

**Community Forest Pilot
Agreement # K1H**

Management Plan

Licensee:

**McBride Community Forest Corporation
Robson Valley Forest District**

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Submitted *February 14, 2003* by:

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Signature

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1.0 Licensee's Goals

The long term vision of the McBride Community Forest Corporation is to serve the social, environmental and economic needs of the community. In general terms, we will sustainably manage the forest for all of its product potential rather than just timber. The Community Forest Pilot Agreement and the associated tenure area are valuable assets which strengthen our ability to generate a viable socioeconomic system from which the maximum benefit will flow to the maximum number of people in our community (from "the Proposal").

There should be no surprise that innovation will be required on many levels. Over the long term, our operation must be as diverse as the ecosystems and terrain surrounding McBride. All parties must be open to new ideas while remaining supportive of the Community Forest as a whole.

One measure of the success of this plan will be the transformation of this Pilot Agreement into a long-term license. The spotlight should then be brightly cast on McBride, further distinguishing ourselves, allowing our innovation to be exhibited, and attracting more business and research to this area. Indeed, the McBride Community Forest should become a model for enhanced forest management in B.C. as well as other community-centred forest management operations across Canada.

Unforeseen events may occur within the term of this plan and render certain commitments or objectives unachievable. Conversely, the resources required to significantly expand upon commitments or further define objectives may become available. It would then be desirable to amend the Management Plan to allow timely and continuous improvement of the management of the Community Forest.

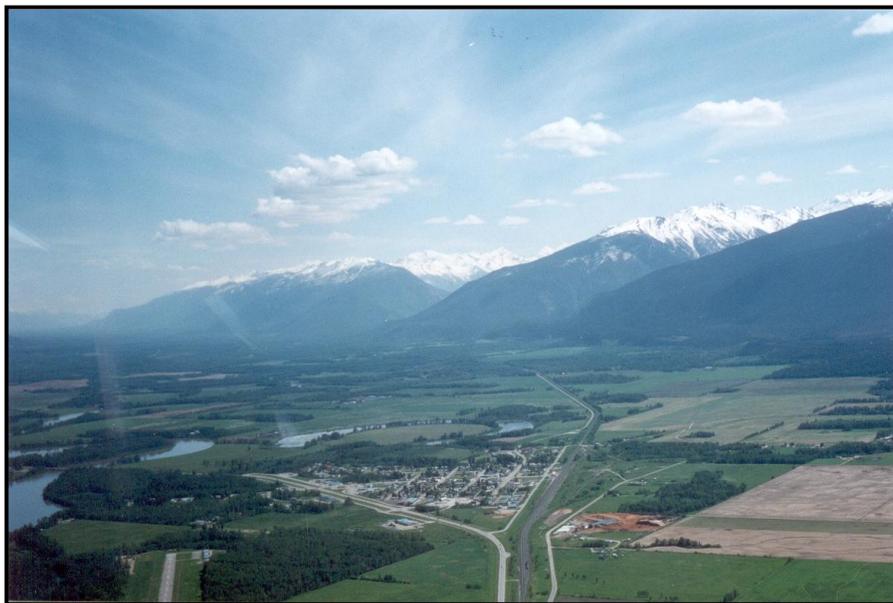


Figure 1. Village of McBride.

2.0 Licensee's Statement of Commitments

Along with the opportunities associated with a Community Forest Pilot Agreement comes a diverse set of social, environmental, economic, timber and non-timber expectations. This plan will define those expectations through a lengthy set of objectives, and in most cases will propose strategies to meet those objectives.

It should be known that in all cases the Community Forest intends to follow the appropriate legal requirements of legislation, regulation, treaties etc... In most cases, these legal requirements will not be restated unless otherwise required.

- **Commitment #1**

In order to maintain consistency in the Community Forest's initial stage of operation, the intent of the initial application and proposal will be adhered to (2.02 of "the Agreement").

- **Commitment #2**

Formal public meetings will be held at least twice annually (Sch. "C" 1.01 of "the Agreement"). At these meetings, we will present a summary of the activities conducted by the Community Forest. The audience will consist of the public and the Board of Directors of the McBride Community Forest Corporation. These meetings will likely coincide with the legislated requirement to advertise and consult with the public and parties affected by operational plans such as Forest Development Plans. Part 6.0 – Consultation Measures found near the end of this Management Plan will expand upon this requirement.

- **Commitment #3**

We will offer not less than 20% of the volume, harvested from the Agreement Area, for sale on the open market (Sch. "C" 1.02 of "the Agreement").

3.0 Management Objectives and Strategies

3.1 Timber Harvesting

Currently, and in the short term, timber has the potential to be the most tangible and readily available asset. The inventory of this resource is based upon the Ministry of Forests' forest cover mapping, currently administered by the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management. The need to update this database will be assessed from time to time. The next Timber Supply Review process will help to identify inventory gaps, and will allow for the testing of the accuracy of these

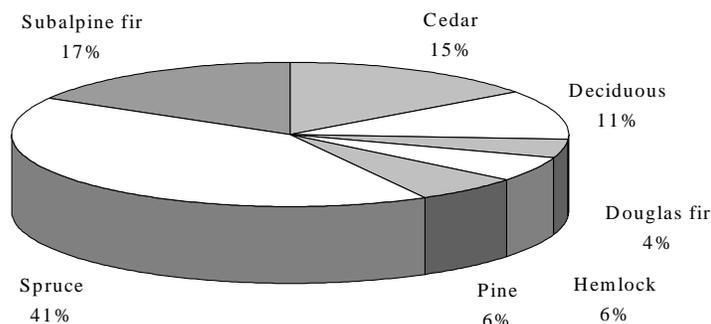


Figure 2. Leading species by area within the Timber Harvesting Land Base.

inventories. Projects such as Total Chance Planning, Total Resource Design or Ecosystem Management Plans will be evaluated for use in locally developed Scenario Planning Models.

Harvesting priorities will be conducive to meeting the objectives of integrated resource management including maintaining long-term sustained harvesting levels and ensuring profitability of the operation. Harvesting methods will be developed based upon site specific requirements. They will be further described as site plans and logging plans are prepared. The following objectives and strategies provide the foundation for guiding timber harvesting priorities and methods (2.02 (d) (i) of “the Agreement”).

Objective	Strategy
Timber should remain in the Robson Valley and be utilized for value added and specialty production.	Offer a proportion of available tenures or sales to local operators based upon proposals which include the creation of something in the order of one full time job per 1,000 m ³ as well as guaranteeing the production of value added or specialty products.
Profit from timber harvesting to fund the Corporation and its activities.	Negotiate to have a portion of the stumpage fees collected by BC to be returned directly to the Community Forest to aid in planning and inventories, and to enhance other opportunities such as recreation, tourism, education or research as directed by the Board of Directors.
	To maintain cash flow and maximize profitability from a portion of the allowable annual cut, offer not less than 20% of the volume harvested from the Agreement Area for sale on the open market.

Maximize diversity of products and tenures.	Provide a tenure or sale structure which provides for a range of volumes, species and products including possible enhanced or super utilization and special (timber) forest products.
	Include timber harvesting sales or tenures which integrate other objectives such as research, education and recreation.
Manage the timber resource based upon a long-term-sustained-yield basis.	Utilize alternative harvesting techniques and innovative silviculture systems as part of a strategy to maintain other values.
	Participate in Timber Supply Reviews and other modeling initiatives as required by law or special circumstances, to calculate a sustainable level of harvest and to identify strategies to optimize that harvest level.
	Evaluate the potential to benefit from stakeholder-driven scenario planning models.
	The current goal is to begin with a harvest of 31,000 m ³ per year and achieve a harvest of 50,000 m ³ per year by the fifth year.

3.2 Water Quality

The rural community surrounding McBride and indeed the Village of McBride, obtains all of its drinking water from the many small creeks that run from the face of the Rocky Mountain Trench. It gives the community great comfort to know that it is in charge of the management of the forest surrounding its drinking water (from “the Proposal”).



Figure 3. Harvesting narrow corridors with a cross-valley skyline system minimizes the need for roads.

The two special types of drinking-water users are classified as either domestic or community. Each has its own characteristics and requires different management strategies.

The only Community Watershed within the Community Forest Agreement Area encompasses Dominion Creek. It supplies the Village of McBride and is found just above the Village to the west. Monitoring of the Village's water quality is the responsibility of the Village.

Domestic watersheds are numerous. An inventory currently exists with the Environmental Protection Division – Water, within the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection. An agreement will be struck with that Ministry to allow for an enhanced inventory to be maintained and updated by the Community Forest. Sharing the financial and operational responsibility will allow greater protection and local control.

Monitoring of domestic water is accomplished by the water users themselves. A strategy will be developed to allow timely and accurate feedback to the Community Forest when operations are proposed or active near such waterways.

Planning and operating measures are already legislated or otherwise in place for community and domestic watersheds. The need for any further protection strategies will be assessed through consultation with the affected parties and Standard Operating Procedures will be developed.

Objective	Strategy
Maintain sufficient quality and quantity of drinking water.	<p>Follow the applicable legislation for Community and Domestic Watersheds.</p> <p>Follow the intent of the Robson Valley Land and Resource Management Plan with regard to watersheds.</p> <p>Draft Standard Operating Procedures and Contingency Plans for planning and operating within Community and Domestic Watersheds.</p>
Increase the current level of Domestic Water management.	<p>Develop a strategy to monitor Domestic Water.</p> <p>Work in partnership with the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection to create an enhanced inventory of Domestic Watersheds to be maintained locally.</p> <p>Encourage the creation of local water user groups to aid in consultation during bi-annual public meetings and operational plan advertising periods.</p>
Protect Watersheds from catastrophic events which could produce poor quality water.	<p>Within the Community Watershed, initiate selective or partial harvesting as a means of reducing the mean age class and maximizing age class and tree species diversity (from “the Proposal”).</p> <p>Integrate Water Quality management with Fire Protection and Pest Management.</p>

3.3 Recreation and Tourism

The recreation potential within the Community Forest Agreement Area benefits from the many spectacular features and natural conditions which are found near McBride. Indeed, this is what has brought many people to live, work or otherwise spend time here. There have been some local entrepreneurs who have been able to capitalize upon this fact. As of yet though, there has been little or no development within the Agreement Area from outside parties.

An inventory of recreation opportunities and features within the Community Forest Agreement Area is available from provincial forest cover mapping overlays. An inventory of commercial tourism operators can easily be created with the help of the Chamber of Commerce, or through a broadcast request from the community. Proposals or recommendations for the creation or maintenance of tourism opportunities can then be obtained from interested parties.

Because recreation and tourism are important to this area and it's residents, profits from other Community Forest operations will be earmarked to initiate further development. User fees can then be generated, allowing us to sustain recreation and tourism management, once underway.

Objective	Strategy
Maintain and create recreation and tourism opportunities.	In the short term, use profits from timber harvesting and external funding to initiate enhanced recreation and tourism management.
	Generate user fees and negotiate partnerships to ensure the long term sustainability of recreation and tourism management.
	Schedule harvesting and road building activities to coincide with construction and maintenance of recreation facilities, while avoiding operating during periods of high tourist use.
	Plan for roads to provide access to key recreation areas, while avoiding road development in certain backcountry or primitive recreation settings.
	Ensure harvesting operations provide viewpoints and interpretive forest areas, while maintaining an acceptable viewscape.
	Assess the results of the Recreation Emphasis Scenario, as modeled by the Robson Valley Enhanced Forest Management Pilot Project.

3.4 Education and Research

Since the management of this Community Forest will require innovation and new thinking, it is likely that a number of research projects will spring from it. The new era of the Results Based

Code will in fact require that our objectives are based upon scientifically proven concepts before they can be legally and professionally accepted.

Our current thinking is that there may be an opportunity to establish a long term forest education and research satellite facility for the University of Northern British Columbia and the College of New Caledonia. Such a facility would be utilized to provide forest related education for local students as well as a potential site for the field work portions of the university and college curricula. It could also provide natural resource oriented ministries with a year round facility for their many upgrading courses and in-services. These partnerships would provide some of the funding or expertise to aid in the completion of the research required by the Community Forest.

Obviously, the establishment of such a facility would be a major undertaking. The planning, funding, and agreements would have to be initiated upon award of the Community Forest Pilot but would likely take the full term of the pilot to be settled. Any sort of facility would then have to be established after the award of a Long Term Community Forest Agreement, further distinguishing McBride as a centre of world class community forest management (partly paraphrased from “the Proposal”).

Objective	Strategy
Attract research projects to aid in the management and promotion of the Community Forest.	Identify gaps in the Community Forest’s management knowledge and partner researchers with the appropriate operations and/or settings.
	Ensure that local knowledge and achievements are promoted provincially and nationally through websites, publications, conferences, professional associations, etc.
Establish education opportunities and facilities for local residents, students, nearby universities and colleges, and technical and professional employees.	During the first five years of the Community Forest, develop a plan to establish a satellite research and education facility.
	Secure the funding and negotiate agreements to promote the educational potential of the Community Forest.

3.5 Healthy Living Environment

As intangible as a healthy living environment may seem, we have been directed to maintain one in McBride. The members of this community are particularly sensitive to this issue to the extent that it simply must be addressed in order to proceed with the Community Forest. It is of singular importance as a reason to proceed with the sensitive and innovative methods of forest management that we are proposing here. As it turns out, the ability to derive all of the benefits that we seek from the Community Forest also happens to support the maintenance of a healthy environment for the many reasons we have already discussed (from “the Proposal”). For example, the healthier we maintain the environment in this area, the more diverse the recreation and lifestyle choices will be.

Many of the current forest management practices attempt to inform the public of proposed activities. The level of public participation that is inherent in the Community Forest strives to build

self determination and confidence. As we shape our own future, promote our achievements and develop opportunities through interaction with researchers, practitioners and consumers from outside the valley, we will ensure that we control our own destiny.

Objective	Strategy
Maintain a healthy living environment.	Through public consultation, develop a set of criteria and indicators to qualitatively and quantitatively measure the elements of a healthy living environment.
Sustain a successfully functioning economic community.	Assess the potential for initiatives of the Robson Valley Enhanced Forest Management Pilot Project to provide a platform for achieving this objective.

3.6 Botanical Products, Mushrooms and Others

The collection and gathering of non-timber forest products has long been a pastime enjoyed by many of the residents of the Robson Valley. Where the potential for economic development and financial return has existed, it has been impeded by challenges in marketing, transporting and maintaining adequate production. Schedule “C” of the Community Forest Pilot Agreement lists the products which are currently approved for management and harvest.



Figure 4. An example of the botanical products found in the Community Forest Agreement Area (photo by Andy MacKinnon).

Inventories of the products have historically been through personal communication with those individuals who take part in their collection. Recently, inventory projects have begun to formally list the available products, and are even attempting to correlate site specific factors with their abundance. These factors can then be cross referenced with existing databases such as forest cover mapping, to provide a spatial inventory (Berch *et.al.* 2002).

Objective	Strategy
Develop opportunities for the collection of botanical products.	Identify potential natural production areas.
	Coordinate other management activities such as harvesting and recreation development, which could protect, maintain or improve natural production of botanicals.
Assess the potential to build markets and a licensing system for the economic development of botanical collection.	Delegate a non-timber forest product manager or technician to establish an economically sustainable trade centre.

3.7 Non-Timber Resources

Non-timber resources including visual quality, biological diversity, soils, cultural heritage resources, range land and fish and wildlife habitats will receive high standards of management within the Community Forest Agreement Area. It is felt that this will contribute to the overall health of the forest and the community. Non-timber resources such as recreation and water have already been addressed in this plan.

Visual Quality

Objective	Strategy
Maintain the visual quality of the Agreement Area.	Follow the established Visual Quality Objectives by incorporating visual design in the planning process.
	Utilize alternative harvesting methods and silviculture systems to allow for optimal timber extraction while maintaining the visual quality.
	Maintain an accurate visual inventory of the landscape including sensitivity ratings, existing alterations and viewpoints.



Figure 5. A visually aesthetic harvest area.

Biological Diversity

Objective	Strategy
Maintain a diverse presence of biological species and their associated habitats.	Establish science based targets for forest seral stage distribution.
	Incorporate management activities which minimize negative impacts to blue and red listed species.
Provide opportunities for greater wildlife and other non-timber resource utilization.	Encourage management practices that promote these resources where feasible.

Soils

Objective	Strategy
Protect the integrity and productivity of forest soils.	Conduct terrain stability mapping to identify areas of concern.
	Utilize lower impact machines and systems such as cable harvesting systems, low ground pressure skidders.
	Schedule operations to avoid conditions which would exacerbate soil disturbance.
	Ensure deactivation and/or regeneration of trails and roads is consistent with their planned long term use.

Cultural Heritage Resource

Objective	Strategy
Identify and protect cultural heritage resources of either First Nations and/or non First Nations interest.	Upon discovery of evidence of historical First Nations or non-First Nations presence or use, inform the appropriate organization.
Identify local historical features of interest.	Assess the potential for tourism or education opportunities where evidence of non-native and/or native historical use exists.

Range Land

Objective	Strategy
Ensure that sufficient opportunities exist for current range tenure holders.	Consult with tenure holders to integrate range management with recreation, tourism, timber and non-timber resource operations.

Fish and Wildlife Habitat



Figure 6. Mule deer using a partial-harvest area.

Objective	Strategy
Provide sufficient habitat of a quality required to support healthy wildlife populations.	Integrate forest and other resource management operations with fish and wildlife management.
	Protect critical fish and wildlife and their habitats (example – bull trout, Chinook salmon, caribou, furbearers).

	Continue fish and wildlife monitoring in both undisturbed and managed areas, <u>ie.</u> use wildlife as an indicator of integrated resource management success.
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3.8 Forest Fire Prevention and Suppression

Although fires can be a natural part of the forest ecosystem, the ill-timed and negative impacts of fires cannot be afforded. Wildfire frequency is variable and less dominant in this part of the country, but wildfires certainly do occur. Damaging fires have occurred in the Dore Valley, as well as some scattered, smaller locales within the Agreement Area. Prescribed and intentional burning does occur on a small scale as part of current forest management.

It will be our responsibility to prepare and update a Fire Protection Plan annually. This plan will identify the key components of our prevention and preparedness efforts. The objective of minimizing uncontrolled losses will be emphasized through the well planned use of prescribed fire, as well as wildfire monitoring and suppression strategies.

Further to the Fire Protection Plan and possibly included as an appendix will be a plan to deal with the salvage of fire killed timber. Non-recoverable losses need to be minimized on the Agreement Area and all reasonable efforts will be made to utilize and profit from fire killed timber, either immediately or over a period of time.

As initially mentioned, fires can be a natural part of the forest ecosystem. Forest management practices currently utilize fire as a tool for site preparation or hazard abatement. The use of fire as a large scale land clearing tool in the early 1900s, combined with the fairly successful suppression of fires of any size since then, has created an unnatural and dangerous state of fuel loading, species composition, age class structure and successional progress on the southern exposure of the main trench. Indeed, many of the current forest health events and altered state of plant and wildlife habitats may be a direct result of current and past fire management on the southern aspect. It has even been suggested that pine mushrooms appear to occur more frequently in areas where the duff layer has been kept at moderate accumulations. Broadcast burning has been associated with the future production of pine mushrooms for this reason. The carefully prescribed use of fire in appropriate ecosystems will be evaluated over the term of this management plan.

3.9 Forest Health and Pest Management

As with the unexpected losses from fire, the loss of timber and habitat due to forest pest and health agents may be undesirable in certain instances. Management strategies will be developed annually for each geographic area and forest health factor. These strategies will consider a chosen level of active management and/or intervention.

Some of the currently important forest health factors include:

- **Bark Beetles** – mountain pine, spruce, Douglas-fir, balsam

- **Tissue Feeders** – white pine leader weevil (on spruce)
- **Defoliators** – forest tent caterpillar, hemlock looper, two-year-cycle budworm
- **Root Diseases** – armillaria, tomentosus
- **Stem Rusts** – white pine blister rust, western gall rust
- **Mistletoe** – pine, hemlock
- **Windthrow**
- **Animal Browse** – deer browse on cedar, rodent and lagomorph clipping in young stands.

3.10 Silviculture Treatment

Current forest management policy and legislation focuses silviculture efforts on the establishment of free growing stands after harvesting or some other disturbance has occurred. We intend to make the most of this basic silviculture investment and to have it reflected in Timber Supply Review Modeling and Allowable Annual Cut Determinations as an increase in timber quantity. Strategies such as shortened regeneration delay, rapid achievement of free growing, improved site index measurements near free growing age, use of genetically improved stock (*ie.* selective breeding... not genetic alteration or modification) and growth and yield measurements for under-sampled harvesting treatments and innovative silviculture systems will be established within the term of this Management Plan.

Incremental or enhanced silviculture strategies will aim for an increase in timber quality. Through operations such as spacing, thinning or pruning, the potential end products can be more diverse and more valuable.

Currently, there are no outstanding silvicultural liabilities inherited by us. Scheduling of silviculture activities will take place on a seasonal basis.

3.11 Roads and Access

The primary objective of road operations is to plan, establish and maintain access to and from forest management areas. Some of the activities which require road access include harvesting, silviculture, protection, recreation, tourism and botanical collection. Due to the fact that road building and maintenance is a costly endeavour, timber harvesting will provide the majority of the required capital. In time, tourism or other resource users may play a small role in providing some financial support.

We commit to providing safe, efficiently planned roads which respect all environmental and legal considerations. A significant portion of the Agreement Area incorporates steep, rugged topography where terrain stability field assessments and engineered road designs will be conducted to ensure that roads are of a high quality. Also, some roads may need to be considered near riparian areas, private land or other sensitive locations. Detailed consultation with the effected parties will take place in conjunction with or prior to public review and advertising of operational plans.

4.0 Timber Utilization Standards

The following table details our minimum level of timber utilization. Utilization beyond what is required will be explored.

Species	Minimum diameter at stump height	Maximum stump height	Minimum top diameter for butt logs and top logs	Minimum log length for butt logs and top logs	Minimum slab thickness	Minimum slab length
Cw >140 years	15.0 cm	30.0 cm	15.0 cm	3.0 m	10.0 cm	3.0 m
All except Cw >140	15.0 cm	30.0 cm	10.0 cm	3.0 m	10.0 cm	3.0 m

Mandatory timber utilization will follow the standards set by regulation and policy for the interior. Where required, timber cruises will be conducted as per interior policy and standards set in the cruising and appraisal manuals to determine stumpage rates. Weigh scaling will set the final volumes to be billed by the province. Piece scaling of individual logs will be tested where high value logs or auctions are proposed. Special (timber) forest products such as shake and shingle blocks, fence posts and railway ties will be treated as per provincial standards and policy.

Where markets and harvesting abilities can prove that timber is being utilized beyond the existing standard, documentation will be collected and the increased volume of timber may be reflected in an increased allowable annual cut.

5.0 Proposed Allowable Annual Cut

Our Agreement Area was partly selected and approved in 2002 based upon the criteria of supporting a coniferous Allowable Annual Cut of 50 000 cubic metres per year. The Agreement Area was negotiated from tenure holders who previously operated within it. The volume was taken from the B.C. Timber Sales Program.

Similar to the remainder of the Robson Valley Timber Supply Area, the AAC for the Community Forest is currently projected to be maintained for 10 to 20 years. Afterwards, a decrease of 10% per decade will occur until the long-term harvest level is reached. This long-term harvest level is projected to be 29 000 cubic metres per year, after six decades.

As previously stated in this plan, we intend to compensate for the falldown effect through enhanced management practices, improved inventories and increased diversity and marketing of end products. These strategies will be developed over the term of this Management Plan so that their benefits may be realized before the falldown continues. Beginning with a harvest level of 31 000 cubic metres in the first year will further offset this falldown (refer to Appendix 'C').

6.0 Consultation Measures

The Community Forest is being managed to provide social, environmental and economic benefits to the community which it encompasses. As such, it is desirable to have the entire community informed about the activities conducted by the Community Forest. At a minimum, public meetings will occur twice annually to facilitate this dissemination of information. Other methods of effectively and efficiently communicating the Community Forest's activities will be evaluated. Media such as newsletters, flyers and webpages may be used to continuously share information.

Input from the community can be received in a number of ways such as:

- Comments and concerns can be formally received regarding operational plans for any or all resources during the advertising period of the plan. These issues would focus on proposed activities and the geographic areas which they affect.
- Input can be made during the bi-annual public meetings. Issues regarding the overall management of the Community Forest and its operations in a more general sense can be identified.
- It is proposed that the manager or his/her equivalent will strike public working groups or committees to represent individuals with common interests in the successful operation of the Community Forest. These groups will be labeled the recreation group, tourism group, water users group etc... and will provide input on their respective area of interest. Where knowledge gaps are identified, research, monitoring and education can be focused on filling those gaps and further empowering the community. As time passes and knowledge grows, the interests and concerns of the public may be satisfied by the working groups. It would need to be reinforced that while some people may feel dissatisfied with the operation from time to time, these community based working groups will exist in order to provide a positive contribution to the main objectives of the Community Forest.
- The commitment to the community will demand that an open door policy be maintained at all times. Meetings, field excursions and visits may be scheduled with groups or individuals simply by picking up the phone, sending an email or walking through the door (ie. direct contact).

Other licensed resource users will be identified by contacting the appropriate government agency. Consultation and operational planning will then occur with the users in order to define strategies and measures to integrate those other resource values.

The Robson Valley Forest District has consulted with First Nations regarding forest management activities. The groups in question are the Lheidli T'enneh Nation, North Thompson Band, Canim Lake Band, Williams Lake Band and Red Bluff Band. District policy will be followed regarding further consultation.

7.0 Adaptive Management / Continual Improvement

As information is shared between the Community Forest, consulting professionals, researchers, government and the public, management strategies and techniques can be developed and improved. This process of adaptive management will be executed as management plans are implemented, reviewed and rewritten on a regular schedule of about every five to ten years.

Literature Cited

Berch, Shannon M., Andy MacKinnon, Tyson Ehlers and Signy Fredrickson. 2002. Non-timber forest product plant and fungal species in the Robson Valley Forest District, a component of the Enhanced Forest management Pilot Project.

APPENDIX ‘A’

McBride Community Forest Concept
“The Proposal”

APPENDIX ‘B’

Community Forest Pilot Agreement K1H
“The Agreement”

APPENDIX 'C'

Land Base Selection and Allowable Annual Cut
Evaluation

APPENDIX ‘D’

Map of the McBride Community Forest
Agreement Area

APPENDIX 'E'

McBride Community Forest Concept Flow Chart