Morice LRMP

Terms of Reference

September 27, 2002

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1.0   Introduction

These Terms of Reference will guide the process for completing the Morice Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP). They define the purpose of the LRMP, describe the plan area that will be covered by the LRMP, establish a Planning Table (the Table), outline how the process will proceed and describe the scope of the plan. The Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management is responsible for strategic land use planning for the provincial government.

2.0   Purpose of the LRMP

The Morice LRMP will establish strategic direction to guide the management of Crown land and resources within the Morice plan area. This direction will be developed based on recommendations provided by a stakeholder planning table. The planning process will provide individuals and/or organizations whose interests will be affected by the LRMP to participate in the process of developing recommendations for consideration and approval by the provincial government.

The purpose of the LRMP is to:

- Foster economic, social and environmental sustainability through the establishment of resource management objectives for the entire plan area to ensure ecological integrity, economic prosperity and healthy human communities in the plan area;
- Identify economic development opportunities and develop associated resource management objectives to promote economic growth in the Morice LRMP area;
- Address area specific management requirements through the establishment of resource management zones and corresponding objectives. Resource management zones will designate specific areas in the plan area where specific management requirements need to be met and objectives will state the measurable result that is to be achieved.

3.0   Plan Area

The Morice LRMP will provide Strategic land and resource management direction for activities on Crown land within the 1.5 million hectare planning area shown in Map 1.

MAP 1: Morice LRMP Plan Area
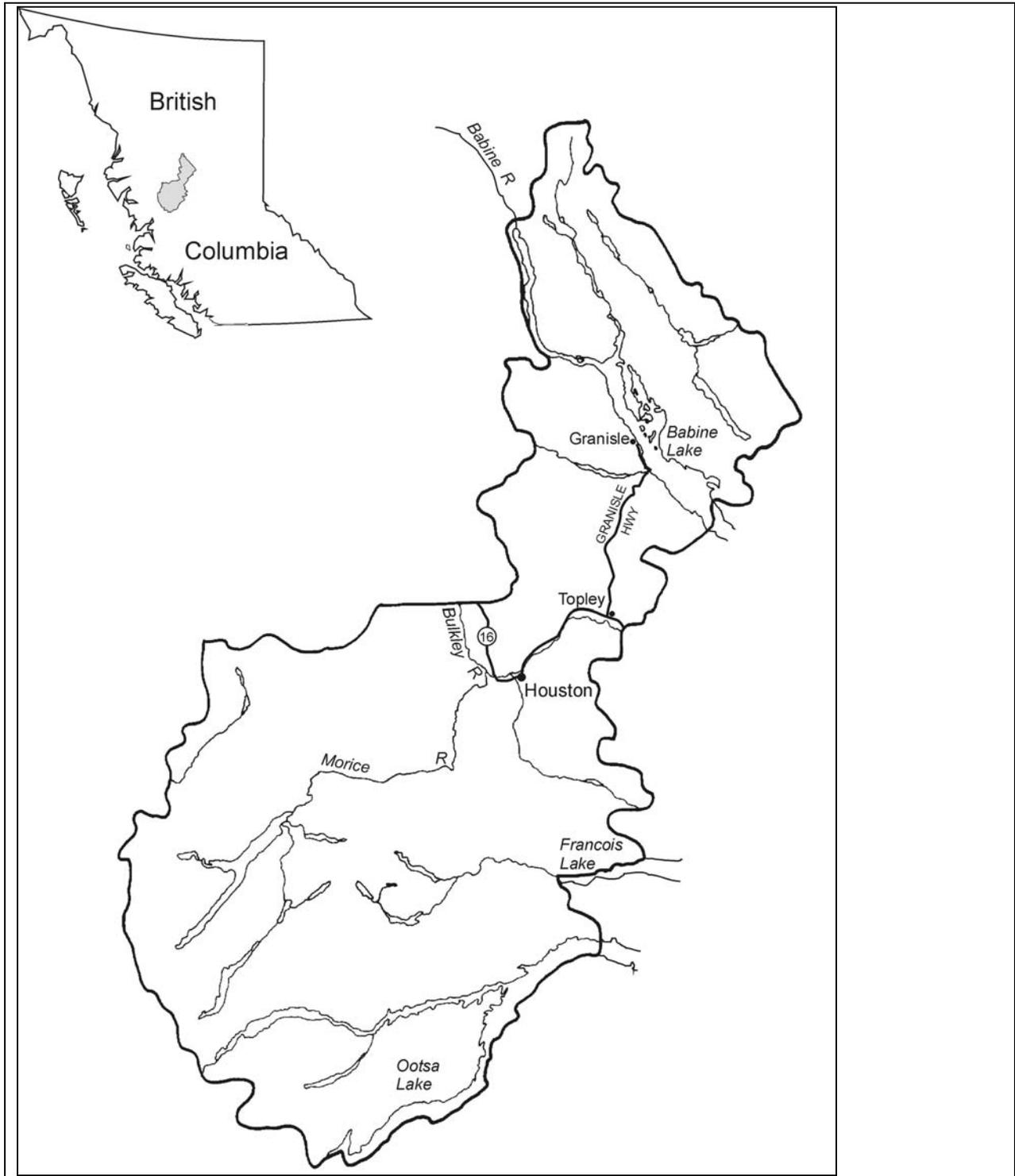
4.0 Products

Two products will be completed at the end of the LRMP process:

1. a Cabinet approved LRMP providing management direction for all resource values and resource management zones and associated objectives(including protected areas); and,

2. an Economic Development Action Plan with identified opportunities for each sector and associated strategies for promoting investment and business development.

The final LRMP will consist of a report and maps that document resource management zones and associated objectives for Crown lands and resources, including fish and wildlife habitat recreation, tourism, timber and minerals. Zones and their associated objectives will clearly articulate the intended management direction for the LRMP. This intended direction will be incorporated by agencies into their operational planning and decision-making.

The Economic Development Action Plan will include a vision for sustainable economic development in the Morice plan area: an analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats; goals and action plans for each sector; investment, business development and market development strategies; and recommended private/public initiatives including research, inventory, infrastructure development and human resource development. The LRMP will also identify areas with the capability to support economic development and will include management objectives aimed at promoting economic development.

5.0 Time Frame for Completion

The Morice LRMP will begin in October 2002 with a targeted completion date of March 31, 2004.

5.1 Milestones

In order to complete the plan within the established timeframe, the following process milestones have been established.

Milestone	Products	Completion Date
Process Initiation	- Terms of Reference/Ground Rules - Workplan	November 2002
Assess Situation	- Vision - Resource maps - Resource background reports - Vision, interests, and indicators - Policy review	February 2003
Scenario Development	Scenario development including map	

	production and management intent	September 2003
	• Process team assessment on the Table's readiness to proceed with final negotiation	
	• Public review	
Negotiate Agreement	• Recommendations package:	February 2004
	• General management objectives	
	• Area specific management objectives	
	• Additional objectives developed by Table	
	• Economic Development Action Plan	
	•	
Government Approval	• Ratified recommended plan submitted to government	March 2004
	• Socio-economic and environmental analysis of final recommendations	

For each milestone date, the Process Team will provide a status report to the table and the Regional Director of MSRM. If the Table is unable to achieve a milestone by the target date the Process Team may identify alternate steps to move the process forward. This may include requesting the Government Technical Team to prepare products or options for the Table.

6.0 Planning Table

6.1 General Procedures

The Morice LRMP Planning Table will be guided by the following general procedures:

- the Table will be structured based on a sectoral model of representation that will provide equal opportunity for all sectors to develop LRMP products.
- the Table will strive for consensus on substantive issues, including the final LRMP recommendations. Consensus is defined as having no substantial disagreement with the decision. This means that although Table members may have concerns about specific aspects of the agreement, they will be prepared to accept that the proposal goes forward and will support the overall plan. However, time will be of the essence, as the plan must be completed in accordance with the schedule above, even if consensus is not achieved.
- the Table will have members from the public, First Nations, local and provincial governments, representing a cross-section of interests in the plan area. Alternates to the Table members will provide support to those members on an ongoing basis;
- the Table will prepare Ground Rules to ensure it functions smoothly and everyone who participates in the process does so in a fair and equitable manner;
- the sector spokespersons will be responsible to be accountable to their respective sectors in accordance with procedures to be developed as part of the Ground Rules.

- the Table may rely largely on smaller working groups to accomplish substantive discussions and negotiations between meetings. Recommendations and/or negotiated products developed by these groups will be subject to review and acceptance by the Table; and
- the Process Manager has the discretion to invite additional experts to participate in working groups-for example when specific technical knowledge is required from someone who is not involved in an existing sector;

6.2 Table Member Responsibilities

Responsibilities of Table members include the following:

- representing the interests of their sector in consensus negotiations;
- geing accountable to members of their sector;
- identifying members of their sector to participate in working groups;
- sharing information between members of their sector and the Table through consultation and communication mechanisms established by the sector;
- designating an alternate for when they cannot attend meetings;
- staying current with information and the progress of Table discussions (applies to alternates as well); and
- abiding by the Table Ground Rules.

6.3 Table Structure

The Morice LRMP Table will have the following representation:

• First Nations*	• Guide Outfitters and Trapping
• Local Government	• Labour
• Provincial Government	• Local Sustainability
• Agriculture	• Mining and Exploration
• Conservation and Environment	• Non-motorized/Wilderness Recreation
• Fish and Fish Habitat	• Recreation (motorized)
• Forest (major licensees)	• Tourism
• Forest (small business, woodlot licensees and contractors	• Wildlife and wildlife Habitat

∗   The Office of the Wet'suwet'en, Wet'suwet'en First Nation, Lake Babine Nation and Cheslatta First Nation have indicated an interest in participation and discussions continue with them to confirm the appropriate means for them to engage in planning. There may be up to four seats.

The Morice LRMP Table will also include an "open chair". The purpose of the open chair will be to provide members of sectors and members of the general public with the opportunity to bring forward interests which they believe are relevant to the Morice LRMP process and which

they believe may not have been adequately considered. The open chair will not participate in consensus decisions.

6.3.1 Public Representatives

The sector model for the Morice LRMP is designed to provide fair representation for all interests that will be affected by the LRMP.

Each sector will be organized to ensure that the organizations and individuals whose interests it represents are fairly included in the LRMP process.

Each sector (with the possible exception of First Nations) will have one seat at the planning table to be filled by the formal representative to the process or his or her alternate.

Table members and alternates will be selected by the sectors they represent. Each sector will be accountable to its constituents. Sectors may choose to establish a sector advisory committee to ensure that the broad range of interests within the sector are represented.

By participating in the LRMP each sector agrees to engage in the process and be guided by these Terms of Reference. Each sector will provide the Process Manager with a list of declared membership in their sectoral advisory committee, so that the spokespersons for those member organizations may be identified for participation in the working group negotiations. The Process Manager will be responsible for maintaining and updating the Table Membership list. Sector representatives will be responsible for notifying the Process Manager of any changes to Table, or sector advisory committee membership.

6.3.2 Local and Provincial Government Representatives

Provincial and regional/municipal government representatives have the same responsibilities as other table members as described in section 6.2 above.

Government representatives will:

- participate in a collaborative process of consensus building in a manner respectful of other interests.
- provide the Table with information and advice on legislation, policy, programs, current initiative; and
- as future monitors and implementers of the plan, ensure that planning recommendations can realistically be implemented in a way that meets the objectives outlined in the final LRMP plan.

The provincial government will participate in the LRMP process in three different capacities:

1. A Government Sector Representative will participate as a table member engaging in discussion and negotiation at the Table and working group tables on substantive issues. The Government Sector Representative will report to the Interagency Management Committee;

2. The Process Team will provide logistical and procedural support for the process and will be responsible for process design and smooth operation of the process including the development of work plans, coordination of analysis, facilitation and mediation (where necessary), and preparation of meeting agendas and minutes.

3. The Government Technical Team will provide mapping, analysis and report writing, and will be responsible for developing draft products for Table review and providing technical advice to the Table upon request.

6.3.3 First Nations Representatives

First Nations may participate at both a technical and government level as follows:

- participation at the Table and its working groups;
- formal government liaison with Process Manager;
- technical liaison with the government technical team;
- government to government liaison between First Nations and British Columbia as represented MSRM;
- review of the final plan.

Land use recommendations will be developed at the Planning Table with First Nations stakeholder and provincial government involvement. Where First Nations cannot agree to a recommendation from the planning table, they will attempt to resolve the outstanding matter directly with the provincial government, through a government to government forum.

6.3.4 Links to the Morice/Lakes Innovative Forest Practices Agreement

A partnership regarding information and analysis and data sharing has been developed between MSRM and the Morice/Lakes IFPA. This partnership will contribute to data collection, management and analysis, and to the indicator and monitoring approach for the LRMP. There will also be ongoing communication and collaboration between members of the government team and the IFPA Public Advisory Group during the preparation and plan development stages of the LRMP. The purpose of this communication will be to ensure technical integration between the two planning processes in order to provide the best possible information to both processes, make the best use of scarce resources and minimize public burn-out.

7.0 Government Team

A Government Team under the leadership/direction of a process manager will oversee and support the Morice LRMP process and will be responsible for:

- project leadership;
- provincial government liaison;
- technical advice;
- information coordination and management;
- public and stakeholder communication;
- management of the partnership agreement with IFPA license holders;
- management of participation agreements with First Nations;
- management of the stakeholder participation process;
- preparation of the LRMP planning documents; and
- preparation of the Economic Development Action Plan.

The Government Team is comprised of a process team and a technical team. The process team will design and manage the process including the public planning component.

The technical team will provide data, analytical expertise and planning support to the LRMP process in partnership with the IFPA. The team will also support the Table in the development of planning products including general management direction objectives, resource management zones, and the final LRMP document.

8.0 Public Communication

Communication with local communities and the general public (i.e. that is the broader public not participating in the process) will be a priority during the Morice LRMP process. Communication updates will be provided at key points in the process to highlight the achievement of milestones, to provide broader public understanding and to secure additional public input to draft products. A government website has been established to provide public access to all information relevant to the LRMP including background documents, meeting agendas, meeting minutes and draft LRMP products.   Additional public communication will be provided through information circulars, media reports, newsletters, public open houses and meetings with stakeholders.

Table meetings will be open to the public with opportunities provided at set times during the meeting for public members to bring information and/or interests forward for consideration by the Table. Members of the public wishing to address the Morice LRMP Table will need to make arrangements through the Process Team.

When the Table develops a recommended LRMP, an opportunity for public review and comment will be provided before the plan is approved.

9.0 Provincial Legislation and Policy

The provincial government has the legal obligation to manage and conserve natural resources on provincial Crown land. Numerous policies and statutes are relevant to land use planning. Even though policies are not legally binding, they provide high level guidance that provincial decision-makers must consider.

In the interest of facilitating solutions, the process will have the opportunity to make recommendations for resource management policy and legislative changes that are deemed necessary to achieve the LRMP management direction. In these cases, the Table must consider the local and provincial implications of adjusting the policy or statute and provide a written rationale explaining why the current policy should be changed.

10.0 Review and Approval of Consensus Document

The Table will submit its final package of consensus recommendations to the provincial government through the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management. The Minister of Sustainable Resource Management has final approval responsibility for the Morice LRMP. Cabinet will make final decisions regarding protected areas.

If the Table is unable to reach consensus in a timely fashion on all aspects of land use recommendations, the Minister retains the right to make the final decision. The Table will provide a document that describes areas of agreement and unresolved issues. An accompanying document will include a description of the proposed solutions developed in an effort to reach consensus on the unresolved issues and identify the parties who were unable to reach agreement. All First Nations within the plan area, whether they participated in the Morice LRMP process or not will be invited to review, comment upon and/or endorse any final LRMP recommendations.

All Local Governments within or adjacent to the Plan Area, whether or not they have participated in the Morice LRMP process shall be invited to review, comment upon and/or endorse any consensus LRMP recommendations as per the Union of B.C. Municipalities Protocol Agreement.

11.0 Implementation

Once approved by the provincial Cabinet, the Morice LRMP shall be implemented and monitored by appropriate provincial government agencies coordinated by MSRM.
A monitoring committee that includes public participants may be established by MSRM to monitor plan implementation.

Approved By:

_____   Date: _____
Honourable Stan Hagen
Minister of Sustainable Resource Management