

# District 19 Ecosystem Based Forest Management Plan Review

Steve Morel, ing. f., M. sc.  
Groupe Conseil Nutshimit

# AAC Determination

- Formula used is adequate in the context of Dist. 19 because of the dominance of mature forests.
- Rotation age is more difficult to evaluate
  - Calculation could have been made using different rotation ages for different site quality indexes

# Guiding Principles, Objectives and Actions

- Strong point of this plan, from an environmental perspective, is the multiple scaled PAN
- The emphasis on PAN could limit the possibilities of economic development by harvesting additional wood fiber
  - Residual land = 34% of commercial forests of Dist 19A
  - Largely surpasses other Province's commitments
  - It is however easier to reduce the protected areas once knowledge is acquired than to increase them

# Guiding Principles, Objectives and Actions

- Cultural values protection
  - Traditional territorial units (trap lines, family trapping areas, etc) as planning units
  - Implies the identification of cut dispersion strategies and a description of forest cover types needed to maintain traditional activities in each unit
  - Strategy could be applied in Dist. 19 in order to avoid over-cutting certain traditional territories
  - Corresponds to watershed PAN?

# Guiding Principles, Objectives and Actions

- The plan, developed through a joint process between the Innu Nation and DFRA constitutes an exemplary approach proving that joint forest management is possible

# Issues Not Adequately Addressed

- Forest management strategies at the Innu territory scale
- Forest management strategies inspired by natural disturbance regimes
  - Strong proportion of over mature forests implies that it may be appropriate to use variable retention systems
    - Maintain uneven-aged and irregularly structured forests proportionate to natural forests

# Issues Not Adequately Addressed

- Maintaining woodland caribou populations
  - Increased moose = increased wolf population
    - Could have a negative impact on caribou and contribute to their northern retreat
  - Management strategy for caribou habitat outside the PAN
    - Suggest managing habitat at a large scale (3000-7000 km<sup>2</sup>)
      - Concentrate cuts and protect large intact areas (greater than 250 km<sup>2</sup>) which are connected by large corridors (400 m wide)
- Natural disturbance regimes
  - Influence practices outside PAN