Dennis Lloyd	Research Plant Ecologist - BC Ministry of Forests and Range	
James Manuel	Kamloops Indian Band	
Andrea Pickard	City of Kamloops	
Barb Pryce	Okanagan Regional Manager - Nature Conservancy of Canada	
Mike Ryan	Research Ecologist - BC Ministry of Forests and Range	
Brianne Smith	Thompson-Nicola Regional District	
Phil Winkle	Decision Tree Consultants	

Smithers – February 25, 2008

Name	Affiliation	Contact
Kateri Clay	Skeena Watershed Conservation Coalition	Not for general distribution, NCC maintains a master contact list. Please contact us for more information.
Brian Edmison	Interested local	
Brian Huntington	Skeena Watershed Conservation Coalition	
Ralph Kossman	McElhanney Consulting	
Karen McKeown	Research Assistant - BC Ministry of Forests and Range	
Shannon McPhail	Executive Director - Skeena Watershed Conservation Coalition	
Craig Paulsan	BC Parks	
Jim Pojar	Skeena Wild	
Rosemund Pojar	Bulkley Valley Naturalists and NWIPC	
Chris Schell	BC Ministry of Environment	
Gord Wadley	Nortec Consulting	

Workshop comments

General comments:

- Phil Winkle, project manager for Quesnel Mitigation Committee. He will be interested in output from project: high value biodiversity areas.
- Secondary indicator for terrestrial suitability index could be distance from town. Areas closer to towns have a greater potential for impacts (e.g. recreation) as well as greater interest for industrial development (forest companies prefer to salvage log close to towns to reduce costs and make salvage logging economically viable).
- Ecological systems map (hardcopy map on display): legend should match map (colour's currently slightly different as layer on map is transparent over hillshade). Include label for system number on map.
- **Q:** Is Energy and Mines involved in this Ecoregional Assessment? **A:** no
- Consider visiting Fort St John or Mackenzie?

Conservation Targets/Goals and Data Sources:

- Terrestrial systems: Suggest contact Ken Baldwin, Canadian Forest Service in Sault St. Marie. Using ½ million plots, he is developing a bottom up terrestrial classification for plant communities – Canada-wide ecological classification.
- Debbie Chickoski – Smithers – is conducting work on Mountain Pine Beetle. Loss of lichen (caribou winter food) due to new vegetation growth in beetle-killed forest.
- Eunice Elila – UBC – Baker Creek Study
- Data from e-flora/e-fauna not in CDC (eg herbarium [UBC, RBCM etc], BEC plot database)
- Birds of BC – source for harlequin (XLS showed as target, no data)
- Smithers influenced by coastal processes, more of a transitional area. Can expect some different species etc in the area. Also means we need to really make sure we get the right species etc north of Smithers.
- Look into VPRO for plant data (MoF)
- Land Management Report 1982 – Doug Steventon
- Need more focus on regionally important species
- Follow up with Robert Forsythe – mollusk data
- Additional fishes for target data
- Target lists in general deficient in the North
 - Maybe need to summarize lists by ecoprovince/EDU for clarity
- Questions around how we can influence public planning or other methods to influence use of Crown land
- Non-digital data that is unpublished – how to incorporate? Mostly a budget and time issue.



- Check with plants teams lead about consulting with regional ecologists (e.g. Allen Banner, Jim Pojar etc)

Regional Atlas:

- Have the data in the atlas extend to administrative boundaries rather than the ecological boundaries they currently extend to. E.g. if the atlas does not include the entire MoFR Cariboo Region it will not be useful for some users.
- Consider label or legend number on terrestrial systems map in atlas.
- Make the atlas functionality similar to other web applications people are familiar with (e.g. Google Maps).
- Link to e-flora/e-fauna
- Show me distribution of species of interest in province (not just targets for ERA), e.g. if know distribution of Devil's Club, one could show the distribution of species that use that plant as well. E-flora does this
- Mgt layer should distinguish between legislative (e.g. parks) and non legislative (e.g. WHA) conservation areas
- Will the atlas show data gaps (e.g. Northern Skeena has no baseline study done for salmon, even though salmon are known to be present there)? Show where baselines have been completed?
- People would like to know the dominant/leading tree species for the old and mature forest layer.
- Is it possible to include what type of Crown tenure?
- Include map of areas logged.
- Equivalent clearcut area as a layer?
- Need geographic reference – through base maps.
- Include the “map of the dead” – Mountain Pine Beetle kill map being produced by MoFR.
- Mapping for higher level plans (zones) from LRMP planning process
- PEM mapping has been conducted for the Cariboo
- Target lists (in library), need tabs for data dictionary describing terms, more descriptive field headings, perhaps a glossary.
- Ensure map layers consumable or downloadable

Attachments: Workshop presentation (*NCC_Feb08_BCIP_roadshow.ppt*)