
Request for Beetle Action Coalition Funding

Submitted by:
Southern Interior Beetle Action Coalition

Submitted to:
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND..... 1

2. OVERVIEW OF MAJOR MPB CONCERNS IN SOUTHERN INTERIOR..... 3

 2.1. EXPECTED FOREST IMPACTS..... 3

 2.2. MAJOR MPB IMPACT CONCERNS IDENTIFIED 6

 2.3. PRELIMINARY INDICATION – MPB IMPACTED COMMUNITIES IN THE SOUTHERN
 INTERIOR..... 8

3. PROPOSED PLANNING PRIORITIES – 2007/2008..... 11

 3.1. ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY – SIBAC..... 11

 3.2. FOREST SECTOR ANALYSIS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT 12

 3.3. TSA DISCUSSION FORUMS..... 12

 3.4. WORK PLAN 2008/09 12

4. PROPOSED BUDGET AND TIMELINE 13

 4.1. BUDGET..... 13

 4.2. EXPECTED TIMELINE (2007) 14

APPENDICES 15

 APPENDIX 1 – LISTING OF COMMUNITIES BY FIRST NATIONS & REGIONAL DISTRICT
 AFFILIATION 16

 APPENDIX 2 – SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT – PROPOSED RESEARCH
 METHODOLOGY 19

 APPENDIX 3 – FOREST SECTOR TREND ANALYSIS – PROPOSED OUTLINE 23

 APPENDIX 4 – TSA FACT SHEETS - FORMAT..... 24

 APPENDIX 5 – TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR PROPOSED SUB-REGIONAL (TSA) DISCUSSION
 FORUMS 25

1. INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

Many communities in the southern interior of BC have expressed concern about the impacts of the Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) epidemic on their communities and region. In early 2006, several different groups simultaneously approached the Ministry of Forests and Range (MOFR) about forming a Southern Interior Mountain Pine Beetle Community “Coalition”, similar to the two existing Mountain Pine Beetle Coalitions in the province – the Cariboo–Chilcotin Beetle Action Coalition (CCBAC) and the Omineca Beetle Action Coalition (OBAC).

In the spring of 2006, the Mayor of Merritt hosted a meeting of a small group of mayors, regional district directors and First Nations’ organizations that had indicated an interest in forming a MPB coalition. At the initial and subsequent meetings the group discussed how best to initiate the formation of a Southern Interior Mountain Pine Beetle Communities “Beetle Action Coalition” (SIBAC). The group recognized that the southern interior region is a very large, heavily populated and diverse area. The group also recognized that not enough information or discussion had occurred to determine which specific individual communities within the southern interior might be most at risk of social or economic impacts from the MPB epidemic.

As a result, the group agreed that given the large number of communities in the southern interior, it would be best to initially seek involvement and representation from each of the Regional Districts and Tribal Councils in the southern interior region (see Map 1). It was further agreed, that given the nature of the southern interior context, it would be necessary to invest time in completing some preliminary research, analysis and community consultation work prior to submitting a full formal proposal to the Provincial Government for a Southern Interior BAC.

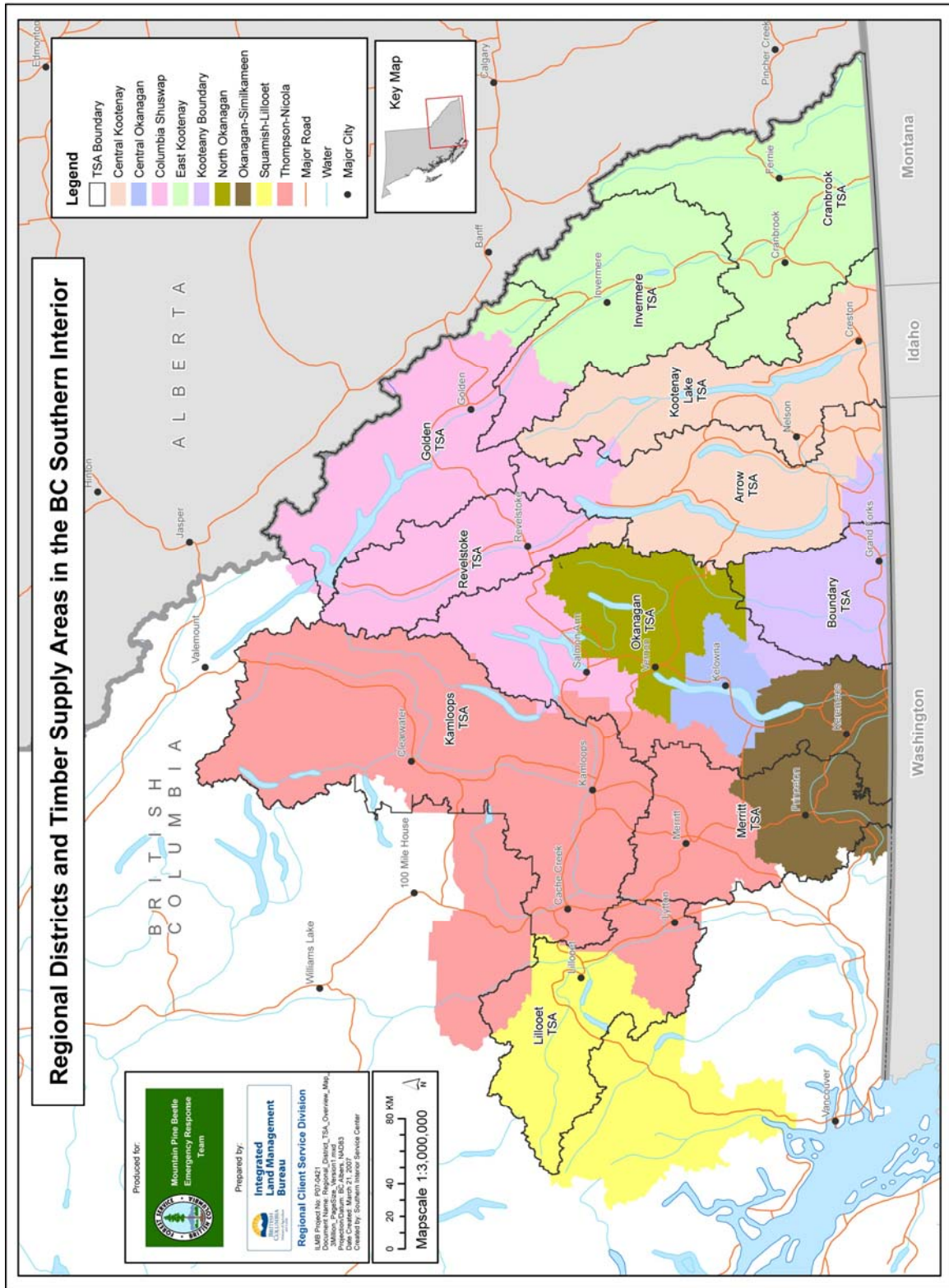
Invitations to join the Southern Interior Communities MPB Working Group were extended during July to October 2006. Each Regional District was asked to contribute \$5000 to go towards the operation of the Committee and for hiring a consulting team to work with the Committee to complete this proposal for a formal permanent BAC for the southern interior. Each Regional District, Tribal Council and the Central Interior CFDC were also asked to name a representative the SICMPBWG Steering Committee.

SICMPB Working Group Structure and Proposed SIBAC Organizational Structure:

The following organizations were part of the SICMPBWG and will form the initial core membership of the Southern Interior Beetle Action Coalition (SIBAC):

- Central Okanagan Regional District;
- Columbia Shuswap Regional District;
- Community Futures Development Corp. of Central Interior First Nations;
- Kootenay Boundary Regional District;
- Lillooet Tribal Council;
- Nicola Tribal Association;
- North Okanagan Regional District
- Okanagan Nation Alliance;
- Okanagan-Similkameen Regional District;
- Regional District of Central Kootenay;
- Regional District of East Kootenay;
- Squamish Lillooet Regional District;
- Shuswap Tribal Council; and
- Thompson Nicola Regional District.

Map 1: Regional Districts & Timber Supply Areas in the BC Southern Interior



The interim Chair of SIBAC is Mr. David Laird, Mayor of Merritt. Through the work completed to date, the Steering Committee believes that the current organizational structure and membership is SIBAC is appropriate for at least the next six month period. The Steering Committee will review SIBAC organizational structure and membership as part of its first year of operations. SIBAC member organizations will continue to seek membership and representation from the remaining First Nations Tribal Councils within the southern interior.

As detailed in the remainder of this document, the Steering Committee has completed their preliminary research and planning and now wishes to more formally establish the Southern Interior Beetle Action Coalition organization with the funding requested through this proposal document.

2. OVERVIEW OF MAJOR MPB CONCERNS IN THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR

As noted above, the SICMPBWG commissioned some preliminary research, analysis and stakeholder consultation as background for the development of this proposal document. This work was completed by a team of consultants led by Cirque Resources Ltd and the findings are contained in a document titled “*Preliminary Assessment Report*”. Copies of the Preliminary Assessment Report are available from Steering Committee members. The following two sections of this proposal document describe the major findings from this preliminary assessment process and report.

2.1 EXPECTED FOREST IMPACTS

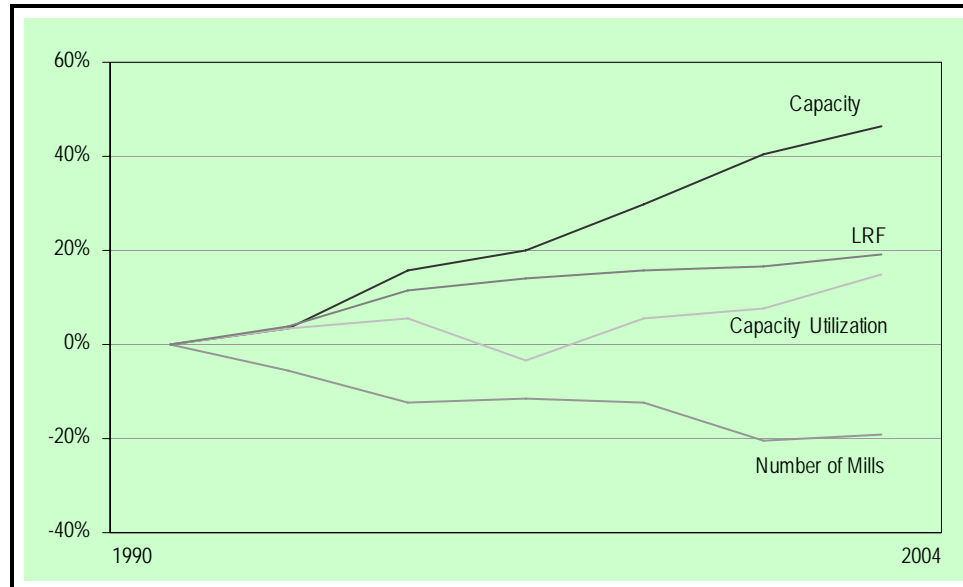
The MPB Infestation in BC is occurring within a larger context of regional, national and global issues within the forest industry that have subsequent effect on communities.

The Forest Products Association of Canada, (2006) in their report “Competition and Consolidation in Canada’s Forest Products Industry” notes that the British Columbia lumber industry operated in a highly competitive environment, characterized by declining long term demand and prices, and increased market power of buyers. Companies have addressed the competitive challenge by consolidating to gain efficiency and lower overall costs. Many small- and medium-sized mills are being replaced by super mills. Those mills remaining survive by focusing on high value niche markets that demand a level of quality that the super mills are unable to provide.

In the MOFR, Economics and Trade Branch report “Major Primary Timber Processing Facilities in BC (2005)” it was shown that the number of mills decreased by approximately 20% in the last 5 years, while capacity and recovery in each mill has increased substantially. This will mean fewer sawmills in the southern interior with or without MPB into the future. Forest policy changes in BC have also influenced efficiencies and consolidation of capacity.¹ This trend is recognized to impact smaller centres more severely and will lead to a point where forestry can no longer be expected to serve as a major instrument of regional development.

¹ Nelson, Niquidet, and Vertinsky (2006) Assessing the Impacts of Tenure Changes in BC.

Figure 1: Percent change in sawmill activities, Interior industry, 1990–2004.



Source: Ministry of Forests

Specific forest indicators for the Thompson Okanagan and Kootenay Boundary region are outlined in Table 1 and Table 2. Currently, forestry employment is up and the share of total employment has also increased from 1995 levels. This corresponds with a general increase in harvesting. On the sawmilling side, output is up while the number of mills has declined, following broader trends.

Table 1: Selected forestry indicators for the Thompson Okanagan Region

| | | | |
|--|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Harvest Levels | 1995 | 2000 | 2005 |
| Billed Volume (1000s cubic metres) | 9,566 | 10,539 | 11,854 |
| Percentage of Provincial Volume Billed | 12.2% | 13.4% | 13.5% |
| Average Employed Forestry Labour Force* | '95-97 | '99-01 | '02-04 |
| 1000s Workers | 13.4 | 16.7 | 16.3 |
| % of All Workers | 6.7% | 8.0% | 7.5% |
| Economic Dependency | Trendline | % Change | 2001 Median |
| Change 1991-2001 | ↑ | + 6% | 13% |

| Processing Facilities | 1995 | | 2005 | |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | Number | Output | Number | Output |
| Lumber Mill (more than 10 Mbd) | 28 | 2,130 | 25 | 2,353 |
| Pulp Mills (1000s of tonnes) | 1 | 426 | 1 | 466 |
| Paper Mills (1000s of tonnes) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Veneer, Plywood, Panel and OSB (M sq. ft 3/8 basis) | 9 | 1,564 | 10 | 2,167 |

Table 2: Selected forestry indicators for Kootenay Boundary Region

| | | | |
|--|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Harvest Levels | 1995 | 2000 | 2005 |
| Billed Volume (1000s cubic metres) | 5,315 | 6,151 | 6,940 |
| Percentage of Provincial Volume Billed | 6.8% | 7.8% | 7.9% |
| Average Employed Forestry Labour Force* | '95-97 | '99-01 | '02-04 |
| 1000s Workers | 5.1 | 4.9 | 6.3 |
| % of All Workers | 7.7% | 7.0% | 9.3% |
| Economic Dependency | Trendline | % Change | 2001 Median |
| Change 1991-2001 | ↑ | + 3% | 15% |

| Processing Facilities | 1995 | | 2005 | |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | Number | Output | Number | Output |
| Lumber Mill (more than 10 Mbd) (Mbd) | 16 | 1,320 | 15 | 1,514 |
| Pulp Mills (1000s of tonnes) | 2 | 628 | 2 | 681 |
| Paper Mills (1000s of tonnes) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Veneer, Plywood, Panel and OSB (M sq. ft 3/8 basis) | 2 | 220 | 2 | 402 |

It is reasonable to expect that these observed trends will continue or increase pace with the continued uplifts in AAC to salvage stands throughout Southern Interior TSAs where pine is a significant component.

The MOFR's Timber Supply Branch is in the process of completing a comprehensive analysis for TSAs that have a MPB impact, both current and predicted. That report is expected to be the authority, based on best information available, and is expected to be published in late June 2007. This report will inform future planning and decisions of SIBAC.

A second piece of key information will be Year 4 of the Provincial-Level Projection of the Current MPB Outbreak. This project had been ongoing for three years by a seven-member team of experts from the Province of BC, the Canadian Forest Service, and research consultants. This report, expected early in 2007, estimates impacts with increasing accuracy, by drawing on Provincial Aerial Overviews of Forest Health.

These reports will allow SIBAC to use the best information to predict impacts on timber supply and therefore log supply to mills and resulting impacts over time on the labour force. They will assist in best estimates of both current and future impact of the MPB as well as timing of that impact within TSAs in the Southern Interior. To predict future forest sector trends in the Southern Interior, timber supply effects must be projected in the context of regional, provincial and global factors. The MOFR model will predict MPB spread rates and demonstrate impact on Pine over time. Using Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) as an indicator, the magnitude and extent of impact on log flow can be linked on a Timber Supply Area (TSA) basis. A log flow analysis would then demonstrate the likely impact on each manufacturing facility.

Each Region of the Province is unique in timber, geography, history, human resources, access to capital and other competitive factors. A new approach being developed by researchers at the University of British Columbia² "Towards a Value Focused Forest Sector in British Columbia" appreciates our history as a commodity producer, but looks ahead to the need to derive additional values from the forest to remain competitive. In order to maximize all forest benefits, new appreciation will need to evolve for non timber forest products (e.g. berries, floral, medicinal, and recreational opportunities) and for more effective use of former 'waste' to all development of new businesses in the energy sector. Biofuels, energy recovery, carbon sequestration for credits, and nitrogen fixation have a place in the future in addition to aesthetic and spiritual properties.

² Kozak and Maness 2006, http://www.bc-forum.org/_media/IB0501ValueFocusedForestry.pdf

2.2 MAJOR MPB IMPACT CONCERNS IDENTIFIED

With the MPB epidemic fully engulfing the forest land base in both the Cariboo-Chilcotin and the Omineca the potential impacts are becoming clearer. Many members of the SICMPB Working Group are aware of the many potential impacts of the epidemic. Key concerns are the future decline of the forestry economic base; the impact on surface dependant water systems; the impacts on ranching-based agriculture; the lowering of the quality of visitor access and experiences in interface and backcountry areas; the lowering of the quality of visitor experiences in municipal, regional, provincial, and national parks; as well as a variety of other site-specific concerns that are outlined below.

Decline of the Forestry Economic Base

The top concern in the Southern Interior is the potential loss of a substantial part of the region's current economic base starting approximately 5–10 years from now as the access to saw logs begins to decline. A reduction in future timber supply is a major concern, particularly to those communities that have combination of significant dependency on the forest industry and a harvestable land base with the species mix heavy to pine.

Impact on Watersheds – Domestic and Agriculture

A second major concern is that many of the communities and cities, and the large commercial agriculture areas, obtain their water from surface sources in watersheds that are predominantly pine. The wholesale elimination of mature pine in watersheds raises many concerns related to quicker snow melt, the lack of full ground cover, and a smaller soil root system that can result in:

- increases in silting of the reservoirs,
- shorter and higher peak runoffs, which increase the potential for spring flood,
- increasing potential for water shortages in lengthened low flow times,
- Increased runoffs, combined with fewer tree-root systems to hold back the soil, will increase the potential for slides caused by increased runoffs. These issues will be most severe in community watersheds that are dominated by pine, e.g., Kimberley and Cranbrook.

Impact on other Economic Base Sectors – Tourism and Agriculture

As salvage harvesting is completed in large cutblocks, particularly in backcountry and front country tourism areas, visual quality will be affected. These impacts will affect private tourism operations that depend on pine trees for visual quality and shade, e.g., campgrounds, riding, and hiking areas. Dead trees falling in parks and campsites will create safety problems. Large visual clearcuts could seriously impact on the “supernatural” BC tourism brand and influence those who are drawn by the brand. Those trying to enjoy backcountry recreation activities will often be thwarted by dead trees blocking trails and roads.

Roads are expected to deteriorate as they are not needed for harvesting, impacting access to cattle grazing, recreation areas (including hunting), and backcountry tenures. Noxious weeds are expected to increase in the harvested areas. Harvesting and natural stand depreciation is already causing negative impacts on range infrastructure values such as fencing and natural barriers. Barriers, both natural and man-made (fences, bridges), will need adjusting to accommodate the physical shifts in grazing. In the short term, there will be more grass for grazing and yet there is concern that the dominant type of grass will be lower in nutrition and taste for cattle and ungulates, affecting both ranching and hunting.

Decline in Recreation Experiences

The MPB has already impacted municipal, regional, provincial and national parks in Northern and Central BC by killing trees and adjusting the parks' ecosystems and visitor experience. This impact on parks is now moving through the southern interior with increased level of tree removal in key parks operated by many different levels of government. The complete removal of trees in specific high use public areas – beach fronts,

walking trails, ski areas, campgrounds – significantly decreases the recreation experience. The rate of kill of pine trees in these parks also increases management costs for tree removal, trail clearing and fire prevention.

For many residents in the Southern Interior backcountry recreation on Crown land is a key part of their lives and the impact of the MPB epidemic is expected to decrease the quality of their recreational experience. It is not clear whether the decline in the quality of the experience will decrease the number of and/or the duration of those recreation visits to the backcountry by residents. If the number of visits and/or duration of visits decline, there will be a resulting economic impact on businesses that provide supplies for these backcountry visits.

First Nations Eco-system Stewardship Planning & Management Issues

The First Nations Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) Impact Assessment, compiled with input from 99 First Nations in the central interior of BC during 2006, reveals an immediate demand for resources to address a wide variety of impacts. These MPB Impacted First Nations have supported their traditional economies, culture and self-sufficiency within territories that are now devastated by the MPB epidemic.

First Nations have indicated that the culture of eco-system stewardship is still strong in their communities. Many identify habitat restoration, species preservation and traditional food and medicine plant propagation as high priorities for their communities in terms of MPB mitigation planning and action. It will be as important to these traditional cultures to ‘salvage’ fish, wildlife and habitat as ‘salvaging’ the dead lodgepole pine is to the forest industry licensees.

Public Safety in Isolated, Rural & Reserve Communities

Dying and drying forests combined with an uncommon fuel load in the woods and long dry periods of weather threaten public safety, wildlife and traditional foods and medicines in rural communities. Fire protection, fuel management and emergency preparedness plans are incomplete and inoperable in many First Nation reserve communities. Public safety, land use planning, and environmental preservation and restoration are seen as priority activities over the short term with economic development and diversification seen as immediate and long term priorities.

Other Concerns

Less tree cover in large watersheds is expected to increase water temperatures and impact fish and other fauna and flora in marine ecosystems. The lack of tree cover is also expected to create faster snowmelts and increase late summer and early fall droughts. Ecosystem changes will also impact non-timber forest products, including medicinal plants, which may require a revisit of some of the compromises made during the Land and Resource Management Planning processes.

The loss of forestry jobs could decrease the number of people choosing to stay in rural areas, which could impact the availability of workers for seasonal jobs, such as those offered with tourism.

As noted previously, dead trees on Crown and private lands could increase the fire threat particularly during the “red” stage and for few years after the trees have died.

Dead mature stands of trees on both Crown and private land, followed by clear cutting of pine stands, will impact the quality of rural and urban neighbourhoods and could have a negative impact on the value of these private lands - at least temporarily.

2.3 PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF MPB IMPACTED COMMUNITIES IN THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR

Using the recent research on the impact of MPB on the forests in Cariboo-Chilcotin and North Central BC and the recent impacts (2006) for the Northwest sections of the Southern Interior, there is a general consensus of opinion that 80% of all pine trees over 75 years of age will ultimately be killed by the MPB epidemic with some potential mortality of younger pine trees. The shelf life of the dead wood for saw logs is expected to vary from 5 years to 15 years. Using an 80 year rotation for commercial saw log harvest, and a conservative estimate on impact, there is will be at least four decades where the timber supply of portions of the southern interior will be impacted. The resulting impact on current industrial construction grade solid wood materials manufacturers (most of the primary wood processing industry in the Southern Interior), will be a decline in local pine round wood for processing. If pine is the dominate species, then the total supply will be significantly lower severely impacting the size of the harvesting industry and the viability of primary processing industry in highly effected areas.

As noted earlier, future timber supply drops will be greater in those TSAs with a higher percentage of pine.

Table 3
Percentage of Pine in Southern Interior TSAs

| | |
|-------------------|------|
| Merritt TSA | 50% |
| Cranbrook TSA | 46% |
| Lillooet TSA | 36% |
| Invermere TSA | 36% |
| Boundary TSA | 32% |
| Kamloops TSA | 28% |
| Okanagan TSA | 26% |
| Kootenay Lake TSA | 21% |
| Arrow TSA | 15% |
| Golden TSA | 13% |
| Revelstoke TSA | <13% |

It naturally follows that those communities and First Nations territories within TSAs that have a higher percentage of pine will generally be at greater risk of more significant socio-economic impacts from the MPB epidemic.

However, when attempting to predict which specific individual sub-regions and communities will be impacted some caution must be exercised for several reasons. First as noted previously, for First Nations communities the concerns and impacts of the MPB epidemic are far larger than simply economic. First Nations are deeply concerned with how the MPB epidemic will impact the ecosystem processes, habitat and cultural use of their traditional territories. Second, the pine component of the forest is not distributed equally across a TSA unit and often is concentrated within certain areas of the TSA. Third, as noted previously the MPB epidemic and resultant impacts on future mid-term timber supply could alter future fibre flows and make currently marginal mill operations unprofitable – however mill closure decisions are made based on the cumulative effect of a combination of factors which are very hard to predict.

In conducting it’s preliminary analysis, SICMPBWG asked the consulting group to examine existing sources of BC Stats information that might be helpful in predicting which southern interior communities could be impacted by the MPB epidemic. It was determined that a communities risk for negative economic impact is likely to be determined primarily by four factors: (i) % pine in the TSA (ii) % of the local labour force employed in logging and forestry (iii) the communities’ BC Stats Forest Income Dependency Ratio and (iv)

the communities' BC Stats Forest Vulnerability Index. Using these factors, the consultants prepared the list shown in Table 4.

As noted earlier however, caution must be exercised in relying too much on the information contained in this Table. Some of the BC Stats information is only available for certain communities and these numbers and ratios do not measure or reflect First Nations' communities MPB concerns and impacts. As a result, SIBAC recognizes the need to conduct further and more detailed socio-economic research in this regard. It also must be recognized that the statistics shown in Table 4 are only economic statistics and as highlighted in Section 2 of this report there are many other MPB impacts that are of concern to southern interior communities.

All of the information used to generate Table 4 are based on 2001 Census data which is dated and therefore for some communities could potentially be inaccurate.

It is also important to note that First Nations reserve communities adjacent to impacted communities may be more dependent on the local forest industry than the larger non- reserve communities. In small reserve communities a few paycheques from loggers and mill workers can be the only money coming in, other than government support programs, to support on reserve businesses and populations. The loss of these few paycheques could have devastating social & economic impacts on the population.

Table 4: Preliminary Community Vulnerability Ranking – Forestry activity only

| Geography | % Pine in TSA | % Labour Force in Logging/Forestry | BC Stats - Forest Income Dependency 2001 | BC Stats - Forest Vulnerability Index (Max=100) |
|-----------------------|---------------|------------------------------------|--|---|
| Most Impacted | | | | |
| Princeton | 50% | 19% | 28% | 40 |
| Merritt | 50% | 18.6% | 24% | 32 |
| Grand Forks | 32% | 13.9% | 25% | 32 |
| Greenwood | 32% | 28.6% | 25% | 32* |
| Midway | 32% | 28.8% | 25% | 32* |
| Lillooet | 36% | 12.9% | 20% | 28 |
| Impacted | | | | |
| Lytton | 36% | 11.4% | 18% | 17 |
| Invermere | 36% | 7.5% | 18% | 18 |
| Radium Hot Springs | 36% | 20.3% | 18% | 18 |
| Cache Creek | 28% | 6.6% | 18% | 17 |
| Ashcroft | 28% | 7.4% | 18% | 17 |
| Kimberley | 46% | 6.2% | 14% | 14* |
| Cranbrook | 46% | 8.7% | 14% | 14 |
| Sparwood | 46% | 3.6% | 8% | 12 |
| Fernie | 46% | 3.9% | 8% | 12 |
| Elkford | 46% | 1.8% | 8% | 12 |
| Kaslo | 21% | 16.2% | 13% | 15* |
| Nelson | 21% | 2.7% | 13% | 15 |
| Salmo | 21% | 16.5% | 13% | 15* |
| Silverton | 21% | 19.2% | 13% | 15* |
| Sicamous | 26% | 11% | 11% | 11* |
| Salmon Arm | 26% | 5.9% | 11% | 11 |
| Enderby | 26% | 7.0% | 15% | 12 |
| Armstrong | 26% | 11.7% | 15% | 12 |
| Coldstream | 26% | 23.1% | 10% | 12 |
| Spallumcheen | 26% | 8.0% | 15% | 12 |
| Lumby | 26% | 7.7% | 10% | 10* |
| Golden | 13% | 16.1% | 25% | 28 |
| Revelstoke | 13% | 12.4% | 21% | 23 |
| Creston | 21% | 5.7% | 10% | 12 |
| Chase | 28% | 17.9% | 10% | 11* |
| Kamloops | 28% | 5.3% | 10% | 11 |
| Logan Lake | 28% | 2.8% | 10% | 11* |
| Slocan | 21% | 40.5% | 13% | 15* |
| Least Impacted | | | | |
| Keremeos | 26% | 5.7% | 6% | 7 |
| Oliver | 26% | 3.8% | 6% | 7 |
| Osoyoos | 26% | 4.6% | 6% | 7 |
| Penticton | 26% | 4% | 5% | 6 |
| Summerland | 26% | 3.3% | 5% | 6 |
| Kelowna | 26% | 2.5% | 5% | 4 |
| Lake Country | 26% | 3.2% | 5% | 4 |
| Peachland | 26% | 2.2% | 5% | 4 |
| Fruitvale | 21% | 5.2% | 4% | 3 |
| Montrose | 15% | 2.9% | 3% | 3 |
| Rossland | 15% | 2.7% | 4% | 3 |
| Trail | 15% | 2.1% | 4% | 3 |
| Warfield | 15% | 2.8% | 4% | 3 |

Source: BC Stats (2004) Forest Income Dependency is the % of total income earned in the community that comes from forestry related employment; Forest Vulnerability Index is a number indicating the communities vulnerability to forest sector changes; Communities denoted by “*” indicates that the diversity index and forest vulnerability for these communities is reflective the regional economy as data is not available at the individual community level.

3 PROPOSED PLANNING PRIORITIES – 2007/2008

Based on the work completed to date, it is clear to the Working Group that there is a need for a Beetle Action Coalition for the southern interior and that there is general support for the creation of a BAC. It is also clear, however, that there is a need to hold further and more inclusive discussions with residents throughout the Southern Interior in order to create the final operational workplan for SIBAC.

As a result, the Steering Committee has decided that SIBAC should focus on four major tasks in its first six months of operations. These four tasks are:

1. Creating basic organizational capacity for SIBAC.
2. Sponsoring two major analysis studies for the Southern Interior Region. The first study would be a Forest Sector Analysis Study of the Southern Interior. This study would examine historical trends in the Southern Interior forest sector as well as future probable timber supply impacts from the MPB epidemic. The second study based on the results of the first study, would be a Socio-economic Impact Assessment of the MPB Epidemic in the Southern Interior. The purpose of this study would be to determine which sub-areas of the region are the most economically vulnerable to negative economic impacts from the MPB epidemic and to better estimate the expected magnitudes of those impacts. While these studies will cover the entire Southern Interior, they will be completed in a manner that provides analysis at the sub-regional/TSA level as well. Appendices 2 and 3 of this document provide more detail on these proposed studies.
3. Hosting sub-regional TSA discussion forums. Given the large and diverse nature of the Southern Interior, SIBAC recognizes there is a need to engage key stakeholders and other residents in a discussion of the issues regarding the MPB epidemic. SIBAC wants to use these sub-regional TSA discussion forums to create the formal SIBAC work plan. Appendices 4 and 5 of this document provide more information on the intent and suggested format of these forums.
4. Using the information gathered from tasks two and three above, SIBAC will develop a detailed work plan that will describe its major activities for 2008.

3.1 ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY – SIBAC

For the immediate future, SIBAC believes that the current organizational membership and structure of the Committee is appropriate. Each Regional District, Tribal Council and the CFDC of the Interior First Nations have appointed one representative (and an alternate) to sit on SIBAC Board. The Committee will also continue to encourage the involvement and membership of the remaining Tribal Councils in the southern interior. The Committee will give consideration to the formation of an executive committee, or other sub-committees of the Board to help guide the day to day affairs of SIBAC.

The Steering Committee has indicated a desire to use several principles to guide their operations. One of these principles is to avoid duplication and wherever possible to operate through existing organizations to reduce administrative and governance costs. As a result the Committee will continue to use the City of Merritt for financial management for the foreseeable future. The Steering Committee also has decided to postpone forming as a new non-profit organization until it is clear that this is necessary or has significant operational benefits.

SIBAC will require and will retain professional staff and administration capacity to manage SIBAC operations and implement the SIBAC workplan. Based on discussions to date, SIBAC proposes to hire two individuals to work for the Committee on initial one year contracts. These individuals will be recruited through an open competition process. SIBAC will be retaining consulting assistance to help develop job descriptions and establish and conduct a process for advertising, interviewing and hiring these staff positions.

At least one of the positions will be filled by an incumbent who has direct experience working with First Nations.

SIBAC will also develop a website within the first six months of operation in order to facilitate communications about SIBAC and its activities and too facilitate the actual work of the Steering Committee.

3.2 FOREST SECTOR ANALYSIS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT

To estimate the socio-economic impacts on sub-regions will require a much more detailed and thorough assessment of the expected mid-term timber supply impacts that may be caused by the MPB epidemic; and the resultant socio-economic implications for southern interior communities. Therefore, the committee plans to begin with preparing sub-regional assessments of the expected impact of the MPB epidemic on the forest land base. If the data is robust enough information may also be taken to the sub-TSA or community level. The assessment will include both the expected impact on the stands and the expected impact on the processing industry in the Southern Interior. Once information about the expected impact on the forests and the wood processing sector is produced then a socio-economic impact assessment will be prepared with a focus on those sub-regions and communities which it is predicted will be the most impacted. These two assessments will form the information foundation for the TSA Discussion Forums and the 2008 work plan.

3.3 TSA DISCUSSION FORUMS

As has been noted several times previously, the SIBAC region is a large diverse and populated region that includes well over a 100 communities. SIBAC wants to develop a strategy and workplan that reflects the concerns of the regions population. To develop such a workplan, SIBAC recognizes that it needs a process that allows for significant stakeholder and public input into the planning priorities and activities of SIBAC. SIBAC also realizes that these discussion forums must be held at a regional scale that makes sense for the people attending and for facilitating the types of discussions desired.

In order to facilitate this kind of input and dialogue, SIBAC proposes to hold “discussion forums” in a significant number of communities and locations throughout the southern interior. It is proposed that these discussion forums would be held at either a TSA level or a sub-regional TSA level – based on the input of the Committee members from that sub-region.

It is intended that the TSA Discussion Forums will create the opportunity for SIBAC to:

- present the findings from the two SIBAC assessments (Section 3.2),
- gather additional local information about current impacts of the epidemic, and
- obtain input on the types of research, planning and project work that attendees would like to see SIBAC undertake in their respective TSA(s).

These forums will also provide an opportunity for those in the sub-region to discuss issues and concerns related to the MPB epidemic among themselves. Similar to the study assessments, these forums will be established to match the needs of the sub-regions which may mean more than one discussion forum grouping in some of the larger TSAs. There maybe a need for a single forum meeting or there may be a need to meet more than once to meet the objectives of these forums. These forums will be key to assisting SIBAC in establishing their work plan for 2008.

3.4 WORK PLAN 2008/09

Using information obtained from all the above processes (i.e. the two major research studies and the TSA discussion forums), SIBAC will create a detailed work plan for its 2008 activities in late 2007.

4 PROPOSED BUDGET AND TIMELINE

4.1 BUDGET

The following is the initial proposed budget for the first ten to twelve months of operations of SIBAC. These figures are initial cost projections for each major line item only. The actual costs for most activities will be determined through competitive bid processes.

Table 3: Proposed Budget for the First Year of SIBAC Operations

| | |
|--|------------------|
| 1. SIBAC Committee travel & meeting expenses | \$ 50,000 |
| 2. Temp Staff Contractor expenses for three months (assistance to hire permanent staff) | \$ 12,000 |
| 3. SIBAC Staff (2) wages & benefits | \$200,000 |
| 4. Contract Admin. assistance to SIBAC Committee/staff | \$ 18,000 |
| 5. SIBAC staff & admin. asst travel expenses | \$ 50,000 |
| 6. SIBAC financial management fees & annual audit fees | \$ 20,000 |
| 7. 1-800 phone line & conference call fees | \$ 15,000 |
| 8. SIBAC website creation & maintenance | \$ 20,000 |
| 9. Consulting Fees – Assistance in establishing SIBAC governance and operational policies and service delivery agreements | \$ 25,000 |
| 10. Consulting Fees – Socio-economic Assessment Study | \$ 85,000 |
| 11. Consulting Fees – Forest Sector Trend Analysis Study | \$ 65,000 |
| 12. Consulting Fees – Facilitation help with some of the TSA Discussion Forums | \$ 10,000 |
| 13. Meeting Fees for TSA Discussion Forums | \$ 5,000 |
| 14. Consulting Fees – Further research & studies completed in follow-up to TSA Discussion Forums (<i>See Note 1 below</i>) | \$160,000 |
| 15. Production & Distribution costs for SIBAC Reports and Fact Sheets | \$ 15,000 |
| 16. Communications – consulting and support fees | \$ 50,000 |
| TOTAL | \$800,000 |

Note 1: These consulting fees are simply an estimate at this point in time. All future consulting work will be identified and detailed through the creation of individual Terms of Reference for each piece of future work. These Terms of Reference and individual budget allocations for future pieces of work will be established and approved by SIBAC. All consulting work over \$25,000 will be awarded through an open and competitive bid process. SIBAC is seeking provincial funding for the total amount shown on this Budget so that future additional work can be undertaken by the Committee quickly as opportunities and needs are identified through the TSA Discussion Forums and the on-going work of the Committee.

In keeping with SIBAC's principle to try and avoid duplication and keep the creation of new administration structures to a minimum, SIBAC intends to continue to use the City of Merritt as its financial manager for at least the first six months under a fee for service agreement. This will allow SIBAC to avoid incorporating as a formal non-profit organization until the longer-term future role and structure of the organization has been determined.

4.2 EXPECTED TIMELINE (2007/2008)

| | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC | JAN |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1. Committee meets with member organizations and completes and submits BAC funding proposal | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | |
| 2. Hire short term contractor/staff | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | | |
| 3. Issue request for proposals for Socio-economic Assessment & Forest Sector Trend Analysis Studies | | | ■ | ■ | | | | | |
| 4. Contracts issued for Socio-economic Assessment & Forest Sector Trend Analysis Studies | | | | ■ | ■ | | | | |
| 5. Advertise and hire permanent SIBAC Staff | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | |
| 6. Complete two-page TSA Fact Sheets | | | | | ■ | | | | |
| 7. Sub-regional (TSA) Discussion Forums | | | | | | ■ | ■ | | |
| 8. Summary report and creation of SIBAC 2008 work plan | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ |

APPENDICES

- 1) Listing of communities in the southern interior within the SIBAC region
- 2) Proposed outline for Socio-Economic Analysis work
- 3) Proposed outline for Forest Sector Trend Analysis
- 4) Proposed format for TSA Fact Sheets
- 5) Proposed Terms of Reference for Sub-Regional (TSA) Discussion Forums

APPENDIX 1 – LISTING OF SOUTHERN INTERIOR COMMUNITIES BY FIRST NATIONS TRIBAL COUNCIL AND REGIONAL DISTRICT AFFILIATION

BY FIRST NATIONS AFFILIATION

Shuswap Nations Tribal Council

Adams Lake Indian Band
 Bonaparte Indian Band
 Kamloops Indian Band
 Little Shuswap Indian Band
 Neskonlith Indian Band
 Simpcw First Nation
 Skeetchestn Indian Band
 Spallumcheen Indian Band
 Whispering Pines

Nlaka’pamux Nation Tribal Council

Ashcroft Indian Band
 Boothroyd Indian Band
 Boston Bar First Nations
 Kanaka Bar Indian Band
 Lytton First Nations
 Oregon Jack Creek Band
 Skuppah Indian Band
 Spuzzum First Nation

Lillooet Tribal Council

Bridge River Indian Band
 Cayoose Creek Band
 Lil’wat (Mt. Currie)
 Seton Lake Band
 T’it’q’et Administration
 Ts’kw’aylaxw First Nation (Pavillion)
 Xaxli’p (Fountain) Band

Okanagan Nation Alliance

Lower Similkameen Indian Band
 Upper Similkameen Indian Band
 Okanagan Indian Band
 Osoyoos Indian Band
 Penticton Indian Band
 Westbank First Nations
 Upper Nicola Indian Band

Nicola Tribal Association

Coldwater Indian Band
 Cook’s Ferry Indian Band
 Nicomen Indian Band
 Nooiatch Indian Band
 Shackan Indian Band
 Siska Indian Band
 Upper Nicola Indian Band

Ktunaxa Nation Council

Akisqnuq First Nation
 Lower Kootenay
 St. Mary’s Band
 Tobacco Plains Indian Band
 Shuswap Indian Band

1

Unaffiliated Bands / First Nations

Lower Nicola Indian Band
 High Bar First Nations

Lower Stl’atl’imx Tribal Council

N’Quatqua First Nation
 Samahquam Ucwaimicw First Nation
 Skatin Nations Council
 Douglas First Nation

BY REGIONAL DISTRICT AFFILIATION

| | |
|--|---|
| Columbia Shuswap Regional District | Regional District of East Kootenay |
| Anglemont | Brisco |
| Blind Bay | Canal Flats |
| Celista | Cranbrook |
| Falkland | Edgewater |
| Golden | Elkford |
| Malakwa | Elko |
| Revelstoke | Fairmont Hot Springs |
| Salmon Arm | Fernie |
| Scotch Creek | Fort Steele |
| Sicamous | Galloway |
| Sorrento | Grasmere |
| Tappen | Hosmer |
| | Invermere |
| Regional District of the Central Okanagan | Jaffray |
| Carr's Landing | Kimberley |
| Central Okanagan East | Moyie |
| Kelowna | Radium Hot Springs |
| Okanagan Centre | Skookumchuck |
| Oyama | Sparwood |
| Peachland | Wardner |
| Westbank | Wasa |
| Winfield | Windermere |
| | Wycliffe |
| Regional District of Kootenay Boundary | |
| Beaver Valley | Thompson Nicola Regional District |
| Beaverdell | Ashcroft |
| Bridesville | Barriere |
| Christina Lake | Blue River |
| Fruitvale | Bonaparte Plateau |
| Grand Forks | Cache Creek |
| Greenwood | Chase |
| Midway | Clearwater |
| Montrose | Clinton |
| Rock Creek | Kamloops |
| Rossland | Logan Lake |
| Trail | Lytton |
| Warfield | Merritt |
| | Savona |

| Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen | Regional District of North Okanagan |
|---|--|
| Cawston | Armstrong |
| Hedley | Cherryville |
| Keremeos | Coldstream |
| Oliver | Enderby |
| Osoyoos | Grindrod |
| Penticton | Kingfisher |
| Princeton | Lumby |
| Summerland | Spallumcheen |
| | Vernon |
| Regional District of Central Kootenay | |
| Ainsworth | Squamish Lillooet Regional District |
| Argenta | Bridge River |
| Arrow Park | Britannia |
| Balfour | Duffey Lake |
| Beasley | Fountain Valley |
| Boswell | Furry Creek |
| Castlegar | Gold Bridge |
| Crawford Bay | Lillooet |
| Crescent Valley | Mt. Currie - D'Arcy corridor |
| Creston | Pavilion |
| Edgewood | Pemberton |
| Erickson | Seton / Shalalth |
| Fauquier | Squamish |
| Harrop / Procter | Whistler |
| Johnson's Landing | |
| Kaslo | |
| Kingsgate | |
| Kootenay Bay | |
| Nakusp | |
| Needles | |
| Nelson | |
| New Denver | |
| Riondel | |
| Salmo | |
| Silverton | |
| Slocan | |
| Winlaw | |
| Wynndel | |
| Yahk | |
| | |

APPENDIX 2 – SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT – PROPOSED RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

1. Client meeting #1

Participate in an initial meeting in the study area with the Committee to confirm:

- The scope of effects assessment;
- The work plan;
- The baseline work completed to date (Appendix of this proposal);
- The study area(s), including how to aggregate communities into sub-regions that provide the best match for the available data;
- Confirm socio-economic indicators;
- Timing; and,
- Final deliverables.

2. Report Outline

Based on the results of the first set of meetings, we would prepare a detailed outline and submit it to the Committee for review and comment.

3. Data collection

A first cut of all indicators will be compiled using readily available statistics from Statistics Canada, BC Stats and other government information sources. Special data requests from Statistics Canada will be required.

4. Literature review

A review of studies and research will be conducted focusing on two aspects of MPB, timber supply and other land use impacts, and community adjustment and transition strategies. Specifically several key sectors will be investigated including:

- Research on timber supply will contribute to development of the forestry impact model (discussed below). Research from the Cariboo and Omineca beetle coalitions will provide some indication of the level of impacts that might be expected once the MPB has progressed further in the Southern Interior.
- Update data from existing provincial and socio-economic publications from the Ministry of Agriculture. This will include compiling data by Regional District from the 2001 Census and also include data on range tenures and Animal Unit Months currently allocated.
- Research into the implications of the provincial mining strategy in MPB areas and the potential opportunities these can create.
- Explore research on the implications for regional tourism and recreational activities.

Best practices and case analyses of community adjustment and transition strategies will help predict how communities and regions might respond to major reductions in timber supply, and identify potential mitigation strategies. The approach in both the Cariboo and Omineca was to treat the beetle as a long-term adjustment to both timber supply and economic base, then to propose general economic development remedies to help communities adjust to the phenomena. Whether this approach is proving effective, or might be effective once implemented, could provide some valuable insight for the Southern Interior.

5. Prepare draft baseline

A baseline report that presents current and historical trend data on socio-economic indicators for the study area will be prepared. This will be primarily a statistical and research report.

6. Client meeting #2

Meet with the Committee in the study area to review the draft baseline.

7. Key informant interviews

Contact will be made with government, public and NGO service agencies responsible for specific information such as in forestry and tourism. These will be a combination of in-person and telephone interviews, as well as group meetings where required.

The number of interviews to be conducted would be discussed with the committee, as will the timing. Interviews would occur throughout the course of the project on all project components.

Based on the key informant interviews it may become necessary to do comprehensive interviews to define impacts with the backcountry tourism and forestry sector.

8. Industry survey

A survey of forest licensees and processing facilities will be required to feed different parts of the baseline analysis (e.g. employment, timber flows), effects assessment (potential mill threshold levels, capacity utilization, capital plans and upgrades) and mitigation measures.

9. Base case forest modelling

- Obtain and analyze aggregate harvest data at the forest district aggregate from the Ministry of Forest's Billed Volume database. Two time periods will be obtained including pre-pine beetle period (the period from 1997 to 2001) and pine beetle period (2001 to 2005). This data will provide insights to the harvest and the change in harvest by Forest District.
- The Allowable Annual Cut Apportionment by management unit (timber supply areas and tree farm licenses) will provide a current snapshot of the volume and distribution of Crown harvest quota among licensees.
- The Ministry of Forests, Economics and Trade Branch database of major primary timber processing facilities and their processing capacity will be referenced to link those holding Crown quota to the location and capacity of processing capacity. This is the linkage to ascribing community level impacts.
- An estimate of total primary log input will be developed to determine if the region is a net importer or exporter of logs. At this stage, the inter-regional transfer of logs (e.g., harvest from Kootenay Lake milled in Kelowna) will be roughly approximated. In phase 2, industry interviews will greatly refine this element of the model.
- The Ministry of Forests, Economics and Trade Branch has documented the employment coefficients by labour component (i.e., harvesting, silviculture, milling) from TSR 2. This data will be used to develop a labour force associated with each harvest volume. This employment will also be assigned to specific communities within each Forest District to determine the base employment for the local forest sector.

- With these key data pieces in place a model will then be developed that allows for the manipulation of the harvest levels and the associated employment levels. This data base will then be used to determine the anticipated impacts associated with the initial uplift and the subsequent MPB harvest declines.

10. Forestry workshop

A forestry workshop would be conducted in the study area to review the baseline, research finding and the design of the timber supply model.

The Client would identify and invite participants, while the consulting team would facilitate the workshop. Two separate workshops may be required to ensure there is good participation and representation.

11. Prepare draft base case

Based on feedback from the forestry workshop, the timber supply model would be fine-tuned and then used to produce a produce future timber supply scenarios for the region and sub-regional areas.

12. Undertake impact assessment

In the base case, future timber supplies scenarios will be compared to the current situation as documented in the baseline report. The implications for the forest industry and the communities that have higher levels of forestry dependency will then be assessed. The implications for other resource industries that may be affected by changes to Crown land use and management resulting from the MPB will also be addressed. We would focus on communities that would be significantly impacted in comparison to the base case.

13. Community workshop

A community workshop will be held in the study area with Committee members and other local stakeholders to go over the draft base case and gather feedback on the results and the usefulness of the analyses. The workshop would be held in the study area, and as with the forest workshop, could be split into two separate sessions to accommodate as many stakeholders as possible.

14. Case analysis

We propose to prepare a case study of Washington and Oregon regions that went through severe supply shortages, mills closures, employment loss and community instability as a result of public land timber supply reductions in the 1980s and early 1990s. This occurred at a time when many mills were old, highly inefficient and amongst the highest cost producers in the world. Today, the Pacific Northwest sawmill industry is highly competitive, low cost and very profitable. We would expect there to be lessons to be learned for the Southern Interior on how this turnaround occurred.

15. Mitigation recommendations

A set of high level mitigation options will be discussed. The purpose of this section of the report is not to provide a detailed strategy but instead to give an indication of future research and planning priorities.

16. Prepare draft final report

The draft final report will incorporate all previous reports and also present a set of high level mitigation strategies.

17. Client meeting #3

A final meeting with the Committee would review the draft report and gather feedback on expected changes and additions to the report.

Sample Budget – Socio-economic impact

| Fees and Expenses | Total Days | Exp. |
|--|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Client meeting #1 | 1.5 | 500 |
| 2. Report outline | 1.5 | |
| 3. Data collection | 3.0 | 750 |
| 4. Literature review | 4.0 | |
| 5. Draft baseline | 4.5 | |
| 6. Client meeting #2 | 1.5 | 500 |
| 7. Key informant interviews | 6.5 | |
| 8. Industry survey | 8.0 | |
| 9. Base case forest modelling | 7.0 | |
| 10. Forestry workshop | 3.0 | |
| 11. Draft base case | 3.5 | |
| 12. Impact assessment | 5.0 | |
| 13. Community workshop | 3.0 | 1000 |
| 14. Case analysis | 3.0 | |
| 15. Mitigation options | 4.0 | |
| 16. Final Report | 3.0 | |
| 17. Client Meeting # 3 | 1.5 | 500 |
| 18. Administration and Client Liaison | 5.0 | |
| | Consulting Days | 68.5 |
| | Per Diems ³ | \$760 |
| | Total Fees | 51,820 |
| Total Fees | | 51,820 |
| Total Expenses | | 3,250 |
| Total Fees & Expenses (not incl. GST) | | \$55,070 |

³This is an average per diem rate. The expected per diem rates could range from \$650 to \$850 per day.

APPENDIX 3 – FOREST SECTOR TREND ANALYSIS – PROPOSED OUTLINE

Purpose:

The Phase 1 Report completed for SIBAC identified some important trends in the southern interior forest sector. The SIBAC Forest Sector Trend Analysis will expand on the data and analysis presented in the Phase 1 Report. Detailed information and analysis of observed historical trends and likely future changes in each of the TSAs in the southern interior, relative to global issues and the spread of the MPB will be presented. The information from this Forest Sector Trend Analysis Study will provide the detailed information required for the SIBAC TSA Fact Sheets, and provide trend indicators for future business opportunities.

Scope and Contents for the Recommended Forest Sector Trend Analysis Study:

A detailed Terms of Reference needs to be completed for this Study that would be used to issue a Request for Proposals to select a Consultant to complete the Study. The Terms of Reference will include a requirement for a detailed literature review to ensure all existing technical, socioeconomic, and policy related information is included. A Future Forest section will predict likely evolution of business opportunities for subsequent detailed investigation. This will include recommendations to improve interactions between First Nations and established forest sector interests, to enable leveraging of existing labour, secure access to land, and the ability to leverage capital from various existing programs. The study should also identify some new possible business opportunities created by the additional salvage harvest volumes of MPB affected timber in the southern interior. SIBAC staff will be assigned the task of creating the full Terms of Reference for this Study. It is anticipated that Forest Sector Trend Analysis Study and the Socio-Economic Assessment Study would be the first two major research studies completed for SIBAC.

The Forest Sector Trend Analysis Study will cover the entire southern interior region of BC, analogous to the area included in SIBAC. There will be one final report document covering this entire region but data will be collected and available for discussion at an individual TSA level in the Report as well. This format will facilitate transferring information from this report to the anticipated TSA Fact Sheets. To complete this Study, the consultants will need access to the information being generated by the Ministry of Forest & Range current MPB timber supply forecast study. The Study would collect and present facts, statistics and discuss trends for the following issues for each TSA in the southern interior:

- The Pre-MPB long-term sustained yield forecasts for the TSA (probably as a chart),
- Anticipated future harvests over the short and long term as the MPB infestation peaks and harvests return to sustainable levels,
- Relationship of harvest level forecasts to activities,
- Statistical Tables showing estimated number of Forest Sector jobs in the TSA and a listing of current forest sector operations in the TSA,
- Potential future trends in jobs and job types in forestry,
- Summary review of major changes/challenges of the Forest Sector in this TSA over the past twenty years,
- Summary discussion of major forest sector issues identified in previous Timber Supply Review processes for this TSA,
- Analysis and discussion of the probable scale and intensity of MPB impacts on future timber supply and forest sector operations in this TSA.
- A review of anticipated future fibre characteristics and recommendations of suitable new businesses that could be enabled by access to this fibre.
- Recommendations for working with First Nations to develop new forestry related businesses.

APPENDIX 4 – TSA FACT SHEETS - FORMAT

These fact sheets will be completed for each of the TSAs in the SIBAC region. These fact sheets will be used as reference material for the sub-regional TSA discussion forums. The fact sheets will be concise (2 pages) and will summarize the major relevant findings for each TSA from the Socio-Economic Assessment and Forest Sector Trend Analysis studies.

The TSA fact sheets will have three major sections:

1. Overview of major economic trends in the TSA. Discussion of the levels and sources of economic growth within the TSA
2. Overview of the Forest Sector Dependency of the communities within the TSA
 - Number of forestry plants in the TSA
 - Forest income dependency of communities
 - Forest Income and Labour market Dependency of communities on the forest sector
3. Overview of probable potential MPB Timber Supply impacts in the TSA
 - Percentage of pine in TSA
 - Mid-term timber supply projections for the TSA
 - Timber supply and mill fibre requirements comparison

APPENDIX 5 – TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR SUB-REGIONAL (TSA) DISCUSSION FORUMS

Purpose

The purpose of these discussion forums is to bring together individuals from throughout the sub-regions (TSAs) to identify major issues of concern regarding MPB in the TSA and to make recommendations to SIBAC on future SIBAC activities in the TSA.

SIBAC committee members from the TSA will determine the specifics of the discussion forums. Representatives of the following organizations will be invited to participate in the discussion forums:

- First Nations Organizations
- Local Government
- Economic Development Organizations
- Forest Industry
- Small Business
- Provincial Ministry Offices
- Other Economic Sectors (Agriculture, Tourism, Mining, etc.)
- Other Interested Community Organizations and Individuals

At least one discussion forum will be held in each sub-region/TSA. Additional sessions will be held if required.

Format

Each sub-regional/TSA discussion forum will follow the same general format. SIBAC will probably retain consulting assistance to assist SIBAC staff in arranging and facilitating the discussion forums.

The sub-regional/TSA discussion forums will follow the general format of:

1. Roundtable introductions
2. Brief explanation of the forum's purpose (from SIBAC committee members/staff)
3. Overview presentation of major findings of the socio-economic assessment and forest sector trend studies. Distribution of TSA Fact Sheets to attendees.
4. Facilitated roundtable discussion on three major discussion points:
 - i. Major issues of concern regarding MPB
 - ii. Scale and intensity of MPB impacts that attendees feel will be experienced in the TSA
 - iii. Recommendations on further research, planning or work the attendees would like SIBAC to undertake in the TSA