

## **British Columbia Forests and Climate Change – What Can We Do?**

G. Utzig, MSc, PAg, with 35 years experience in environmental impact assessment, terrain and vegetation mapping, watershed analysis, habitat inventory and modeling, and a wide range of activities related to forest management and biodiversity protection.

K. Zielke, MSc, RPF, consultant with over 25 years of experience helping to improve forest management implementation and planning in BC, USA and Australia.

B. Bancroft, MSc, RPF, consultant with over 25 years of experience helping to improve forest management implementation and planning in BC, USA and Australia.

### **Abstract**

**Global climate change has already had significant impact on BC forest ecosystems, and is projected to have increasingly severe impacts, unless greenhouse gas emissions are rapidly reduced. The changes projected for BC forests, and the uncertainty these changes bring to forest managers and the rural communities associated with those forests, demand a new approach to forest management. The new approach needs to directly inform harvesting and retention levels, by shifting to a climate change adaptation framework that includes monitoring, risk assessment and adaptive management at both strategic and operational levels.**