



Tla'amin Nation
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BACKGROUND

Tla'amin-Led Integrated Resource Management Plan in Collaboration with Western Forest Products

HIGHLIGHTS

The Integrated Resource Management Plan (IRMP) is a coordinated plan for forest and environmental management across Tla'amin Territory. The development of the plan will be guided by **Respect** (*Tees tahm*) and Honour our Ancestors and our connection to the land and a sustainable future for our children. Tla'amin will lead the development of a values-based IRMP for its Territory that uses sound science, data, knowledge and information to:

- Designate culturally-important forests for citizen enjoyment
- Support fisheries and watershed renewal
- Consider the role of forests in the context of a changing climate
- Augment sustainable forest management practices and good stewardship of fish and water, riparian areas, wildlife and their habitat, biodiversity, cultural heritage, visual quality, and minimize windthrow/ blowdown, and
- Sustain a long-term presence of old forests and monumental cedar within Tla'amin territory.

In accordance with Tla'amin values, the elements described above will be appropriately balanced with the economic benefits that come from the forestry and a resource economy. Harvest, reserve and silviculture (e.g. reforestation) strategies will be developed and the outcome will be used to inform sustainable harvest levels and align the renewal of Forest Stewardship Plans across tenure boundaries.

For the portion of the Territory that overlaps TFL 39 Block 1, this plan will be completed in collaboration with Western Forest Products.

Old growth (>250 years) timber harvesting on Tla'amin tenures will be deferred while the IRMP planning process is underway.

OVERVIEW

- Forest ecosystems are inherently complex with many interconnected parts. The purpose of the Integrated Resource Management Plan is to put ALL of the things we need and value on the table at the same time so we can consider multiple options and make sure we are making informed choices that balance these values in a way that we can understand and agree to.
- The IRMP process that we are embarking on will not only help Tla'amin manage our own Treaty Lands and forest tenures, it will also bring us together with Western Forest Products to work collaboratively to further extend Tla'amin values to the sustainable management of forests across the Territory.
- The planning process will consider current management and support the development of strategies in the following categories:
 - Reserve – the ecological, cultural and other values we sustain
 - Harvest – the practices we employ
 - Silviculture – the forests we regenerate

The IRMP will allow Tla'amin to continue to educate, learn and review the sustainable harvest level for Treaty Lands while informing the process for AAC establishment within other crown tenures including TFL 39 Block 1.

The IRMP will be led by the Tla'amin government working in collaboration with Western Forest Products, with internal and external support from subject matter experts, qualified professionals and input from our citizens. Tla'amin citizens will have active participation in the IRMP.

- Key outcomes of the plan include:
 - **Forested Areas for Citizen Enjoyment and Use** – Understanding what is already available and ensuring some important areas are managed for use and enjoyment. This will ensure there are areas available for citizens to use for recreation, resource harvesting (for example, cedar, food plants and animals, traditional medicine) and the enjoyment of connecting with their lands.
 - **Monumental Cedar** – Valuing and forecasting the continued existence of old-growth forests within the Territory over the long-term.
 - **Environmental Research and Renewal** - Understanding and protecting fisheries and wildlife values to support Treaty Harvesting Rights. Strategies for research and restoration and a plan to approach it will be developed and budgeted through this work.

Through the IRMP, the current state of the Tla'amin Territory will be assessed for identified values. Detailed analysis and sophisticated tools will be employed to support decision-making

in the context of a changing climate. These tools will support our learning and lead to outcomes that augment current practices for good stewardship of fish and water, riparian areas, wildlife and their habitat, biodiversity, cultural heritage, visual quality while minimizing windthrow/blowdown.

Communication with other First Nations, regarding their interest to participate, within areas of shared territory will begin in the coming weeks.

This is a living document and may be revised based on input from Tla'amin citizens and other participants.

**For more information or to participate in the process, contact Rod Allan
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