

FIVE YEAR OPERATING PLAN
FOR
FOREST MANAGEMENT DISTRICT 19A (GOOSE BAY)



OPERATING PERIOD

APRIL 01, 2003 - MARCH 31, 2008

MARCH 10, 2003

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	Past Activities	3
1.2	Overview Of Operational Activities	5
1.3	Administration	5
2.0	OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES	6
2.1	Allocation of Timber Supply	6
2.2	Timber Harvesting Operations.....	10
	Commercial.....	10
	Selective-Commercial.....	10
	Domestic	11
2.3	Silviculture & Restoration	11
2.4	Forest Access Road Construction	12
2.5	Research, Monitoring, & Surveys.....	12
3.0	PROTECTION ACTIVITIES	14
3.1	Protected Area Networks	15
3.2	Habitat Protection	17
3.3	Hunting & Trapping.....	19
3.4	Recreation & Tourism	19
	Tourism.....	19
	Recreational Cabins	20
3.5	Ecosystem Health.....	20
3.6	Forest Fire Protection.....	20
4.0	Operational Maps.....	22

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1. Forest Management District boundaries and office locations in Labrador.	2
Figure 2. Locations of commercial harvesting activities in FMD 19A from 1997 to 2003.....	4
Figure 3. Location of Northside and Southside allocation areas.....	7
Figure 4. District 19 Multi-Spatial Scale Protected Areas Network Designs.....	15
Figure 5. Total Protected Areas Network for District 19A.....	16

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1. Summary of timber harvesting, silviculture and road construction activities in FMD 19A from 1997 - 2002.	3
Table 2. Breakdown of District 19A Annual Allowable Cut (AAC).	8
Table 3. District 19A Harvest Allocations by Permit and Management Area.	9
Table 4. Summary of Northside Commercial Harvest Blocks for 2003 - 2008.	9
Table 5. Proposed Silviculture Activities.	12

LIST OF MAPS

Map 1	Proposed Activities (1:250,000)
Map 2	Proposed Roads (1:100,000)
Map 3	Proposed Burnover Planting (1:50,000)
Map 4	Proposed Cutover Planting (1:50,000)
Map 5	Proposed Pre-Commercial Thinning (1:50,000)
Map 6	Topographic Overview of Harvest Units 1, 2 and 3 (1:50,000)
Map 7	Topographic Overview of Harvest Units 4, 5 and 6 (1:50,000)
Map 8	Topographic Overview of Harvest Units 7, 8 and 9 (1:50,000)
Map 9	Topographic Overview of Harvest Units 11 and 12 (1:50,000)
Map 10	Topographic Overview of Harvest Units 13, 14 and 15 (1:50,000)
Map 11	Cover Type of Unit 1 (1:12,500)
Map 12	Cover Type of Unit 2 (1:12,500)
Map 13	Cover Type of Unit 3 (1:12,500)
Map 14	Cover Type of Unit 4 (1:12,500)
Map 15	Cover Type of Unit 5 (1:12,500)
Map 16	Cover Type of Unit 6 (1:12,500)
Map 17	Cover Type of Unit 7 (1:12,500)
Map 18	Cover Type of Unit 8 (1:12,500)
Map 19	Cover Type of Unit 9 (1:12,500)
Map 20	Cover Type of Unit 10 (1:12,500)
Map 21	Cover Type of Unit 11 (1:12,500)
Map 22	Cover Type of Unit 12 (1:12,500)
Map 23	Cover Type of Unit 13 (1:12,500)
Map 24	Cover Type of Unit 14 (1:12,500)
Map 25	Labrador Priority Fire Suppression Zones

Executive Summary (Innu-Aimun)

Minashkuat tsheishi pempantakant Katapuetatunanut Mishinaikan

Ushkat etshitshepannanut

Stshe-pishum 30, 2001, Akamissisit mak Labrador stsheutshimau mak Innu Nation utiteimupant Katapuetatunanunit Mishinaikannu kie shash tshi mishinatautishupant nenu mishinaikannu. Eukun ume Katapuetatunanut Mishinaikan tshenashatakau ntshent Akamissisit stsheutshimau mak ne Innu Nation neme tsheishi pempantakant mishkuat katshimikaishkanut, tsheishpish tshimikauakannit mishtukut ute shtassinat, kie kassinu tsheishi takuaimatet ne katshimikauakanit mishtukut kie tan tsheishpish utinakannit mishtukut. Ume Katapuetatunanut mishinaikan eishi nishtutatunanut ne tsheioshi nakatuentakant minashkuat (District 19) ishinikateu nta tshetakueimatet minashkuat.

Ume tsheishi takueimatet minashkuat tshika ui apitshiakanut ntshent auentshent nte pesis etakuannitshi utenamuaau nta tshetshimikaissanunit tshetshi uauitshiaushit nenu uieuetishutakannitshi nenu minashkuat. Kassinu auen muk shiapentak tshetshi itutet nte uetshimau iminanuntshi uishamakanu tshetshi issishuet tan etentak nenu tshipa eishi penmpantakanu ne minashkuat etakueimatet. Mamukakanipan ume mishinaikan tshetshi tutakant Nete etutakant uiauitakant ume tsheishi pempantakant mishkuat kassinu auentshent kaishpish eissishueht mamushtakannipan.

Tshetshi tutakant ume mishinaikan ne tsheishi pempantakant minashkuat kassinu tshekuan pitima tshitatakanu nte minashkuat etakuak miam ntshent aueshishet kie kassinu tshekuan netautshik nte minashkuat kie tante tshipa utshi tutakanu ne shuniaiu nta ut minashkuat. Ne anutshish meshkakant tsheishi takueimatet anutshish en mishkakanu tshipa eishi takueimatet ne minashkuat ute Canada, ne apashtakanu tshetshi nakatuentakant minashkuat, kie tshetshi kau ntautshiakannit ntshent mishtukut katshi tshimikauakantaui, nete nikan aishkat tshitapatakanu tan tsheishi nakuak ne minashkuat tshetshi kau nitaushit ntshent mishtukut ne ishpish tshi mitshetuppuaki. Nishtuiekan ne tshekuan tsheishi nakatuapatakant, ne eishi nakuak minashkuau eshk eka tshemikeisanut, shashish kaitapishtakant ne assi kie tshetshi ut shuniatshanut nta ut minashkuat. Kie ne tshika tshitapatakanu tshetshi nantutshissentakant nte minashkuat eishi takuak aueshishet kie ne kassinu eishi nitaushik nta assit mak tshetshi nantam nakatuapatakant ne minashkuau.

Minashkuat etashkamikat

Ne tiakueimatet mishkuau atshitashun etishtet 19, ume ishpishau ne eminashkuat (7.1 million hectares) peik mak nishuass tatunnu estshemitashumitunnu mak tshishkestshemitashumitunnu, nishuau tatuau ishpishau ne eshpishat Vancouver minishtuk . Ne minashkuat atshitashun etishtet 19 nishtuau tipeikanu ne kutak atshitashun 19A ishinikateu, mak ne kutak 19B ishinikateu, mak ne 19C ishinikateu muk ne tshetshi ut tshissentakuak ne minashkuau eishi takueimatet. Ume tshitshue tshetshitapatakant

minashkuau 19A etishtet, ume ishpishau ne eminashkuat 2.1 million hectares kie nta takuan Eukuekimat ume Atatshuinipek (Upper Lake Melville).

Kassinu nte etshitapatakant ute Labrador eminashkuat muk eiapishish nte minashkuau kie nete itetshe nasht katak ninemeu apu nasht minashkuat, ekuta uta muk tshitshue menashkuat ume etishtet 19A ute Labrador itetshe. Ume tshitshue eshinakushit mishtukut sheshekatukut mak innashtet mak kutakat eishinakushit mishtukut miam shikaua, kie kutakat (ushkuei, mitush, uatshinakan,) kie mineik, mak ntshent missekut kenitautshutshi mishtukut. Mishkutinna kassinu shakaikana nte nutshimit pepuaki, muk mishte mishau nte nutshimit ne nipi 11.6% eshpish takuak ne nipi nte assit, miam ne missekua, shipissa, kie shakeikana, mak shipua. Shipissa, shipua, mak shakeikana eukuannua tshitshue nukuaki nte nutshimit. Eukuan mak ne uet tshji minu ntautshik kassinu tshekuan nta assit neme eshpish mishat ne nipi etakuak nta assit.

Ume minashkuau etishtet 19A mamitshetuiet nta ishinakuan ne tshekuan miam ne kemishte takaua pepuaki, kie nte usham nete naneu shipit mak nete naneu tshishutipet ekut6e nte tshitshue menuminashkuat, kie usham ekute nte etat aeshish nte uet mistshut eussintautshinnit tshekuannu. Eukuan mak ne minashkuau uet minuut tshetshi ut nakatuentakant kie tshetshi minu takueimatet mamu ne minashkuau etishtet 19.

Ume eshinakuak minashkau mishte apishish muk nimetaut auentshent nenu minashkuanu ne eshpish tshimikaissanut. Ume muk miantakuak nta minashkuat ute nenim itetshekam mishta shipit: neme katutakant mishte utapan meshkanau, mak nene katshimikaissanut, mak ne eishkuashakant nte minashkuat. Mak neme uet meshte mishkutshipant tshekuan nene katshi tshipeikant neme mishta paushtuk uashtenimakana uet pempantakantshi katutakant.

Ume tshitshue tsheapashtakant eshinakatuentakant ne assit menashkuat, eukuan ne tshetshissinuashtakant nta tshenakatuentakant ne minashkuau Nishten nta tshekuan tshitshue tshenakatuentakant eukaun ne: Ne eshinakuak ne assi, kie nenua shipissa, kie ntshent mishtukut ntshent miamitshashkushit mishtukut eukuan en eshinakushit tshetshi tshimikauakanit. Kassinu nta mishinateikanu nta assiu mishinaikant nta tshenakatuentakant ne minashkuau miam itentakuan, “shikuashkupantakant” eukuan tshet tshi minu nakatuentakant ne minashkuat.

Mak ne eishitakuak nte minashkuat, miam ne minashkuau-atik kassinu nte eituteu minashkuta, Kie ntshent aeshishet ketshiuapanutshi tekuatshinnitshi piapintau ut napinnitshi kassinu nte nutshimit et eitaut. Ne atik enakatuenuimakant apu tshikut animitshentakuannit tshetshi mishinateikannit nta assiu mishinaikant(1:250,000 1:500,000 etishtent asiu mishinakuannu. Tshikanakuan ne atik eshpish apishtat nenu assi nte eituteu mishinateikannu nta assiu mishinaikant. Eku ntshent kutakat aeshishet eiapishishishit miamne itatau, (Uapishtan) apu katak eshpis apashtat assinu apu katak eishpatat mishte apishish nta tshika mishinateikannu nta assiu mishinaikant nenu eshpish apashtat nenua assinu. Ne aushish nte usham etat emishte minashkuant miam nte pessish shipissit kie nete naneu minashkuat shipit mishinateikannu nta assiu mishinaikant (1:50,000) etishtent assiu mishinakuannu. Kie ne kutak tshekuan ne natautshik nte

minashkuat , kie nimeshet nenua etat shipissa nta mishinateikannu assiu mishinaikan etishtet (1: 12,500). Kassinu eishinakusht aeshish tshika nakatuenimakanu, pisse en aeshishet shash apu shuk mitshetit shash tshekat metshiniput kie mak metshiakannut.

Eukuan ume tsheitatussanut mak tsheishi nakatuentakant ne assit etakuak tshekuan ume nashuk keuaitakanua:

- Tshika uauinakanut ntshent aeshishet shash tshekat miessiakannit
- Aeshishet & mak nte eitaht tsheishi takueimatent
- Eshinakuak anutshish nte minashkuat mak ne nipi etakamit
- Nutam nte eshpitashkamikat eishi matentakuak kassinu tshekuan

Auentshent etapishtaht nenu assinu

Ne kamishinateikant assi atshitashun etishtet 19 innut mak akaneshaut nenu apashtashipant. Shash nete pet shash apashtashipant umenu assinu kie nenua aeshisha kie mamu eshpish apashtashipant umenu assinu. Kassinu eishinakushintshi nenua aeshisha kie nenu tshekuannu natautshjinni9t nta assit eiapishtauakue kie umenu assinu eukuannu umenu eshinikatakau ntassinan ekute ute uetshiat. Shash nishustshemitashumitunnu epunnishapant eshpish apashtaht innut umenu assinu Labrador keishinikatummaa akaneshau. Kie ekute ute uet pikassiuakue ntshent innut nte nutshimit kie eukuannu nenu uet minashtat umenu assinu.

Ume tsheishinakatuentakant ne assi mishinaikan nishtuapatakanu kie ishpentakannu nenua innut mak akaneshaut kaitapishtakuent shashish nenu assinu. Kassinu nenu kaishpish apashtauakue innut mak akaneshaut nenu assinu tshika tshissinuashtakannu nta assiu mishinaikant. Kassinu shashish kaiapashtauakue innut nenu assinu miam nte kaitshinanukue nantam tshika tshissinuashtakannu nta kie shash nta tshi tshissinuashtakanu nta assiu mishinaikant kie apu tshika tapuetakant nta tshetshi tshimikaissanut nta pessish.

Nenu shashish kaitapishtauakue innut nenu assinu nishtuapatakanu kie uaitakanu uta ne tshekuan tshenakatuapatakant:

- Shashish nenu innut eitapishtauakue tshekuannu
- ne assi kaispish minunakuak
- entuiunanut mak eshtakantshi tishunakana
- nitamuk mishtukut eshpish tshimikauakanit
- eshuniatshanut nte ut mishtukut
- mishtukut eshpish tshimikauakanit tshetshi kutuatshanuit

Eshuniatshanut nta ut assit

Ntshent etushkatakau nenu tsheishi takueimatent nenu minashkuanu nishtuapatamut nenu etapishtantshi innu nenu assinu nte uet puikassitishuntshi miam ne

Kantuiunanut, tishunakana kaishtakantshi, kie mina emaushunanut kie kutakanu tshekuannu nta assit uetinakau innut tshetshi ut pikassitishut eukuan ume tshitshue eshinniunanukue nete pet shashish ute Labrador tshetshi ut pikassitishut innut mak akaneshaut eukuan ume eshinniunanukue uta assit. Eku ume anutshish eshi tshitapatakanu nene shashish kaishinniuit innut miam ne minashkuau kau nitautshin tshakuan nta assit. Eku ne nta assit tshetshi ut shuniatshanut eukuan ne uiauitakant shuniaiu nta uetshipant mishtukut miam, etrutakant tshakuan nta ut mishtukut. Kie ne shuniaiu nta tutakanu tshemikauakantau mishtukut tshetshi tassiputatshanut pepishtukut tshetshi atuatshanit, kie kutak tshakuan nta assit uet shuniatshanut eukuan ne peik kakusseutshuapa tutakanu tshetshi shuniaiu tutakant, kie mak muk kapipanmuteiakant akeneshaut muk tshetshi uauapatakau nte nutshimit assinu, mak kutaka tshekuanna.

Ne tshitshue atusseun meshat ute eukuan ne minashkuta atusseun mak ntshent akaneshaut kemishekautshi muk tshetshi uauapatakau assinu. Ne mishtukut katshimikauakanit mak ne katassipunakanit mishtukut eukuan ne atusseun anutshish 60 tatunnu eshut kaitusseht nenu.

Eshk muk nasht apu taht nte innut tshetshi atusseht nte minashkuat atusseunnu kie 2% nishut muk ishkueut etussht nte minashkuat atusseunnu. Kassinu ntshent eshpish tshimikauakanit mishtukut 85% tshekat en kassinu tshitaunakanut nete katak etauatshanit, muk eshk eiat mishte minunakun kie tshipa ishpannu mitshet tshetshi tutakantshi atusseunna nte katassipunakannit mishtukut. Ute Labrador nutshimit neunnu emikana ashu kutuass (46) kakusseutshuapa, kantuiunanut mak kapapamaunakanit katak akaneshaut, eukuan ne atusseun etitu uet tshishipant enitautshik. Ne minashkuau etishtet 19 sheshekatukut eukuan tshitshue matshetit eshinakushit mishtukut miam ishpitentakushut 91% tshekat kassinu sheshekatukut. Minuat ne innasht mishtuk eukuan kutak eshinakushit mishtuk matshetit miam ishpitentakushut 5% eku patush ntshent kutakat eshinakushit mishtukut etshimakannit. Ne kassinu eshpish minashkuat etishtet 19A minashkuau peikumitashumitunnu epunnemikanutshi ashu neunnu (140 years) ne eshpish minashkuat, kie kutunnu (10 - 15) mak kutunnu ashu pitetat tatumishiteshut eshpish tshinuashkushit mishtukut, apum kassinu etashit mishtukut minushit pisse muk (15 - 75%) apu kassinu ishinakushit tshetshi tassipunakannit.

Emishte tshimikauakannit mishtukut ute ut minashkuau 19 katshissinuashtakant enuet kau nitautshut kie apishish shuniatshenanu. Katshi tshipeikant nene Labrador Linerboard kamishte tshimikaissanut ume ishpish minakanipant tshetshi tshimikauat mishtukua peikuppunna (300,000m³/year) nene pupunnu etishtent 1977, eku nene pupun etishtet 1992 muk apiss tshimikauakanipant mishtukut tshetshi atuatshanit nete katak. Eku minuat ishkupannipan eshpish tshimikauakanit mishtukut nenepupun etishtet 1993 nta ut 5000 m³ nuash mak neta 40,000 m³ eshpish tshimikauakanipant mishtukut neme pupun etishtet 2000, kie ntshent auentshent tshemikeissaht muk natikam akaneshaut tshimikaissepant tshetshi atuatshet nenua mishtukua ute mak nete akamissisit katassiputatshanunit.

Eku nta unuitamit ne eshpish takueimatet ne minashkuau, assi mamu aueshishet tsheishi takueimatet ne minashkau nte tshetshimikaissanut mak nenua kakusseutshuapa

tshetikuaki tshetshi ut shuniatshanut nta ut assit. Ne minashkuau eshitipeikant tshetshi ut tshimikauakanit mushtukut pitetat tatuiet ne tshika ishinakutakanu tsheishi takueimatet ne assit tshekuan etakuak; ne peik auen uetshit tshetshi ut apashtat nenua mishtukua, tshetshi mishte tshimikaissanut, tshetshi takueimatet ne minashkuau, mak nenua kutaka tshekuanna tshetshi tutakantshi nte assit tshetshi ut shuniatshanut.

Ne eshpish tshimikauakannit peikuppunna mishtukut, kie mak ne eshpish tapuetakant tshetshi ishpish tshimikauakannit mishtukut (AAC) eukuan ne menuat eshitipeitshannut. Ne minashkuat etishtet (AAC) nishuiet nte tipeikanu nete akamit itetshe Mishta shipu mak ute itetshekam Mishta shipu. Ume tshika ishinikateu “Southside” mak Northside” mishta shipu. Eku anutshish keuaitakanua ne tsheishi takueimatet ne katshimikauakanit mishtukut ute itetshekam mishta shipu tshika tshimikaissanut. Eku nete akamit itetshe patush ne ashukan tshi tshutakantshi eku patush tshetshi tapuetakant tshetshi tshimikaissanut nte akamit itetshe mishta shipit. Tapuetakantshi tshetshi tshimikaissanut (AAC) nete akamit itetshe mishta shipit ne pitima tshika ashupatakanu pisse tshekuan tshetshi takuak:

1. Tshikau pitima tapuetakanu neme Utapan meshkanau kaui tutakant neta Nutapineuant tsheut tshitamutakant nuash mak ute a[pipani-Kushpe tshepet itamutakant kie patush tshi tshishtakantshi ne kanantutshissentakant tshekuan assit etakuak.
2. Patush tshi tshishtakantshi ne ashukan tshetshi tshkamishamut neta Mishta shipit
3. Tshetshi tutakantshi utapan meskananua nete itetshent akamit mishtashipit tshetshi ut autshitapanuit ntshent mishtukut.
4. Tshetshi tshishkutamuakannit auentshent tshimikaisseht nete akamit tapuetakantshi tshetshi tshimikauakanit mishtukut.

Ume ititshitakanu tsheishpish tshimikauakanit mishtukut 28.6% ne eshpish tat mishtukut nte ut ishpimit eakunikant ne minashkuat. Eku mamu tsheishpish tshimikauakannit mishtukut ute itetshekam mishta shipu 20% tshika ishpish nashikupinut ne etatishit etenimakannit mishtukut ntshent tsheka tshi apatshiakannit miam ntshent eiapishashkushishit, kie uassitekuit. Ume eshpish tipeitshanut tshetshi ishpish tshimikauakannit mishtukut ute itetshekam mishta shipit (57, 000 m³/peikupunna eku nete akamit itetshe mishta shipit 141, m³/ peikupunna tsheishpish tshimiakuakannit mishtukut. Eku mamu tsheishpish tshimikauakant mishtuk nta 19A , 198,000m³/ (2000 pupun etishtet kantutshissenimakannit mishtukut etashit, eukun ne kue tapuetakant tshetshi ishpish tshimikauakannit mishtukut 400,000 m³/). Ume ne uet nashikupantakant eshpish 50% ne AAC kaishinikatet , ne uet tutakanipan katshi uauitamuakanit ntshent katshimiakisseshit eukuannu umenu ishintuentamupant tshetshi ishpish minuanunit mishtukua tshetshi tshimikauakannitshi. Katshi uauitamuakanit ntshent katshimikaisseshit kue mishkutininipan pisse tshekuan ne tsheishi takueimatet minashkuau.

Uauitakanu ne tshetshi ut shuniatshanut nta ut minashkuat tshekuan etakuak ume nashuk kuauitakanui nenua tshekuanna tsheut tshi shuniatshanut nta minashkuat:

- meshtuk eitapitshiakant mak eshpish shuniaut

- Mishtukut etshimikauakanit & mak minekash tshetshi pempant ne atusseun
- tshimikauakanut katassipunakanit mishtukut
- utapan meshkanaua itamutakanua tshetshi tshimikaissanut
- Eishi nakatuentakant nte minashkuat
- Kau tshetshi nitautshiakanit mishtukussit & kau tshetshi ishinakuak
- Kappepamaunakanit akaneshaut mak kametuanut
- Nete nikan aishkat tsheishi nakuaki atusseunna

Kakuapitshenikanshu kau ne kauaitakant

- ❖ Ume mishinaikan eishi uaitakant nishukamupant umenu ntshent Innu Nation mak ne Stsheutshimau ukakusseshima Minashkuat & Pisinauna Kanakatuentakau.
- ❖ Ume mishinaikan etutakant nashatakanu neme tsheishi nakatuentakant nte minashkuat, kie tante tshetshi ut shuniatshanut nte minashkuat eia mak tshetshi ut minashtakant ne minashkuau.
- ❖ Ume mishinaikan uet tshi tuitakant nantam pet uaitamuakanipant katshimikeisseshit mak ntshent auentshent etat nte utenat ie utinikannipan nenu eissishuet.
- ❖ Ume mishinaikan uaitakanu nta tsheishi nakatuentakant ne assi kie nishtuiet ne tshika ishinakuan tsheishi nakatuentakant assi, tshika nakatuentakanu nte eiatpashtat assinu innut tshetshi eka tshimikaissanunit nte eiapashtat nenu assinu innut. Ume tsheishi nakatuentakant ne assi nast tetaut 50% ishpitentakuan eshpish nakatuentakant ne assi.
- ❖ Ne peikuppunna eshpish tapuetakant tshetshi ishpish tshimikauakanit mishtukut (AAC), ume tsheishpish tshimikauakannit mishtukut 198,000m³. Tetaut ne eshpish nashukupentakanu neme ueshkat kaishpish itastakant nta mishinakant.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Forest ecosystem management planning began in Newfoundland and Labrador in 1995. The planning process is based on the input and consensus of the various stakeholders who participate in the public meetings and who will continue to provide input both during and after the implementation of the scheduled management activities.

On January 30, 2001, the Province of Newfoundland & Labrador and the Innu Nation signed a historic agreement. The Province recognized the significance of the unsettled Innu land claim in this District, and how decisions made under this plan could affect those interests. Accordingly, a *Forest Process Agreement* was concluded to facilitate effective communication, information sharing, and resolution of issues between the Province and the Innu Nation concerning interim planning and management, and to facilitate participation by the Innu Nation in the development of sustainable forestry practices and ecosystem-based management plans.

As a result of cooperation between the Innu Nation and the Department of Forest Resources and Agrifoods under the Forest Process Agreement, and with the participation and contributions of the public in an innovative consultation process, a *Forest Ecosystem Strategy Plan for Forest Management District 19* (Strategy Plan) and a *Five Year Operating Plan for Forest Management District 19A* (Operating Plan) have been developed. These documents are the culmination of over 5 years of planning effort within the District. The contributions of the numerous people who gave freely of their time and shared their knowledge and concerns within the planning sessions are reflected in these documents and are acknowledged in the Strategy Plan.

While the Strategy Plan deals with the broad concepts and overall strategic vision of management within the District, this Operating Plan identifies specific areas for harvesting operations and other management activities in District 19A. Further, an Annual Work Schedule and Past Activity Report will also be prepared as part of the planning process. Collectively, these documents describe the ecosystem-based forest management approach that the planning team has summarized with the following vision statement:

To create an ecosystem-based forest management plan for District 19 that protects ecological and cultural integrity, productive capacity, resiliency and biodiversity while advancing economic opportunities for the sustainable development of forest-based industries.

This Operating Plan provides details of various management activities that are scheduled to occur between April 01, 2003 and March 31, 2008. These activities, which include harvesting, silviculture, road construction, research, surveys/monitoring, and ecosystem protection, are designed to ensure that the forest ecosystem is utilized in a responsible and sustainable manner. References are frequently made to the goals, objectives and actions

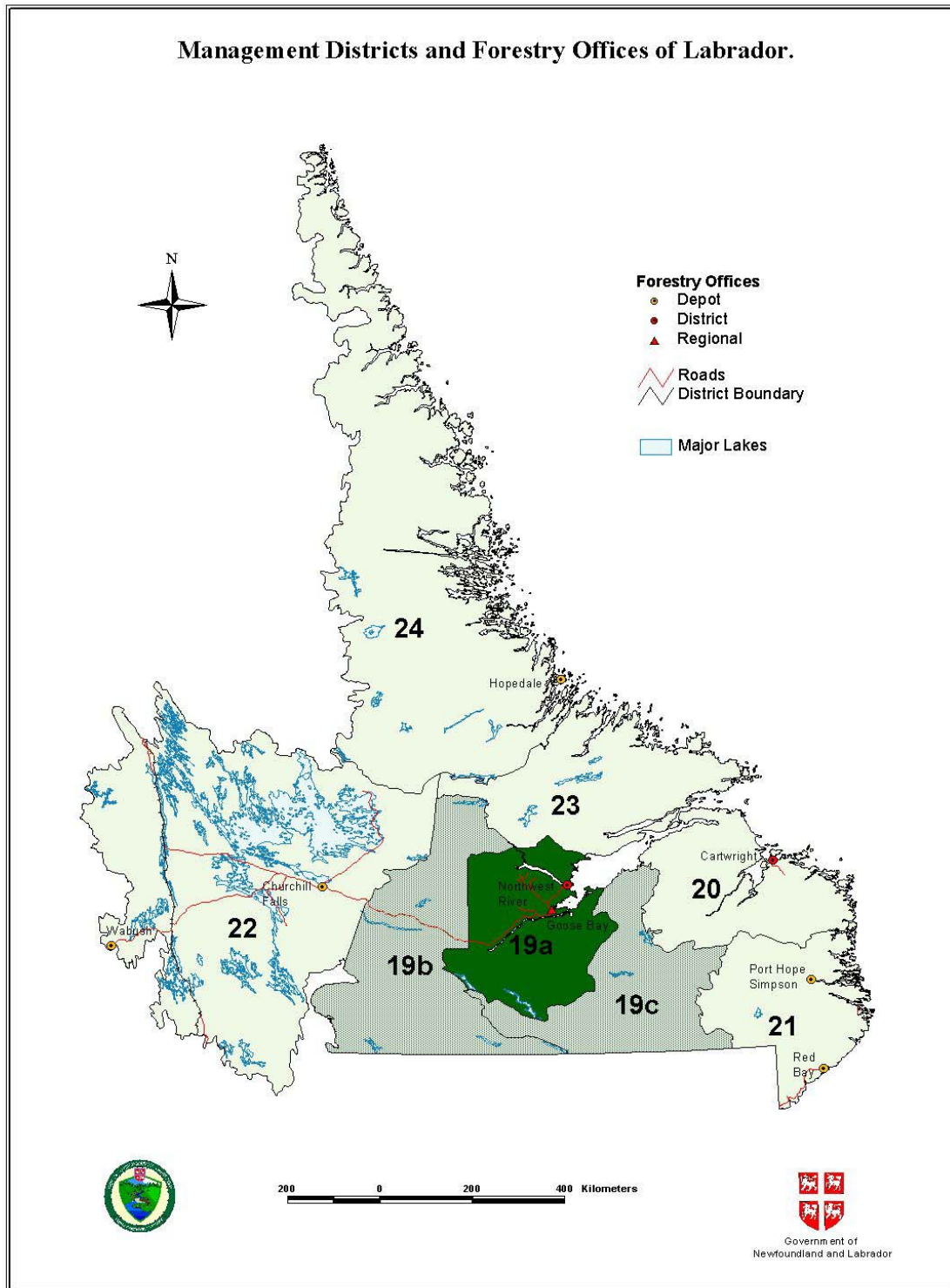


Figure 1. Forest Management District boundaries and office locations in Labrador.

outlined in the Strategy Plan, which will serve as the overall framework for all management and planning activities described in this Operating Plan. Under the

Environmental Protection Act, Five Year Operating Plans are submitted to the Minister of Environment and registered for environmental assessment and further public review.

The location of Forest Management District 19A is illustrated in Figure 1. The District is situated in central Labrador and generally bounded to the north by the Mulligan and Red Wine Rivers, to the east by the height of land that separates the Kenamu River watershed from those flowing into the Labrador Sea, to the south by the height of land that separates the Gulf Watershed from those flowing into the Labrador Sea, and to the west by a line at longitude 61° 45'. A legal description of this area is provided in Appendix I. District 19A falls within the boundaries of lands subject to comprehensive claims negotiations between the Innu Nation, the Government of Canada, and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.

1.1 Past Activities

There were a number of developments in forest management during the past five years. Some of the most significant included:

- The increased involvement of the Innu Nation, and collaboration between DFRA and the Innu Nation in forest management planning and monitoring in the District through a provincially funded Forest Process Agreement.
- The revival of commercial harvesting activities in the Goose Bay area.
- The acquisition of updated inventory information and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology and staff by the DFRA and the Innu Nation.

Timber harvesting activities steadily increased during the past five years. Table 1 and Figure 2 provide some specifics with respect to these activities. Domestic timber harvesting continued to be an important activity for local communities, with harvest levels remaining at a consistent level. Other forest management activities such as silviculture, fire suppression, road construction, research, and inventory updates continued, although in most cases at modest levels, in anticipation of the completion of this Operating Plan.

Year	Area Harvested (ha)	Area Treated (ha)	Roads Constructed (km)
1997-1998	189	104	3.7
1998-1999	282	90	9.5
1999-2000	365	90	3.9
2000-2001	464	90	10.7
2001-2002	387	97	9.5

Table 1. Summary of timber harvesting, silviculture and road construction activities in FMD 19A from 1997 - 2002.

Within an operational context:

- A significant effort was made on forest management planning, including an improved public participation process and completion of both a Strategy and Operating Plan for District 19A;
- Development of a set of Environmental Protection Guidelines unique to District 19;
- Fire control was abnormal, with a 100% increase in occurrence levels and with a distribution skewed towards late season fires;
- Silvicultural activities were reduced to 25% of proposed levels, primarily as the result of a reduced harvest level and an increased reliance on natural regeneration;
- Forest access road activity concentrated on upgrading (operator efforts), with new construction pending completion of the Operating Plan;
- Increased focus on enforcement and monitoring, as well as research and development.

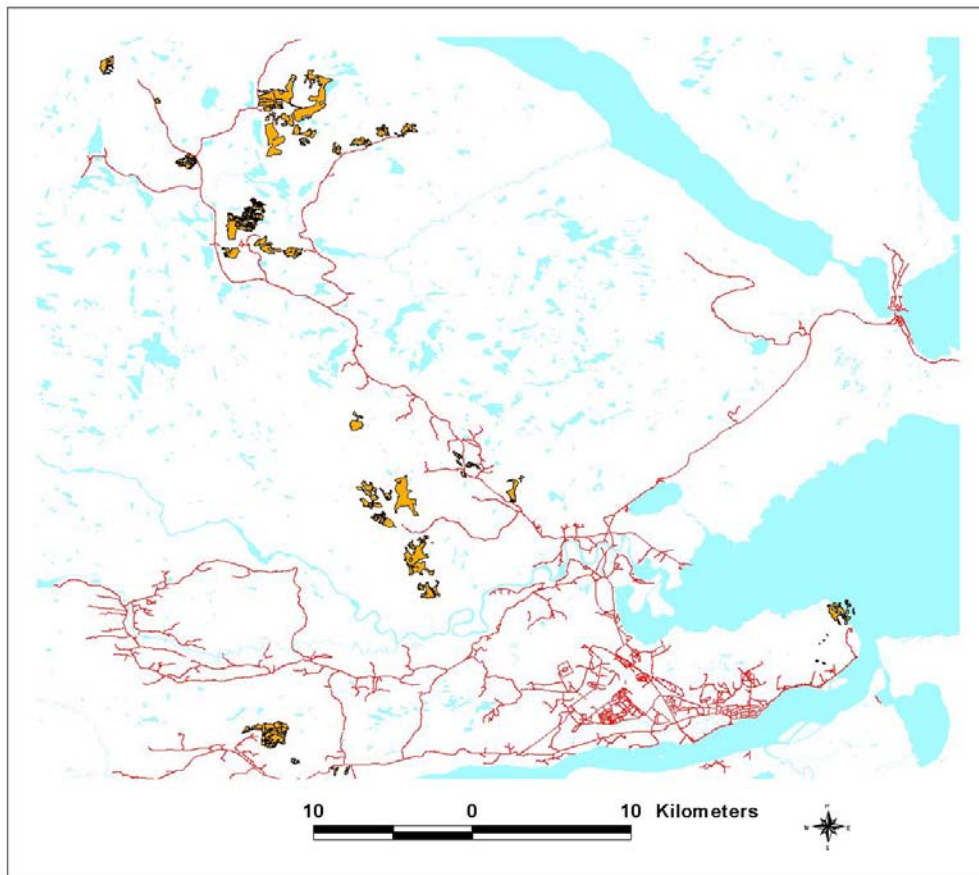


Figure 2. Locations of commercial harvesting activities in FMD 19A from 1997 to 2003.

Formal mechanisms for program delivery, planning, and reporting continue to be developed, especially as the Province and the Innu Nation work towards a management partnership in the District.

Routine survey work was carried out on an annual basis with a focus on regeneration, utilization, and data base maintenance (verification). The annual work schedules and reports on past operations provide additional information and detail on activities carried out during the past five-year period. These reports are on file at the Forest Management District Office in North West River.

1.2 Overview Of Operational Activities

The activities proposed for this operational period are outlined on Map 1. These include: (i) commercial and domestic harvest areas, (ii) access infrastructure - roads/bridges and (iii) silviculture activities.

To ensure the sustainability of timber harvesting activities, the District was further subdivided into two planning areas (North of Churchill River and South of Churchill River). A total commercial harvest of 258,500 m³ is proposed north of the Churchill River, while no harvest is currently scheduled south of the Churchill River. To facilitate this level of harvest, construction of approximately 35 km of forest access road will be required from both the Crown and the commercial operators. Silvicultural activities will focus on planting (400 ha) and pre-commercial thinning (300 ha).

Domestic harvesting is expected to continue at modest levels (less than 7000 m³ per year). 35,000m³ of timber is scheduled for domestic harvesting under this Operating Plan.

Routine surveying and monitoring work will include regeneration, site disturbance, utilization/volume recovery, wildlife surveys, and basic database upgrading and monitoring. Research activities will focus on alternative harvesting, ecosystem productivity, and monitoring various criteria and indicators as outlined in the Strategy Plan.

Finally, the existing fire management program will be maintained during this operational period.

1.3 Administration

Proposed Harvest Blocks outlined in this Operating Plan will be further refined through the Annual Work Schedule (AWS) which shall be produced on April 1st of each year. On March 31st of each year a Report On Past Operations (RoPO), which audits and details annual progress, will also be produced. Under this reporting structure potential problems can be identified, and through adaptive management, any necessary changes can be made to subsequent Annual Work Schedules. Any revisions to this plan will be registered as

amendments with the Department of Environment, and are subject to environmental assessment and further public review.

2.0 OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

All operational activities reported in the following sections are detailed in *The Forest Ecosystem Strategy Plan for Forest Management District 19* and are subject to the objectives and actions described in that document.

2.1 Allocation of Timber Supply

The annual rate of harvest or Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) is the maximum sustainable timber volume that can be harvested on an annual basis, while providing for a landscape that supports non-timber values for future generations. Since the necessary growth and yield data required to run linear wood supply models (such as FORMAN +1) does not yet exist for this District, the AAC was calculated using a basic area/volume formula. The detailed rationale and AAC derivations are described in Chapter 3 of the Strategy Plan and in Appendix E.

Under this Operating Plan, the District AAC is divided into two distinct management areas: north and south of the Churchill River, or “Northside” and “Southside,” respectively (see Figure 3). The majority of management activities and all commercial harvesting allocations are proposed to take place on the Northside. A Southside allocation will also be implemented when access issues are resolved, the final alignment of Phase III of the Trans-Labrador Highway is determined, and appropriate provisions for secondary processing within the District are met. Southside allocations will require an amendment to this Operating Plan and will be contingent on the following conditions:

1. Approval of Phase III of the Trans-Labrador Highway (Goose Bay to Cartwright Junction) following Environmental Assessment;
2. Bridge access across the Churchill River being constructed within the life of this Operating Plan;
3. Construction of required roads to provide access to proposed Southside Management Units;
4. Investment in local capacity to harvest and process the majority of Southside timber allocations.

Within the Northside and Southside areas, Management Units have been designated according to road system, ecological boundaries, management classifications and municipal boundaries. Figure 5 describes the location of the Management Units within District 19A, and Appendix E summarizes Management Units by contribution to the District commercial landbase. The proportion of commercial landbase indicated for each Management Unit serves as a guide for timber supply sustainability in each unit, not as a prescriptive partition.

As described in Table 3, the AAC figure for the Southside is estimated at 141,900 m³. This figure is considered provisional and will likely change in the next five-year plan pending resolution of various unresolved land use issues. The operable landbase used to calculate the AAC for the Southside in this plan excludes the Mealy Mountains/Akamiupishku National Park Study Area Boundary and the adjacent Core Reserve B (Kenamu River Valley). Both these areas have been provisionally included in the District Protected Areas Network until the National Park feasibility study has been concluded and any decisions concerning the boundary of the proposed National Park have been finalized.

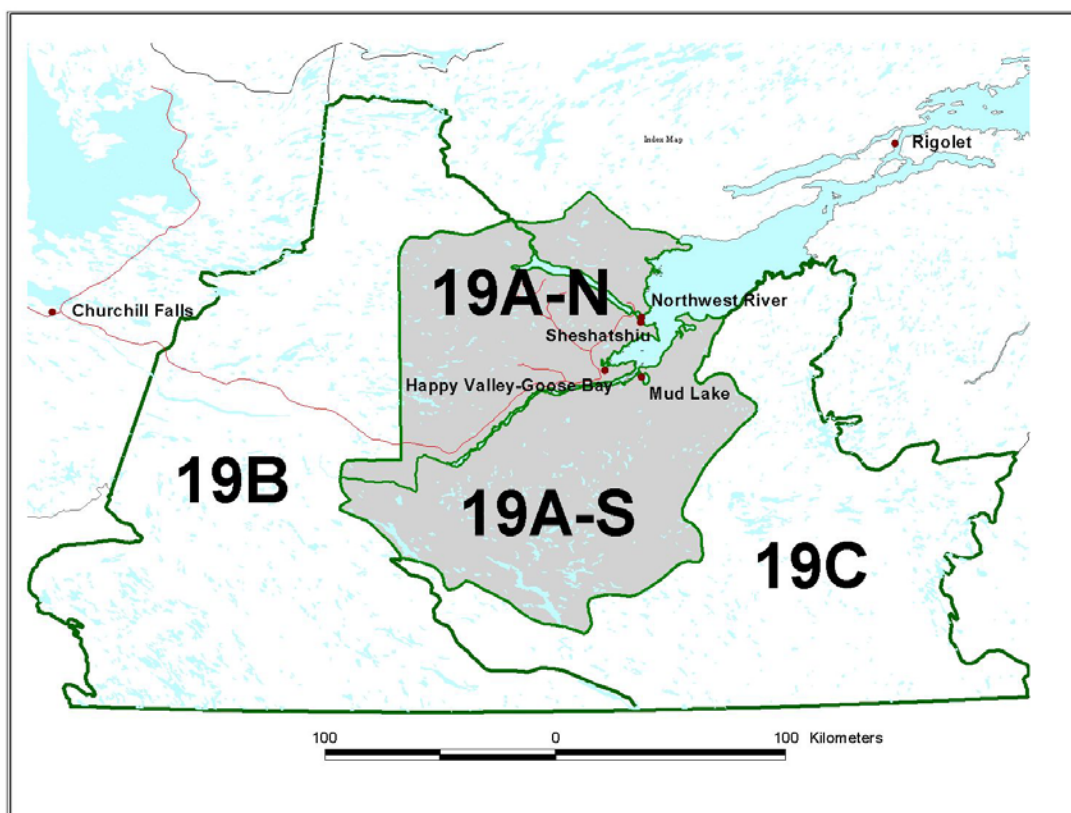


Figure 3. Location of Northside and Southside allocation areas.

The total AAC for District 19A is 198,600 m³. This represents a significant reduction from the previous (2000) analysis, which set the AAC at 400,000 m³. The primary reason for this reduction in the AAC was due to the major shift in planning emphasis under the Forest Process Agreement and through the incorporation of public values and concerns (both aboriginal and non-aboriginal) which were raised during the consultation process.

Management Class	AAC Contribution (m3/year)	% of A AC
Commercial Areas	53,700	27%
Domestic Reserves	3,000	2%
Northside Total	56,700	29%
Commercial Areas	127,400	64%
Domestic Reserves	10,500	5%
Selective Reserves	4,000	2%
Southside Total	141,900	71%
District 19A Total	198,600	100%

Table 2. Breakdown of District 19A Annual Allowable Cut (AAC).

This resulted in a significant change in how the timber management landbase was determined. The incorporation of ecological and cultural priorities in conjunction with changes in stand level harvesting practices resulted in a significantly reduced commercial harvesting area, but far greater ecological and cultural protection.

Under this Operating Plan, timber harvesting allocations are made available to operators under three different types of harvest permits:

1. **Commercial:** Large-scale operations with both saw-log and pulpwood market requirements. Represents approximately 85% of total harvest allocation (see commercial harvest permit conditions in Appendix D).
2. **Selective-Commercial:** Small-scale commercial operations that utilize a selective harvest approach. Requires primarily saw-log and construction timber with high value-added potential. Represents 3% of total harvest allocation.
3. **Domestic:** Primarily fuel-wood and some saw-log requirements with a focus on harvesting in domestic reserves and burn-wood areas. Represents 12% of total harvest allocation.

Table 3 summarizes the District's harvest allocations by permit type and management area over the five-year operating period. As Table 3 indicates, 299,500 m³ of timber is scheduled for harvest over the next five years. A total of 253,500 m³ has been allocated for Northside Commercial operations, 11,000 m³ for Selective-Commercial, and 35,000 m³ for Domestic use.

Year	Commercial (m3)		Selective* (m3)		Domestic (m3)		Total (m3)	
	Northside	Southside	Northside	Southside	Northside	Southside	Northside	Southside
2003-2004	50,700	-	1,000	-	5,000	2,000	56,700	2,000
2004-2005	50,700	-	1,000	-	5,000	2,000	56,700	2,000
2005-2006	50,700	-	1,000	2,000	5,000	2,000	56,700	4,000
2007-2008	50,700	-	1,000	2,000	5,000	2,000	56,700	4,000
2008-2009	50,700	-	1,000	2,000	5,000	2,000	56,700	4,000
Total	253,500	-	5,000	6,000	25,000	10,000	283,500	16,000

* Allocations subject to performance and demand.

Table 3. District 19A Harvest Allocations by Permit and Management Area.

Thirteen Northside Commercial harvest blocks and one Selective-Commercial harvesting block have been proposed for harvesting over this Operating Period. The locations of these areas are outlined on 1:50,000 topographic and 1:12,500 cover type maps and are provided in the appended maps. A summary of the Northside Commercial harvest blocks is provided in Table 4.

As is described in Table 4, the proposed Northside commercial harvest blocks contain an estimated 278,000 m³, 19,500 m³ more than the scheduled commercial allocation (including Selective-Commercial allocations). This additional volume (approximately 9% more than scheduled) is an accepted margin of error that may provide for operational flexibility if certain harvest blocks do not yield expected volume returns, particularly in research areas. Volume returns for every harvest block will be monitored and reviewed on an annual basis as described in the Strategy Plan.

Harvest Block	Net Commercial Area (ha)	Net Commercial Volume (m ³)
1	196.7	19,017
2	245.2	28,419
3	105.7	10,933
4	176.4	17,978
5	216.3	20,837
6	120.0	12,462
7	262.0	25,475
8	256.3	29,297
9	137.1	14,753
10	73.5	7,767
11	312.0	32,262
12	335.6	34,808
13	110.7	10,860
14 (SC)	112.8	13,346
Total	2660.3	278,214

Table 4. Summary of Northside Commercial Harvest Blocks for 2003 - 2008.

2.2 Timber Harvesting Operations

All harvesting operations will be subject to the *District 19A Environmental Protection Guidelines* (Appendix C), the relevant requirements outlined in the Strategy Plan, and specific permit conditions.

The Environmental Protection Guidelines were developed through a review of current scientific literature, management/operational knowledge and experience, and input from local stakeholders. The Environmental Protection Guidelines may be revised over the planning period to reflect new research findings and adaptive management decisions. Paramount considerations will be determinations concerning clear-cut opening size, green tree retention requirements, and further definition of sensitive areas (i.e., time of cuts/season, buffer size/requirement etc). Any revisions to the Environmental Protection Guidelines will be reflected in the Annual Work Schedules to be developed under this Operating Plan.

Commercial

Commercial operations will be confined to the Harvest Blocks identified in this Operating Plan. Since only a portion of the operational constraints can be mapped and alienated using existing GIS databases, further site-specific modifications to commercial harvest blocks are anticipated to account for terrain, slopes, streams, and other factors. Based on past experience, a reduction of approximately 30% of the projected merchantable area of a harvest block is anticipated during the pre-operational planning and layout of each harvest block. This net-down has already been incorporated into the proposed harvest block areas described in Table 4.

Commercial operations will generally utilize mechanical harvesters and conventional harvesting methods, such as clear-cutting with variable retention. In general, commercial stands are composed of both large diameter and small diameter timber. Cull expectations normally fall within 10% of standing volumes, although significant variation may occur. Waste and utilization surveys will monitor cull expectations on a yearly basis.

Selective-Commercial

Selective-Commercial operations are permitted within commercial management zones and within the Selective-Commercial reserve that has been created as a component of the District Protected Area Network along the Southside of the Churchill River (see Figure 4). Over the course of this Operating Plan a Selective-Commercial Pilot Project will be created to promote and determine the feasibility of this permit type. To facilitate this project, a Selective-Commercial Harvest Block has been identified. This area (Block 14) will provide a productive and accessible area for Selective-Commercial harvesting to begin on a trial basis.

Selective-Commercial operations will generally utilize manual chainsaws and harvest timber selectively during the winter months. Access road construction will not be

required for these operations, as harvest areas will be accessed by snowmobile. Specific harvest areas will be assigned to Selective-Commercial operators. All timber cut must be fully utilized and will be subject to normal utilization standards.

Domestic

The harvest of fuel-wood, saw-logs, and building materials for domestic use will be carried out under a domestic harvest permit primarily in the domestic harvest reserves. These reserves are generally located in close proximity to the communities of Goose Bay, North West River, Sheshatshiu, and Mud Lake. The locations of these domestic harvest reserves are illustrated in Figure 4. Domestic harvesting is also anticipated outside of reserve areas, such as the small volumes harvested at various locations throughout the District by cabin owners and subsistence harvesters.

Domestic permit allocations have, over the years, remained relatively stable. Due to the nature of these small-scale activities, general blocks/locations have been identified for operations outside of identified reserves. Regular monitoring will occur, with cumulative efforts detailed on an annual basis.

2.3 Silviculture & Restoration

Silviculture refers to the theory and practice of controlling the establishment, composition, growth, and quality of forest stands to achieve the objectives of management. Silviculture methods can also be utilized for restoration of degraded sites such as burn-overs, borrows pits, stream banks, roadways or skid trails. Two of the most common techniques associated with this practice are planting and thinning.

Research in this District shows that a majority of the areas harvested will regenerate naturally within a five year period. Harvested areas will be monitored for regeneration, and detailed surveys will be conducted in areas where regeneration appears to be inadequate. Harvested stands (or portions of harvested stands) that are not adequately regenerating will be scheduled for planting. The planted species will be determined on a site-specific basis but will be highly dependent on the pre-disturbance stand structure. Cone collections within the District will continue to provide a local planting stock. Only local native tree species will be considered for planting. Planting trials will also be established which aim to correlate successional patterns with both planted species and density.

Table 5 and Maps 1, 3, 4 and 5 summarizes the details of the anticipated silvicultural operations. These activities are supported by the regional tree nursery, which is scheduled to operate during this period.

Activity	Details	Hectares
Tree Planting	Utilizing spruce species.	~ 400 ha (80 ha/yr).
Site Preparation	Light touch manual or mechanical	~ 100 ha (20 ha/yr).
Pre-Commercial Thinning (PCT)	Thin over-stocked stands.	~ 300 ha (60 ha/yr).

Table 5. Proposed Silviculture Activities.

2.4 Forest Access Road Construction

Harvesting (particularly wood and certain non-wood products) depends to a significant degree on forest access roads. These corridors are long-term (15 or more years) when constructed by the Province, and short-term (5 years) or annual when operator-built. Current road construction guidelines and regulations are compiled with input from various agencies. The proposed forest access road network for this Operating Plan is illustrated in Map 1.

Operational roads (winter and summer) have not been identified in this plan, however they are necessary in order to ensure that the timber scheduled for harvest is fully accessed. Royalty reductions will be offered as an incentive for commercial contractors to construct their own access roads. Such roads must adhere to established construction and environmental standards, and will be subject to review and approval by District Planners.

Considering the limited access that currently exists within the District, decommissioning (barring or rehabilitating of access roads) has not been scheduled for this planning period. It will be considered when it is in the interest of protecting sensitive wildlife or fish habitat. Road construction activity will be carried out as per the Environmental Protection Guidelines which are provided in Appendix C, and as per objectives described in the Strategy Plan. Approval must be obtained from the Provincial Department of Environment and the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans for any type of stream crossing. Fourteen stream crossings are anticipated over the next five years.

Routine maintenance of the road system is the final component of the access program. No regular abandonment practices are anticipated during this planning period.

2.5 Research, Monitoring, & Surveys

Research and monitoring of operational activities is a key aspect of adaptive management and a feature of this planning process. Subject to availability of funding, this Operating

Plan will adhere to the various research and monitoring actions as described in the Strategy Plan. As such, several research projects are anticipated to occur within this operating period. Portions of Harvest Block 8 will be utilized as a long-term research block to facilitate some of these projects

Some of the initial research topics that will be targeted within this operating period include:

- Modified Harvesting Systems (strip, patch and shelter-wood);
- Assessment of cultural values protection;
- Natural disturbance regimes;
- Ecosystem classification systems;
- Impacts of timber harvesting (ecological, cultural and economic);
- Forest Stand dynamics;
- Visual Dynamics of forest harvesting;
- Community needs (social and economic);
- Ecosystem productivity (growth and yield).

The Strategy Plan identifies criteria and indicator requirements which will necessitate an expanded research and monitoring program. Such a program may study impact trends, indicators of ecosystem health, and general environmental parameters. Various parameters, protocols, and other aspects of a Forest Management Committee monitoring program will be tested and evaluated for implementation over the course of this five year planning period. This information will be evaluated and formal Forest Management Committee monitoring programs will be designed for implementation over the following planning period.

Compliance monitoring is generally carried out on a routine schedule during pertinent activities. This includes: harvest operations (timber), road construction, silvicultural activities, and wildlife harvesting/problems (i.e. bears). Routine inspections/patrols include documentation, reports, results, and corrective or other actions. In general, compliance monitoring will apply both to regulations and to the Environmental Protection Guidelines.

Surveys are important and necessary management tools which must be used in order to evaluate past action and provide data on which to base future management decisions. A number of surveys are scheduled for this planning period, but are subject to the availability of adequate staffing and funding.

Pre-Operational Surveys

Proposed harvesting areas will be surveyed for sensitive habitats such as the presence of raptor nesting sites, critical spawning areas, and aquatic furbearers. Detailed harvest sensitivity surveys (slope, drainage) will also be conducted to identify areas with high soil erosion hazard potential. Results of pre-operational surveys will be used to inform harvest unit layouts as described in the Environmental Protection Guidelines.

Utilization Surveys

Problems with improper utilization will be addressed through regular monitoring by District Conservation Officers and Innu Nation Forest Guardians. Formal surveys will also be carried out in order to obtain baseline data or to resolve disputes. While these surveys are necessary to measure the immediate impact of activities on the ecosystem, mechanisms to monitor change over the long term are also necessary. The establishment and re-sampling of permanent sample plots would be an important component of long-term monitoring. In addition to obtaining growth and yield information, data pertaining to site, coarse woody debris, and the presence of small mammals and songbirds will be recorded and monitored over time.

Regeneration Surveys

These surveys will be conducted on areas that have been harvested in order to determine the quantity and quality of natural regeneration. Areas will normally be surveyed five years after harvesting in order to allow sufficient time for seedlings to establish.

Site Disturbance Surveys

These surveys, as defined in the *Ground Disturbance Survey Guidelines* developed by the Newfoundland & Labrador Forest Service, will be conducted following harvesting activities to ensure compliance with the site disturbance and erosion sections of the Environmental Protection Guidelines.

Another important monitoring mechanism required under the current management planning process is the preparation of the Annual Work Schedule. This document will be subject to review by the planning team and the general public. This review will provide an opportunity to evaluate the annual progress of the Operating Plan and recommend any necessary changes.

District Conservation Officers and Innu Nation Forest Guardians will routinely monitor harvesting, road construction, and silviculture operations. This will ensure that all management activities are being carried out in a manner consistent with various legislation, and the objectives and guidelines of the Operating Plan.

3.0 PROTECTION ACTIVITIES

This section outlines issues concerning the protection of aquatic and terrestrial habitats, biodiversity, and ecosystem health. All protection activities reported in the following sections are detailed in *The Forest Ecosystem Strategy Plan for Forest Management District 19* and are subject to the objectives and actions described.

3.1 Protected Area Networks

An extensive Protected Area Network has been designed for District 19A which protects ecological and cultural values. The ecological Protected Area Network (PAN) is designed to protect ecological functions at three different planning scales: Landscape, Watershed, and Stand. Each planning scale functions as a successively finer “filter” to identify and protect ecosystem structures and functions which operate at those scales. While each planning scale focuses on protecting those features which are most visible at that scale, at every scale the goal is to ensure protection for rare, threatened, and endangered species, representative ecosystem types, and culturally valued ecosystem components.

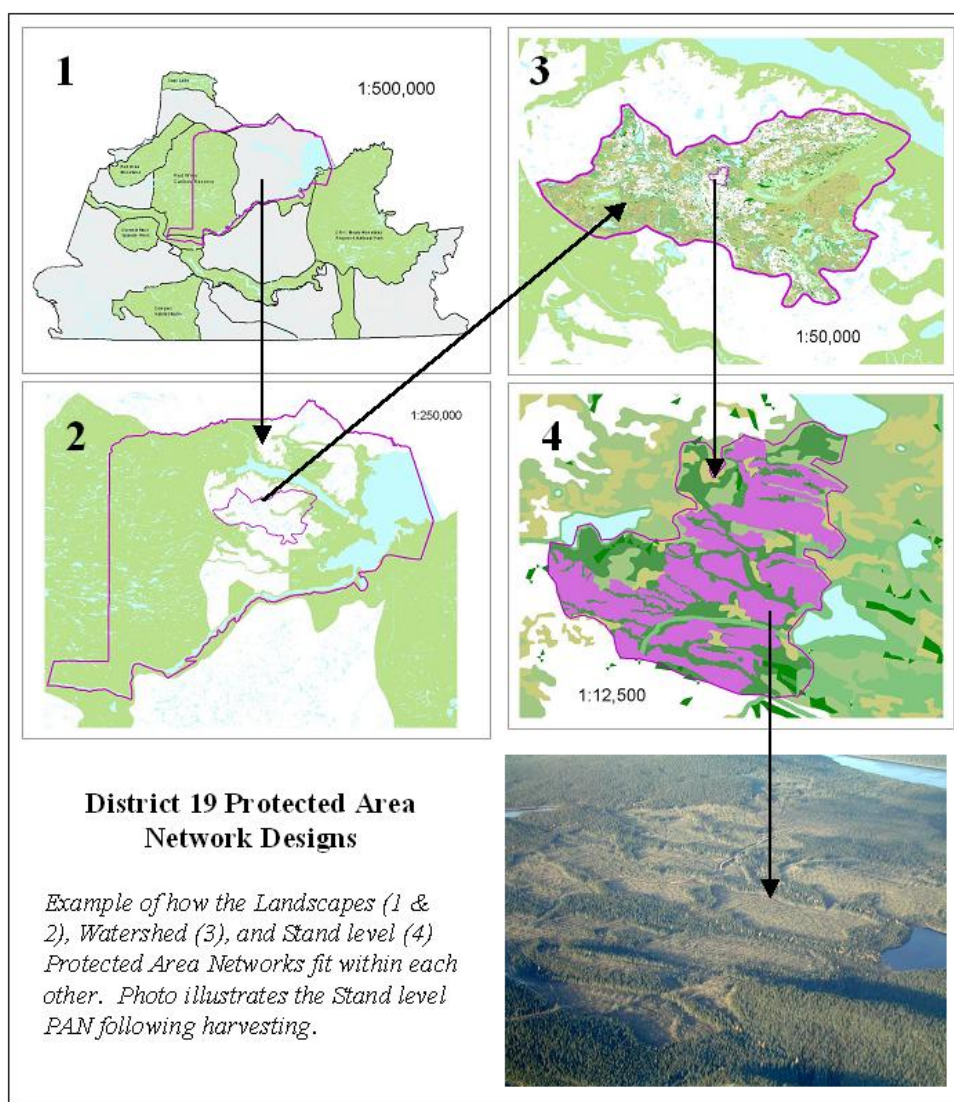


Figure 4. District 19 Multi-Spatial Scale Protected Areas Network Designs.

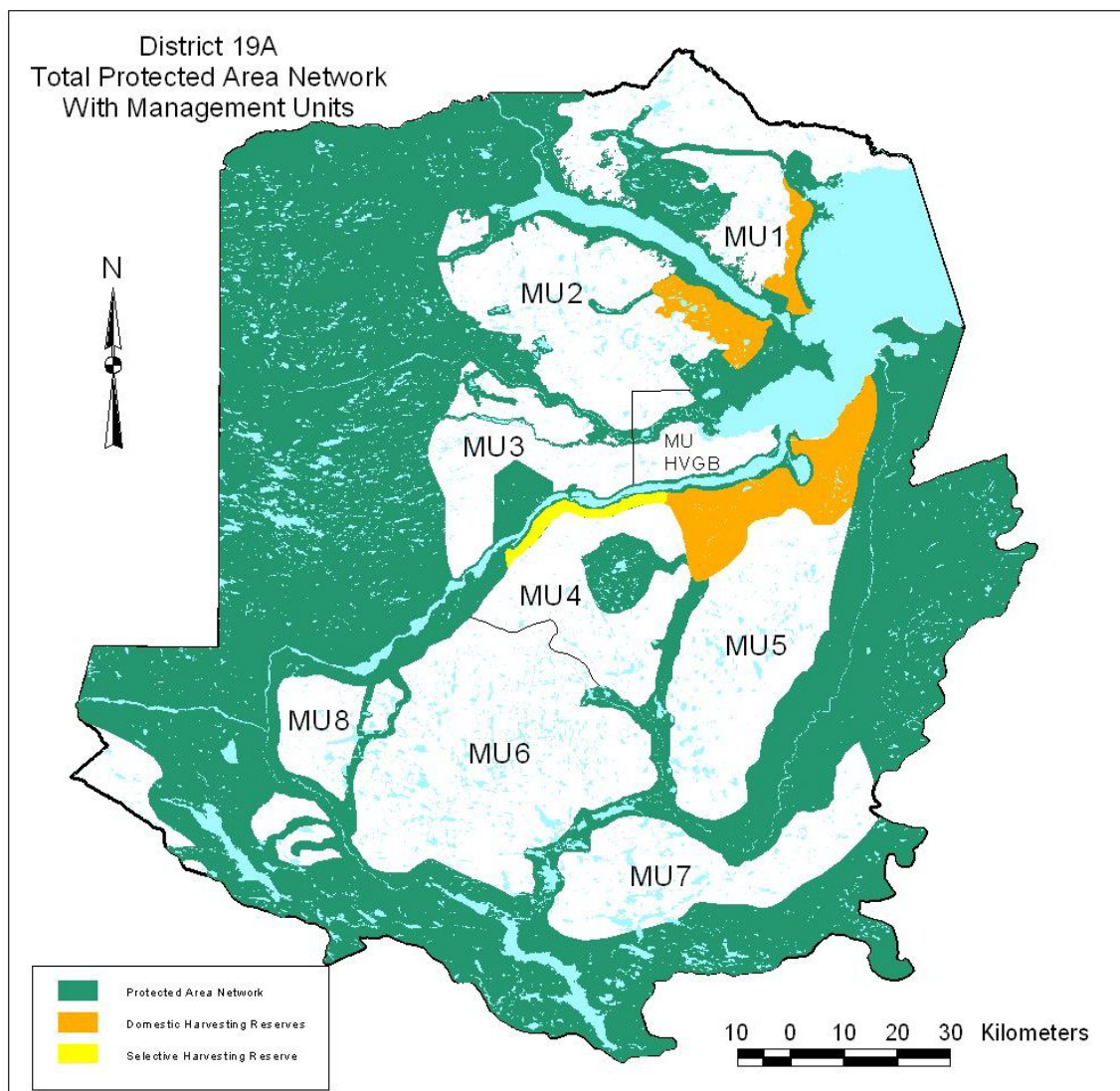


Figure 5. Total Protected Areas Network for District 19A.

At the Landscape scale, the Ecological Protected Area Network (PAN) design is based upon the principles of landscape ecology and conservation biology. The objective for the development of the ecological PAN at the Landscape scale was to designate both unique and representative core reserve areas, in order to ensure broad connectivity linkages in the landscape. This “coarse filter” is intended to allow for the representation of major ecosystem types and habitats, and to account for species, such as caribou, which utilize large areas.

The Cultural Protected Area Network for the District was developed at the Landscape scale to ensure protection of sensitive cultural areas and values not included within the

ecological protected area network. The primary themes considered in the development of the Cultural Protected Area Network are:

- Cultural Heritage Values
- Landscape Aesthetics
- Domestic Forest Harvesting Activities
- Hunting, Trapping and Gathering
- Tourism & Recreation
- Traditional Travel Routes & Camp Locations

Figure 5 illustrates the location and extent of the combined landscape level Ecological and Cultural Protected Area Network for District 19A. The Landscape PAN is mapped at a 1:500,000 and 1:250,000 map scales.

The Watershed scale Protected Area Network will seek to protect features such as ecologically sensitive areas, riparian buffers, steep slopes, isolated and non-commercial forests, cabin areas, and recreation areas that are “filtered” from the timber harvest planning landbase. To ensure that Watershed PAN’s are designated by design, not by default, corridors between harvest blocks will maintain connectivity within the watershed. Where possible these corridors will incorporate riparian areas and follow the natural topography. Watershed-scale PAN’s are mapped at a 1:50,000 scale.

Finally at the Stand level, Protected Area Networks will be established following pre-operational surveys and application of the Environmental Protection Guidelines. The Stand level PAN functions as the “fine filter” in the protected area strategy. Features such as wildlife dwellings and habitat, isolated slopes, small stream and bog buffers, and priority protection areas form the framework for the Stand level network. It is estimated that approximately 30% of the timber management landbase will be reserved within the Stand level PAN. Stand level protection is mapped at an operating scale of 1:12,500 and will be designed during pre-operational planning and included as part of a Silviculture Prescription.

3.2 Habitat Protection

Old age-class forests provide important habitat for a variety of plant and animal species. Examples range from various lichens to economically important fur-bearers such as American Marten (*Martes americana*). As illustrated in the section above, large forested areas have been excluded from the District’s commercial forest areas as Protected Area Networks and core reserves. Approximately 66 percent of the commercial forest landbase was not included in the annual allowable cut (AAC) calculation. These areas will provide habitat protection at the Landscape, Watershed, and Stand levels, as well as provide important benchmarks for scientific study and long-term monitoring of ecosystem health.

Within commercial operating areas, riparian buffers are important for the protection of aquatic ecosystems and the maintenance of water quality and quantity in general. Riparian buffers are key features of Watershed and Stand scale Protected Area Networks. They provide shade, act as filters against excessive sedimentation, and stabilize soils when properly planned. Riparian buffers also serve as important travel corridors and habitat for wildlife. Current guidelines require a minimum 20 meter treed buffer to be maintained on all permanent water bodies, and 10-8 meter no-travel buffers be maintained around smaller intermittent streams. Guidelines also permit for an increased buffer when required (i.e. steep slopes, sensitive spawning areas, etc.). In the case of larger rivers, a minimum of 100 meters will be maintained. Waterfowl staging areas will require a 30-meter buffer. The harvesting of hardwoods within 30 meters of a water body occupied by a beaver will not be permitted.

Coarse woody debris, which includes both standing snags and downed woody material, are important to a variety of plant and animal species. In recognition of its value, whole tree logging will not be permitted under this plan. Logging systems that leave limbs and tops on the harvesting site will be favored. Guidelines also require that a minimum of 10 snags per hectare remain after an area has been logged. In order to provide a future source of coarse woody debris, efforts will be made to retain green trees in harvested areas. Clusters of trees will be preferred over single trees, and where possible, snags will be maintained in association with green tree retention.

During pre-operational planning, surveys will be completed to determine locations of raptor nesting sites or black bear dens within the proposed harvest blocks. In the event that an active raptor nest is identified in a proposed harvesting block, the Environmental Protection Guidelines require an 800-meter buffer be maintained during the nesting season. Once the young have left the nest, a 200-meter buffer is required. A 50-meter buffer will be maintained on any black bear denning sites that are found within the proposed operating areas.

Specific activities which may affect habitat quality are monitored on a periodic but regular schedule: factors such as land use change, cabin developments, and insect populations are evaluated annually with the objective of identifying trends or providing data for forecasting future conditions.

Several monitoring programs are presently conducted in the local area by government agencies, research organizations (such as the Institute for Environmental Monitoring and Research), and by volunteer or citizen groups. These programs range from intensive river valley ecosystem research to breeding bird and raptor surveys, amphibian monitoring efforts, and feeder watch programs. These programs generate data, which will be incorporated into District monitoring reports. An evaluation of the results of these programs in relation to the goals and objectives of the District Strategy Plan and this Operational Plan will be undertaken in order to identify existing data sources, and any gaps will be identified as priorities for directed research under this Plan.

3.3 Hunting & Trapping

Both commercial and domestic hunting and trapping opportunities are available and expected to continue during this Operating Plan. Limited commercial hunting activities are associated with wild meat (eg. caribou) and the harvest of fur bearing animals. Domestic harvesting of wild fish and game as well as trapping and gathering is a far more significant activity within the District. Domestic concerns within a local context concentrate on moose, small game, fish, and waterfowl. Caribou have a regional importance and are of particular significance to the Innu. Additionally, there is a significant harvest of small animals (rabbit, ptarmigan, grouse) and plant products (berries, mushrooms) associated with the northern boreal ecosystem.

During this planning period, current wildlife harvest allocations will be continued (to be modified through stakeholder input on an annual basis) and benefits (resource utilized) should remain within normal cyclic levels. Activities are concentrated on normal management practices (seasons/limits) and research requirements. Parameters and regulations associated with various aspects of hunting, fishing and trapping are made available on an annual basis.

3.4 Recreation & Tourism

The conceptual framework of this plan is concerned with the availability and protection of opportunities and locations rather than specific activities. In this context, two distinct and occasionally antagonistic segments are the principle focus, namely tourism and recreational cabins.

Tourism

This plan is concerned with the rural - wilderness end of the recreational opportunity spectrum (ROS), considering the perception of wilderness most people have when they visualize Labrador.

Expected developments during the planning period include:

- Tourist facilities (hunting/fishing/ecotourism); remotely or in a wilderness setting, 10 or more new (expanded) ventures;
- Snowmobile trails; completion of the Labrador Winter Trail and secondary trails, rural/wilderness setting, seasonal buffers;
- Trans Labrador Highway visual impact corridor; completion of parts of this system expected to increase use in central/western Labrador for general tourist travel; Additional infrastructure along travel corridor is also expected (up to six locations).

For the above activities, maintaining a valued sense of place (homeland/wilderness), providing sufficient protection (infrastructure/people), ensuring an appropriate land use

mix, and providing a pleasing visual/aesthetic experience are the major expectations from this plan. See the tourism and recreation objective of the Strategy Plan for specific actions on this issue.

Recreational Cabins

Recreational Cabins (domestic - remote sites) have a significant impact on various ecosystems within the District. This is best described as a cumulative, rather than site-specific impact which interacts with other land use activities and resource uses. Cabin impacts are long-term and generally increase with time, attracting additional development. Furthermore, cabin development usually follows other activities, such as timber harvesting and road construction.

During this planning period up to three hundred (300) additional cabin sites may be requested. From a planning perspective, 70% of these applications are likely to involve infilling, which gives rise to density concerns, while 20% may involve new sites, which can also result in land use conflicts with other users, as well as density and sensitivity concerns. A further 10% can be expected to involve critical areas with potential for serious adverse ecological impacts. In some cases, these concerns will be brought forward to the appropriate agency with recommendations for refusal or specific mitigation conditions.

A minimum 50-metre, no-cut buffer is to be left between operations and cabin locations. District planners will consult with cabin users and make a best effort to modify operations to accommodate both cabin users and harvesting operators.

3.5 Ecosystem Health

No chemical silvicultural or insect control agents will be utilized for forest management purposes within the District. Natural cycles will be encouraged where possible, with light touch (minimal impact) practice utilized in locations specified for silviculture. The precautionary principle will be applied, and monitoring will be conducted to improve knowledge of ecosystem impacts on large areas as a consequence of various types of developments. Within this context, the Ecosystem Health objectives outlined in Chapter 2 of the Strategy Plan will be implemented.

3.6 Forest Fire Protection

Wildfire is a natural occurrence in the Labrador Region, with large fires having occurred within District 19. An effective fire protection program is necessary to ensure local communities are safe and that commercial timber losses are minimized.

Within the framework outlined in the Strategy Plan and regional fire management strategies, active forest fire control operations will be carried out as required. Although natural cycles (rates/extent) are preferred, suppression will occur in priority areas outlined on Map 25. This included human protection, property protection, critical habitat protection and protection of operational areas. Considering the capacity of wildfires to cover large areas, flexibility for control purposes is required with respect to priority zones and suppression actions.

The District Office in Northwest River currently has adequate staff and equipment to provide initial suppression during the scheduled fire season (usually from May to September). The office is staffed from 1200 to 1900 hours daily with extended hours during periods of extreme indices. After regular hours, the District Fire Duty Officer is responsible for receiving fire reports and dispatching staff and equipment. This office, in consultation with the Regional Fire Duty Officer, also coordinates air support (tanker, helicopter) and provides additional staff and equipment to other districts in Labrador as required.

4.0 Operational Maps