

Partnering for Sustainable Resource Management

Newsletter 7
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Greetings! This newsletter marks the close of the fourth year of our CURA project. Our second graduate student, Sarah (nee Parsons) Quinn defended earlier this year (see her summation in this newsletter), and several other students are well into their research. We've used this newsletter mainly to report on their activities. Sarah worked on developing and evaluating a process for identifying local measures of successful co-management in the cultural arena; her work is being built on by Deanna Yim, who is using elements of the process to work with Tl'azt'en Nation to develop community-based environmental monitoring. Both of these projects fall under our 'Improved Partnerships' stream, which focuses on strengthening the co-management regime that Tl'azt'en Nation and UNBC participate in as partners co-managing the John Prince Research Forest. Two other graduate students, Claudette Bois and Leona Shaw, are working on projects under our 'Traditional Ecological Knowledge Stream': Claudette is developing a disturbance history (natural and human-caused) of the John Prince Research Forest and surrounding Tl'azt'en territory, while Leona's research focuses on the ecology of traditional plant gathering sites. Both of these projects should contribute to forest management, and may be useful for treaty purposes. Under our 'Ecotourism Stream' Diana Kutzner has been examining what tourists indicate that they are interested in, in regards to aboriginal tourism, while Shane Hartman is researching how Tl'azt'enne may want to be involved in tourism. All of these projects were developed with guidance from Tl'azt'en Nation, and involve Tl'azt'enne in an ongoing basis as both co-managers and research assistants: Theresa Austin reports on her role in Deanna's project. We hope you enjoy reading these short synopses of our research; findings will be reported in future newsletters and on our website.

How did it go? "It all worked out, it was good!" Developing and Evaluating the Process for Identifying Local Measures of Successful Co-management on the John Prince Research Forest By Sarah Quinn



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Introduction

Measures of success are commonly used for national sustainable forest management (SFM) monitoring and evaluation through a framework of Criteria and Indicators. These have been developed through 'top-down' *ad hoc* approaches. I/We propose that measures of success can be tailored for use in monitoring co-management at a local level, but that methodological adaptations are necessary. I/We carried out an extensive literature search that uncovered emerging philosophies on monitoring and evaluation, as well as a number of local-level measures development process. Using this

knowledge, we have combined local expertise with the literature to work out a new method for identifying locally-based measures of success for co-management of the John Prince Research Forest. The method we developed consists of three major phases: cross-cultural learning, knowledge generation, and measures formation. An evaluation of our method revealed that it was successful overall, but that some improvements could be made to it. The method exemplifies how a collaborative and empowerment research process can result in an effective, culturally competent approach to creating measures of success. (continued on pg. 2 & 3)



Empowerment through Monitoring and Evaluation

People working in education, international development, social work and other fields have discovered that program evaluation is an opportunity to provide many benefits to everyone involved in the program, from staff to participants to the broader community. David Fetterman and Alan Wandersman (2004) describe many opportunities for promoting empowerment through evaluation programs, such as capacity building for staff, improving the program for the community, and ensuring the views of everyone in the community are represented. A First Nations author, Joan LaFrance, explains that the spirit of “respect, reciprocity and relationship” must be fundamental, and that an evaluation should “use the methodologies that fit within [First Nations’] framing of place, community, values and culture.”



Method

With the idea of supporting community empowerment, I developed an iterative, community-based method for developing measures of success with Tl’azt’en Nation. Previous research identified local experts and critical local values for the JPRF.

Step 1: Cross-cultural Learning Process

University and community researchers learn together, gaining experience and skills in research and community processes, while building mutual trust and gaining credibility in the community

Collect and review background information on First Nations history, culture, and worldviews generally and locally, and co-management processes and outcomes

Learn about similar projects on Indigenous approaches to evaluation and measures development

Step 2: Information Generation

Invite participants who were previously involved in identification of expected co-management processes and outcomes

Select methods for idea generation from available literature

Consider ethical issues, and mitigate through adjusting research design elements

Design interview questions based on expected co-management outcomes

Conduct interviews on how participants would measure success in achieving identified values

Analyze interview data

Draft a list of measures characteristics based on literature, interviews, and local insights

Conduct focus group / workshop to verify and supplement interview data, and adapt characteristics list

Analyze focus group data

Step 3: Measures Formation

Compile data from the focus group, measures interviews, and outcomes interviews

Use measures characteristics list as guidelines for structuring conversational ideas into discrete, succinct measures; reduce redundancies

Re-evaluate the list through review by staff and technical experts, and assessment based on characteristics list

Finalize and present to the community and co-management staff

How well did this method work?

The success of the method was evaluated three ways. I considered retention of participants during the duration of the project, whether new information was generated at each step, and the opinions of the participants regarding how well the method worked.

The first technique was examining the composition and retention of the participant groups. Information collected from interviews on critical local values (prior to this study) included Tl'azt'en Nation employees, Tl'azt'en Nation Chief and Council, JPRF staff and board members, natural resources management practitioners, political interests, *Keyoh* holders on the JPRF, Elders, and general Tl'azt'en community members. These same people were invited to participate in the remaining stages. Interviews on how to measure specific values were carried out with all of the same groups except for Elders. The participation rate in our second set of interviews on measures was 11/16, or 69%. For the focus group, which reviewed, verified and supplemented the information collected in the interviews, five of the original interviewees participated, plus three Tl'azt'en youth. While the rates are not ideal, all groups were represented in the last stage except for Elders, and the youth were involved, whereas they had not been during the interviews.

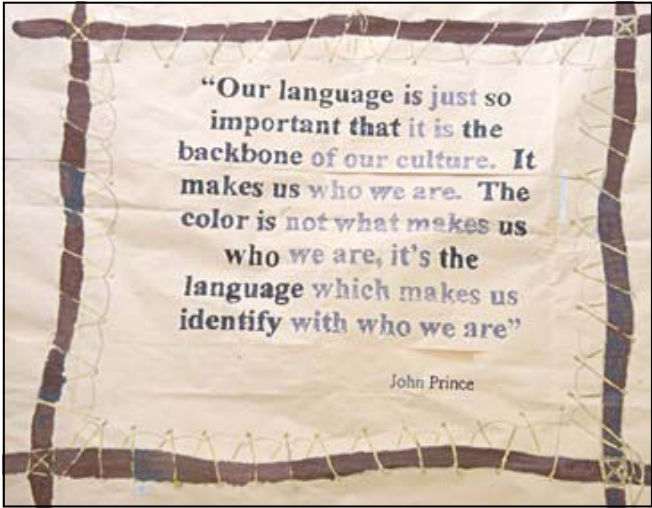
The second approach to evaluate success of the method was to analyse the measures resulting from the various stages. All the information gathering techniques resulted in valuable information for the measures. The interviews completed prior to the study incorporated values of Elders and others critical local values, while the interviews carried out during my research recommended many techniques for struc-

turing the measures. The focus group was critical for verifying information, and identifying characteristics of effective measures from a Tl'azt'en perspective.

Thirdly, focus group participants were asked their opinions on the success of the method. Specific questions about the method were asked, and participants gave positive and constructive feedback. They felt that the topic was important and that all stages were necessary, but found some information challenging to interpret. They felt that it was important that everyone was invited, but that it was not a problem that everyone did not attend, and that representation was sufficient. One person recommended that a topic-specific expert be involved (e.g., language expert for measures on use of traditional language).

“Overall, the method worked well to producing measures of successful co-management that reflect local values and interests”

Overall, the method worked well to producing measures of successful co-management that reflect local values and interests. While there is room for improvement, this method provides a good basis with important key stages. Future CURA research on environmental indicators has taken this feedback into consideration. Thanks again to all who participated in the study, and to **Bev John** for providing me invaluable assistance.



CURA Graduate Student Update: A closer look at ongoing research projects

Four research streams comprise the Tl'azt'en Nation-UNBC CURA project. Of those four streams: Improved Partnerships, Traditional Ecological Knowledge, and Ecotourism currently have graduate students conducting collaborative research projects in partnership with Tl'azt'en Nation.

-Improved Partnership Stream-

Evolving Co-management Practice: Community-Based Environmental Monitoring with Tl'azt'en Nation on the John Prince Research Forest

Deanna Yim, MNRES Candidate

The purpose of this research project is to develop, apply, and evaluate methods for identifying Indigenous measures of co-management success, which support meaningful local involvement and give voice, respect, and legitimacy to traditional knowledge and values. Communities may define sustainability differently from each other and from experts, requiring a unique set of progress measures¹. Community-based environmental monitoring is an approach by which First Nation communities can apply traditional knowledge, track the health of their environment, and implement locally relevant sustainability objectives.

In partnership with two teams of Tl'azt'en Nation community members (the Forest Team and the Elders Team), we are developing a Tl'azt'en community-based environmental monitoring method that incor-

porates the knowledge, needs, beliefs, and concerns of the community through the development of an integrative, flexible framework that applies both Indigenous and scientific knowledge. Knowledge co-production can generate a more holistic understanding of the environment than either scientific or Indigenous knowledge can alone².

Various research events that have taken place over the past summer and fall include: Forest Team focus groups, an Elders Team retreat, and a Community Product Development Workshop. The knowledge shared at these events will contribute to the formulation of Tl'azt'en measures of co-management success, specifically related to environmental sustainability.

In addition to academic products, team members are working together to develop community products, such as a book and a DVD.



Forest and Elders Team members (above & right)



1 Beckley, T.M., Parkins, J., and Stedman, R. (2002). Indicators of forest-dependent community sustainability: The evolution of research. *Forestry Chronicle* 78 (5), 626-636.
2 Berkes, F. (1999) *Sacred ecology: Traditional ecological knowledge and resource management*. London: Taylor and Francis.

~Traditional Ecological Knowledge Stream~

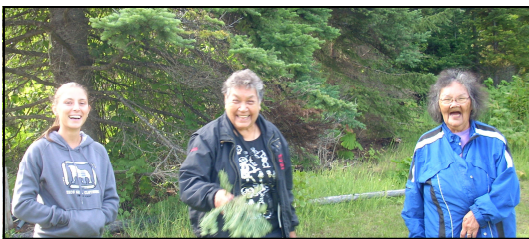
Examining the history of Tl'azt'en Nation traditional land-use practices, forest natural disturbance, and their interactions

Claudette Bois, PhD NRES Candidate

My dissertation aims to document Tl'azt'en Nation traditional land-use practices; the temporal and spatial characteristics of disturbance in selected areas of the Tl'azt'en Nation traditional territory; forest disturbance impacts on Tl'azt'en Nation traditional land-use practices; and Tl'azt'en Nation land-use influence on forest disturbance regimes. Tl'azt'en Nation associations with their traditional territories have evolved over thousands of years. Through this period of occupancy, Tl'azt'en have developed traditional environmental knowledge (TEK) which is a cumulative and dynamic body of knowledge concerning the relationship of living beings with themselves and their environment. Inherent to the development of TEK is the story of how First Nation social and cultural systems have adapted to the ecosystems in which they have evolved. In this research, it is believed that TEK will provide a spatial and temporal understanding of traditional land-use practices, the natu-

ral disturbance regimes, and their co-evolution on the Tl'azt'en Nation traditional territory.

The interdisciplinary nature of this research requires the use of both qualitative and quantitative methodologies. Through merging these diverse methodologies, an enhanced understanding of the research question can be obtained. TEK is handed down through generations by cultural transmission using stories, songs, and Elder teachings. As such, through reviewing archived oral histories and conducting semi-structured interviews with Elders both in the community and on the land, documentation of TEK can result. As forest ecosystems are maintained by periodic disturbance events as part of their long-term system dynamics, dendrochronology and soil carbon dating of charcoal deposits will be used to assess historical natural and anthropogenic disturbance dynamics of the Tl'azt'en territory.



The Ecology of Plant Gathering with Tl'azt'en Nation

Leona Shaw, MNRES Candidate

Over the last few months I have had the opportunity to spend time in the community. I was able to attend various meetings and community events such as a Language and Culture meeting and the Chuntoh Education Society children's science camp. I was able to visit some smokehouses, watch a cottonwood canoe being

made, watch some hides be prepared, and help set some fish nets. I was also able to meet a lot of people and learned so much about the Tl'azt'en culture and community. Thank you very much to everyone who shared their knowledge and time with me. (continued on pg.6)

(continued from pg.5)

I am currently working on the next steps of my research project titled “*The Ecology of Food and Medicine Plants as Defined by Tl’azt’en Nation*”. This fall two meetings were held in the community. In the first meeting the project was introduced to community members who are considered knowledgeable in food and medicine plants. These participants generated a list of 32 plants that are important to the community as well as a list of potential outcomes for the project. During the second meeting, the participants prioritized

to list to 15 plants most important plants, this was done to make the project more manageable and to ensure that each plant could be researched properly. The next step will include a survey to be completed by participants in winter and field sessions in spring to document the ecology of the plants and their gathering sites.

I have enjoyed the time and experiences I have had in the community look forward to spending the next year in the community. I truly appreciate everyone’s generosity and kindness over the past few months. Musi cho.

~Ecotourism Stream~

Identifying and Determining how a First Nation’s Community can engage in Tourism

Shane Hartman, MA NRES Candidate

I’m a member of the Nak’azdli First Nation’s, Beaver clan. Through my research I will seek information that will allow me to address how a First Nation’s community engages in tourism. This purpose carries with it the need to understand; who is interested in tourism and how widespread are those interests? What types of interaction are community members willing and interested in having with tourists? What specific benefits and impacts are they interested in and concerned about?

mixture of social science techniques including an Information Discovery Tour, community meetings and semi standardized interviews. I conducted an Information Discovery Tour over the summer of 2007, visiting various First Nation tourism sites to the west and south of Prince George. The data gathered on the tour will be used with my research to help Tl’azt’en community members gain insight into the types and scales of First Nation tourism sites currently operating in British Columbia. Once a foundation of knowledge is established Tl’azt’enne will then be in a better position to answer the previously mentioned questions, and therefore determine whether or not tourism is right for them.

The methods of my research could be easily modified to work with any community wishing to develop tourism. My research will be conducted over a period of two years, and shared with various First Nation groups upon completion.



In seeking answers to these questions, I am using a

An inquiry into Aboriginal tourism product attributes and their influence on product preference by travelers to Northern BC

Diana Kutzner, MA NRES Candidate



My research on the market for Indigenous tourism products in Northern British Columbia has progressed greatly since the last newsletter was distributed. My thesis focuses on identifying Indigenous tourism markets for Northern BC as well as product preferences of visitors to this region.

At the beginning of the summer I conducted several in-depth interviews with tourism representatives of Northern BC to find out about visitor interest in Indigenous tourism in the northern parts of the province. The results of this research as well as my literature review helped me design a questionnaire for visitors to this region. The questionnaire entailed questions about visitors'

interest in certain topics and activities related to Indigenous tourism as well as descriptions of several Indigenous tourism experiences which Tl'azt'en may offer in the future.

Over the course of the summer, I collected 330 questionnaires at the Visitor Information Center in the city of Prince George, British Columbia. I now have entered the questionnaires into a computer program for statistical analysis. My analysis will be in its most intensive stage over the next few weeks, followed by an iterative process of data processing and thesis writing. Taking a first glance at the data has been an exciting experience and I am looking forward to presenting the results in my thesis next spring.

1st Citizens' Forum on Aboriginal Tourism- Pam Wright

On Nov. 13, Pam Wright (UNBC CURA Ecotourism Coordinator) and Amelia Stark (Tl'azt'en CURA Ecotourism Coordinator) attended the 5th First Citizens' Forum in Kamloops. This year's forum focused on Aboriginal Tourism and brought together over 100 First Nation's leaders in aboriginal tourism along with partners from government and the educational system. We had a chance to hear about some of the current high profile Aboriginal tourism initiatives such as the provincial funding initiative for Aboriginal Tourism BC, the 2008 Indigenous Games and the 2010 Olympics four Host Nations plans. This was a chance to get inspired by what well-funded, mar-

ket ready Aboriginal Tourism initiatives can do. In the afternoon Amelia and Pam participated in the working group sessions on Education and Training needs and Development and Marketing initiatives. Results of the Forum are being collated by the organizers and will be distributed to participants. We're hopeful that some of the workshop discussions provide us with more tangible ideas for remote, rural initiatives just beginning to explore Aboriginal tourism.



The Aboriginal Tourism Market - Diana Kutzner



While on vacation, many tourists seek to gain an understanding of other peoples' origins, histories and cultures. Tourism increases cross-cultural understanding and often serves as a tool of economic diversification and development. Over the last decades, reports produced by tourism organizations such as the Canadian Tourism Commission, Aboriginal Tourism Canada and the Australian Tourist Commission document a growing demand and interest by tourist markets for Aboriginal cultural tourism. But who are the tourists interested in Aboriginal tourism? Several market studies have attempted to answer this question, if to a limited extent. Although there are various niche markets for Aboriginal tourism¹, a traveler profile that repeatedly occurs in the literature is that of an older, higher educated and affluent traveler who is primarily interested in nature and 'authentic' experiences. Due to their age, many of these travelers are enthusiasts for "soft" outdoor recreation activities such as hiking, backpacking, wildlife viewing, canoeing, kayaking, etc. In addition, travelers interested in Aboriginal tourism often pursue a variety of cultural activities on their trips such as going to a local fair or festival, visiting museums and art galleries and seeing plays or operas².

Another type of traveler who poses great opportunities for Aboriginal tourism businesses is the so-called "dual track" traveler³. The dual track market is of particular interest to Canadian Aboriginal tourism businesses as it consists of visitors primarily who enjoy experiencing nature and culture at the same time⁴. Often the Aboriginal tourism product is offered as a mix of nature and culture, for example when exploring the uses of traditional survival skills in the outdoors. Market research estimated the number of dual track travelers to ap-

proximately 1.8 million Canadian and 1.9 million American travelers in 1999⁵. The same year, European visitors represented 56% of the total overseas visitors to Canada and two-thirds of these fell into the dual track market⁶. The European overseas market segment may also be the most lucrative market for Aboriginal tourism businesses. Canadian travelers often stay overnight with family and friends while traveling whereas European visitors tend to seek roofed accommodation⁷. Of particular interest to Aboriginal tourism enterprises are the U.K., Germany, Switzerland and the Netherlands⁸.

The market for Aboriginal tourism products is broad. Various market segments are ready to be targeted by Canadian Aboriginal tourism enterprises. It is in the hands of the members of the Canadian tourism industry to promote Canada as a destination of Aboriginal and cultural heritage to the domestic and international markets. One way to realize this may be to integrate Canada's cultural heritage with its already strong image of a destination of pristine nature. This may work particularly well regarding the wide interest of visitors to Canada in experiencing both nature and culture during their travels.

¹Research Resolutions Consulting Ltd. (2001). *Demand for Aboriginal Tourism Products in the Canadian and American Markets - Executive Summary and Conclusions*. Ottawa: Canadian Tourism Commission & Aboriginal Tourism Team Canada & Parks Canada. ²Aboriginal Tourism Team Canada (2003). *Aboriginal Tourism in Canada; Part II: Trends, Issues, Constraints and Opportunities*. Retrieved September 15, 2007, from http://www.aboriginaltourism.ca/documents/natstudy_ii.pdf. ³Ibid. ⁴Ibid. ⁵Ibid. ⁶Research Resolutions Consulting Ltd. (2001). *Demand for Aboriginal Tourism Products in the Canadian and American Markets - Executive Summary and Conclusions*. Ottawa: Canadian Tourism Commission & Aboriginal Tourism Team Canada & Parks Canada. ⁷Ibid. ⁸Ibid.



Where are our former CURA Affiliates Now?

- Karen Heikkila (Toponymy Project, TEK Stream)

Terveisiä Suomesta (Greetings from Finland)! Jari and I moved to Kuhmo (in the Kainuu region of eastern Finland) in August of this year. Kuhmo is well known for its Chamber Music Festival, Kalevala Christmas Vil-

lage, great cross-country skiing and fishing and hunting opportunities. We are truly enjoying the gorgeous countryside with its many lakes, heaths and mires. *Pidetään yhteyttä* (keep in touch)!



- Erin Sherry & Sarah Quinn (Former CURA Researchers)

Working Together~ Tl'azt'en Nation and the Integrated Land Management Bureau

Erin Sherry and Sarah Quinn have been working for the BC government in the Integrated Land Management Bureau since fall 2006. Their positions were created to help bring all the natural resources agencies together to improve working relationships with First Nations. They initiated a number of community-based participatory projects that address needs expressed by First Nations. For example, three projects on traditional trails involve documenting oral and written history and improving First Nations' participation in trail management and protection. For instance,

they also focus on improving government capacity for engaging with First Nations. They are establishing a 'Community of Practice' for government staff who work with First Nations across the province, to enable them to connect, cooperate, and learn from one another. As well, they are conducting capacity needs assessments to identify, mobilize and enhance the capital of government staff. Erin is based in Prince George, and Sarah has recently transferred to Nanaimo.



Bringing Indigenous Knowledge into UNBC: A Sharing with Elders

- Gail Fondahl

One of UNBC's six "Thematic Academic Clusters" or areas of teaching and research focus is "Indigenous Peoples' Knowledge". UNBC has committed to bring Indigenous knowledge into the academy in a respectful manner. A gathering was convened from October 18-20 to help work towards this goal: "*Bringing Indigenous Knowledge into UNBC: A Sharing with Elders*". Elders came together from across Northern British Columbia, along with five Elders from other parts of Canada, to discuss various aspects of traditional knowledge, including land & governance, language, education and spirituality. With faculty, students and others participating

in all there were about 160 people in attendance. Five Tl'azt'en Elders participated - **John Alexis, Doreen Austin, Pierre John, Joseph (Willy) Mattess and Seraphine Mattess**. They were accompanied by two youth, **Georgina Alexis** and **Annie Anatole**, who greatly helped with logistics, and Simon John, who came to provide translation. Pierre John and Doreen Mattess shared two Dakelh songs with the crowd toward the end of the workshop, which were much appreciated by the whole gathering. The CURA project supported their attendance; UNBC is very thankful to them for contributing to this event!



Theresa Austin CURA Research Assistant, Tl'azt'en Nation

Hadih ts'iyane, (Hello Everyone)

I am working with Deanna Yim as her Research Assistant for the project, *Evolving Co-management Practice: Community-Based Environmental Monitoring with Tl'azt'en Nation on the John Prince Research Forest*.

Since October 15, 2007, I have been transcribing and translating tapes from the Elders' Team retreat that was held on August 20th and 21st at the Cinnabar Resort and Research Station. I am very excited and happy to be working in this capacity because I am learning more about our language, culture, and history.

I am the Carrier Language and Cultural teacher for the Prince George Aboriginal Head Start Program. I teach three and four year old children our language and culture. Therefore, the current knowledge I have will be enhanced by listening to stories of our culture, values, and beliefs.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff of the John Prince Research Forest for referring me to Deanna. It is very rewarding and I am honored to be part of a team who are working really hard to fulfill the dreams and wishes of our Elders.

Snachailya!