

Fort St. John
Land and Resource Management
Plan Update Project

What We Heard Report



Prepared For:

British Columbia's Ministry of Forests,
Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and
Rural Development
PO Box 9352 Stn. Prov. Govt.
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2
Attention: Fred Oliemans, Project Lead,
LRMP Update Project

Prepared By:

Urban Systems Ltd.
200 - 286 St. Paul Street
Kamloops, BC V2C 6G4
Telephone: 250 374-8311



Contact: Trina Wamboldt
twamboldt@urbansystems.ca

Project Number: 0980.0030.01

March 2019

Table of Contents

- 1. INTRODUCTION2
 - 1.1 Background2
 - 1.2 Community Engagement..... 3
 - 1.3 Project Schedule3
 - 1.4 Purpose of What We Heard Report4
 - 1.5 Scoping Phase Project Team4

- 2. ENGAGEMENT METHODOLOGY5
 - 2.1 Methods of Engagement.....6
 - Online Feedback Form6
 - Public Open House.....6
 - Interviews7
 - Other Forms of Engagement7
 - 2.2 Data Analysis7
 - 2.3 Participation.....8

- 3. WHAT WE HEARD8
 - 3.1 Vision for the Future of Land and Resource Use in Fort St. John Area8
 - 3.2 Key Topics to be Addressed in LRMP Update9
 - 3.3 Opportunities and Concerns by Sector11
 - Government Sector (Federal, Provincial, Municipal, Local)12
 - Environmental/Wildlife Protection Sector12
 - Industry/Natural Resource Sector (Forestry, Oil & Gas, Electricity/Alternative Energy, Mining)14
 - Recreational and Commercial Land Use Sectors15
 - Public Sector (Those who selected “public” or chose not to identify with a sector)16
 - 3.4 Preferred Methods of Engagement and Participation.....19
 - 3.5 Technical and Information Contributions19
 - 3.6 Key Themes Related to LRMP Process19

- 4. NEXT STEPS21



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

British Columbia's Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (Ministry) is working with local First Nations and other interested parties to prepare for an update to the Fort St. John Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP). The LRMP is a set of strategic policies governing the management of Crown land and resources within the Peace Natural Resource District, which includes the Fort St. John Timber Supply Area (TSA). The LRMP identifies resource management zones and protected areas and sets out objectives and strategies that govern how land and resources are managed.

The Fort St. John LRMP Update Project (the Project) is one of several priority projects under the umbrella of the Province's Modernized Land Use Planning Program.

The Fort St. John LRMP is a sub-regional plan covering approximately 4.6 million hectares that was approved by the B.C. government in October 1997. The plan was produced through a four-year public process that involved members of the general public, a variety of interest groups and government agency representatives. The resulting LRMP provided broad social choices through land use zoning and provided objectives and strategies for managing Crown land and resources (both surface and sub-surface).



Since the completion of the Fort St. John LRMP in 1997, there have been significant changes within the Northeast B.C. area as outlined below.

- The region has experienced substantial growth in the natural resource sector, particularly in petroleum and natural gas development, with associated pressures on traditional land uses, communities and infrastructure. A growing economy and increasing demand by sectors such as forestry, mining, oil & gas, tourism and recreation are creating new pressures on the balance between social, economic, and environmental objectives.
- There is increasing management complexity as a result of new factors affecting land use, such as concern for key species (moose, caribou, grizzly bear), water sustainability, clean energy and climate change.
- Relations between the Province and First Nations have evolved over the past decade through strategic agreements that provide for government-to-government relationships and the need to incorporate new land-related measures that respond to the protection of Treaty and non-Treaty First Nations rights and title. A number of independent regional initiatives have been undertaken to address priority issues; an update to the LRMP will provide the platform for integration and implementation of results from these initiatives including extensive engagement with communities within the Fort St. John TSA

The timing of the LRMP update was also influenced by an adjournment agreement between the Blueberry River First Nation (BRFN) and the Province of B.C. meant to allow for land use planning to address the effects of resource development in BRFN's territory. This was also intended to provide the opportunity for BRFN and other interested Treaty 8 First Nations to work in partnership with the Ministry in the design and delivery of the updated plan.

1.2 Community Engagement

The Province is committed to developing a transparent and inclusive process to update and amend the Fort St. John LRMP. The Province, working with communities in the area, will collaborate on land use management with a variety of stakeholders, including industry, non-governmental organizations, the public, and others such as academia and special interest groups.

The Province will conduct extensive engagement with communities throughout the life of the Project to ensure interests, values and challenges are identified and addressed.

This report does not reference Indigenous engagement and consultation as that is a separate and ongoing process being led by the Province. The LRMP planning process will be informed by the interests and concerns of First Nations based on the feedback gathered by the Ministry during the Project scoping phase.

1.3 Project Schedule

The LRMP Update Project is being managed in two sequential phases as described below.



PHASE 1 - SCOPING PHASE

A preliminary scoping phase was undertaken between January and March 2019. During the scoping phase, First Nations and interested parties from local governments, industry, stakeholders and the public were invited to share their interests and concerns related to land use in the Fort St. John LRMP area, as well as their views about the topics and opportunities to be addressed in an updated LRMP.

This *What We Heard Report* reflects community feedback collected during the scoping phase. This feedback will be used to develop a terms of reference for the technical planning phase of the Project, which will consider how stakeholders will be involved and the required technical components.

PHASE 2 – TECHNICAL PLANNING PHASE

In spring 2019, the technical planning work to update the LRMP will begin. This work will integrate the advice received in the scoping phase with information from First Nations, technical experts and other sources. Involvement of interested parties from local governments, industry, stakeholders and the public will be key components. Developing an updated land use plan is anticipated to take up to two years, into spring 2021.

Figure 1 - LRMP Update Process



1.4 Purpose of What We Heard Report

The *What We Heard Report* is a thematic summary of input from participating stakeholders, including local governments, industry, recreational and commercial land users, and the public.

The stakeholder input reflected in this report will be used to inform a terms of reference for updating the LRMP beginning in spring 2019. The terms of reference will include a process for updating the LRMP as well a technical review summary that examines what is working well and areas for improvement in the future LRMP.

1.5 Scoping Phase Project Team

The scoping engagement process was led by the Ministry with support from Blueberry River First Nation and facilitation and reporting support from consulting firm Urban Systems. The Ministry managed all outgoing formal correspondence related to the Project and engaged directly with interested First Nations.

Urban Systems assisted the Ministry by planning and facilitating the public open house, co-ordinating the survey and stakeholder interviews, and analyzing stakeholder feedback to prepare this *What We Heard Report*.

2. ENGAGEMENT METHODOLOGY

Engagement for the scoping phase occurred between November 2018 and March 2019 and included a series of informal meetings between the Province and interested stakeholders as well as a formal engagement process designed to answer seven scoping questions.

The Ministry co-ordinated with the Province’s Government Communications and Public Engagement (GCPE) division to develop and manage a project website and communicate the formal engagement process to stakeholders and the public via email and other methods.

LRMP SCOPING QUESTIONS	
1.	What are your hopes for the future of land and resource management within the Fort St. John Land and Resource Management Area (Fort St. John Timber Supply Area)?
2.	From your perspective, what potential areas of opportunity could be addressed in an updated land and resource management plan?
3.	From your perspective, what key concerns or problems should be addressed in an updated land and resource management plan?
4.	How would you/your organization like to be involved and/or kept informed during the Update process?
5.	Is there any technical or other information that you or your organization may have that could contribute to the information base for future planning? If yes, please explain.
6.	Do you have other comments or suggestions about the LRMP Update Project?
7.	Please provide contact information for purposes of future communications about the LRMP Update Project.



2.1 Methods of Engagement

Three engagement methods were used to collect feedback on the scoping questions.

Online Feedback Form

An online feedback form was developed and hosted on the Province's website, EngageBC. The online feedback form explained the Province's privacy policy and how the data would be stored and used. Online feedback was collected from Feb. 6, 2019 to March 6, 2019.

Public Open House

A public open house was hosted in Fort St. John on Feb. 20, 2019, to offer stakeholders an in-person opportunity to provide feedback on the scoping questions. The open house format enabled participants to interact with the project team and ask questions. The open house was designed as a listening forum and therefore did not include a presentation or formal question/answer period.



Attendees of the open house were asked to sign in upon arrival and were invited to provide their contact information to receive future updates.

The scoping questions were printed on large posters and placed around the room. Open house participants were invited to answer the scoping questions by writing their comments on sticky notes and placing their comments on the poster in the stakeholder category that most closely represents their interest group. All comments received at the open house were combined with the online responses for theming and coding purposes.



Interviews

Participants who did not wish to complete the online feedback form or attend the open house, were given the option to answer the scoping questions through an in-person or telephone interview. Answers to the scoping questions were transcribed verbatim and combined with the online and open house responses for theming and coding purposes.

Other Forms of Engagement

The Ministry met with a number of interested First Nations and stakeholders to discuss their interests and concerns outside of the formal engagement process described above. The Ministry will ensure that the feedback and insights gleaned through this parallel process will be used to inform the Project terms of reference.

The Ministry also received some letters outlining the interests and concerns of specific organizations. These letter submissions were reviewed, and key points were coded and combined with other feedback data to inform the themes contained in this *What We Heard Report*.

2.2 Data Analysis

The feedback received through each method of engagement was combined into a single database and each comment was reviewed and manually coded to identify key feedback themes. Some comments were long and contained thoughts on several different topics. When two or more ideas were present within a longer comment, the ideas were separated for theming and coding purposes to ensure each idea was reflected in the overall analysis.

2.3 Participation

There was a total of 75 responses to the scoping questions. The responses were analyzed to identify the top themes across all sectors and also analyzed by the following specific interest groups:

- Municipal governments;
- Industry/natural resource organizations (forestry, mining, energy, oil & gas);
- Outdoor commercial enterprises (agriculture, ranch, guide outfitter, trapper, tourism)¹;
- Organized recreation clubs (motorized & nonmotorized sports & hobbies);
- Environment/wildlife protection; and
- Public (those who selected “Public” or chose not to identify with a sector).

Figure 2 - Participation by The Numbers



3. WHAT WE HEARD

This section of the report details the key themes arising out of the formal engagement process.

3.1 Vision for the Future of Land and Resource Use in Fort St. John Area

Participants were asked to identify their hopes for the future of land and resource management within the Fort St. John LRMP. Comments received in response to this question pointed to a future that:

- Maintains access to the land for all resource users;
- Considers and promotes values other than land use (e.g. emergency response, human health, community health, socio-economic stability);
- Promotes long-term social, economic, and environmental prosperity for the area;
- Ensures an effective, proactive approach to wildlife and habitat management based on clearly defined objectives;
- Reflects Indigenous needs and interests and ensures First Nations have a partnering role in planning;
- Creates more certainty and confidence for the natural resource industry through confirmed Indigenous agreements and timely and predictable assessment and authorizations;
- Is governed by clear, concise and fair rules for all;
- Maintains biodiversity and protection for sensitive areas; and
- Ensures stakeholders are involved in the decisions that impact them.

¹ The Outdoor Commercial Enterprise and Organized Recreation Club sectors were combined in the reporting due to the similarity of comments and small number of responses in each of these categories.

3.2 Key Topics to be Addressed in LRMP Update

To identify the key topics to be addressed in the LRMP, the Ministry asked two overarching questions:

- From your perspective, what potential areas of opportunity could be addressed in an updated Land and Resource Management Plan?
- From your perspective, what key concerns or problems should be addressed in an updated Land and Resource Management Plan?

All responses to these two questions were themed and coded which resulted in 14 main themes and several subthemes. Table 1 below summarizes the main themes and sub-themes that participating stakeholders believe are important to address in the LRMP update.

Table 1 represents the most common interests and concerns identified across all interest groups. The themes have been listed in alphabetical order. *Section 3.3* of this report provides greater detail on the opportunities and concerns expressed by specific sectors / interest groups.

Table 1 – Key Topics to be Addressed in the LRMP

Main Themes	Sub-themes
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access management • Maintaining/allowing access for various resource users
Cumulative Effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cumulative effects in context of Indigenous values • Cumulative effects in context of species resilience • Site C impacts • Cumulative effects strategies
Fish and Wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildlife populations and habitat including ungulates (moose, caribou, etc.) • Impacts of hunting • Game management zones • Wildlife objectives • Wildlife management • Funding for wildlife and habitat programs • Linear disturbance
Forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linking forestry and conservation • Prescribed burns • Riparian areas in context of development



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic viability • Forest health • Forestry planning and silviculture practices
Human Health and Well-being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of industry on individual and community health • Food security
Indigenous Involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Nations ownership, partnership and consultation in context of natural resource development • Indigenous needs & interests

Main Themes	Sub-themes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treaty land entitlement in context of resource development
Industry Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-ordination between industry and government • Access for industry (including energy companies, existing and future pipelines) • Certainty and confidence for resource users • Objectives and strategies that include Indigenous values and priorities • Assessment timing/predictability and regulatory authorizations
Legislation, Regulation and Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fairness, clarity and relevance in context of current reality • Consistency of policies and direction across governments • Controls for resource industry • Mandate of current ministries • Create guidelines to mitigate industrial impacts on other values • Effects on economic development in the Peace • Government-to-government commitments • Impacts of the extent and speed of policy change
Parks and Protected Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peace-Boudreau area • Pink Mountain Provincial Park • Parks planning • Biodiversity • Climate change research (Pink Mountain)
Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motorized recreation access



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hunting/angling access • Trails on public lands
Research and Knowledge Sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildlife
Resource Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goals and targets from local area planning • Integrated resource management • Environmental values in context of regional objectives • Long-term economic, social & environmental prosperity • Resource allocation between stakeholders • Pre-tenure plans for mine development • Assessment & monitoring • Considering adjacent LRMPs and land use plans • Identifying Crown, private & treaty land entitlement lands • Impact of development • Monitoring and reporting
Stakeholder Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholders involvement in planning Local perspective • Ensure rural citizen engagement
Main Themes	Sub-themes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Layered maps to show land uses • Ensure stakeholder input in achieving balance between exercising First Nations Treaty Rights & natural resource development
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-ordination of water values and resource use • Charlie Lake Watershed • Site C water licence

3.3 Opportunities and Concerns by Sector

This section contains a summary of the opportunities as well as the concerns and problems that need to be addressed in the updated LRMP by individual sector / interest groups.



Government Sector (Federal, Provincial, Municipal, Local)

Table 2 summarizes the opportunities and concerns expressed by respondents who self-identified with the Government Sector.

Table 2: Government Sector Opportunities and Concerns

Opportunities	Concerns
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote and protect health of local populations • Take a long-term view to planning for resource development • Maintain access for resource development (e.g. oil & gas, forestry, agriculture) to support economy • Encourage economic diversity • Have all stakeholders and First Nations at the planning table to ensure strong relationships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impacts of industry on individual/community health and food security • Effects of industry on agriculture • Cumulative effects • Management and mitigation of health services, emergency response and community/socioeconomic health-related impacts associated with resource development
<p>Select Quotes from this Sector</p>	
<p>“Need improved regional oversight of cumulative impacts associated with a multitude of projects and industry sectors across space and time, including indirect effects that are often much more complicated and interrelated to be fully characterized in project-specific assessment and approval processes”</p> <p>“Meaningful integration of Indigenous and community knowledge into decision-making, including the identification of resources and issues important to communities strongly affected by both economic well-being and healthy environments”</p> <p>“The recognition of human health as a key value in the LRMP will help to maximize the benefits that resource extraction and development can bring to communities, while protecting and promoting community health and addressing existing health inequities that affect this population”</p>	

Environmental/Wildlife Protection Sector

Table 3 summarizes the opportunities and concerns expressed by respondents who self-identified with the Environment/Wildlife Protection Sector.



Table 3: Environment/Wildlife Protection Sector Opportunities and Concerns

Opportunities	Concerns
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create better balance and plans for biodiversity and conservation • Further First Nations reconciliation by promoting government-to-government discussion and respect Indigenous Rights and Title • Focus on areas left out of the last LRMP (e.g. Pink Mountain, Graham Laurier Provincial Park) • Consider Ministry of Environment and climate change strategy as the governing body for wildlife/air/water management • Focus on watersheds (e.g. Charlie Lake) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address the impact of cumulative effects on species • Address habitat loss and decreasing ungulate populations • Lack of objectives for prescribed burns in the area • LRMP information difficult to find
<p>Select Quotes from this Sector</p>	
<p>“Future land management direction needs legal objectives to be set to ensure direction is better implemented and it needs to consider cumulative effects and First Nation interests”</p> <p>“Land management needs to be "reset" in light of the massive changes to the landscape from industrial development (e.g. fracking, forestry, wind, etc.) since the original LRMP was developed”</p> <p>“BC Oil and Gas Commission needs a more environmentally friendly mandate”</p> <p>“Consider connectivity, wildlife management, protected area design, and eco-section representation in adjacent LRMP/TSA areas (e.g. Mackenzie) now that plans have also been completed in adjacent LRMP/TSA areas since the original Ft. St. John LRMP”</p> <p>“Modify the LRMP area boundary to better capture the geography and not simply follow TSA boundaries”</p> <p>“Every other region of B.C. has seen balance between conservation areas, Peace Region has seen none”</p> <p>“More protected areas. The Northeast region has a much lower amount of protected land base than elsewhere in the province”</p> <p>“The needs for wildlife connectivity should be considered (Yellowstone to Yukon involvement is needed)”</p> <p>“Requiring resource industries to pay into wildlife and habitat management by redirecting existing fees, adding additional fees for wildlife and habitat, or both”</p> <p>“Reclamation of landscape level disturbances”</p> <p>“Complete all plans (e.g. park management, caribou management, predator management) and set targets”</p> <p>“Oil & gas industry harvest of land nearly equals that of forestry operations, so there should be requirement to reforest/plant those portions of Crown land no longer being used. Cost to be borne by this industry”</p>	



Industry/Natural Resource Sector (Forestry, Oil & Gas, Electricity/Alternative Energy, Mining)

Table 4 summarizes the opportunities and concerns expressed by respondents who self-identified with the Industry/Natural Resource Sector.

Table 4: Industry/Natural Resource Sector Opportunities and Concerns

Opportunities	Concerns
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop better access management processes • Include wind power/clean energy in LRMP • Develop better ungulate management plans • Create more certainty for resource users and investors • Involve First Nations at every stage in the LRMP process • Advance integrated resource planning & management, including cumulative effects • Use stakeholder input to achieve balance between various interests • Greater First Nations financial gains through natural resource ownership • Guide development through clear, consistent, concise direction across governments • Include water value and use co-ordination in planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor access management • Diminishing forest health and viability of forest industry in Peace • Treaty land entitlements unconfirmed • Ineffective Indigenous consultation creating uncertainty for industry • Restricted access for energy companies, existing and future pipelines • Inconsistent policies and direction across government • Extent and speed of policy change is undermining investor confidence • Co-ordination between industry and government • Lack of integrated approach to consider environmental values and regional objectives in resource development • Lack of pre-tenure plans for mine development



Select Quotes from this Sector

“Mandate ways for the energy industry to work with and engage First Nations that is consistent and transparent. Compensation to First Nations, and agreements between industry and First Nations should be available for viewing by the joint ministries and public”

“Stop using the energy industry as a scapegoat for poor leadership, policies and directives. We want a solution. At the end of the day, the energy industries do not care if we pay royalties to the B.C. Crown, or a First Nation. We just don’t want to pay twice. Make it so that the First Nations within the Treaty 8 area are owners, and benefit directly from the development of the area”

“Many people have operated within the rules of the LRMP; the rules should not change to satisfy political agendas”

“If areas of concern are restricted for future development, then compensation for existing mineral interest holders should be considered a priority. Otherwise, it is a case of "confiscation without compensation"

“Peace Region provides feedstock for the Kitimat LNG project – changes made in the Peace region will have broad impact in other regions”

“Need First Nations involved along the entire way to ensure buy-in”

“Assign tracts of Crown mineral or surface acreage to the bands so that they are interest holders”

“Under the current situation, the rules and regulations on resource development have been changed with little input from industry on the profound implications of such changes”

“Big ‘G’ government needs to enable First Nations to participate”

Recreational and Commercial Land Use Sectors

Table 5 summarizes the opportunities and concerns expressed by respondents who self-identified with the Organized Recreation and Commercial Enterprise Sectors.



Table 5: Recreational and Commercial Land Use Sectors Opportunities and Concerns

Opportunities	Concerns
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining biodiversity • Prescribed burns • Reclaim landscape disturbance • Better ungulate management • Revisit Site C wildlife mitigation plans • Update forestry and silviculture plans • Improved First Nations and stakeholder involvement • Improve public trails • Develop pre-tenure plans for mining and wind power • Identify and legislate wildlife objectives • Increase wildlife budget • Balance the power between competing interests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forestry management • Continued access to logging roads and Crown land • Lack of motorized vehicle access • Fire management • Maintaining or improving hunting and angling opportunities • Industry development • Confirm treaty land entitlements before LRMP • Transparent process • Ability for all stakeholders to access land • Lack of data related to wildlife management
<p>Select Quotes from this Sector</p>	
<p>“We have experience in collaborative planning (roundtable) that is inclusive of government, First Nations and stakeholders”</p> <p>“Members of Rod and Gun Club have a wealth of knowledge based on past LRMP planning experience”</p> <p>“Create wildlife plans that include recognition of wildlife values and measurable, achievable and legislated objectives for wildlife and habitat that have the same level of consequence to other resource-related legislation”</p> <p>“Measurable, achievable and legislated objective for linear developments such as seismic line and road densities that are supportive of wildlife objectives”</p> <p>“Review of 1997 LRMP to understand what worked/didn’t work”</p> <p>“More logging fire management and conservation-linked projects”</p> <p>“Recognizing that British Columbians, along with First Nations, consider the ability to harvest fish and wildlife for food as an important component of a land and resource management plan – i.e. it is more than recreation”</p> <p>“Game management zones are reduced in size to allow for better management of animal (big game) populations”</p>	

Public Sector (Those who selected “public” or chose not to identify with a sector)

Table 6 summarizes the opportunities and concerns expressed by respondents who self-identified with the Public Sector or did not choose a sector.



Table 6: Public Opportunities and Concerns

Opportunities	Concerns
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balance resource development with environmental protection • Include wind power and clean energy in LRMP • Better manage ungulate populations • Increase funding for wildlife & habitat management • Better link forestry and conservation • Ensure LRMP reflects current issues • Plan for biodiversity & protected areas • Foster long-term economic, social & environmental prosperity • Co-ordinate water values & resource use • Updated socio-economic review • Updated logging/silviculture practices to enhance wildlife • Fund wildlife management • Better monitoring and reporting process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inequitable access, or no access, for some resource users • Wind power development on caribou recovery areas • Linear disturbance • Declining wildlife populations • Habitat loss • Lack of integrated approach to consider environmental values and regional objectives • Lack of prescribed burns • Incomplete Site C First Nations compensation and unconfirmed treaty land entitlement • Incomplete parks plans for the Peace Region • Lack of assessment, monitoring and reporting • Lack of required remediation of land disturbed by oil & gas industry • Lack of cumulative impact study • Lack of communication (esp. rural citizens) • Incomplete caribou/wildlife plans • Lack of ungulate management plans • Government jurisdiction and integration
<p>Select Quotes from this Sector</p>	
<p>“If any additional areas are to be set aside for even more protection, this must be offset with reductions to existing protected areas”</p> <p>“Much of the tundra work that now requires researchers to travel to the Yukon could be done on Pink Mountain which creates employment and other opportunities”</p> <p>“Address Site C impacts including compensation/wildlife mitigation – a significant compensation fund focused on fish and wildlife must be created, mirroring that in place to compensate for the Williston and Peace Canyon dams”</p> <p>“Our current plan is still functioning very well”</p> <p>“Develop objectives for wildlife similar to other resource”</p> <p>“Environmental assessments rarely happen”</p> <p>“Increase the protection on existing government reserves like the Charlie Lake Watershed Reserve. This reserve was not a land bank for government to allocate to others and First Nations”</p>	



“The conversion and non-preservation of existing wildlife refuge areas and sustainable forest opportunities are being bypassed in the interest of First Nation subdivision developments”

“Provide updated socio-economic review”

“I see it as a response to First Nation consultation requirements and not as a review of objectives which you would naturally expect in a changing landscape”

“All wildlife, air and water management should be placed back under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Environment. Ministries that permit operations such as mining, oil & gas and forestry etc. should not manage these issues, due to possible conflicts. Should have veto over projects. Alternatively, develop a Natural Resource Management board to report on resource development (similar to Forest Practices Board)”

“Eliminate the power asymmetry between wildlife and habitat management and other resource-related branches such as Parks, Forestry, Oil & Gas and Energy and Mines”

“Review existing LRMP document and report out on the status of all resource management zone strategies”

“Need a modern plan that sets out regional objectives to co-ordinate land use considering multiple values – needs to be an integrated approach to regional management that addresses cumulative impacts” “Modernizing this and other LRMP’s should be a provincial priority so that:

- 1) SDMs [statutory decision-makers] in the province have a solid foundation to base resource development plan decisions under
- 2) First Nations can have their values considered in an effort to co-exist and prosper with and in unison with industry
- 3) Company stakeholders in the various sectors can have a plan for consideration to reach their overall goals for their activities while considering other high-level geographic values”



3.4 Preferred Methods of Engagement and Participation

Respondents were asked how they would like to be involved and/or kept informed. The majority of respondents expressed a preference for face-to-face communication such as meetings, round-table discussions and open houses. Overall, there was a strong desire for different stakeholders and First Nations to come together and work collaboratively in the planning process. Some respondents expressed the need for decision makers to be present at meetings to answer questions.

Most respondents said they do not want to be passively engaged/updated. They do not want “a postcard”. The feedback from this engagement related to future participation showed that most respondents want multiple opportunities to contribute and engage with all levels of government throughout the entire update process.

Most respondents also indicated a preference for receiving regular project updates through email and online communication.

“We have to be neighbours and look after our land together”

“Multi-stakeholder forums enable us to work out tensions vs. being in camps/positions”

“Get the information out to the public – more communication required with rural citizens”

3.5 Technical and Information Contributions

Respondents were asked if they have technical or other information that could contribute to the information base for future planning. The Ministry will be following up with respondents who provided specific details. More generally respondents indicated an eagerness to support the planning process by providing information related to:

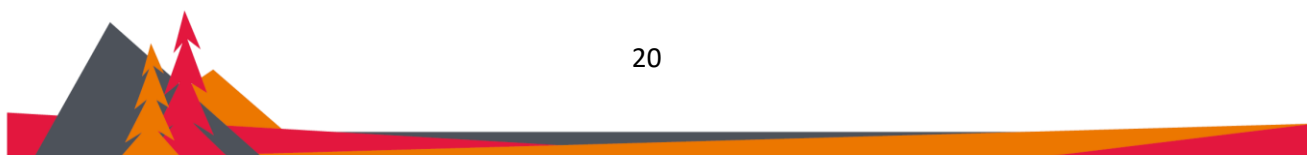
- Perspectives about the land they are very familiar with;
- Future business development plans;
- Rare species lists; and • Gas well status documents.

3.6 Key Themes Related to LRMP Process

Table 7 summarizes participants’ perspectives related to the process that should be followed in updating the LRMP.

Table 7: LRMP Process Advice

<p>The LRMP process design should...</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be fair, inclusive and transparent for all involved • Be completed • Have the time required to be credible • Meaningfully incorporate Indigenous community knowledge into decision-making • Use completed caribou/ungulate plans to inform the planning • Plan for the long-term and avoid amendments • Review/revise the LRMP boundary • Consider other adjacent land use plans (e.g. Mackenzie, Fort Nelson LRMPs) • Consider and balance other values (e.g. emergency response; human health; community health, socio-economic stability) • Use the latest technology related to industry • Include wind power clean energy • Include areas left out of the last LRMP (e.g. Pink Mountain, Graham Laurier Provincial Park, etc.) • Not override its boundaries (e.g. Muskwa-Kechika)
<p>Select Quotes on the Topic of Process</p>	
<p>“Note that the initial LRMP took a number of years to complete and there should be no expectations that this revision of the plan is that simple to complete”</p> <p>“Maps within the plan should identify Crown land, private land and land being transferred to First Nations (Note there is a significant amount of Crown land being transferred to First Nations. Remaining land should address priorities for land use)”</p> <p>“Allow for public input into the process and not just government and First Nations input to the plan! Industry, the general public and current users of the land base should have a seat at the table”</p> <p>“More involvement of First Nations as “partners” not “leaders”</p> <p>“Transparent negotiations with all parties, provincial, First Nations and industry having the opportunity to benefit”</p> <p>“Facilitating collaboration between stakeholders and First Nations early in process rather than in ‘parallel’ processes”</p> <p>“Is government listening? Will the recommendations be acted on?”</p> <p>“The current LRMP process is biased towards First Nations and government”</p> <p>“Addressing First Nations issues in a ‘good way’ out of the courts and at the planning table”</p> <p>“The Muskwa-Kechika Management Act and the MK boundaries were a product of comprehensive and extensive negotiations and should not be changed unless compelling reasons are brought forward”</p>	



4. NEXT STEPS

The Ministry will use what was heard from stakeholders during this scoping phase and, in partnership with Treaty 8 First Nations and local communities, design the LRMP Update process, which is expected to include:

- A technical review of the existing LRMP, including identifying opportunities for alignment/collaboration with existing initiatives across the Northeast, where possible; and
- Extensive, transparent engagement with all local government, industry, stakeholders and the public throughout the Update process.

The technical planning work is scheduled to begin in spring 2019. This work will integrate the advice received from stakeholders during this scoping phase with information from First Nations, technical experts and other sources.

The Ministry anticipates that producing the updated land use plan will take up to two years, into spring 2021.

For more information on the Fort St. John LRMP Update Project or to subscribe to receive project updates, please visit the [Engage BC Website](#).

