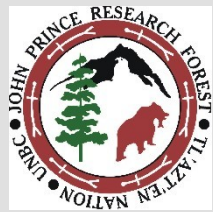


The Co-Management Review

A publication of the Criteria and Indicators of Joint Forest Management Project



August 2003
Issue 1

Welcome to the first edition of *The Co-Management Review*, a series of newsletters about the *Criteria and Indicators of Joint Forest Management Project*. This research involves Ti'azt'en Nation and UNBC and looks at how to make co-management of the John Prince Research Forest (JPRF) more successful. We want to keep you informed about the progress of our project and hope that you will find these newsletters interesting.

Regine Halseth, newsletter editor

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- the sharing of management responsibilities, as well as benefits; and
- power-sharing among partners, and procedures and processes of joint decision-making.

Co-Management - What is it?

Co-management partnerships come in many shapes and sizes. They may be formal or informal. Some focus on a particular species, while others focus on a specific landbase. All co-management arrangements involve power-sharing, but this can range from informing the public to joint decision-making. Features co-management arrangements have in common include:

- at least two parties with interests and values related to joint resources;

Throughout Canada, First Nations have developed an array of joint management agreements with government and industry involving fish, wildlife, parks and protected areas, and forestry. JPRF is the only **First Nation-University** forest co-management agreement in Canada, and perhaps in North America!



JPRF Trail Sign

How can we make co-management work better?

The JPRF is jointly managed by Tl'azt'en Nation and the University of Northern British Columbia. It is a working forest, the purpose of which is to provide opportunities for research, education, and training, for both Tl'azt'enne and UNBC. Equal numbers of Tl'azt'en Nation and UNBC members sit on the Chuzghun Resources Corporation Board of Directors. While the JPRF seems to be running smoothly, there is always room for reflection and positive change!

Our research looks into how co-management on the JPRF might be improved. We are interested in developing '**criteria**' and '**indicators**' of successful co-management to direct, monitor and evaluate the JPRF. Our research looks at co-management **processes** and **outcomes**.

Criteria are the essential elements that must be present to achieve a community's goals.

Indicators are the signs and signals that can be used to monitor and assess criteria.

Co-management process refers to the day-to-day operation and structure of a partnership.

Co-management outcomes are the results or benefits of partnership

Criteria are simply standards or conditions for success. One criterion of successful co-management might be appropriate size of the board of directors; that is to say management should be big enough to represent different interests, but not too big to create communication and participation barriers.

Another criterion for successful co-management might be effective communication among co-management partners, and with the involved communities and outside groups.

We began our research last winter 2002. Our first step (Phase 1) was to determine what other researchers have identified as criteria and indicators (C&I) of successful co-management. Phase 1 ended in March 2003. Next, we applied for more \$\$ for Phase 2 (and were successful in August!).

In Phase 2, we are looking at whether the criteria that other researchers have developed for co-management success make sense for the JPRF. We expect that some do. But, we also expect that there will be some specific criteria of good co-management that Tl'azt'en Nation, UNBC, and folks in the larger community, particularly in Fort St. James, have. It is these **locally relevant criteria** that we want to discover during Phase 2. In other words, **what do YOU think are the essential elements of co-management on the JPRF?**

We feel it is important to answer these questions in order to build the JPRF into the best co-managed forest in Canada!



Ron Winser, JPRF Research Assistant for 'Criteria and Indicators Project' at JPRF pit-house

Why should communities get involved?

While co-management arrangements have met with mixed success, they offer many potential benefits to the involved communities. Co-management can:

- improve resource management in ecologically, culturally, and economically sustainable ways;
- improve communication and understanding between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal groups;
- resolve conflicts;
- establish co-operation and help build trust between partners;
- lead to equity and empowerment, by giving people a greater share in the decisions which affect them;
- build local capacity through training and education; and
- improve people's commitment to the process and resulting decisions because priorities and solutions originate from local people.

Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.

Henry Ford

Phase I of our Research: Outcomes and Products

We reviewed a lot of literature! And identified a lot more that we haven't read yet! The research produced **3 reports**:

- *Criteria Affecting the Success of Co-Management: New Directions for Improved Forest Management Partnership in British Columbia* (Erin Sherry & Gail Fondahl)
- *Joint Forest Management: An Annotated Bibliography of Selected*

Sources (Erin Sherry, Gail Fondahl, Beverly Bird & Regine Halseth)

- *Joint Research Management Alternatives: A Bibliography of National and International Sources* (Erin Sherry, Regine Halseth & Karen Heikkila)



Reports from Phase 1 are all available on the **project website** at <http://researchforest.unbc.ca/comanage/ComanagementMain.htm>.

Copies can also be found in the Tl'azt'en Nation Natural Resources library and the JPRF office at Tanizul.

In addition, we established a 'library' of joint forest management literature for UNBC and Tl'azt'en Nation use. You can access this material at the JPRF office at Tanizul or the Tl'azt'en Nation Natural Resources Office.

After being trained in data analysis, Tl'azt'en researchers also went through past interviews conducted with Tl'azt'en members for other research projects (with permission from Tl'azt'en Nation Chief and Council). These interviews provided some initial Tl'azt'en perspectives on successful forest co-management.

This review of literature, case studies, and Tl'azt'en archival materials has developed our understanding of what makes co-management

work. It has also helped us design interview questions for use in Phase 2 to understand what JPRF partners and stakeholders think the criteria of successful co-management are.

Our findings were presented at a **workshop** on March 20, 2003. The Tl'azt'en Natural Resources library has a video-tape of this workshop. A power-point presentation made at the workshop can be found on the website mentioned above. Our website will be updated regularly to report on the progress of our project. Check it out!

Criteria and Indicators Project - Phase 2 Research Team

Dr. Gail Fondahl, UNBC - Lead Investigator
Sue Grainger, JPRF - Co-Investigator
Dr. Erin Sherry, UNBC - Research Associate
Regine Halseth, UNBC - Research Associate
Tl'azt'en Associate (to be determined)
Ron Winser, JPRF - Research Assistant
Sarah Parsons, UNBC - Research Assistant

In **Phase 1** we were also assisted by:
Melanie Karjala, UNBC - Research Consultant
Beverly Bird, Tl'azt'en Nation - Research Consultant
Renel Mitchell, Tl'azt'en Nation - Research Assistant
Terry Furlong, Tl'azt'en Nation - Research Assistant
Karen Heikkila, UNBC - Research Assistant

Phase 2 - Identifying Criteria of Good Co-Management for JPRF

In August 2003 we received funding for Phase 2 of our research from Forest Innovation Investment and the Forest Research Program. Work on this phase began immediately and will continue until March 2004. In Phase 2 we will determine and verify locally relevant criteria for successful JPRF co-management. This will involve about 40

interviews and surveys with Tl'azt'enne, JPRF board members, UNBC students, staff and researchers, forest industry representatives, neighbouring First Nations, government officials, and Ft. St. James community members. Once again, Tl'azt'en researchers will play a central role in conducting research. See Ron Winser around town or at the JPRF office at Tanizul to find out more about the project or to share your ideas.

Collaborators and Supporters for Phase 2 Research

First Nations

Tl'azt'en Nation
Cariboo Tribal Council
T'exelc (Williams Lake Indian Band)
Skw'lax (Little Shuswap Indian Band)

Industry

Tanizul Timber Ltd.
Canfor Forest Products Ltd.

Municipal and Provincial Government

District of Fort St. James
B.C. Ministry of Forests, Prince George
Region

Non-Government Organizations

Chuzghun Resources Corporation
Alex Fraser Research Forest
Forest Research and Extension Partnership
(FORREX)

Want more information?

If you have any questions or would like more information about this research project please contact Gail Fondahl (960-5856; fondahlg@unbc.ca), Erin Sherry (960-6673; sherry0@unbc.ca) or Sue Grainger (648-3322; grainger@unbc.ca). (Please email if you prefer NOT to receive future issues.)

**Thanks for your interest and stay tuned
for upcoming issues of *The Co-management
Review!***