

Volume 2, Issue 3 - Forest Values Issue

Welcome to the Forest Values issue of the Newsletter. This newsletter describes two separate initiatives LP is participating in to obtain input from the public about forest values and opinions on forest management and planning. The first initiative is a values survey done by KBM Forestry Consultants Inc. (KBM), while the second is a project by researchers from Manitoba universities.

In the fall of 2003, KBM was hired by LP to determine what forest values are most important to the people living within and outside of the LP license area. The survey gathered information on forest values that can be used to develop biological and socio-economic indicators. These indicators will be measured and monitored over time to determine progress towards sustainable forest management in FML 3.

The questionnaire was distributed to stakeholder groups and the general public and was posted on-line on starting September 26th. Notices were printed in local newspapers (Swan River, Dauphin, Roblin, Russell), and the Brandon Sun and Winnipeg Free Press encouraging members of the public to participate. A total of 304 questionnaires were received by the November 15th deadline (Table 1 and Figure 1).

WHAT DO LP STAKEHOLDERS VALUE THE MOST?

There are an infinite number of values that come from forests. These include ecological values (plants and wildlife), economic values (timber and jobs), and social values (recreation and spirituality). Sustainable forestry involves balancing these three types of values. LP would like to be able to measure these values through time to ensure that their forest management practices are not negatively affecting the sustainability of the resource. To do so, they must narrow down the infinite possible values to those that are of most importance to LP stakeholders. For this reason, the questionnaire asked respondents to rank several sets of value statements as to their relative importance. The results of these rankings will be used to develop measurable indicators for tracking LP's progress. Table 2 on the following page shows the value statements deemed to be of most importance to stakeholders.

Table 1. Questionnaire distribution and return numbers.

Stakeholder Group	Number of Surveys Distributed	Number of Completed Surveys	Response Rate (%)
General Public	?	17	n/a
Loggers	60	15	25
Aboriginal	60	1	1.7
Highschool Students	90	64	71.1
Trappers/Outfitters	187	32	17.1
Environmental Groups	105	11	10.5
Recreational Groups	192	42	21.9
LP Employees	170	45	26.5
Government	225	47	20.9
RMs/Towns	260	17	6.5
Other	0	13	n/a
Total	1,349	304	n/a

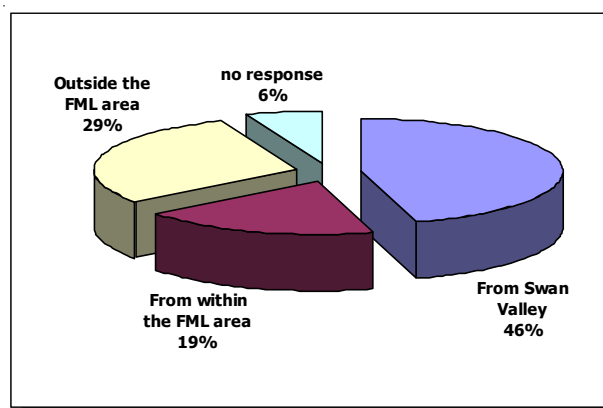


Figure 1. Place of residence of respondents.

Table 2. Summary of most important value statements.

Value Type	Value
Community	Low unemployment in communities and the province. Continued existence of small cities/towns across the province.
Ecological / Environmental	Clean water. Clean air. Healthy soils. Healthy populations of wildlife and fish species.
Employment / Work	Meaningful work (work that gives you a sense of purpose).
Recreation / Outdoor Experience	Outdoor recreation in wilderness areas (no logging activity).
Cultural / Spiritual	Being able to provide for yourself and your family. Having close friends and family.
Aesthetics / Visual	The beauty of natural areas surrounding your community.

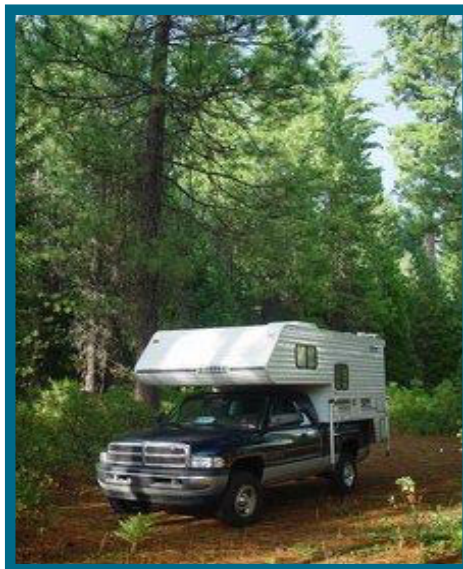
Table 3. Top ten recreation activities respondents participate in.

Activity	# of Participants
1. Wildlife Viewing	194
2. Scenic Viewing	193
3. Walking	184
4. Gathering plants, berries, etc.	155
5. Swimming	151
6. Camping	143
7. Freshwater sport fishing	142
8. Hunting	138
9. Picnicing	136
10. Canoeing	133

In addition to the value statements, the questionnaire asked respondents to check off all the activities they participate in. The ten most common activities are listed in Table 3. LP intends to conduct forest management activities in a manner that conserves and promotes recreation opportunities. Several of the developed indicators will address these most common activities.

KBM, LP and the Stakeholder Advisory Committee have been working with the results of the questionnaire to develop meaningful, measurable indicators. Stay tuned! A suite of values-based indicators should be finalized in the next two months.

Figure 2. A few examples of recreational activities that take place in the Swan River area.



TRUE OR FALSE?

A section of the values questionnaire assessed people's knowledge of forest management with a series of "true or false" questions (Table 4). Many of the answers were straightforward, however, some statements could be interpreted in different ways. For a detailed explanation of the correct answers, please visit the webpage at www.swanvalleyforest.ca.

Table 4. Respondents' answers to "true or false" questions.

Question	TRUE	FALSE	Answer
Forest companies are required to follow government guidelines when harvesting timber.	222	14	TRUE
Insects such as caterpillars can cause severe damage to forests.	199	30	TRUE
There are no old-growth trees in Manitoba.	15	220	FALSE
Chemicals are commonly used to control weeds in Manitoba's forests.	156	73	TRUE
Over time, there is a natural replacement of the kinds of trees in forests.	202	31	TRUE
Clear-cutting is the most common method of harvesting trees in Manitoba.	174	54	TRUE
Manitoba has more softwoods (trees with needles) than hardwoods (trees with leaves).	116	112	TRUE
Most of Manitoba's forested land is owned by the provincial government.	210	24	TRUE
Forest fires help jack pine open its cones and shed its seeds.	208	25	TRUE
The seedlings planted after harvesting are usually hardwoods (trees with leaves).	27	209	FALSE
All areas where trees are harvested must be planted in order for the forest to return.	43	190	FALSE

WHAT ROLE SHOULD THE PUBLIC PLAY IN FOREST MANAGEMENT?

Respondents were asked to choose what role the public should play in forest management. The top two choices were (1) to act as full and equal partners in setting management goals and (2) to serve on advisory boards that review and comment on management goals (Table 5).

Despite the public's view that they should have a strong role in forest management planning, LP's open house attendance records show that only a small percentage of the local population actively participate in forest management (Figure 3 on the following page). LP would be happy to see more members of the public taking advantage of these opportunities to express their views and provide input.

Besides the general public, respondents were asked to

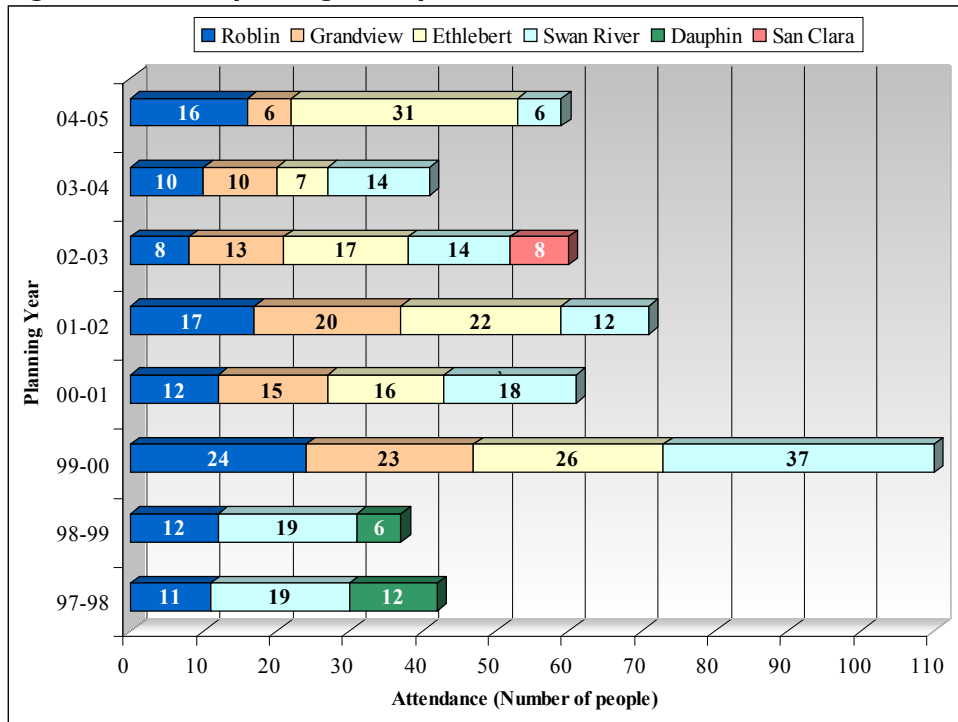
comment on the levels of input that a variety of stakeholder groups should have. The following list shows the five groups that should have the most input according to respondents.

- (1) people living in or close to LP's license area
- (2) scientists
- (3) government foresters
- (4) forest industry
- (5) municipal government

Table 5. The role of public in forest management.

Number of Respondents	I believe that the public should...
84	...act as full and equal partners with government and industry resource professionals in setting management goals.
64	...serve on advisory boards that review and comment on management goals.
31	...suggest goals and let government and industry resource professionals decide their priority.
20	...set management goals and have government and industry resource professionals carry them out.
17	...let the professionals set goals and priorities and then inform and educate the public about their decisions.
7	...have no role; let government and industry resource professionals set all management goals and priorities.

Figure 3. Annual Operating Plan Open House attendance.



LP Participates in Public Values & Participation Research Project

A Manitoba-based research team is conducting a research project entitled "Public Values, Views and Participation in Managing Manitoba's Mountain Forest Section". Planning for the project began in Fall 2001 in response to a request from LP Canada – Swan River. Project partners include LP, West Region Tribal Council, Riding Mountain National Park, Manitoba Conservation, and the Manitoba Model Forest. Funding has been provided by the Sustainable Forest Management Network. The project began in earnest in June 2002 and should be completed later this year.

The project hopes to support the establishment of best practices for Aboriginal and public involvement in forest management and other land use planning consultation processes and demonstrate the need for coordination between responsible parties. It will:

- (1) examine issues, objectives and rationales related to public involvement;
- (2) assess levels and kinds of satisfaction and success, as well as problems and deficiencies;
- (3) document interpretations of constitutionally protected Aboriginal and treaty rights;
- (4) profile public values and attitudes towards forests and forest management; and
- (5) in consultation with land managers and public stakeholders, develop recommendations for public involvement.

The Research Team includes Drs. Peter Miller, Doreen Smith and Judith Harris from the Centre for Forest Interdisciplinary Research at the University of Winnipeg and Dr. John Sinclair from the Natural Resource Institute at the University of Manitoba. Three graduate students and two undergraduates from both universities have been involved in the project. They have been collecting background information, consulting with project partner organizations, engaging in key informant interviews, and collecting and analysing survey data for the last year.

Jennifer Stewart (from U of M) will soon be contacting the LP Stakeholder Advisory Committee members to conduct interviews and complete surveys about their involvement with the LP planning process as part of this research project. We look forward to the results of Jennifer's surveys and input from the research team about LP's approach to Aboriginal and public consultation and participation in the Long-term Plan.

Provide YOUR input! Subscribe to the Newsletter! For Questions or Comments...

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