

**MINISTRY OF SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
INFORMATION NOTE**

Date: August 7, 2003  
Date of previous note:  
March 14, 2002  
File: 17000-01\NWDSN

**I. PREPARED FOR**  
Integrated Steering Committee, For Information

**II. ISSUE:**

**Completion of MSRM's Northwest Data Sharing Network Pilot**

**III. BACKGROUND:**

On March 14<sup>th</sup> 2002 the Integrated Steering Committee (ISC) approved a data sharing pilot project in MSRM's Skeena Region. On May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2003, Skeena Region gave a presentation to the ISC on the pilot project and recommended closing the pilot, but continuing to have ISC provide co-ordination and leadership to the Northwest Data Sharing Network board of directors on data sharing, this recommendation was accepted by the ISC.

The recommendation that the pilot is complete was based on the Northwest Data Sharing Network being established as a society under BC's society act with a governance body. The Board of Directors, of the Northwest Data Sharing Network, now acts as its decision body. MSRM Skeena, has limited resources and its involvement will be limited to membership in the data sharing network and sitting on its board.

The Northwest Data Sharing Network partnership has two distinct dimensions: technical and organizational. A Skeena Project Work Plan outlining the MSRM Regional project in detail is provided (attachment 1 – Northwest Data Sharing Network A Public/Private Data Management Partnership).

The organizational component of the project has been completed. A governance structure has been implemented (see attachment 2 Northwest Data Sharing Network – Governance Report, attachment 3 Northwest Data Sharing Network Society Board Policies, and attachment 4 Constitution and Bylaws). A two phase technical contract is now underway. Phase one has been completed. It evaluated participant data holdings, catalogued them and developed meta information describing their structure and content. Phase one covered the Lakes, Morice and Bulkley Timber Supply Areas (TSA). Discussions are being held with the licensees in the Kispiox, Cranberry, Kalum and Nass TSA's for a similar meta data project. The second phase of the technical project is now under way. This phase covers data modelling, and participant data translation into government standards. In addition it covers the data loading, data viewing and data exchange contract services. MSRM's Data Review and

Distribution (DRAD) service will host the exchange information on behalf of the Northwest Data Sharing Network. Initially this project was to cover only the Lakes and Morice TSA's, however through the NWDSN governance this activity is being complemented in the Bulkley TSA. Costs for these activities are being covered by local forest companies. A status report of current activities associated with the Northwest Data Sharing Network is attached (attachment 5).

#### **IV. DISCUSSION:**

This public/private data management partnership has made a positive contribution to the viability of the north-western business community. It has generated co-operation between forest licensees, First Nations and government agencies. In addition, it has led to the merging of projects creating significant cost savings to participants. In the Skeena Region it has become one of the first of many linked resource management partnership initiatives. In north-western BC we are developing Sustainable Resource Management Plan (SRMP) monitoring partnerships for the West Babine SRMP. In addition, we are developing partnerships between Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Plans and SRMPs in the Lakes, Morice, Bulkley and Kispiox timber supply areas and in the Gitanyow traditional territory. We are also developing linkages and partnerships between the Morice LRMP and the Wet'suwet'en First Nation's land use plan. These provincially significant projects will use the Northwest Data Sharing Network and MSRM's Land and Resource Data Warehouse to access and exchange information satisfying north-western forest company, First Nation and government's information management needs.

#### **Contact**

Name Don Morgan  
Title Planning Section  
Head  
Div Skeena Region  
Phone (250) 847-7440

#### **Alternate Contact**

Ruth Edwards  
Regional Manager  
Information/Inventory  
Skeena Region  
(250) 847-7759

#### **Prepared by**

Don Morgan  
Planning Section  
Head  
Skeena Region  
(250) 847-7440