



**Nicola-Similkameen  
Innovative Forestry Society**

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**Addendum to  
2011-12 Annual Report  
For the Merritt  
Innovative Forest Practices Agreements  
Clarification and Update of Uplift Conditions**

May 2012

Prepared by: Glenn Thiem, ASCT, RFT.  
CEO, Manager, NISFS  
On behalf of the NSIFS Board of Directors

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**Appendix A**

MINISTRY OF FORESTS AND RANGE  
2012/2013 – FIRST NATIONS LIAISON PROJECT  
PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

## Uplift Condition 1

- (1) Submission of an annual report by April 30<sup>th</sup> of each year that summarizes the activities completed by the society in the past calendar year, the expected activities in the upcoming year, how conditions of this award have been met, and any other requirements identified in the below conditions.

For 2011-2012 completed activities see the *2011-2012 NSIFS Annual Report, May 2012*

Planned activities for 2012 are illustrated in Table 1. *Note that some projects are contingent on government funding.*

**Table 1. Planned Activities for 2012**

OBJECTIVE #1 CREATE AN INNOVATIVE FOREST MANAGEMENT ENVIRONMENT	Total Estimate \$\$
NSIFS MANAGEMENT, Non-FIA project delivery, Society management and administration (BoD Approved)	\$34,880.00
CENTRAL DATA MANAGEMENT, SFMS website maint. (BoD App)	\$1,350.00
CENTRAL DATA MANAGEMENT, MPB web based mapping and reporting (SIBAC Funding Secured, BoD Approved)	\$31,850.00
Annual Report/Audit/uplift conditions reporting (BoD Approved)	\$800.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$68,880.00</b>
OBJECTIVE #2 SUPPORT FIRST NATION'S COMMUNITIES	Total Estimate \$\$
Cultural Modeling - SFMS (scoping out project) (BoD Approved)	\$7,000.00
Archeology Projects - Uploading to SFMS viewer platform	
CM/ TEK Field Form	
Archaeology - Trail inventory	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$7,000.00</b>
OBJECTIVE #3 INCREASE THE SUSTAINABLE HARVEST	Total Estimate \$\$
Forestry Plan III Updates (BoD Approved)	\$6,000.00
Forestry Plan III Analysis Work (BoD Approved)	\$5,300.00
FP III Forestry Plan Open House (BoD Approved)	\$1,000.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$12,300.00</b>
OBJECTIVE #4 ENHANCE ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES	Total Estimate \$\$
Expert Reviews, field testing and final ecological models - contingent on government funding support	\$60,000.00
SFMS ecological upload to SFMS viewer platform - contingent on government funding support	\$3,000.00
Ecosystem Restoration - contingent on government funding support	\$160,000.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$223,000.00</b>
OBJECTIVE #5 STRENGTHEN FOREST INVENTORIES AND SUPPORT TOOLS	Total Estimate \$\$
CMI High Elevation Plots - contingent on government funding	\$40,700.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$40,700.00</b>
OBJECTIVE #6 MAINTAIN EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT	Total Estimate \$\$
SFMS and MPB Harvest Planning - Training for Forest Planners, First Nations and govt . (BoD Approved)	\$4,500.00
First Nations Communications Strategy (BoD Approved)	\$3,000.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$7,500.00</b>
<b>Total Estimate \$\$</b>	<b>\$359,380.00</b>

## Uplift Condition 2

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- (2) Continue with the development and implementation of a detailed, peer reviewed monitoring plan and submit a summary of monitoring results with the annual report. The plan components are to include:
- growth and yield monitoring that will identify deviations from expected overall average site productivity estimates for, but not limited to, low elevation, high elevation, and smallwood stands;
  - silviculture monitoring that enables comparison of actual silviculture and harvest operations with the regimes modeled in the allowable annual cut increase application.

In 2003, the NSIFS completed a SIA (*JS Thrower, 2003*)<sup>i</sup> project that developed reliable estimates of potential site index (PSI) for post-harvest regenerated (PHR) stands. On average, the adjusted PSI estimates were higher than indicated in the inventory by about 4.1 meters in the low elevation areas (i.e., less than 1,650 meters elevation), and 2.0 meters in the high elevation area.

The last work completed in support of growth and yield/ silviculture monitoring was QA (*Silent Water, 2008*)<sup>ii</sup> for Change Monitoring Inventory work on low-mid elevation PSP's and Smallwood PSP's completed in 2008-2009 fiscal year.

Results of field quality assurance confirmed that all CMI and Smallwood sample plots passed the minimum provincial standards (*As per National Forest Inventory BC Change Monitoring Procedures and National Reporting Version 1.4 March 2005 and Change Monitoring Inventory - Ground Sampling Quality Assurance Standards Version 2.1, May 2007*)

Four QA plots were established on CMI related plots and three for the Smallwood inventory.

In 2007-2008 fiscal year, a final report indicated that the similarities in actual and modeled TIPSy input and resulting culmination MAIs in the analysis supported the assumptions used to develop the MSYTs for the 2003 AAC Uplift Application (*Timberline, March 2008*).<sup>iii</sup> Results illustrated about 57 m<sup>3</sup>/ha more volume than what was generated by the yield curves in 2003.

No further growth and yield work has occurred since 2008; however, additional analysis (*Forsite, 2011*)<sup>iv</sup> was completed in isolating the value of SIA and CMI information completed to date in 2011. A summary of the results are below:

The table below presents changes in potential annual harvest rates relative to the IFPA Base Case with corresponding results from the 2003 innovative timber supply analysis (*Timberline, 2003*)<sup>v</sup>:

Run/Sensitivity	Short-Term Decades 1-2	Mid-Term Decades 3-8	Long-Term Decades 9-25	2003 Uplift Analysis (Scenario)
IFPA Base Case	0	0	0	0 (C)
VRIA	370,000	317,585	26,706	158,918 (D)
SIA	210,000	359,933	589,706	413,185 (E)
Composite Run	570,000	628,933	659,059	549,121 (K)

The combined results from both the SIA and VRIA projects (i.e., Composite Run) increases the short-term harvest rate by 570,000 m<sup>3</sup>/yr. This suggests an IFPA uplift of 570,000 m<sup>3</sup>/yr – slightly larger than the 2003 uplift request (549,211 m<sup>3</sup>/yr).

Still outstanding are the first measurements of high elevation plots. This is an NSIFS priority project where government can provide funding support.

## Uplift Condition 3

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- (3) Identify within the annual report changes in legislation, land base composition and forest management practices that would result in changes to timber supply. This includes completion of conditions in 2005 rationale around old growth management areas and mule deer winter range. Where changes are likely to significantly impact the modeled harvest flow increases (i.e., greater than 10 000 cubic meters per year), the impacts of the innovative forestry practices should be re-assessed by updated timber supply analysis.

## **TSR 4, Final Base Case Analysis and Report**

As part of the TSR 4 work completed for the Merritt TSA, all wildlife identified under section 7 (2) are being assessed to understand impacts/constraints on timber supply. This included an understanding of impacts to harvest flows based on the most current OGMA and ungulate winter range data.

Results of TSR 4 concluded a 7.8% decrease in THLB over the Merritt TSA, 625,080 ha in TSR 4 vs 678,250 ha in TSR 3, (*Forsite, 2010*)<sup>vi</sup>. The major changes to forest management and timber supply projections recognized in the base case were:

- Spatially explicit old growth management areas (OGMA), (45,692 ha) are implemented instead of broad seral constraints for biodiversity.
- Ungulate winter range (UWR) is now managed under a new set of approved objectives (i.e. a new UWR map and forest cover requirements).
- The area under approved VQOs is now larger (105,649 ha) compared to TSR3 (70,002).
- The current AAC level (2.8 MM m<sup>3</sup>/yr) includes a larger uplift to address the MPB infestation relative to the AAC in place at the time of TSR3 (2.13 MM m<sup>3</sup>/yr).
- The MPB epidemic has impacted substantially more area than at the time of TSR3.

Analysis and supporting data was provided in the TSR #4, Timber Supply Analysis Report for the Chief Forester's considerations in their AAC determination for the Merritt TSA.

### **Uplift Condition 4**

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- (4) **Update as necessary the report describing the Mountain pine beetle strategy that (a) describes the coordinated beetle response and management strategy to be used by IFPA-holders, (b) methodology and schedule for forecasting beetle spread, (c) identifies biodiversity features at risk due to beetle spread or increased harvest associated with beetle management, and the recommended actions to mitigate threats, and (d) describes the strategy for a "roads ahead program". This report with updates is to be provided annually by January 31.**

Conditions covered off in the 2011 MPB Annual Strategy's report.

### **Uplift Condition 5**

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- (5) **Report annually by January 31 on the beetle management strategy and activities for the previous fiscal year. This report will include harvest activities, past and future projections of beetle spread, current beetle spread as identified from surveys, operational plans for next fiscal year.**

Conditions covered off in the 2011 MPB Annual Strategy's report.

### **Uplift Condition 6**

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- (6) **Report how the awarded volume was distributed to holders through secondary agreements and identify the direct benefits to First Nations. This will include tracking and summarizing First Nation employment in relation to commitments made within forestry plans and within the Jobs Plan identified in the April 2, 2001 share agreement. This information should be submitted with the April 30<sup>th</sup> annual report.**

Awarded volume through secondary agreements and First Nations' employment summary is described under section "Benefits to First Nations" in the 2011-2012 NSIFS Annual Report.

### **Uplift Condition 7**

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- (7) **Inform affected First Nations (Indian Bands) on a quarterly basis about the location of proposed and**

**current harvesting, the status of the beetle infestation, how First Nations are being involved in the planning process in order to incorporate their interests, any harvesting economic opportunities available to First Nations, and on an annual basis about the general administration and operations of the society. Copies of the above communications updates will be filed annually with the April 30<sup>th</sup> annual report.**

Since 2009, the NSIFS no longer receives funding from the MoFR to implement their First Nations communications strategy and employ a First Nation Liaison. Communications on current and proposed harvesting and degree of MPB infestation has been completed by licensees in conjunction with each of their operational plans and referral requirements. Some local First Nation bands have representation on the Merritt TSA Steering Committee and District Forest Health Committee to keep informed on MPB infestation within their traditional use areas. The NSIFS also posts a copy of the Merritt TSA MPB Annual Report on their website for anyone to review. For 2012, the NSIFS BoD approved some member's funding to implement a communications newsletter in support of NSIFS initiatives and update on MPB harvesting. As in previous years, the newsletter will be distributed via NSIFS members to distribute through their communities and organizations.

### **Uplift Condition 8**

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**(8) Involve First Nations to a very high degree in the planning and harvest monitoring for the Stoyoma Mountain area.**

IFPA licensees implement this as part of their operational information sharing and referral processes. The NSIFS is currently involved in supporting Merritt TSA licensees and First Nations in understanding risks to cultural values in the Stoyoma Mountain area. The goal is to establish a long-term process and, or establish areas for protecting these values relative to harvesting priorities.

### **Uplift Condition 9**

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**(9) Provide to the MFR (currently MFLNRO) and First Nations with interest in the Merritt TSA, a budget approved by the society that details how NSIFS will fund the collection and use of traditional use information within their cultural value models and management. This budget for the 2007/2008 fiscal year should be provided within 8 weeks of this decision. In future years, this budget should be provided with the April annual report. Additionally, the NSIFS must deliver a detailed plan that identifies specifics around this budget. Details are to include: (a) study description, (b) area of study, (c) methodology, (d) timelines, (e) budget, (f) confidentiality/information sharing agreements, (g) how the information gathered will be used in planning to effectively address First Nations interests, and (h) how the information gathered will be catalogued. This plan is to be provided initially within 6 months of this decision and thereafter with the April annual report.**

### **Proposed 2011-2012 Activities**

Referring to **Table 1 Planned Activities for 2012**, under 'Uplift Conditions', *Objective 2, 'Support First Nation Communities'* and *Objective 6 'Maintain Effective Community Involvement'* illustrates some of the projects proposed for First Nations direct involvement.

The NSIFS projects are planned through their Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and approved by Board Members for the NSIFS fiscal year. Many of these projects are communicated to the Merritt TSA First Nation communities through their respective TAC and Board Member representative. Progresses reporting on such activities are also done through out the year at the TAC and Board Member meetings.

Most, if not all the projects will be conducted at the TSA level. Methodology and timelines for all projects are discussed with First Nation representatives on the TAC, as they are generally the project representatives responsible for delivery of those projects

Prioritizing list of completed ecological species models drives the amount of work available for cultural modeling in the Merritt TSA. Although archaeological overview assessments are now established over the Merritt TSA, they will have to be updated from time to time based on new field information. No further AOA or AOA trail inventory work is proposed

this year. The focus will be to find ways of applying exiting First Nation cultural models to the NSIFS viewer tool, so that certain information can be viewed and utilized to support sustainable forest management of cultural-heritage resource values. Again these types of projects are contingent on government funding support.

### **Uplift Condition 10**

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- (10) Submit a proposal for the hiring of a First Nations Liaison person. The First Nations Liaison person would communicate with potentially affected First Nations in the Merritt TSA on proposed harvesting, the status of beetle infestations, and identify economic opportunities. The First Nations Liaison person would also assist First Nations involvement in the planning process and assist with the administration of traditional use data collection. The ministry will consider entering into an agreement with the NSIFS to provide up to \$30 000 annually, subject to availability of funding, over the duration of the allowable annual cut increase to support this proposal. The proposal submitted by NSIFS would require the support of First Nations and must be submitted no later than December 31 in order to be funded the following fiscal year.**

See **Appendix A** for copy of the NSIFS 2011 proposal submission.

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- <sup>i</sup> Thrower, JS. 2003, Site Index Adjustment for the Merritt IFPA Area. Final Report. Prepared for the Nicola Similkameen Innovative Forestry Society. Project: MTI-312. March, 2003. J.S. Thrower and Associates Ltd, Vancouver, Kamloops, B.C.
- <sup>ii</sup> Silent Water, 2008. Summary Report for Quality Assurance of Change Monitoring Inventory and Smallwood Inventory Plots Contract Number: 49840008-08-01, 2008, Silent Water Forestry Consulting
- <sup>iii</sup> Timberline, 2008. Merritt Timber Supply Area Change Monitoring Inventory: First Measurement, March 2008, Vancouver, Kamloops, B.C.,
- <sup>iv</sup> Forsite, 2011. Merritt TSA Uplift Analysis Project, March 2011, Memorandum for Glenn Thiem – NSIFS Coordinator, Forsite Consultants Ltd, Salmon Arm, B.C.
- <sup>v</sup> Timberline Natural Resource Group Ltd, 2003. Innovative Timber Supply Analysis. Prepared For: The Nicola Similkameen Innovative Forestry Society, Merritt, BC. Final Draft, April 30, 2003. Timberline Natural Resource Group Ltd. Victoria, B.C.
- <sup>vi</sup> Forsite, 2010. Merritt TSA – Timber Supply Review #4, Timber Supply Analysis Report, Forsite Consultants Ltd, Salmon Arm BC.

**APPENDIX A**

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**MINISTRY OF FORESTS AND RANGE  
2012/2013 – FIRST NATIONS LIAISON PROJECT  
PROPOSAL SUBMISSION**

**PROPONENT INFORMATION**

**Organization's Legal Name:** Nicola-Similkameen Innovative Forestry Society

**Address, Mailing:** Forsite  
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**Alternate Contact:** Jerry Canuel  
**Title:** Chair of the NSIFS  
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Merritt, BC V1K 1B8

**Phone:** (250) 378 – 9266      **Fax:** (250) 315 – 4239  
**Email:** [jerrycanuel@apgroup.ca](mailto:jerrycanuel@apgroup.ca)

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

**Project Title:** 2012/2013 First Nations Liaison Project

**Amount Requested:** \$ 30,000.00 full program, \$15,000.00 limited program

**Project Start Date:** February 1, 2012

**Project End Date:** March 31, 2013

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Summary

This proposal is presented by Nicola-Similkameen Innovative Forestry Society (NSIFS). The overall administration, coordination, monitoring and project authorization (where applicable) will be overseen by NSIFS. The implementation for communications will be undertaken by First Nations within the Merritt TSA community.

As part of the Merritt TSA uplift conditions, the NSIFS proposes to complete communications and First Nations information sharing through communication contract(s) with First Nations in the Merritt TSA.

Our communication program is designed to reach all members of the First Nations communities, as well as industry and government. We have an establish distribution list which includes networking with local First Nation newsletters to get the NSIFS news and information to remote areas. Through the technical advisory committee (TAC), the NSIFS encourages First Nation representatives to participate in sharing ideas, planning projects and setting priorities. Much of what is discussed and decided on during the TAC meetings is summarized in the NSIFS newsletters.

The NSIFS objective is to share TSA-level information with First Nations with interest in the Merritt TSA. The focus of the communications program will include, but is not limited to:

- Sharing news and information regarding NSIFS approved projects lead by First Nation bands within the Merritt TSA communities. Also inform First Nation communities, with interest in the Merritt TSA, on collection, management and use of traditional use information such as the information collected through the NSIFS cultural modeling program.
- Providing First Nations an opportunity to share their information on programs/projects that are important to them. Also provide communities the opportunity to present new economic initiatives they may be taking on.
- Tracking and reporting on the benefits to First Nations in the local forest community, including First Nations employment and NSIFS projects.
- Reporting quarterly to First Nations proposed and current harvesting, the status of the beetle infestation and how First Nations is involved in the planning process in order to incorporate their interests, any harvesting economic opportunities for First Nations, and on an annual basis about the general administration of the NSIFS.

The First Nations Liaison will:

- Attend the NSIFS Technical Advisory Committee Meetings (TAC), develop communication packages, and upon request of the NSIFS present information on NSIFS projects, MPB harvesting, First Nations employment and opportunities to First Nation communities.

The project proposes to develop a communications plan that best suits the needs of NSIFS. These will include items such as:

- Information packages about NSIFS, monthly updates, quarterly reports, power point presentations, and communication log journals indicating when telephone conversations, e-mail communications, and meetings took place.

### 4) Describe the project methodology

The NSIFS uses several modes of communications:

- hard copy distribution of monthly newsletters,

- electronic distribution of monthly newsletter via email,
- NSIFS website for copies of archived newsletters, NSIFS presentations, annual reports, forestry plan, etc.,
- presentations directly in communities or through band general meetings, and
- information sharing during NSIFS TAC meetings.

The NSIFS TAC meetings normally occur once every three months. Monthly newsletters will summarize meeting discussions/presentations for those months.

First Nation communities will be informed of the NSIFS activities on a monthly basis through a monthly newsletter. Newsletters will be posted on the NSIFS website and presented whenever possible through First Nation band general meetings.

Quarterly reporting to meet the objectives outlined in the summary will be incorporated as part of the monthly newsletter. These will also be posted on the NSIFS website and presented whenever possible through First Nation band general meetings.

Formal community presentations will be coordinated where possible with First Nation bands. We have been able to make presentations at annual general meetings in the past. This has generally been more successful for attendance than planning an independent presentation.

## PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS

### *1.1) Measures of Success*

The intent of developing communications strategies is to record information and distribute the information to First Nation communities. With that in mind, it would be apparent to keep track of who and when various organizations were contacted. This kind of information would gauge the flow of communication and provide an overview at year's end.

In producing communications material it sets the ground work for an exchange of dialogue. The NSIFS will produce materials that will encourage and exchange information under this communications project.

### **2) Milestones**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
Attend NSIFS Technical Advisory Committees	Collect information
Record information	Compile information
Develop communications material	Power point presentations
Develop communications log/journal	Gauge communication flow
Present draft material to NSIFS Board	Get feed back for revisions
Make necessary changes	Complete final document
Present to First Nations Bands	Provide information

### 3) Monitoring and Evaluation

On-going monitoring and evaluation of all forms of communications and their effectiveness in reaching out to First Nation communities will be completed through a variety of survey methods, including, but not limited to: newsletter surveys, input from NSIFS TAC, and input from the NSIFS Directors.

#### PROJECT BUDGET – FULL PROGRAM

<b>SOURCES</b>	<b>NSIFS</b>
<b>BUDGET BREAKDOWN</b>	<b>CASH</b>
<b>1. Project Administration</b>	\$2,500.00
<b>3. Employee Travel Expenses</b>	\$4,000.00
<b>4. Contracted Professional &amp; Consulting Fees</b>	\$ 20,500.00
<b>5. Project Supplies and Materials</b>	\$ 1,000.00
<b>6. Publication Production</b>	\$2,000.00
<b>7. Capital Acquisitions</b>	\$ 0.00
<b>8. Other Expenditures</b>	\$ 0.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$30,000.00</b>

**PROJECT BUDGET – LIMITED PROGRAM OPTION**

Given the current pressures on government funding, the NSIFS has prepared a budget to implement a limited communications program that secures previous work built around First Nations communications in the Merritt TSA, while delivering them at a reduced price. Based on input from First Nations, industry and government, the NSIF newsletters are the most cost-effective way of informing First Nations on collection, management and use of traditional use information and status of the MPB in the Merritt TSA. So, in providing a communications program that maintains that strong link to communities, the NSIFS is proposing to maintain development and distribution of the monthly newsletter. The limited program option would reduce the number of in-person meetings and presentations by the First Nations Communications Liaison and result in a brief quarterly summary as oppose to a formal quarterly report.

<b>SOURCES BUDGET BREAKDOWN</b>	<b>NSIFS</b>
	<b>CASH</b>
<b>1. Project Administration</b>	\$1,000.00
<b>3. Employee Travel Expenses</b>	\$1,000.00
<b>4. Contracted Professional &amp; Consulting Fees</b>	\$ 10,000.00
<b>5. Project Supplies and Materials</b>	\$ 1,000.00
<b>6. Publication Production</b>	\$2,000.00
<b>7. Capital Acquisitions</b>	\$ 0.00
<b>8. Other Expenditures</b>	\$ 0.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$15,000.00</b>

**CERTIFICATION**

I certify that the information provided in this application, including all attachments, is accurate to the best of my knowledge and that I am authorized to sign on behalf of the stated organization.

**Signature:**   
 Glenn Thiem, RFT,  
 NSIFS Manager

**Date:** December 15, 2011