

2.5 Biodiversity Indicator 4. Landscape Connectivity

2.5.1 Background:

“Landscape connectivity” is achieved in Bulkley TSA by management of spatially-defined linear, forested networks (i.e. Landscape Riparian Corridors – LRC’s). These networks incorporate riparian areas for major streams and rivers, and provide linking forest between protected areas, CE’s and SMZ1’s within Bulkley’s protective network (see Biodiversity Indicator 1).

As stated in Bulkley LUP’s, it was intended that LRC’s be dominated by mature tree cover, and contain “functional old forest” that provides habitat connectivity and permits movement and dispersal of plant and animal species. “Functional old forest” is defined for analysis purposes as forest that is constrained such that 70% must be greater than 80 years old (i.e. up to 30% harvest is permitted within the LRC over an 80 year period). The harvest pattern must be generally distributed, in blocks of 3 hectares or less.

2.5.2 Measure:

Current status of LRC’s with respect to achieving a mature forest objective where 70% of the corridor must be greater than 80 years old.

2.5.3 Results and Discussion:

A GIS exercise was conducted to divide the LRC into logical individual corridors, and determine which of these corridors did or didn’t meet the mature forest objective. Figure 7 illustrates the results of this analysis.

Subsequent analysis revealed that the reason many corridors did not meet the mature forest objective was not because of recent harvest, but because early to mid seral forest was originally included in the LRC.

2.5.4 Recommendations

It has been recommended to licensees that no harvest be proposed in the corridors identified in yellow and red, until such time as the mature forest objective is achieved.

2.5.5 Data Sources:

- Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management. October 23, 2001. Biodiversity Indicators in the Bulkley Landscape Units; Part 1: Landscape Level Analysis.
- TSR3 dataset (includes forest cover data current to December 2000)
- Biodiversity Guidebook
- Bulkley Landscape Unit Plans

Figure 7 - Mature Forest Analysis in Landscape Corridors

