

Mary Jo Hamey

I wish to add my comments to the HCHF conversation, as I was unable to attend the meeting in Midway. I own 90 acres along the Kettle River near Westbridge, BC.

I am concerned that a British Columbia's communities need to be able to understand the ecological communities in their area and their status. One way that the province measures ecosystem health, which is linked to community health, is through the red and blue lists of the Conservation Data Centre. <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/atrisk/red-blue.htm> The ecological communities on the provincial red and blue lists are linked to the site series of the Biogeoclimatic Classification system, which is entered into the harvest data recorded in the RESULTS data base whenever there is harvest on crown land under the Forest and Range Practices Act.

I suggest that you consider compiling as an indicator, the number of hectares harvested of each site series shown on the red and blue listed ecological community in BC since 2003. (When RESULTS data entry became mandatory under the Forest and Range Practices Act). A compilation of the amount of ecosystems at risk that is being harvested could be done from the RESULTS data base in any breakdown you choose. Talk to any of the RESULTS contacts in the regional offices of Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources Operations, and they can search the harvest data and compile the summaries you request. This will give you an indicator, a numerical accounting to see if harvesting is taking place within ecosystems that are at risk.

Government brought in the Biodiversity Guidebook <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/tasb/legsregs/fpc/fpcguide/biodiv/chap2a.htm#old> in 1995, with its aim to maintain biodiversity using coarse filter planning for ecosystem representation, but government never implemented the planning for conservation of ecosystems.

The indicator number of how much harvest we are doing on public land in site series associated with ecosystems at risk, may help focus the conservation part of your project. Once people understand that their forests are made up of ecological communities that may be at risk, and that ecosystems in a functioning state are needed for services such as clean air, moderation of water regimes, and biodiversity, then they can figure out how to structure a planning process with a goal to maintain ecological integrity for present and future generations.