

Success Stories: Shared Perspectives on JPRF Accomplishments

Criteria and Indicators of Joint Forest Management

E. Sherry and S. Parsons, UNBC

"I think they are a good role model for other research forests. ... Some of them sound pretty focused on operations, silviculture systems, and how to get the wood out. This research forest is focused on way more than that. It's focused on community. It's focused on community values, and on wildlife values, and habitat values."



"It's up and running, and it's managed to survive for 3 years. It's been financially viable and it's doing some wonderful research work. It's had an impact on the Tl'azt'enne and on the local community. ... [It's] a real success story." -Charles Jago

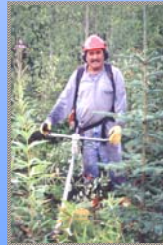
"I think we've developed a fairly high level of trust between the two communities, and that is the reason why we've been successful. We've been able to grasp and tackle some fairly difficult issues because of that level of trust and mutual respect."

"I'm very proud of the Chuntoh Education Society development. ... It's going to enhance the education portion. It [gives] students an opportunity to experience hands on science. Another success is the Youth Work Experience program where it employed Tl'azt'enne youth to develop a trail and to build pit houses, which was [how] our ancestors used to live. Youth learned about our history." -Amelia Stark



"I think the research - the deer stuff - is great. And the training and development opportunities that they've created for students, and for First Nations I think it's excellent." - Kevin Wilson

"They're in business. They've defined a piece of real estate, they've actually had students out there. [It's] a huge success in that you've co-managed this. There is pride in the native community that research is being done on their culture."



"... an opportunity to bring UNBC out of Prince George and into the communities. ... UNBC is still new enough that it needs to be out there selling itself, so bringing it into Fort St. James and bringing it into Tache is very good PR." - Lynn Maksymchak



- Creation of a co-managed forest and a lasting partnership between UNBC and Tl'azt'enne Nation
- Successful structure and functioning of the co-management board
- Demonstration that co-management is viable and shared goals are achievable
- An increased sense of equality and well being as a result of meaningful collaboration: a sense of shared accomplishment, success, pride, and ownership in the enterprise
- Mutual appreciation, especially increased respect for Tl'azt'enne forest values, knowledge, and users
- Trust and credibility established between co-management partners, as well as among JPRF staff, partners, and neighbouring communities
- Increased opportunities for Tl'azt'enne participation in forest management
- Generation of community involvement and buy-in from diverse people
- Equitable distribution of benefits: short- and long-term, concrete and more intangible benefits are created
- Positive contributions to community development for Tl'azt'enne Nation and UNBC as reflected in JPRF's educational, cultural, and research programs
- Applied natural and social science research, which addresses issues of local and regional significance
- Forest management activities are planned and implemented to protect sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, and spiritual significance
- Acquisition and development of the Cinnabar Resort as a research station, education facility, JPRF office, and potential eco-cultural tourism site
- Direct and indirect employment opportunities
- Education and training opportunities for learners of all ages from UNBC and Tl'azt'enne Nation
- Small-scale recreational developments such as interpretive trails and cultural rediscovery sites
- Cross-cultural exchange and learning opportunities
- Connections among people in the north: bringing UNBC to remote, rural communities; building positive relationships within and between diverse communities

"One major accomplishment is getting over the first few years of struggle to establish credibility and trust, both between co-managers and among the greater community. Work done on establishing the vision and goals and building these into the management plan was a key accomplishment. From this vision, credibility, and trust we are now able to implement strategies to control bark beetle outbreaks, establish wildlife habitat studies, improve, renovate and build the system of trails and pit houses to re-establish cultural elements on the land - all these elements and more are clearly accomplishments and signs of successful implementation of that shared vision."



"We find that there's equality here between the First Nations within our community and the university staff. We are colleagues. We're not bosses above each other. We are at the same wavelength and I think that's a success. ... A major success is that this thing happened within our territory and it proves to the general public that, 'Yes, we could do something in collaboration with other people'."

"... the ability to get established in the last couple years and start doing the field education, the establishment of trails, the purchase of Cinnabar. I think those are all positive things that improve the Tl'azt'enne way of life." -Thomas Pierre

"They've had some really awesome training projects that have really benefited the community."



"I would just say getting established, getting some programs that are getting a lot of people working and learning, ... making things work together, work in harmony, bringing options to industry that can be helpful. Those are good things."

"[UNBC people] they know a lot of stuff. They know what we don't know, but you put me in the bush and you put them in the bush and I'll show them my skill and they learn. They learn by me and I learn by them. ...Two heads are better than one!" -Philip Felix



"It's hired some people. It's got people interested in terms of research. It's opened some minds to the potential of just what's out there ... and what we can pass on. And it has got dialogue going between Tl'azt'enne, university and the government. ... It's not just an idea any more. It's growing and you're getting a regular Joe like me interested enough to form opinions" -Owen Prince

"It has Tl'azt'enne Nation and UNBC working together. I think that should be classified as a success. It's a success at bringing the two together [and working] towards a common goal."