

# Criteria of Joint Forest Management

## Background

*Developing a framework to direct, monitor and evaluate joint forest management on the JPRF and beyond*

### **PROJECT OVERVIEW**

We are currently in Year 2 of a four-year project that is attempting 1) to develop a method for identifying local-level criteria and indicators of effective co-management, and 2) to develop a set of local-level criteria and indicators to direct, monitor and evaluate co-management of the John Prince Research Forest. We are trying to find out what people think about co-management processes and outcomes. We hope to apply the findings to improve co-management of the JPRF and to assist other groups in enhancing or developing co-management in their area.

### **PHASE 1: 2002/2003**

Last year, we reviewed other research on the essential elements of co-management. We created a collection of material on co-management of water, fish, forests, wildlife, heritage sites, parks, and protected areas in Canada, and around the world. This collection is available at UNBC, Tl'azt'en Nation, and the JPRF Office. We determined what other researchers have identified as criteria and indicators of co-management success. We also looked at previous research on forestry issues with Tl'azt'en Nation. We reviewed interviews with Tl'azt'enne from a number of projects, some going back to the 1950s. This gave us a sense of what is important to Tl'azt'enne. Analysing this material allowed us to hear the voices of Elders who have passed on, and to collect information on the impacts and benefits of forest management.

We produced a newsletter, a web site, and a number of publications, which are available at our web site: <http://researchforest.unbc.ca/comanage/ComanagementMain.htm>. This first phase also contributed to training and em-



### **Co-management Definitions**

**Criteria** - the essential elements of co-management, including things that

- are important
- are needed
- come from previous knowledge and experience

**Indicators** - signs or signals that can be measured to evaluate criteria

- quantitative (numbers)
- qualitative (descriptive)

**Actions** - practices that can be implemented to improve co-management

ployment for Tl'azt'enne and UNBC students. At the end of Phase 1, we began planning for the next stage by producing a possible list of experts to interview, and a preliminary set of questions we should ask.

## ***PHASE 2: 2003/2004***

During this phase, we are addressing three key questions:

- How can we best identify locally relevant criteria for Joint Forest Management?
- In the JPRF case, what are these criteria, and how can we measure them?
- How can they inform forest partnerships in BC and beyond?

### ***Co-management Definitions***

**Process** - the day-to-day operation and structure of a partnership, including factors such as:

- Board membership and roles
- Funding and administrative support
- Communication
- Community participation
- Integrating Aboriginal and scientific knowledge
- Decision-making
- Conflict resolution

**Outcomes** - the results or benefits of partnership such as:

- Employment
- Economic opportunities
- Educational opportunities
- Joint research
- Increased management effectiveness
- Access to local knowledge
- Lifestyle improvements
- Increased collaboration
- Local involvement in forest management

Our goal in the second year of the project is to identify the critical factors needed to ensure co-management success from the perspective of the people who use, manage, or have an interest in the JPRF. We want to learn about what JPRF partners and involved communities think is needed to make co-management operate successfully, and what JPRF co-management should provide in terms of outcomes and benefits. Our research involves identifying and interviewing key individuals, analysing the content of interviews for criteria, and verifying and prioritizing these criteria. We ask participants to review their transcripts and to review and provide feedback on a summary of findings. We will then compare our criteria with those identified in other cases, and apply our criteria in a preliminary evaluation of the JPRF. To share the research results, we plan to publish a newsletter (The Co-Management Review), an extension note, technical reports, articles in scientific journals, and a workshop. We hope the results of this project will strengthen co-management of the JPRF, and demonstrate its effectiveness to date. Findings may also be applied to other co-management regimes and to other types of forest management partnerships.

### ***FUTURE WORK (PHASES 3 AND 4)***

In upcoming years, we plan to develop a set of indicators for measuring criteria of JPRF co-management. We will then examine the criteria and indicators to determine what similarities and differences exist, and how they can be explained. These actions will help us move from broad concepts to management strategies. We will use the locally specific criteria and indicators to monitor, evaluate and improve the JPRF partnership.

