

Incorporating First Nation's Perspectives and CRM into Forestry Planning

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Basic Assumptions

- CRM - Managing the impacts of the modern world on cultural resources
- CRM - Managing cultural landscapes, archaeological sites, historical records, social institutions, expressive cultures, old buildings, religious beliefs and practices, folk life, artifacts and spiritual places
- Archaeology – the study of past human behaviour through material remains
- Cultural resources (including archaeological resources) are
NON – RENEWABLE!



Different Worldviews

- Fundamental differences between Aboriginal perspectives and legislated policy relating to natural and heritage stewardship
- For First Nations, natural and cultural resources are inextricably linked and cannot be separated
- Forestry development agencies and First Nations have different priorities, concepts of time, space and context

First Nations Responses to Shortcomings in Resource Management

- Direct Actions: Blockades and Occupations
- Court Actions
- Heritage Policies and Permitting Procedures
- Resource Management Departments and Businesses
- Treaties, Interim Measures and Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs)
- Municipal Protocols and Agreements
- Industry Agreements
- Provincial Land Use Planning Processes

What about 'Places of
Cultural Importance' on the
Landscape?



Forestry and First Nations: FRPA, FREP and the HCA

- Forest planning process does not adequately manage cultural heritage
 - FRPA and FREP deliberately excludes protected archaeological heritage
- HCA only governs archaeological resources
- 1846 date is a PROFOUND issue for all First Nations
- Enforcement of HCA has been problematic

Forestry and First Nations: FRPA, FREP and the HCA cont'

- FRPA and FREP evaluate cultural value and prioritize licensees interpretations of CHR
- Forest tenures allocation process has created serious divisions within and among First Nations groups
 - Easily solved problem – solicit and incorporate input from involved First Nations and social scientists regarding how the process can be improved

Case study: Hagwilget Village and BC Hydro

- In October 2006, BC Hydro impacted ancient burial site
- Remains of unknown # of people were disturbed
- BC Hydro has since not been back to that site for work
- Hagwilget Village Council (HVC) has managed the site since



Case study: Hagwilget Village and BC Hydro

- Since then, communications between HVC and BC Hydro have been ongoing and respectful
- Initial reaction was to perform archaeology only



- Through cross cultural understanding, listening, and dialogue, both sides have come to understand that this is a CULTURAL concern, which is much larger than just archaeology
- Timelines and industry approach reconsidered

Case study: Wetzin'kwa Community Forest Corporation (WCFC)

- Office of the Wet'suwet'en involved in application process (unique and appreciated)
- Focus on relationship and forest management
- Ongoing planning and implementation meaningfully involves the Wet'suwet'en



WCFC Innovative Practices

- Preserved trail systems (trails not adequately preserved in any other management policy)
- Special Management/ Machine free zones
- Stub CMTs (feature still on landscape)
- Appropriate buffer zones around areas of cultural importance (as defined by the Wet'suwet'en)
- Wet'suwet'en can monitor and penalize the destruction of their cultural heritage

Relevant Trends in Resource Management

- Cultural heritage stewardship objectives in 'high level' provincial land use planning
 - (i.e. LRMPs, SRMPs and EBM)
- Heritage stewardship responsibilities and authority shifting to First Nations
- Recent court decisions continue to empower and support First Nations

Lessons for Licensees: Moving Forward

- Must build and maintain relationships based on mutual respect and not obligation or entitlement
- Dialogue and listen
- Must go beyond minimum requirements, box checking and tokenism
- Forestry industry must make greater efforts to understand First Nations perspectives (ex. meetings on territories)
- Prioritize opportunities for collaboration and cooperation

