

## **Appendix V – OIFS Communication Strategy**

Communication and extension of information is vital to the success of the OIFS. Communication is also an integral part of the monitoring and feedback process as it provides agencies, licensees, First Nations, interest groups and the public with information on the achievements of the OIFS.

### **Strategy**

Communication will occur with many groups at different levels in order to be effective. OIFS recognizes the need to communicate with the following groups regarding the Okanagan OIFS:

- Major Forest Licensees operating in the Okanagan TSA
- OSLRMP Implementation and Monitoring Committee
- Ministry of Forests & Range
- Ministry of Environment
- Integrated Land Management Bureau
- Provincial level Forest Service representatives (i.e. Forest Analysis and Inventory Branch; Growth and Yield Specialists)
- Other IFPA holders
- First Nations
  - Okanagan Nations Alliance
    - Lower Similkameen Indian Band
    - Okanagan Indian Band
    - Osoyoos Indian Band
    - Penticton Indian Band
    - Upper Nicola Indian Band
    - Upper Similkameen Indian Band
    - Westbank Indian Band
  - Shuswap Nations Tribal Council
    - Adams Lake Indian Band
    - Little Shuswap Indian Band
    - Neskonlith Indian Band
    - Spats'n First Nation
- Community representatives in the Okanagan TSA
- Stakeholders
- General public
- Local media
- Interested resource professionals across the province

The communication strategy of OIFS will include the following:

### **Updates on the OIFS Web Site**

The OIFS web site ([www.okanagan-ifpa.org](http://www.okanagan-ifpa.org)) has been in effect since July 2001. The site will continue to contain updated information and announcements about the OIFS as information becomes available. It may provide a conduit for continuous input throughout the term of the IFPA. This Forestry Plan, the annual workplan, annual report, project results and newsletters will be posted on the site.

**Communication Bulletins**

The first OIFS newsletter was published in March, 2001 with the second following in October, 2001. These, and subsequent newsletters, will be posted on the IFPA web site at [www.okanagan-ifpa.org/news.html](http://www.okanagan-ifpa.org/news.html). The OIFS may publish similar newsletters semi-annually.

**Annual Project Review**

The OIFS will hold an annual review or “download session” in order to review the accomplishments for the past year and set the activities and projects for the coming year. This session may be used to set the OIFS’s business plan for the following year and may form a component of the monitoring and feedback process.

Annual work plans will be developed and provide details of projects and implementation procedures and will be consistent with the overall strategic direction of the Forestry Plan or Forestry Plan amendments as needed.

Annual work plans may be available for 30 day public review by February 28<sup>th</sup> of each year and may be considered major amendments to the Forestry Plan. The effective dates of the annual work plans are scheduled for April 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

Major amendments to the Forestry Plan will undergo advertisement and a 30 day public review process while minor amendments, those that are not significant and do not change the objectives or results of the plan, will not undergo the advertising and public review process.

**Media Package**

A media package will be developed to provide information pertaining to the intent, vision and activities of the OIFS.

**Contact list/ mailing list**

The OIFS has collated a contact and mailing list common to all the Society members. This contact list is based upon contacts used by the licensees in their advertising and notification phase of the forest stewardship planning process. This list will be used to notify interested and affected parties of general Okanagan IFPA activities.