



FIMBC April 8, 2008 News Update

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Recent Changes regarding access to TRIM data for forest licensees

- Base Mapping and Geomatic Services (BMGS) which is part of the Integrated Land Management Bureau (ILMB) have changed their policy regarding access by forest licensees to TRIM (base map) data
- In the past licensees either had to sign a Data Exchange Agreement with BMGS or else purchase TRIM data.
- The new policy recognizes that forest licensees are required to submit data, including spatial data, to government under the ESF (Electronic Submissions Framework).
- The new policy now provides free access to TRIM data for all forest licensees who are "ESF submitters". (virtually all forest tenure holders)
- Access to the data is through the Land and Resource Data Warehouse (LRDW).
- Access is granted based on individual BCEID's which are associated with licensees who are "ESF Submitters". This includes employees and contractors working on behalf of licensees.
- There are some restrictions on use of the data. See the letters posted on www.FIMBC.CA
- The system to provide access will be active starting on Friday, March 28, 2008.
- For further information see www.FIMBC.CA follow the links to TRIM Access and Frequently Asked Questions.

FSP/FRPA Data Access for Industry Project - Phase 2 Initiation Update

(This update is courtesy of Greg Lawrance, Project Manager)

Background:

The intent of the ILMB lead FSP/FRPA project is to improve access to datasets needed by the forest industry to conduct Forest Stewardship Planning (FSP) and general Forest Range Practices Act (FRPA) implementation through the government's corporate architecture.

The project comes from the understanding that industry needs information to be:

- quick to find – centralized location to discover or acquire,
- simple to access – one system not a variety of ones with different authentication and authorization,
- documented and easy to use – values and supporting documentation,
- authoritative information – best data, most current, legal.

The project uses Forest Investment Account (FIA) dollars to encourage and leverage regular operational resources of Data Custodians to bring their information content to the Land and Resource Warehouse (LRDW); ensure the information is accessible through a variety of corporate access systems including: Distribution, iMAPBC and WMS; and verify that the contact and use information (metadata) is current, comprehensive and available.



Accomplishments:

This collaborative project has brought together a wide range of Data Managers from the Ministries of Environment, Forests and Range, Tourism, Sport and the Arts, and Agriculture and Lands. Although the project just started last spring it has had a successful first year making many new datasets accessible and providing verification, update and restructuring of a number of existing datasets.

Datasets which are now available from the LRDW include:

- Community Watersheds,
- approved Wildlife Habitat Areas and Ungulate Winter Ranges,
- Fisheries Sensitive Watersheds,
- Invasive Alien Plant Sites,
- Points of Diversion (POD), and
- Snowpack Monitoring and Reserve Zones.

Planning datasets recently loaded to the LRDW and which we are now configuring for access include:

- Forest Development Units (FDUs),
- legal and non-legal Old Growth Management Areas (OGMAs),
- Strategic, Land and Resource Plan (SLRP) boundaries and Resource Management Zones and other MAL legal orders.
- New business focused views of many of the Forest Tenures datasets are also close to delivery.

We have reviewed the metadata records of all FSP/FRPA data currently available to ensure that contact information is up-to-date, and are developing a process to reduce the likelihood that it will become stale.

We have also centralized the official provincial Landscape Unit boundaries, and updated the currency of established Visual Quality Objectives so that now almost 80% of the districts have current data in the LRDW.

Towards the goal of enhanced access to geographic data government arranged the removal of administratively cumbersome data exchange agreement (DEA) requirements to make TRIM data more readily accessible to the forest industry.

Thankfully some of the success of this project has been recognized by member companies of the Coast Forest Products Association and the Council of Forest industries and they have communicated this by way of letters to the Forest Investment Council, who have continued their support for the project.

“A canvassing of some COFI member companies indicates wide-spread acknowledgement of significant improvements in improving both the functionality of the data warehouse and in populating it with necessary data sets.” COFI

“It is a positive to see the Access Project’s focus on serving both government agencies and forest sector business requirements. Efforts to improve access to the geographic services are critical to efficient forest management activities. Further, our member companies hope to realize cost savings by reducing time wasted finding data, dealing with problems associated with the use of inappropriate data (because of multiple sources) or using data incorrectly because of inadequate data documentation. Forest Working Group members were generally very supportive of the initiative, and appreciative of the good work undertaken to date.” CFPA



Next Steps

After extensive outreach to industry associations like the CFPA (Coast Forest Products Association) and the (Council of Forest Industries) COFI, Federation of BC Woodlot Associations (FBCWA) and operational organizations like the Kootenay Spatial and Northwest Data Networks (KSPDN/NWDSN) and government / industry groups like the Provincial FRPA Implementation Team (PFIT) we have developed updated data priorities for Phase II of the project.

In this next year we are focused on delivering simplified access to all RESULTS openings, legal objectives from land use planning , and improved metadata content and delivery. We will also be working on access to Terrain Stability information, FN Forest and Range Agreements, FRPA Sec 14 Declared Areas, Land Act Leases (e.g. Agriculture Lease, Grazing Leases), Sensitive Ecosystem and Element Occurrences, Designated Commercial Recreation Tenures (CRA), and a revised ownership layer for crown and federal lands.

SLRP boundaries



Forest Development Units



Legal OGMAs



More info ... <http://ilmbwww.gov.bc.ca/dm/fsp/index.html>



Investigation and Integration of LiDAR for Improving Accuracy and Consistency of VRI Phase One Photo Interpretation

(Update courtesy of Forest Analysis & Inventory Branch, December 6, 2007)

Background and Rationale

Recent advances in airborne LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) provide unique opportunities in improving accuracy, consistency and cost-effectiveness of mapping some of key attributes from the phase one Vegetation Resource Inventory (VRI) such as tree/stand height, density, vertical stand structure, etc.

In the early 2006, Ministry of Forests and Range (MFR) - Forest Analysis and Inventory Branch (FAIB) and University of Victoria (UVIC) – Centre for Applied Remote Sensing, Modelling and Simulation (BC-CARMS) initiated a joint project to investigate LiDAR and Hyperspectral Technologies for VRI.

BC-CARMS flown over the entire TFL 18 area (74,542 ha) with the LiDAR/Hyperspectral sensors and digital camera in 2006 and 2007. All the data acquisition and processing including LiDAR has been completed by BC-CARMS. In addition, conventional 1:20,000 colour photography has been acquired, as well as photo scanning, softcopy product and orthophoto (administered by the Base Mapping and Geomatic Services) completed in December, 2007.

In a separate project funded by the Forest Science Program under the FIA, Timberline Natural Resource Group Ltd has been working on LiDAR/Hyperspectral data as supplement to ground information to improve accuracy and consistency of VRI, particularly species and height estimates. This project will be completed by the end of March, 2008.

Upcoming work includes:

- TFL 18 VRI phase one
- The ground truth data collection for LiDAR/VRI evaluation
- Evaluation and recommendations on specifications, standards, methodology/procedures for using LiDAR for VRI

Goal of the project is to provide the MFR management team with recommendations on the potential use of LiDAR technology for improving the VRI phase one work.

Specific objectives are:

- to complete the phase one VRI for TFL 18;
- to design and implement a ground data collection for LiDAR/VRI evaluation;
- to conduct an independent evaluation of LiDAR for improving VRI phase one;
- to conduct a cost and benefit analysis;
- to provide recommendations on standards, specifications, and method/procedures for LiDAR data collection and processing for VRI; and
- to write and submit to the FAIB management team a summary report of all the above.

Scope

The project will be limited to the evaluation of LiDAR for phase one VRI.

In Scope:

- LiDAR data collection and processing



- VRI phase one for TFL 18 area

Out of Scope:

- VRI phase two
- Hyperstpectral

Scheduling

Phase 1: January 2 – March 31, 2008, VRI phase one polygon delineation

Phase 2: April 1 – August 31, 2008, field data collection (both VRI air/ground calls for photo interpretation, and the ground truth data)

Phase 3: September 1 – December 15, 2008, VRI photo interpretation and LiDAR/VRI evaluation

Phase 4: January 2 –March 31, 2009, reporting writing and submission

