

Natural Resource Workshop & Training

May 16, 2017

"If you fight over the fish, they will leave you." ~ George Leech

Cumulative Effects Discussion

Goal: To learn how we can continue to understand cumulative effects on the landscape and contribute to thoughtful planning and communication with regard to cumulative effects in the region

Following a presentation by Dr. Sue Senger, workshop participants were asked how they felt about the Truvian system being developed for the St'at'imc Territory. Overall, the response was positive, the system being described as powerful and world class. At this time, the system is in the final stages of development. The next step is to have people trained so that they are able to use the program for local projects etc. After training is complete, work will be done on analysis within the system so that queries can be made regarding different land uses and other attributes. For example, what are the cumulative effects as a result of fire prevention or climate change?

The discussion was formed around a series of objectives/questions. The feedback from participants is below.

1. What do you value about this land, this area?

- wilderness
- culture, way of life
- air quality
- habitat for species at risk
- water
- endangered plants
- ecosystem health and function
- recreation
- community
- food
- conservation
- soil
- sustainability

- fish
- economics
- native species

2. What is missing in the Truvian system?

- Agriculture Land Reserve boundaries (*note, the language needs to reflect that there is traditional agriculture in the Territory, this may not be a universal term or administrative boundary)
- Birds, migratory and local including timing and duration
- St'at'imc food gathering areas
- Wetlands (provincial wetland mapping is incomplete)
- Unlicensed recreation including:
 - i. hunting
 - ii. biking
 - iii. hiking
- Tourism information – where are groups headed, for how long and when?
- Firewood cutting
- Refuse dumping
- Timing of use/location for ungulates, other species, bears etc.
- Fish, all life history stages
- Research projects
- All groups that are doing work/that need to be informed

***Note – Cumulative effects is a traditional decision making tool. We need to make sure that the language in the system and around cumulative effects is reflective of the origins of holistic land management.*

3. What do we need regarding cumulative effects?

- Data sharing, link existing systems
- Education
- Decision making tool
- Policy development
- To understand each other's roles and values

4. What should we do?

- Communication, develop relationships, share;
- Change, develop a new process, find ways to work together;
- Learn about holistic decision making, St'at'imc decision making; and
- Include outlying communities, be inclusive.

5. How do we do those things (listed above)?

- Have an open discussion about our respective interests, develop an awareness of our values, our shared values;
- Provide capacity/cash etc. so that people are able to participate
- Be gentle and careful with each other;
- Celebrate existing successful relationships and build on them;
- Use the talking circle protocol, show respect, acknowledge that you have been allowed into a territory and this shows respect for local nation, show gratitude for your presence, this is a standard Haida greeting and includes who I am, how I carry myself, and that I am peaceful and respectful – this is nation to nation communication;
- Share knowledge (the government needs to be inclusive, the public is left out)
- Encourage community participation (FEED THEM!);
- Build partnerships; and
- Step outside the box, be creative!

6. What are the next steps?

- Create an opportunity to meet again, different location;
- Find a point of contact for ongoing communication;
- Collect additional information (if needed) via online survey;
- Create smaller working groups based on survey information;
- Map out a process for input and involvement, include all perspectives;
- Identify people/groups that are missing, we need to have all interests and perspectives engaged;
- Share participant contact information;
- Build a communication map;
- Form an inter-governmental working group;
- Attend each other's events and gatherings, you are welcome;
- Have Eric Valdal deliver a presentation on the provincial cumulative effects work;
- Meet in early winter/late fall 2017; and
- Tour Xaxlip Community Forest.

Closing

The majority of meeting participants seem ready to form new relationships and move forward. The issues surrounding cumulative effects seemed less at the forefront than developing opportunities for sharing and creating friendships. The next step in this process should include food and opportunities for unscripted chatter.