

Eligibility Criteria and Standard Requirements for Activities Associated with Sustainable Forest Management Planning under the FIA Land Base Investment Program (LBIP)

Development

Significant background work is necessary when developing a plan for achieving sustainable forest management. Much of this background work can be accomplished through existing activities and associated standards within the LBIP.

Planning for sustainable forest management includes determination of forest management issues and objectives pertinent to the land base. These are assessed from completed resource plans, higher level and otherwise, and consultation with industry, government and scientific representatives who have knowledge of the landbase (*Activity: Land Base Investment Rationale*). Licensees may also include public consultation in this phase (*Activity: SFM Planning*). From this research/consultation process – significant data gaps may be found. Land-based inventories may be necessary (*Activities: Resource Inventories, Monitoring*). Surveys or inventories of social and economic factors may also be required (*Activity: SFM Planning*). Data collection is then followed by data analysis, and the development of strategies (*Activities: Management Unit and Watershed Level Strategies*) which define how specific desired results can be obtained. Indicators and targets may be refined through a modeling, forecasting and scenario building process (*Activity: SFM Planning*).

This background information can then be translated into a balanced planning document which is specific to the varied requirements of a particular forest area and contains a variety of indicators and targets which define a balanced future forest condition.

Monitoring

Monitoring plans to track and evaluate attainment of indicator targets are an important component of sustainable forest management planning (*Activity: SFM Planning*). Actual implementation of monitoring plans is not funded through the SFM Planning activity. This split between funding monitoring plan development and implementation recognizes that recipients may develop a variety of management unit specific indicators, with monitoring plans, as part of their SFMP. Funding to monitor some of the wide range of MU specific indicators is available through the FIA program. Eligible monitoring activities are listed under the Information Gathering and Management component.

Innovative Projects

Sustainable forest management planning may show the need for background work that is covered by an eligible activity under the LBIP but deviates from the provided standards. Licensees can submit a request for a variance to the standard or submit an innovative project for this type of work. The following table identifies eligible activities that can contribute towards the background work required for sustainable forest management planning.

Assessment of Management Unit (MU) Issues and Objectives		
Work description	Applicable LBIP Activity Area	Deliverables and Comments
Determining Issues and Objectives pertinent to the MU	Strategic Resource Planning: Land Base Investment Rationale (LBIR)	Deliver a Land Base Investment Rationale This activity is required annually for each MU to show linkage of required land based activities to MU issues/objectives.
Public involvement in setting objectives or indicators	Strategic Resource Planning: Sustainable Forest Management Planning	Deliver a consultation report – detailing meeting dates and locations, attendees, discussion topics and action points. Involving members of the public that have interests in the land base is an important component of SFM planning. (see additional information following table)
Data Collection on landbase – environment and timber		
Merging components of defined forest area data into government database	Information Gathering and Management: Data management	Transform (if required) for the purposes of data exchange with the province's (ILMB) Land and Resource Data Warehouse or other corporate data holdings/warehouses of the Province. Data exchange must adhere to the custodian approved data standard and is only eligible for data features that have a custodian approved data model and electronic data storage standard that supports data exchange.
Collecting data: inventory	Information Gathering and Management: Resource Inventories, Monitoring	Deliverable is inventory collected to specified standards that are consistent with government approved data content, quality and physical storage standards. All resource information gathered through the FIA will be provided to the government for its operational systems or the Land and Resource Data Warehouse (LRDW). Monitoring to establish ecosystem baselines is often a component of SFM planning.
Social and Economic Assessments		
Collecting, collating data e.g. - civic records - health records - Stats Canada - employment surveys	Strategic Resource Planning: Sustainable Forest Management Planning	Deliverable is a document (may be on its own or part of an SFMP type document) with defined social and economic indicators and targets for a MU. Requires rationale for each indicator/target combination (how and why they were chosen), and description of any activities which may lead to meeting targets (see additional information following table). There is a \$20,000 cap per management unit.

Data Synthesis		
Work description	Applicable LBIP Activity Area	Deliverables and Comments
Strategies	Strategic Resource Planning: Management Unit or Watershed Level Strategies	Deliverable is the particular strategic document as defined in standards. This strategic work can provide the basis for deciding on specific goals pertinent to a management unit and designing the actions necessary to meet these goals. This may become the rationale for appropriate indicators and targets for sustainable forest management
Goal, Indicator and Target Development		
Modeling/ forecasting/ scenario development,	Strategic Resource Planning: Sustainable Forest Management Planning	The deliverable is either the results incorporated into a SFMP type document, or a stand alone analysis document of a indicator or group of indicators. (see additional information following table)
Monitoring		
Development of indicator monitoring plan	Strategic Resource Planning: Sustainable Forest Management Planning	The deliverable is either the results incorporated into a SFMP type document, or a stand alone monitoring plan for an indicator or group of indicators.
Implementation of indicator monitoring plan	Information Gathering and Management: Resource Inventories, Monitoring	Deliverable is monitoring data collected to specified standards that are consistent with government approved data content, quality and physical storage standards. All resource information gathered through the FIA will be provided to the government for its operational systems or the Land and Resource Data Warehouse (LRDW).
SFMP document creation		
Writing/editing, document production	Strategic Resource Planning: SFM Planning or standards from recognized certification authorities that require forest management plan type documents.	Deliverable is an SFMP type document. This will meet description of SFMP working paper, or specific standards as established by recognized certification systems if the management unit is working towards forest certification. There is a \$10,000 cap. The document must be made publicly available on the internet.

Public Involvement:

The framework of the proposed public involvement process should include:

- objective of the public involvement
- format(s) of involvement
- agencies, groups or individuals to be approached for input – including First Nations.
- timeline of involvement
- methodology to capitalize on any previous public involvement work

Individuals or groups with interests in the land base should be approached by the licensee to be part of a public involvement process. Such solicitation of input can be done at a variety of levels. This may range from general one time input from a wide public audience, to ongoing input through a defined membership in a public advisory group.

If working towards forest certification, also follow the standards for public involvement as provided by the specific certification system.

Expenses for any meeting venues and catering plus contract assistance in facilitation of the chosen process are eligible. No expenses can be paid to invited public participants.

The deliverable is a public consultation report detailing meeting dates and locations, attendees, discussion topics and action points. This may be a stand alone document, or included in a sustainable forest management plan type document.

Social and Economic Indicator/target development

The framework of the proposed social and economic indicator work should include draft methodology to:

1. Assess and update (if necessary) previous social/economic work done for the landbase such as done in the LRMP and Timber Supply Review process.
2. Obtain public input to determine the priority for choosing social and or economic indicators, such as documented in recognized certification systems, in addition to those determined in point number 1.
3. Develop baseline measurements for the priority indicators as determined in point number 2.
4. Develop a monitoring plan for the priority indicators.

The desired outcome would be one or more sets of indicators and targets pertinent to social and economic health for a management unit. Provide a rationale - describing why these indicators/targets were chosen and why they relate to sustainable forestry. The rationale should refer back to data collection in the economic/social world and include a baseline for the indicators. Describe any actions necessary to meet targets. This information may be provided as a stand alone document, or included in a completed sustainable forest management plan type document.

Modeling/Forecasting/Scenario building –.

The purpose of this activity is to use previously developed modeling tools to investigate effects of differing levels of indicators, singly or in combination, on the management unit.

See the Data Management Activity for ineligible activities. For example there will be no payment for software or hardware purchase or loading of operational data such as existing cutblocks, roads, or silviculture data.

Application development will not normally be paid for. Application development may include such things as 'development of an internet mapping tool', 'decision support application' and at a technical level, development of a graphic user interface, use of sophisticated computer languages (not macro based languages), code and error checking, development of help files and indexes. However, the development of simple macro language scripts and templates that can be initiated by an analyst several times (with differing inputs) and/or schedule processes (over weekends and evenings) may reduce cost, and ensure tight timelines are met. Ideally, the cost of such simple application development should represent a small percentage of a FIA modelling activity.

Funding can be used for loading non-operational data as necessary to forecast chosen indicators under a variety of forest management scenarios. Funding can also be used to develop and run scripts and batch programs and analyze model outputs.

The final deliverable for this activity will either be incorporation of results into a sustainable forest management plan type document, or a stand alone analysis document of an indicator or group of indicators.