

Final Report
to the Gwaii Forest Society
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Grant # SFM 6-2008
Information Support for LUP Implementation

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PROJECT SUMMARY

The project objective was to provide research and mapping in support of LUP implementation, pursuant to GFS objective #3: implementation strategies to address landscape and stand level issues.

Our goal was to help ensure that the process of implementing the Strategic Land Use Agreement (SLUA 2007) was as well-informed as possible by creating a series of maps and briefs and otherwise providing technical advice as requested by the agencies and individuals involved. These included the Protected Areas Team charged with completing legal designations and management plans for the New Conservancies, the Joint Technical Team charged with Detailed Strategic Planning for implementing EBM Objectives, and other agencies and consultants engaged in various aspects of the work.

The project was a success in that a large number of maps and several technical reports were produced and well-received by those involved in LUP implementation. The new conservancies have been legally designated with correct map line work. The detailed EBM planning process has made good progress, especially with respect to riparian/fish forest management, and is ongoing until December 2009.

PROJECT DELIVERABLES

The project has resulted in five major deliverables in print and digital/web media as follows:

- Riparian Fish Forest Condition, poster map w/ summary report;
- Riparian Fish Forest, revised technical report w/ summary of Watershed Condition;
- Original Forest Cover poster map;
- Logging History poster map, updated to 2006, w/ timber supply & forest values summary charts and a general cedar estimate; and
- Estimating Cedar Supply, final technical report.

We printed 250 copies each of the three posters and the RFF technical report (52pp), which will be distributed at no cost to on-island government offices, resources management agencies, libraries, schools, museums and other interested parties. Digital copies will be posted on our website in April (www.spruceroots.org). Printed copies are submitted with this final grant report, as are digital versions of the RFF and cedar technical reports.

EVALUATION

Throughout the term of this grant, we have provided maps and other technical information about the SLUA, environmental conditions and the local forest economy to CHN, provincial and federal government agencies, museums, schools, universities and the general public. We met our design objective of making previously invisible values—such as fish and wildlife forest habitat values and cultural uses—more visible. We have made land and resource inventories and maps more accessible to the general public, in formats that are easy to use and understand, at no charge.

Our maps and analyses have continued to contribute to the joint BC-Haida process for implementing the land use plan. In addition to the five major deliverables noted above, the project has provided several hundred copies of over one hundred LUP-related maps on request for:

- Haida agencies involved in SLUA implementation (Heritage & Forest Guardians, Mapping, Land Use Planning and Fisheries);
- Provincial agencies involved in SLUA implementation (Ministry of Forests, Ministry of Environment, ILMB); and
- Agencies of both parties involved in assessing local forest tenure options.

Related activities and products have included:

- We produced a slide show (48 images and maps) used by the CHN Executive and legal representatives for public presentations to explain the SLUA.
- We produced interim draft versions of the three poster map deliverables and the LUP map for public display at CHN House of Assembly and Quarterly meetings, the Haida Gwaii Museum, and the Gaaysiigang conference in February.
- The RFF technical report was peer reviewed (see PDF page 5) and given a major revision—19 figures and three tables were added to clarify the modeling procedures and analysis results.
- We have provided (and continue to provide) GIS shapefiles of land use zones, riparian forest, high value fish habitat, logging history, mineral claims, etc to Haida and BC agencies, forest industry companies and technical consultants involved in ongoing assessment of options for implementing the SLUA.
- Presented background briefings and maps to Haida and BC members of the Protected Areas and Joint Technical Teams during the implementation startup phase;
- Attended various meetings of the Protected Areas and Joint Technical Teams in Old Massett, Skidegate and Queen Charlotte to clarify boundary issues and SLUA negotiation intent.
- We hosted a cedar seminar involving 20 local and provincial experts on April 15-16 at the Kaay 'Llnagaay Centre. Two full days were spent talking about cedar—past, present and future—what we know, what sorts of analysis have been done so far, and what we want to know next.
- Attended a two-day workshop February 25-26 with other riparian/fish habitat experts to develop detailed plans to implement EBM Objectives for Aquatic Habitat; presented

the revised RFF technical report and risk assessment, which have become the basis for identifying Sensitive Watersheds and modeling High Value Fish Habitat at the landscape level.

There were two shortcomings regarding the project, both involving unexpected delays in access to information. First, the ‘new’ air photos of the entire archipelago taken in 2007 were delayed by technical issues throughout the year—in fact they did not arrive until last week—and so we did not have enough time to refine our logging coverage and related analyses of Logging History and Riparian Fish Forest Condition as far as we wanted. Instead, we used satellite imagery from 2005 and 2006 and have reported those numbers. Finally, we have just acquired several 2008 Landsat-5 scenes which we used to update the poster image (but not the numbers).

Second, we did not succeed in acquiring several timber inventories and operating cruise reports that are essential to the Cedar Supply Model, despite indications that they would be forthcoming (and even that they still could be in the near future).

Still, as detailed in the technical report on Estimating Cedar Supply we have:

- made a major effort to collect and review every available report pertaining to cedar supply analysis;
- managed to collect, scrutinize, clean up and collate various ecological databases that are essential to the model; and
- designed and described the model architecture and procedure.

All of these constitute a large amount of work and major progress towards the goal, but we can’t actually run the model without a significantly large number of survey records such as we hope to obtain from logging company inventories (e.g. over 40,000 cedar trees are described with geographic locations in Western Forest Products’ data alone).

In the alternative—and as discussed at the time of the project interim report in December—we did produce a more generalized indication of cedar supply based on our volumes and values data and on the LUP-PTT analysis units (Holt), and these are presented on the Logging History poster. As for the more accurate detailed estimates that all parties are interested in, the databases that we have cleaned and assembled and the model procedures that we have described are ready-made for any agency or combination of agencies to complete the analysis with the inventory data when they become available.

In conclusion, our work on this project has contributed to furthering GFS/SFM Objective Three: “support research and planning that results in implementation strategies to address landscape and stand level issues,” and has also supported Objective Two: “improve and expand land and resource use inventories and standards.”

We are grateful for the support from the Gwaii Forest Society in helping us fulfill our common purpose of sustainable forest management on Haida Gwaii. Haaw’a.

FINANCIAL

See separate file.

Attachments (delivered by Mar 27, 2009)

- Riparian Fish Forest Condition, printed poster map with summary
- Riparian Fish Forest revised technical report (PDF and printed)
- Original Forest Cover printed poster map
- Logging History printed poster map updated to 2006, with summary of volumes and values info and general estimate of cedar supply.
- Estimating Cedar Supply, final technical report (PDF)