



RESTORING BC'S FOREST LEGACY AND ENERGIZING THE FOREST SECTOR

Healthy Forests-Healthy Communities: A conversation on BC Forests

Final Report and Recommendations

February 2013

The reader's level of interest in this report is assisted by the following:

Overview, including recommendations – located in the Executive Summary

Process, strategic action plan, costs and benefits – located in the body of the report

Detailed ("How to do") recommendations – located in Appendix



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The growing concern about the future of BC forests in meeting the long-term societal expectations from a wide range of concerned citizens initiated the *Healthy Forests-Healthy Communities: A conversation on BC forests* initiative (HFHC)¹. The final report and recommendations are based on a forest management and associated land use dialogue with communities, experts and concerned citizens across BC over a two year period. The intent was to inform politicians of recommended strategic actions necessary to ensure the future forest will restore the BC forest legacy and energize the forest sector. Failure to manage forest lands through a long-term sustainability lens will result in a reduction in both investment and management of the forest asset leading to unacceptable levels of community economic development, family health and BC revenue. BC needs to change their focus to avoid a future crisis!

Many communities feel both left out of forest management decision-making and disappointed Government does not expedite delivery of commitments. This has generated a sense of frustration and helplessness in getting Government to listen and act. Government needs to reverse this situation and bring back community enthusiasm regarding BC forests and reap the associated benefits.

Communities, experts and concerned citizens have said they want a change in focus. It should be long-term stewardship and away from the current emphasis on short-term economics. In addition, communities need to have more say in the future of their local forest lands.

A series of 13 nested recommendations are presented, to be delivered over 10 years, as a *Strategic Action Plan* implemented in two phases (0-5 years; 5-10 years). They are directed to investing in the forest asset through actions regarding long-term stewardship and community involvement, including:

¹ A non-partisan, volunteer supported initiative to provide an opportunity for communities and concerned citizens to inform decision-makers of their views and concerns regarding the management of BC forest lands



Long-term stewardship

- Legislated principles, vision and goals to guide BC forest lands decision-making
- Reliable and trustworthy forest resources inventories to base decisions upon
- Protecting forests from wildfire, insects and disease, regenerating disturbed or harvested lands and increasing forest productivity to move towards creating healthy forests
- Adequate and trusted information on the condition of the forest
- A stable forest lands research program to fill knowledge gaps relative to minimizing current and future stresses on BC forests

Community involvement

- Providing resources and laws for communities to develop local forest visions to guide decision-making
- Establishing policies that generate real influence by communities in local forest decision-making
- Establishing a Government emphasis on community economic diversification
- Establishing policies to integrate community needs with local forest management and land use decisions

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The success of HFHC has been due to the efforts and contributions by a large number of volunteers and people concerned about the future of BC forest lands. The following are recognized for their contributions:

- The many volunteers across the Province who contributed to writing expert papers, organizing Community Dialogue Sessions and Expert and Community Workshops. Without the commitment of these individuals to provide their time and expertise to the grassroots initiative, this input into forest lands decision-making would not have been possible.
- The many people who are concerned enough regarding the future of BC forest lands to take time to share their views by attending the Community Dialogue Sessions, Expert and Community Workshops or submitting comments through the website and/or media articles.
- The members of the Advisory Team, the Website Management Team and the Strategic and Administrative Advisory Team for their work, advice and assistance.
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- Personal appreciation to the leadership of the BC2 Network, CommonsBC and BC Forest Society initiatives who provided the collaboration, inspirational support and encouragement throughout.
- The many community businesses and organizations who contributed in-kind services and money to facilitate the holding of the Community Dialogue Sessions and Community Workshops. The HFHC would not have been possible without their contributions.

- The following organizations who provided financial and in-kind assistance:

Cash	In-kind
Vancouver Foundation	Canadian Institute of Forestry
Real Estate Foundation of BC	BC Forest Society
BC Government Employees Union	Cariboo Regional District
Western Canada Sustainable Forestry Initiative Implementation Committee	Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Reserve
Pacific Salmon Foundation	Outdoor Recreation Council
PRT Growing Services Ltd	Association of BC Forest Professionals
BC Wildlife Federation	Fraser Basin Council
Professional Employees Association	Society of Consulting Foresters of BC
Anonymous industry organization	Royal Roads University
Anonymous private BC foundation	BC Forest Practices Board
Anonymous Aboriginal organization	Simon Fraser University School of Resource and Environmental Management
	Simon Fraser University Centre for Sustainable Community Development
	Selkirk College School of Environment and Geomatics
	Thompson Rivers University Department of Natural Resource Science
	University of BC Faculty of Forestry
	University of Northern BC (NRES)
	Vancouver Island University Department of Forest Resources Technology

DEFINITIONS

The following definitions were used in this report.

Community (Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal)

People with common interests living in a particular area e.g., town, village, regional district or combination as determined locally.

Community resilience

The combined abilities to deal with and bounce back from disturbances and shocks, adapt to change, and be proactive, forward-looking and self-determining, rather than just reactive and outside-determined, to create a desirable future.

Cumulative effects

Changes to the environment that are caused by an action in combination with other past, present, and future human actions.

Ecological integrity

The abundance and diversity of organisms at all levels, and the ecological patterns, processes, and structural attributes responsible for that biological diversity and for ecosystem resilience.

Ecosystem services

The benefits that people derive from the ecosystem, such as the production of goods (e.g., food, fiber, water, fuel, genetic resources, pharmaceuticals, etc); regeneration processes (e.g., purification of air and water, seed dispersal and pollination); stabilizing processes (e.g., erosion control, moderation of weather extremes); life-fulfilling functions (e.g., aesthetic beauty, cultural value); and conservation of options (e.g., maintenance of ecological systems for the future).

Forest certification

A market-based instrument aimed at promoting sustainable forest management that takes into account environmental, economic and social issues. It involves the independent assessment of forest management according to internationally (or nationally) accepted standards, and the tracking and monitoring of the supply of forest products to the market place. If the forest management is in compliance with a set of specified standards, and the timber from this forest has been tracked and

accounted for through all stages of the production process, then it can be given a label which is recognized in the market place.

Forest management

The branch of forestry concerned with the overall administrative, economic, legal and social aspects, especially silviculture, protection and forest regulation.

Forest management sector

Companies and organizations associated with the various aspects of forest management (e.g., silviculture contractors, seedling nurseries, forest planning consultants, etc)

Forest management system

The entire package of legislation, policies, organization and administration for the management of all forest resource values.

Forest management treatments

Forest activities including silviculture treatments, forest planning, ecosystem restoration, forest harvesting, etc.

Forest management unit

An area of forest land managed as a unit for fiber production and other renewable resources. The unit can be the entire province or territory, a provincial forest management subdivision, an industrial timber limit, etc. In BC it is mainly a TFL, FL chart area or TSA.

Forest sector

Governments, conservation and environmental groups, woodlot owners, First Nations, urban forestry interests, lumber and pulp and paper producers and value-added industries, forest-reliant communities, the recreation and tourism industries, and other entities of the economy (including the energy, chemical, and pharmaceutical industries) that derive wealth and well-being from forest resources.

Forest sustainability

The capacity of forests, ranging from stands to ecoregions, to maintain their health, productivity, diversity, and overall integrity, in the long run, in the context of human activity and use. The concept of producing a biological resource under management practices that ensure replacement of the part harvested, by re-growth or reproduction, before another harvest occurs.

Inventory

A survey of an area to determine data for management of the resource or value.

Healthy community

A community that includes those elements that enable people to maintain a high quality of life and productivity.

Healthy forest

A condition of forest ecosystems that sustains their complexity in function, diversity, and resiliency of all its components, such as wildlife and fish habitat, riparian areas, soils, water, rangelands and economic potential, over the long-term.

Local forest lands

Lands that contribute through their values (e.g., ecosystem services, timber, fish, wildlife, non-timber forest resources, etc) to the socio-economics of a community or group of communities. A Regional District may be considered for planning and communications.

Non-timber forest resources

Any commodity obtained from the forest that does not necessitate harvesting trees. It includes game animals, fur-bearers, nuts and seeds, berries, mushrooms, oils, foliage, medicinal plants, peat, fuelwood, forage, recreation, tourism, etc.

Private managed forest land

Privately owned forest land where there is a management commitment and classified as managed forest land under the *BC Assessment Act*.

Silviculture

Practices aimed at ensuring wise harvesting of forest resources, such as conservation, regeneration, reforestation, cutting, etc.

Stewardship

The science, art and skill of responsible and accountable management of resources.

Sustainable forest management

Management that maintains and enhances the long-term health of forest ecosystems for the benefit of all living things while providing environmental, economic, social and cultural opportunities for present and future generations.



ACCRONYMS

AAC – Allowable Annual Cut

ABC FP – Association of BC Forest Professionals

BCTS – BC Timber Sales

FL – Volume-based Forest License

FNWL - First Nations Woodland Licenses

FRPA – Forest and Range Practices Act

FSP – Forest Stewardship Plans

HFHC – Healthy Forests – Healthy Communities: A conversation on BC Forests

LBIS – Land Based Investment Strategy

MPB – Mountain Pine Beetle

NTFP – Non-Timber Forest Products

NTFR – Non-Timber Forest Resources

SFM – Sustainable Forest Management

TFL – Tree Farm License

TSA – Timber Supply Area

UBCM – Union of BC Municipalities



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RESTORING BC's FOREST LEGACY AND ENERGIZING THE FOREST SECTOR

HFHC DEVELOPMENT

Importance of forests

British Columbia (BC) forests are responsible for 29% of the provincial Gross Domestic Product (GDP), generating 81,000 (2006) direct and 189,000 indirect jobs. BC is currently and expected to continue to be a resource exporting Province. The rural communities produce 71% of the Provincial GDP and 321% more per capita in export value compared to metropolitan areas. This suggests both rural and urban dwellers should be concerned about the future of BC forests for economic reasons.

Communities have been confronted with a major change due to world markets, climate change, and decline in dominance of the commodity forest products industry. This has generated considerable discussion regarding community diversification and moving into higher value products from the forest as well as non-timber forest resources, ecosystem services (e.g., carbon and biodiversity) markets and forest and wilderness based tourism. The challenge has been to capitalize on the very positive position of rural communities to achieve resilience through diversification.

The importance of forests to the well-being of people has been demonstrated through research around the world (e.g., Asia, Europe, etc) for some time. In Asia, exposure to forest air is accepted as good for your health. It has also been demonstrated that exposure to forests is valuable in the treatment of children with poor self-discipline, hyperactivity and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. It has been shown to be effective in people coping with anxiety and stress, implementation of strategies to reduce crime and aggression and elderly care treatment for dementia. In addition, forests offer "positive aspects such as having the resources and capacity to cope with the strains of everyday living; having a purpose and meaning in life so that we can add value to our world." Consequently, it is critical to have well managed forests to contribute to personal health of BC residents and to BC communities.



Healthy ecosystems provide human needs such as ecosystem services (e.g., high quality water supplies, fish and wildlife habitat, flood control, food, carbon sequestration, etc). Maintaining BC ecosystems in a healthy state is critical to delivering the BC resident expectations from BC forest lands, including social and economic values. In a recent multi-stakeholder report on BC biodiversity (*Taking Nature's Pulse: the Status of Biodiversity in British Columbia, 2008*), the main message was the natural environment is still relatively healthy. However, the natural resource values are very much at threat and will rapidly deteriorate unless we take steps now to reverse some of the most disturbing and damaging trends. The management of BC forest lands is critical to preventing this loss.

As BC public lands represent 94% of the Province, British Columbians expect the Provincial Government to manage these lands in the public's best interest, specifically, the protection of social, cultural and economic values over the long-term and the provision of products and services for the benefit of all BC residents. The forests are the cornerstone of the forest industry and without sustainability of this asset the companies cannot capitalize on the manufacturing and exporting that generate revenue, create jobs and contribute to community resiliency. The demands can be summarized in the overall goal of achieving healthy and resilient communities (Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal), which depend on conservation and use of healthy forests, commonly reflected in the practice of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM).

It is critical to have well managed forests to contribute to personal health of BC residents and to BC communities

Concern over future BC forests

There has been a growing concern among professional foresters and biologists, conservationists, academics, community leaders, forest sector support companies and First Nations that BC forests need greater attention to meet societal expectations over the long-term. **It is incumbent upon Government and the forest industry to continually hear the views and needs of communities and concerned citizens regarding the delivery of healthy forests and subsequently healthy communities**

Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) is the concept currently being used to demonstrate forests will provide the long-term social, cultural, environmental and economic expectations of BC residents



expected by the public. This requires the management of BC forest lands for all forest values, not just timber.

Government and the forest industry have for some time used the concept of SFM to assure their customers and BC residents the long-term social, cultural, environmental and economic expectations will be realized. They have declared they are practicing SFM on BC forest lands. The claim of this practice cannot be taken lightly and has to be demonstrated to accepted international standards such as those arising from the *Montreal Process*². Concerned citizens have been questioning whether forest management practices over the last decade can support this position. Demonstrating this commitment appears to have been diminished in priority and overtaken by short-term economic decision-making. Without a long-term forest stewardship focus, it is a matter of time before this short-term focus to forest management will become the norm. It is too important for the well-being of BC residents to allow this to happen.

HFHC initiation

The growing concern over the need of greater attention to meet societal expectations over the long-term began in 2009 and continued through 2010. These conversations identified a number of initiatives being planned to raise the issues to the public and decision-makers (e.g., *CommonsBC*, *BC2 Network*, *BC Forestry Society*, *Social Ecology Institute of BC*, *BCGEU Dialogue initiative*). There was a forest management gap in the focus of these initiatives. However, there was also a willingness of all the leaders to share ideas and inform one another of their individual activities. This gap and willingness to collaborate along with conversations and comments from interested parties generated the initiation, in January 2011, of the ***Healthy Forests-Healthy Communities: A conversation on BC forests*** initiative (HFHC)³.

The HFHC concept would aim to inform decision-makers of the people's vision for the forest lands of BC and identify areas for improving long-term sustainable management

² Internationally accepted criteria and indicators to measure sustainable forest management

³ A non-partisan, volunteer supported initiative to provide an opportunity for communities and concerned citizens to inform decision-makers of their views and concerns regarding the management of BC forest lands

Purpose

The purpose of HFHC was to provide an opportunity for communities and concerned citizens to inform decision-makers of their views and concerns regarding the management of BC forests.

Goals

The HFHC goals were:

- To raise the profile of forest management for inclusion in the political party platforms leading up to the 2013 provincial election
- To inform decision-makers on communities' vision for BC forest lands, including local or regional perspectives and issues

Operating Principles

HFHC operations were guided by the following principles:

- Discussion will focus on the HFHC draft BC forest lands vision
- Activities will be respectful and non-partisan
- Activities will seek to integrate perspectives on the communities' needs from BC's forest lands in the future, balancing ecosystem integrity and socio-economics
- Messages will be based on supporting evidence, analyses and expert opinion
- Expert or personal opinions will be clearly identified
- Outputs will not be developed or presented as a campaign for any single interest

Organization

The HFHC initiative was organized with the following components:

- **Coordinator** with the responsibility of soliciting volunteers and financial contributions, organizing all phases of the initiative, promoting recommendations and reporting progress

Volunteers were the
backbone of the
initiative

- **Advisory Team** providing advice to the Coordinator from perspectives ranging from forest practitioners, forest industry, conservationists, academics, First Nations, community and forestry advocates, youth, environmental law, media
- **Website Team** to assist in the development and management of the website and social media
- **Strategic and Administrative Team** to assist with editing, advertising, media, etc
- **Partners and supporters** providing financial and non-financial support
- **Volunteers** with perspectives ranging from professional foresters and biologists, conservationists, forest industry, First Nations, community advocates, environmental lawyers, academics, outdoor recreationists, natural resource consultants, etc. contributing their time and expertise

Process

The HFHC concept was designed to both inform decision-makers of the people's vision for the forest lands of BC through dialogue and identify areas for improving long-term sustainable management to achieve the provincial, community and family goals. The initiative was to be non-partisan and volunteer-supported in creating a dialogue with natural resource experts and local communities (including members of the forest and biology professions, Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals, community advocates, conservationists, academics, youth and other concerned citizens). Scientific data was to be captured through involvement of academics and natural resource experts. The concept and process are schematically presented in Figure 1.

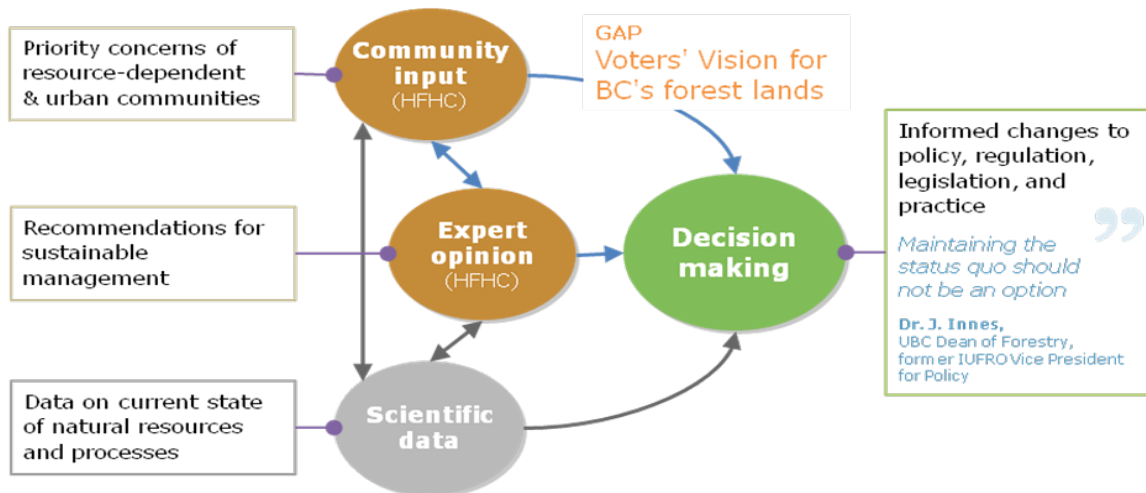


Figure 1 HFHC process to provide decision-makers with expert and public opinion. Courtesy of AGE Consulting and Cortex Consultants Inc.

The process included two phases.

Phase 1

Background information in the form of **Briefs** from experts in the various fields of forest management regarding the status of BC natural resources and their concerns for SFM were developed. This information was intended to assist and stimulate citizen dialogue in developing a vision for BC forest lands that can be used by decision-makers, Aboriginals and stakeholders.

The community views were obtained through **Community Dialogue Sessions** held in communities across BC to identify and register their concerns for their vision and the future of BC forest lands intended to help shape legislation, regulations, policies and forest practices for SFM in BC and continue to protect social and environmental values.

The plan was to joining together the views of experts and citizens on the preferred future of the Province's forest resources to provide vital information to support provincial and local economies, enhance community resilience and create lasting natural resource policies for forest lands management in the Province. This information would inform decision-making in ensuring healthy forests and healthy communities for a brighter BC future.

Phase 2

The issues, challenges and vision for BC forest lands generated in Phase 1 were used to formulate a series of **Expert Workshops** to develop specific recommended actions for decision-makers to ensure BC forest lands will be capable of providing the desired goods and services for the Province, its communities and BC residents, now and in the future. A selection of communities were asked to subject the recommendations from the Expert Workshops to a community lens during **Community Workshops**. The outcomes of the Workshops were used to develop a final set of recommendations and specific “how to” recommended actions formulated into a **Strategic Action Plan**.

The HFHC focus is on forest management leading to a future forest that provides the desired goods and services over the long-term

STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

The *Strategic Action Plan (Plan)* is based on input from communities and concerned citizens across British Columbia (BC), and Provincial experts. **The focus of the dialogue was on forest lands management and associated land use.**

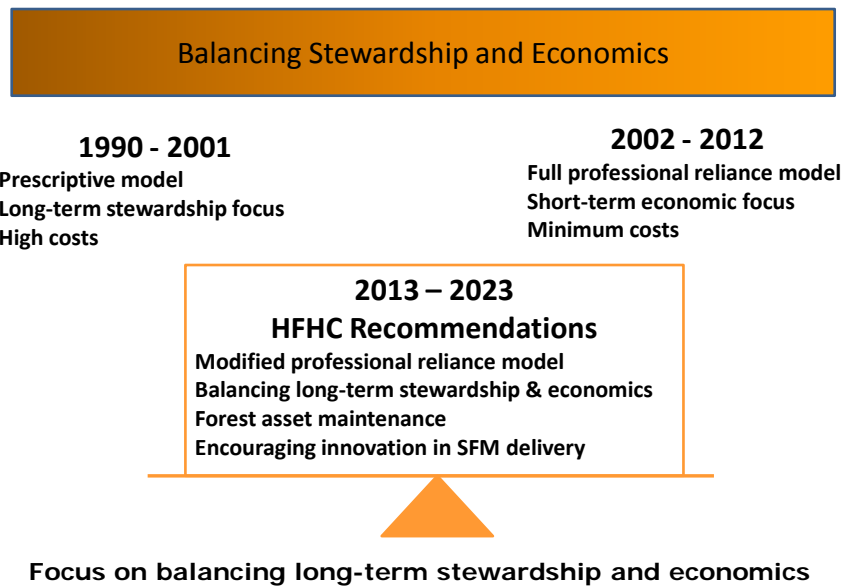
PURPOSE

The purpose of the *Plan* was to generate dialogue among politicians, industry, professionals, communities, First Nations and other interested parties regarding the actions needed to ensure BC forest lands will be capable of providing the desired goods and services for the Province, its communities and BC residents, now and in the future. **The immediate focus was to capitalize on the upcoming 2013 provincial election to generate this dialogue and assist political parties in developing election platforms.**

THE PLAN

Leadership from Government, Opposition Parties, industry and professionals is essential to restore the BC forest legacy and energize the forest sector. Their commitment to collaborate and build partnerships will be required to achieve long-term sustainability. This necessitates a strategic and focused approach involving identification of a vision and a set of goals and targets for BC forests to guide decisions and strategic actions and measure progress towards the vision.

The *Plan* consists of a series of **nested recommendations as part of a 10 year strategy** to address the problem statement. It is recognized that some concerned citizens would like to have the actions taken as soon as possible. **However, when the current economic situation of the Province and the industry are considered, the actions need to be measured, prioritized and structured for achieving long-term stewardship and not short-term economics so as to protect forest sector jobs and provide forest lands public services over the long term.**



The *Plan* outlines the priority recommended actions with specific “how to” action recommendations in Appendix 1. **It is recognized that tenure, climate change**

and watershed management (water and hydrology) are related to many of the aspects of forest lands management. These topics require thorough discussions in their own right and need to be addressed through other integrated processes. Also, it is expected climate change and watershed management will be considered throughout the recommendations, where appropriate. The recommendations are intended to work within the existing tenure system, although, reform may make it easier regarding implementation in some instances.

The *Plan* is a series of nested recommendations

The six major components of the *Plan* are:

- 1) Identifying the Sustainable Forest Management principles, provincial and local visions and goals, strategies, forest management framework, public involvement processes and supporting laws and policies to guide BC forest lands management
- 2) Employing land use, forest management, forest resources inventories and economic support laws and policies to increase community diversification
- 3) Involving communities in strategic, local forest lands management decision-making
- 4) Ensuring resource inventories, monitoring and assessments provide reliable knowledge on the state of the forest, its values and its resources
- 5) Conducting priority forest management treatments to meet local and provincial forest lands visions and goals
- 6) Ensuring a vibrant forest lands research sector exists to support long-term forest management, community resiliency and forest sector competitiveness

Implementing the *Plan* requires initial preparation of a communications plan to inform interested parties and solicit input from key sources. This *Plan* is intended to be efficient, effective, non-political and informative. **Many communities feel left out of the decision-making and Government does not expedite delivery of commitments. This has generated a sense of frustration and helplessness in getting Government to listen and act.**

PLAN STRATEGY

The *Plan* strategy is to build on appropriate existing instruments, practices and conditions that support moving towards the vision and removing those that do not and moving forward in addressing identified priority issues.

The recommended strategy consists of prioritizing actions into two phases.

Phase 1 (0-5 years) strategic actions

- Build a long-term forest stewardship based SFM infrastructure
- Establish targets for each of the short and long-term goals
- Begin silviculture treatments to restore forest health and meet community needs
- Create mechanisms to encourage private and public investment in the forest asset
- Create an environment to diversify the local forest sector in forest dependent communities using local forest resources
- Maintenance and/or creation of a forest culture in forest dependent communities
- Establish and implement mechanisms to demonstrate the practice of SFM
- Monitor progress towards goal targets for use in evaluation for Phase 2 strategic actions

Phase 2 (5-10 years) strategic actions

- Enhance the utilization of the forest stewardship based SFM infrastructure to achieve the goals
- Enhance the silviculture treatments to restore forest health and create vibrant forest stands while meeting community needs
- Continue to encourage private and public investments in enhancing the forest asset
- Continue to build community resiliency and sustainability through a diversified local forest sector
- Continue to build a forest culture in forest dependent communities
- Make SFM demonstration progress a normal practice

SFM INFRASTRUCTURE

The SFM infrastructure guides development of legislative and regulatory tools, decisions regarding the management of BC forest lands and provides the basis for monitoring and assessment tools such as status of BC forests, forest certification, etc. The infrastructure is based on adoption of natural resource management or SFM principles. It includes a vision, goals, forest management framework, forest practices, public and community involvement processes and supporting laws and policies.

Some components of a SFM infrastructure exist in the form of legislation and associated regulations (e.g., *Forest Act, Ministry of Forests Act, Foresters Act, Forest and Range Practices Act, etc*), Government policies (e.g., tenure system, appraisal system, stumpage system, etc) and Ministry strategies and programs, etc. However, the concerns of many BC citizens suggest these are either inadequate, contain critical gaps or not fully implemented to deliver on the desired future forest. **In instances where appropriate existing programs, statements, etc can be used or modified to achieve the desired outcome, their use is encouraged.** "Starting from square one" should be avoided, whenever possible.

The recommendations within this Strategic Action Plan are intended to address the priority actions related to forest management identified by experts and communities.

A SFM infrastructure begins with the adoption of resource management principles and identification of a forest lands vision and goals with targets. The following vision was developed through the consultation processes and used to develop the *Plan* recommendations:

Vision – long-term sustainability

British Columbia's forest lands asset is protected, managed and restored to:

- Ensure the health, protection and long-term viability of forest values;
- Support healthy, diverse and resilient communities; and
- Support viable and sustainable forest sector community businesses.

Long-term Goals

The long-term goals to achieve the vision are:

- A productive, resilient and healthy BC forest
- Demonstrated practice of SFM based on up-to-date data, science and planning
- Effective and efficient strategic forest lands decision-making process involving First Nations, stakeholders and communities
- Forest management that contributes to community identified local-regional forest lands needs
- A vibrant and innovative forest management sector

All recommendations were developed through input from experts and modified as necessary during community reviews

Short-term goals

There are three (3) priority short-term goals to begin restoring the BC forest legacy and energizing the forest sector:

- 1) Develop a SFM infrastructure;
- 2) Deliver priority needs of communities; and
- 3) Demonstrate long-term forest stewardship.

PHASE 1 RECOMMENDATIONS (0–5 years)

The recommendations are based on the HFHC dialogue input and intended to:

- Build on current BC SFM instruments,
- Fill gaps in achieving long-term sustainability of BC forest lands,
- Identify priority actions to move from a focus on short-term economics to long-term stewardship, and
- Move towards community resilience.

Delivery of the products from the recommended actions will, in many cases, require consultation with key experts, stakeholders, First Nations and communities in the specific fields to refine the detailed actions. The following are recommended strategic actions and associated objectives for each of the three (3) short-term goals.

1) Goal - Develop a SFM infrastructure

Objective – To update existing or create new laws, regulations and policies to improve long-term stewardship guidance to forest regulators, managers and communities

Recommendations

- a) **Provincial structural instruments** – *adopt provincial resource management and extraction principles, a forest lands vision, goals and targets and a flexible and “living” forest management system that will guide long-term forest stewardship decision-making*
- b) **Local structural instruments** – *establish laws and policies to enable communities to influence strategic, local, long-term forest stewardship decisions*
- c) **Forest asset investment** - *provide laws and policies to increase stable, long-term forest stewardship funding*

2) Goal - Deliver priority needs of communities

Objective – To provide laws, regulations and policies that both increase community influence in decision-making and capitalize on the use of existing and potential forest products from local forest lands

Recommendations

- a) **Community or Regional District economic diversification** – *develop an integrated forest-products-finance system to support long-term, stable community economic diversification opportunities*
- b) **Community forest culture** – *embark upon a forest knowledge extension initiative to develop and maintain a community forest culture*
- c) **Community influence on decisions** – *provide the necessary laws and policies enabling communities to influence strategic, local, long-term forest stewardship decisions*

3) Goal - Demonstrate long-term forest stewardship

Objective – To provide laws, regulations and policies that both increase community influence in decision-making and capitalize on the use of existing and potential forest products from local forest lands

Recommendations

- a) **Community or Regional District economic diversification** – *develop an integrated forest-products-finance system to support long-term, stable community economic diversification opportunities*
- b) **Wildfire management actions** – *provide resources and policies to increase wildfire protection for communities*
- c) **Pest management actions** – *increase protection of susceptible forest stands to insect and disease attack*
- d) **Strategic forest resources inventories**⁴ - *provide up-to-date forest resources foundational information for long-term forest stewardship decision-making*
- e) **Monitoring and assessment system** – *develop a transparent and trustworthy monitoring and assessment system to demonstrate the status of BC forests moving towards achieving the provincial and community vision and goals*
- f) **Forest lands research** – *provide resources for a stable and world recognized research sector to fill priority knowledge gaps relative to achieving the provincial and community visions and goals*
- g) **Fish and wildlife habitat management and restoration actions** – *provide the resources to restore habitats necessary to achieve the provincial vision and goals*

The recommended detailed actions for each of the strategic action recommendations are presented in Appendix 1 (Specific “how to” action recommendations).

⁴ Operational resource inventory costs will be the responsibility of resourced licensees

PHASE 1 RECOMMENDED ACTION TIMELINES

Table 1 identifies the estimated timelines recommended schedule of proposed Phase 1 strategic actions.

Table 1 Estimated timelines for Phase 1 actions

Goal	Action #	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Years 6-10
1	Provincial structural instruments development						
	Private forest lands consultations						
	Local structural instruments development						
	Forest asset investment mechanisms researched						
2	Community economic diversification encouraged						
	Community forest culture created						
	Community influence mechanisms process						
	Community influence pilots						
	Community influence implementation						
3	Forest Management unit paradigm shift development						
	Forest management unit priority silviculture treatments						
	Pest management actions						
	Wildfire hazard management						
	Forest inventory developed						
	Fish and wildlife inventory developed						
	Recreation inventory developed						
	Non-timber forest resources inventory planning						
	Non-timber forest resources inventory developed						
	Monitoring and assessment system developed						
	Monitoring and assessment implemented						
	Forest lands research conducted						
	Fish and wildlife habitat management-restoration						

PHASE 2 RECOMMENDED ACTIONS (5–10 years)

Phase 2 strategic actions will build on the Phase 1 outcomes and progress as well as any new priority issues that arise. It is recommended Phase 2 priority actions be determined after a four (4) year review of the status of achieving the goals and targets of Phase 1 action plan.

BENEFITS

The 10 year *Plan* is expected to result in the following benefits:

- Major forest resources contributions to healthy communities and families
- Generation of increased provincial revenue over the long-term
- Community resiliency and sustainability
- Jobs in forest management, manufacturing, technology development, research, skills training, etc
- Protection of forest resources values
- Increased forest lands asset value for the future
- Increased First Nations integration into the forest sector and economic development
- Protection of public resources and services (e.g., ecosystem services, water, etc)
- Increased innovation and technology development and implementation to meet SFM requirements efficiently and effectively

ESTIMATED COSTS

The delivery of the *Plan* consists of re-focusing Government direction, re-assignment of staff and allocation of incremental funds (compared to the 2012-13 Ministry budget). The cost estimates associated with the latter are shown in Tables 2 and 3. Options are presented regarding the funding of forest inventory and forest lands research with the preferred being endowments or trusts (Table 2) with a progressive reduction in annual budget allocations over the next five (5) years. Table 3 presents the costs if endowments or Trusts are not adopted. The expectation is BC will enter into BC-Canada joint funding agreements for community diversification (\$40 million/year) and wildfire risk treatments and research (\$32 million/year).

Potential off-set funding sources, other than general revenue, include:

- Research endowment(s) funded by Government, forest industry, philanthropists and not-for-profit Foundations
- “Sustainability Fund” intended to support renewable resource assets generated from a portion of the Government revenue received from non-renewable resources extraction (e.g., mining, oil and gas)
- Tax on log exports from Crown lands to support community diversification

Table 2 Cost estimates associated with the Plan implementation - Option 1 with endowments/trusts

PHASE 1 ACTIONS – COSTS ⁵ (\$ M)								PHASE 2 ACTIONS (\$ M/yr)
Goal	Action Area	Endowment Option	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Years 6-10
1	Provincial structural instruments		1.1	1.1				
	Professional reliance		0.4					
	Private forest lands consultations				0.3			
	Forest asset investment mechanisms		TBD	TBD				
2	Community economic diversification		30.8	30.8	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0
	Community forest culture		0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
	Community influence mechanisms		1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
3	Forest management unit paradigm shift development		0.5					
	Forest management unit priority silviculture treatments			TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
	Pest management		2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
	Wildfire hazard management		16.0	16.0	16.0	16.0	16.0	16.0
	Forest inventory	Annual budget	3.5	1.1				0
		Endowment budget	48.0	48.0	48.0	48.0	48.0	0
	Fish and wildlife inventory		4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
	Recreation inventory		1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
	NTRF planning		0.3					0.5
	NTRF implementation			0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	
	Monitoring and assessment system development		0.3	0.3				
	Monitoring and assessment system implementation				TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
	Forest lands research	Annual budget	15.0	12.0	9.0	6.0	3.0	3.0 (1 year only)
		Endowment budget	75.0	60.0	60.0	60.0	60.0	0
	Fish and wildlife habitat management-restoration		15.2	15.2	15.2	15.2	15.2	15.2
Totals			202.4	193.6	190.3	184.3	181.3	

⁵ Incremental costs compared to 2012-13 Ministry budget allocations and assumption BC-Canada agreements exist of \$20 million/year and \$1 million/year for community diversification and wildfire research respectively

Table 3 Cost estimates associated with the *Plan* implementation – Option 2 – no endowments/trusts

PHASE 1 ACTIONS – COSTS ⁶ (\$ M)								PHASE 2 ACTIONS (\$ M/yr)
Goal	Action Area	Endowment Option	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Years 6-10
1	Provincial structural instruments		1.1	1.1				
	Professional reliance		0.4					
	Private forest lands consultations				0.3			
	Forest asset investment mechanisms		TBD	TBD				
2	Community economic diversification		30.8	30.8	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0
	Community forest culture		0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
	Community influence mechanisms		1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
3	Forest management unit paradigm shift development		0.5					
	Forest management unit priority silviculture treatments			TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
	Pest management		2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
	Wildfire hazard management		16.0	16.0	16.0	16.0	16.0	16.0
	Forest inventory		3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5
	Fish and wildlife inventory		4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
	Recreation inventory		1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
	NTFR planning		0.3					0.5
	NTFR implementation			0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	
	Monitoring and assessment system development		0.3	0.3				
Monitoring and assessment system implementation				TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	
	Forest lands research		15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0
	Fish and wildlife habitat management-restoration		15.2	15.2	15.2	15.2	15.2	15.2
Totals			91.7	91.0	89.1	88.8	88.8	

⁶ Incremental costs compared to 2012-13 Ministry budget allocations and assumption BC-Canada agreements exist of \$20 million/year and \$1 million/year for community diversification and wildfire research respectively

LONG-TERM SUCCESS MEASURES

The following are suggested performance measures to assess progress in achieving the long-term goals.

- 1) All forest-dependent communities in the Province are able to utilize the forest in ways that meet both their current and future needs from a sustainably managed forest;
- 2) A provincial monitoring system capable and regularly utilized in determining the conservation status of all species and ecosystems;
- 3) A full range of environmental values, enabling the use of the land base by multiple groups with seemingly conflicting objectives;
- 4) An effective public consultation process in place and operating for the management of public lands;
- 5) A flexible forest planning system that allows for adaptation to unknowns, such as natural events;
- 6) All forests managed to spatially and temporally specific strategic plans that addressed all aspects of SFM and moved towards stated forest visions and goals;
- 7) A forest sector that attracts more young people than it can accommodate;
- 8) Forest management decisions based on up-to-date, comprehensive, inventory information and utilizing the best available science;
- 9) A diverse array of forest products manufacturers, ranging from low-cost suppliers of commodity materials through a range of value-added industries to high-end manufacturers that maximize the value of the wood being harvested in the Province;
- 10) BC forest able to support jobs in all rural communities and in many urban centers;
- 11) A vibrant research sector capable of generating new ideas and products, enhancing the competitiveness of the sector and capable of conducting research and monitoring to ensure SFM practices, including research that incorporates community values;
- 12) Genuine innovators present in BC ready to introduce new processes, products and practices to the Province.

APPENDIX 1 – Specific “how to” action recommendations

1) Goal - Develop a SFM infrastructure

Objective – To update existing or create new laws, regulations and policies to improve long-term stewardship guidance to forest regulators, managers and communities

Recommendations

- a) **Provincial structural instruments** – *adopt provincial resource management and extraction principles, a forest lands vision, goals and targets and a flexible and “living” forest management system that will guide long-term forest stewardship decision-making*
- i) Government to convene a provincial panel of recognized leaders in forest resources management, environmental conservation, community advocacy and First Nations that are widely respected for their professional and independent judgment to:
- (1) Update or establish natural resource or SFM principles and interpretations⁷ for the protection and management of BC forest lands and use as a test of all existing and new forest stewardship related legislation, policies, administrative structures and processes
 - (2) Draft a provincial forest lands vision and goals, with targets, that includes:
 - (a) Incorporation of previously identified local values (i.e., identified through land use plans)
 - (b) Providing guidance to laws and policies, community forest lands visions and provide clarity for operating practices decision-making
 - (3) Design a public consultation process to obtain input into the draft vision and goals before sending to Government for adopting, approval and incorporation into legislation and regulations

⁷ An example is presented in Appendix 2

- ii) Government to finalize and implement the provincial structural instruments by:
 - (1) Implementing a public consultation process related to the finalization of the natural resource or SFM principles
 - (2) Formally adopting a provincial vision statement and incorporation into legislation and regulation
 - (3) Directing Ministry staff and the forest industry to use the vision in conjunction with the SFM principles in developing and reviewing legislation, regulation, policies and operating practices
 - (4) Requiring communities or Regional Districts to utilize the vision in developing local forest lands vision statements
 - (5) Requiring forest managers and regulators to use community or Regional District vision and goals in strategic planning and decision-making
 - (6) Ensuring existing laws are consistent with the delivery of the SFM principles and provincial vision using the normal Government process of regulatory review
- iii) Government to update the current land use and forest management planning system to ensure it is an open flexible and “living” system, preferably based on watersheds, that:
 - (1) Includes funding and expertise support for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, in developing a vision for the local forests and subsequent land use designations
 - (2) Includes funding to assist communities in developing working groups, advisory committees, etc to monitor and advise Municipal Governments on forestry issues
 - (3) Utilizes updated Government and First Nations land use plans and other instruments, such as Beetle Action Coalition strategies, but not involving the “opening up” of land use plans
 - (4) Evaluates constraints on land use zones that are supported by science and innovative in nature
 - (5) Allows for adaptation to unknowns, such as natural events
 - (6) Continually questions the current and changing state of the forest and associated resources and utilizes adaptive management principles
 - (7) Includes a SFM framework that:
 - (a) Is consistent with the SFM principles
 - (b) Includes a definition of SFM to guide management planning

- (c) Utilizes provincial and community visions, goals and performance measures in SFM planning
 - (d) Balances the maintenance of ecological integrity with protection and maintenance of socio-economic forest values and targets
 - (e) Requires developing and communicating spatially and temporally explicit strategic landscape level plans for all management units in an open and transparent manner
 - (f) Requires First Nations and stakeholder input
 - (g) Builds on existing SFM related components (e.g., updated land use plans that include First Nations' interests, management standards, etc)
 - (h) Encourages innovation in achieving the SFM goals and contributing to community economic diversification, where appropriate
 - (i) Requires review, updating and publicly reporting, especially to communities, on progress in achieving the goals and targets every 5 years
- iv) Government and First Nations to implement First Nations Woodland Licenses (FNWL) by:
- (1) Identify at a high level:
 - (a) The land base needed to support FNWL's in recognition of Government obligations and commitments to the New Relationship
 - (b) The areas that minimize the impacts on existing licensees
 - (2) Ensuring Government relations with the forest industry, who may be negatively affected by FNWL implementation, is an issue between Government and the forest industry and not between First Nations and the forest industry
 - (3) Expediting negotiations of the Licenses where First Nations have identified a desire to enter into the agreement and the forest and administrative conditions are favourable
 - (4) Ensuring the Licenses provide sufficient fibre (i.e., AAC) needed for viable and sustainable, stand alone woodlands businesses
- v) Government to revise the Professional Reliance-FRPA-FSP concept implementation requirements to improve accountability, public credibility and concept delivery by:
- (1) Embarking on an assertive communications program with a focus on the lay public and non-timber resource users to:

- (a) Clarify the responsibilities of foresters, companies and Government relative to Professional Reliance and the development and implementation of FSP
- (b) Simplify the description of responsibilities
- (c) Clarify that Professional Reliance does not apply to the on-the-ground activities
- (2) Establishing a Task Force lead by and independent third party (e.g., Forest Practices Board), to strengthen the FSP requirements, including:
 - (a) Clarifying how the FSP will contribute to meeting the Provincial and communities or Regional Districts vision and goals
 - (b) Requiring licensees to make publicly available detailed plans and requiring public consultation prior to harvesting approval
 - (c) Clarifying what is proposed in the local FSP and commitments to current non-regulatory resource planning activities
 - (d) Increasing the minimum level of FSP commitments to ensure public expectations are met with results and strategies that are measurable and verifiable
 - (e) Identifying policies and standards that will balance Government monitoring/approvals of forest practices and plans with the capitalizing on forest industry professional reliance to improve public confidence in forest management
 - (f) Identifying areas where Government tools (e.g., GAR Orders⁸) are used to limit delivery of Professional Reliance
 - (g) Minimizing bureaucracy in FSP plan development and implementation
- (3) Providing an additional \$0.4 million to assist in delivery of the recommendations through collaboration with the forest industry and professional associations
- vi) Government to address concerned citizens' issues relative to the management on the protection of public resources and values on private forest managed lands by:
 - (1) Establishing an independent Task Force to hold a public consultation process to clarify the public issues and provide recommended actions

⁸ The Government Actions Regulation (GAR) provides the criteria and processes for the creation of localized areas that require special management of certain forest values.

- (2) Working collaboratively with the *Private Managed Forest Land Council* to review the public consultation recommendations and modify the *Private Managed Land Act* requirements relative to the identified issues
 - (3) Encouraging *Private Managed Forest* land owners to embark on a community communications program to inform concerned citizens of regulatory and non-regulatory practices conducted to protect public resources and values
 - (4) Revising the *Private Forest Land Act* to provide prescriptive requirements more consistent with those for Crown lands to protect public resources and values
 - vii) Government to establish a provincial public watchdog (e.g., Forest Practices Board) to alert the Government when the forest management system,⁹ for Private Forest Lands and Crown Lands is out of alignment and/or the principles require updating to facilitate SFM
- b) **Local structural instruments** – *establish regulations and policies to enable communities to influence strategic, local, long-term forest stewardship decisions*
- i) Government to provide support to communities or Regional Districts in developing local forest lands visions and goals by:
 - (1) Identifying the provincial forest lands vision, goals and principles to guide the multi-party (stakeholders, Government, industry, First Nations) process
 - (2) Requiring communities or Regional Districts to take the lead in the process to establish a local forest lands vision consistent with the provincial vision but flexible to meet local desires and conditions
 - (3) Requiring community visions to be developed with consideration to all values and resources within local forest lands
 - (4) Requiring forest managers and regulators to use community or Regional District vision and goals in strategic planning and decision-making
 - ii) Government, in collaboration with communities or Regional Districts and resource industries, establish planning mechanisms to minimize the

⁹ The forest management system is intended to include the entire package of legislation, policies, organization and administration for the management of all forest-related resource values.

- footprint (cumulative impacts on forest lands and water resources) of resource management (forests) and extraction (mining, oil, gas) industries on the forest lands, including:
- (1) Re-evaluating the operational management model of the District Manager in a renewed context where the manager is responsible for integrating information on all landscape values in decision-making
 - (2) Ensuring a coordinated and integrated governmental framework to achieve the local community or Regional District vision for use by the District Manager in decision-making
 - (3) Utilizing the processes and structures identified in increasing community influence on decisions (i.e., 2 c recommendation) through providing advice to decision-makers on integrated resource management planning guidance on a regional scale
- c) **Forest asset investment** - *provide laws and policies to increase stable, long-term forest stewardship funding*
- i) Government to create an investment climate and mechanisms that encourage Government and non-Government funding to maintain and enhance the provincial forest lands asset without privatizing the Crown forest
 - ii) Government, in consultation with the forest industry and investment community, develop a framework for forest asset investing to:
 - (1) Achieve the provincial and local forest lands visions and goals
 - (2) Change the model of decision-making based on current revenue to one where decisions are based on the needs to achieve the benefits of moving towards the provincial or local visions and goals
 - iii) Investment framework to consider:
 - (1) Using the visions and goals in prioritizing available investments
 - (2) Developing a menu of potential public, private or public-private options for different types of silviculture treatments
 - (3) Government to consider:
 - (a) Modifying laws and policies to require forest companies to fund basic silviculture treatments required to maintain the forest asset
 - (b) Creating a Trust Fund to help support long-term investment commitments
 - (c) Resourcing the Trust Fund from revenues generated through natural resource exploitation

2) Goal - Deliver priority needs of communities

Objective – To provide laws and policies that both increase community influence in decision-making and capitalize on the use of existing and potential forest products from local forest lands

Recommendations

- a) **Community or Regional District economic diversification** – *develop an integrated forest-products-finance system to support long-term, stable community economic diversification opportunities*
- i) Government, communities or Regional Districts and the forest industry to work collaboratively in increasing community economic diversity by:
- (1) Maintaining, where appropriate, the traditional forest industry activities while diversifying the community economy
 - (2) Ensuring regulations and policies exist to enhance economic diversification consistent with community priorities
 - (3) Removing barriers identified by potential community investors
 - (4) Encouraging diversification of viable and sustainable community wood products, non-timber forest resources, recreation and tourism, water, ecosystem services and forest management businesses by:
 - (a) Ensuring Government policies encourage full, practical and economic utilization of fibre, including wood residue, with its direction to the highest products value and increasing community diversification
 - (b) Ensuring value-added wood product businesses first right of refusal for BCTS, First Nation Woodland Licence and Community Forest Agreement fibre at competitive prices
 - (c) Considering establishment of log yards, based on lessons learned in the “Vernon log yard” pilot, to assist in sales of logs from small tenures
 - (d) Expanding the “Bridges II” project
 - (e) Encouraging log brokers to inform value-added businesses of availability of logs

- ii) Government to support community economic diversification by:
 - (1) Providing \$3 million over a 2 year period to assist the value-added sector in establishing 2-3 cluster pilots to integrate opportunities with the existing commodity sector and stimulate the value-added industry
 - (2) Designing and implementing updated forest resources inventories (timber, NTFR, recreation and tourism) for use by the private sector and communities in deciding local diversification opportunities
 - (3) Facilitating the generation of current and potential economic benefits of NTFR in the Regional District for use in communities developing economic diversification strategic plans
 - (4) Expanding the Community Forest Agreement program through:
 - (a) Requiring the focus of Community Forest Agreements to assist in delivering the community vision and goals
 - (b) Ensuring current and future Community Forest Agreement tenures are of a size (i.e., AAC) to create viable and sustainable stand alone businesses requiring standard stumpage payments
 - (c) Allowing flexibility for a local focus to be on timber, recreation, tourism, NTFR and/or forest conservation to meet the community or Regional District vision and goals
 - iii) Government to provide financial community adaptation assistance by:
 - (1) Fulfilling a previous commitment to address the MPB epidemic through allocating \$20 million/year for implementation of adaptation strategies and encouraging the Federal Government to fulfill their commitment by providing an additional \$20 million/year for 10 years
 - (2) Allocating \$10 million/year for 10 years to assist coastal communities moving into the new forest sector economy
- b) **Community forest culture** – *embark upon a forest knowledge extension initiative to develop and maintain a community forest culture*
- i) Government to assist in increasing community knowledge capacity in forestry, forest management and NTFR by:
 - (1) Entering into an agreement with professional associations, communities, First Nations, Non-Governmental Organizations, academic institutions and forest extension organizations to participate in a collaborative, virtual organization with a mandate to increase community knowledge capacity in forestry, forest management and

- NTRF at the elementary schools through to adult education (formal classroom studies to field experiences)
- (2) Expanding programs to inform grade school teachers regarding forestry, forest management and land use
 - (3) Entering into a collaborative funding mechanism at a cost of \$200,000/year composed of \$75,000 from each of Government and industry and \$50,000 from communities (i.e., UBCM)
 - (4) Building on existing extension programs to provide communities with non-technical knowledge regarding forestry, forest management
 - (5) Building on existing school aged youth programs to introduce them to forests and forest environments
 - (6) Encouraging not-for-profit foundations to prioritize this initiative during funding considerations
 - (7) Providing advice on forest related legislation, regulation and policies based on science regarding necessary changes to allow achievement of community needs
 - (8) Providing forest lands extension services to communities regarding current western science and traditional knowledge related to achieving community needs
 - (9) Providing an opportunity to work collaboratively with scientists to address knowledge gaps related to community issues
 - (10) Communicating SFM related local-regional successes
- ii) Government and the forest industry to implement a continuous consultation process to inform communities of the status and plans for local forest lands
 - iii) Government to consult with the medical community regarding existing international research that:
 - (1) Supports encouraging families to utilize Crown forests for maintenance of personal good health and well-being
 - (2) Recognizes the quality of life
 - (3) Drives the local forest dependent community economy

- c) **Community influence on decisions** – *provide the necessary laws and policies enabling communities to influence strategic, local, long-term forest stewardship decisions*
- (1) Government to enable communities or Regional Districts to influence and monitor local-regional strategic forest management and land use decisions by developing enabling legislation and policy to:
 - (a) Officially recognize the mandate of community based instruments
 - (b) Encourage establishment of local administrative structures (e.g., working groups, resource boards, committees, etc) to advise forest managers and Government regulators
 - (c) Identifying the Government agency responsible for ensuring implementation of community involvement mechanisms
 - (d) Requiring tenure holders and Government Ministries to be accountable to communities or Regional Districts on an annual basis relative to land use and resource management actions taken or planned to assist in achieving the community or Regional District forest lands vision and goals
 - ii) Government to assist in developing the community influence model by:
 - (1) Providing \$0.3 million and re-directing sufficient staff to establish and implement a consultation process with community representatives, tenure holders and Government to design the mechanisms that meet the needs of communities or Regional Districts relative to strategic land use and resource management on local forest lands
 - (2) Providing \$0.5 million to support the pilot implementation of the process in five (5) communities, (one community or Regional District in each geographic region) willing to implement the process, modify, if necessary, to fit local conditions, identify lessons learned and communicate results to other communities and Regional Districts
 - (3) Providing support funding of \$1 million/year to assist communities or Regional Districts in participating in the consultation process regarding local-regional forest land decision collaborations following the pilot initiative
 - iii) Government to establish or re-invigorate appropriate existing and previous public consultation processes (e.g., Land Use Planning Implementation Committees, forest certification advisory committees, community advisory committees, Timber Supply Area committees, etc) to provide adequate opportunity for public input into decisions and capitalize

on the investments by communities and Government over the last two decades

3) Goal - Demonstrate long-term forest stewardship

Objective – To improve upon the critical requirements to practice and demonstrate SFM on forest lands

Recommendations

- a) **Forest management unit actions** – *require forest management unit plans demonstrate they contribute to the provincial and community visions and goals*
- i) Government to make publicly available long-term timber supply data and estimates for community and mill decision-making, including:
 - (1) Up-to-date resource (timber, fish, wildlife, recreation, tourism, etc) inventories for use in timber supply determinations
 - (2) Reliable analyses regarding available timber supply in each management unit
 - (3) Rationale and assumptions used in AAC determinations and long-term timber supply projections
 - ii) Government and industry to develop and implement a “second growth” strategy, consistent with community visions and goals and balancing of ecological integrity with socio-economics, in areas where transition is occurring from “old growth” management (e.g., Vancouver Island region, Northwest region)
 - iii) Government to require forest managers to prepare strategic landscape level plans with updates every 5 years for their operating unit(s) consistent with the proposed SFM framework requirements, community or Regional District forest lands vision and goals and community economic diversification goals
 - iv) Government to provide \$0.5 million to embark upon developing a decentralized, locally-driven and objectives-focused forest resources management model, including:
 - (1) A six month to one year consultation process with BCTS, forest industry, communities or Regional Districts and experts regarding the necessary policy framework and funding

- (2) Incorporation of community or Regional District vision and goals in strategic level decisions
- (3) Utilizing a local-regional multi-stakeholder-First Nations Committee (e.g., TSA Committee, TFL advisory committees, etc), supported by independent experts, to prioritize forest management activities that will deliver community or Regional District vision and goals within the budget available
- (4) Utilizing area-based tenures as the unit for determining strategic silviculture treatment decisions, including TSAs as a management unit with MFLNRO as the oversight manager
- (5) Encouraging decisions based at the landscape scale, preferably according to watershed boundaries
- (6) Government to implement the paradigm shift of removing timber volume as the primary objective related to silviculture treatment decisions and move to maximizing recovery (i.e., volume X value) by:
 - (a) Adopting and publically communicating to the MFLNRO, stakeholders, First Nations, licensees and communities the requirement to use the paradigm shift related policies in guiding strategic silviculture decisions
 - (b) Ensuring consistency between policies and the paradigm shift and removing barriers to implementation
 - (c) Ensuring policies apply knowledge on projected climate change conditions to develop resilient forest stands
 - (d) Ensuring operating plans are consistent with the strategic level plan regarding community wildfire protection; habitat and watershed maintenance, protection, and enhancement; resistance to pest damage, and resilience to potential impacts of climate change under the guidance of strategic level plans, as per the TFL requirements
- (7) Modify the Land Base Investment Strategy (LBIS) or create a new mechanism to allocate \$185 million/year funding to local multi-stakeholder committees for allocation to:
 - (a) Priority strategic forest management activities with:
 - (i) An emphasis on “core” forest management lands¹⁰ to meet community or Regional District vision and goals

¹⁰ The areas expected to be the primary fibre production (e.g., highest productive areas close to communities)

(ii) The majority of the funds to community needs with provincial priorities being secondary

b) **Wildfire management actions** – *provide resources and policies to increase wildfire protection for communities*

i) Government to increase wildfire management through:

(1) Modifying FRPA regulations and Ministry policies to require Forest licensees and BCTS to develop objectives and strategies that integrate wildfire management with land management in both operational plans and the implementation of land use plans as part of FRPA requirements

(2) Providing assistance to licensees and BCTS by:

(a) Establishing fire risk hazard definitions for use in planning and operations

(b) Working with the Federal Government to improve the Canadian Fire Prediction system

(c) Developing a fire management plan for MPB impacted areas

(3) Working with the Federal Government to jointly provide \$30 million/year (50% each) for 10 years directed at forest treatments in priority urban-forest wildfire interface areas around communities-at-risk

(4) Working with the Federal Government to jointly staff and fund wildfire risk research at a level of \$2 million/year (50% each) for 10 years

c) **Pest management actions** – *increase protection of susceptible forest stands to insect and disease attack*

i) Government and forest industry to treat all forest stands accordingly to avoid unacceptable levels of damage by forest pests (i.e., insects and disease) by evaluating:

(1) Level of damage tolerance relative to the management objectives of the forest stand

(2) Potential for expanded forest pest outbreak

(3) Potential for establishment or expansion of an invasive species

ii) Government to provide the necessary resources to monitor and treat all priority forest stands justified to maintain forest health by:

- (1) Maintaining regional and provincial staffing levels with required operational funding
 - (2) Providing dedicated pest management staffing and associated funding (\$1 million/year) at the Forest District level of one person/District in Districts with high priority pest management issues
 - (3) Providing a designated program commitment of \$10 million/year (\$1.5 million/year above current budget) of stable operational funding to conduct fundamental monitoring and operational activities
 - (4) Utilizing a portion of the previous MPB commitments (i.e., combined Provincial and Federal \$1 billion) to address the continued MPB “management”
 - (5) Establishing a “suppression vote¹¹” to provide reactionary funding for operational treatments of unpredicted outbreaks
- d) **Strategic forest resources inventories¹²** - *provide up-to-date forest resources foundational information for long-term forest stewardship decision-making*
- i) Government, in partnership with stakeholders and First Nations to develop an effective information based decision support tools that:
 - (1) Identifies appropriate indicators for a wide range of landscape values
 - (2) Provides for flexibility to deal with changing information needs as different values arise
 - ii) Government to revise the forest inventory model, including funding mechanisms, to provide the necessary data for strategic management decisions and retention of inventory expertise in Government and the consulting sector by:
 - (1) Embarking on a re-alignment of the forest inventory that will improve efficiency and provide the necessary reliable data for strategic decision-making
 - (2) Increasing resource funding for:
 - (a) Bringing inventory staffing to 30 full time equivalents (\$1.5 million/year)
 - (b) Implementing strategic inventory requirements (\$2 million/year)

¹¹ Line item in Ministry budget

¹² Operational resource inventory costs will be the responsibility of resourced licensees

- (3) Establishing a stable funding mechanism (e.g., endowment of \$240 million created over 5 years) that will generate \$12/year for forest inventory activities
- (4) Establishing an expert-user Committee to prioritize the allocation of inventory funds, utilizing the Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABCFP) inventory assessment report as a basis for establishing priorities
- iii) Government to provide stable funding of \$4 million/year for priority ecosystem and fish and wildlife habitat inventories and habitat modeling essential for use in spatially and temporally explicit strategic planning
- iv) Government to create a stable, efficient and effective 10 year tourism and recreational inventory program by:
 - (1) Providing \$1 million/year additional funding for creating an efficient and effective recreational inventory and analyses
 - (2) Improving efficiency and effectiveness of the inventory program by adding 5 staff and entering into a new inventory program using existing data and new technology for use in spatially and temporally explicit strategic planning and delivered by an expert-user Committee
 - (3) Updating tourism and recreation needs every five (5) years based on use surveys
- v) Government to provide \$0.5 million/year to facilitate collaboration between the forest industry, First Nations and non-Aboriginal Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) enterprises to utilize existing knowledge (e.g., resource inventories, western science and traditional knowledge) regarding NTFR while acknowledging Aboriginal Rights and Title and the need for information confidentiality
- e) **Monitoring and assessment system** – *develop a transparent and trustworthy monitoring and assessment system to demonstrate the status of BC forests moving towards achieving the provincial and community vision and goals*
 - i) Government to provide \$0.3 million/year for two years for a Task Force to develop an integrated monitoring and assessment system, including implementation cost estimates that:
 - (1) Strengthens forest practices enforcement
 - (2) Supports delivery of Provincial and community or Regional District visions, goals and targets

- (3) Is supported by up-to-date and reliable forest resources inventories
 - (4) Integrates monitoring and assessment of all forest resources (e.g., recreation, wilderness, NTFR, carbon, exploration- mining, oil and gas, conservation status of all ecosystems and species, etc) into a single system
 - (5) Is clear, simple and understandable by the public
 - (6) Is preferably based at the landscape level but at the minimum management unit level
 - (7) Is the responsibility of an independent body (e.g., Forest Practices Board) to generate public credibility and avoid fear of retribution
 - (8) Is based on identified cost effective and scientifically supported strategic and operational indicators to measure performance regarding:
 - (a) FRPA requirements
 - (b) Licensee on-the-ground commitments
 - (c) Land use commitments
 - (d) Indicators used in SFM strategic (spatially and temporally explicit plans)
 - (e) Includes sufficient Government staff in communities to communicate results and provide information services
- ii) Task Force to include the following expertise:
- (1) Experts in the field of monitoring and assessment
 - (2) Community forest lands advocates
 - (3) Independent monitoring and assessment body representatives
 - (4) Government representatives, including forests, fish and wildlife, etc
 - (5) Industry representatives
 - (6) First Nations
 - (7) Professional foresters and biologists
- iii) Government to ensure the monitoring and assessment system is integrated with a:
- (1) Community capacity building program leading to a knowledgeable local public
 - (2) Good communications plan to continually inform local communities of forest status
 - (3) Public access system for monitoring and assessment results
- iv) Government to ensure adequate funding is available to the independent body to adequately and cost effectively implement the monitoring and assessment system recommendations

- f) **Forest lands research** – *provide resources for a stable and world recognized research sector to fill priority knowledge gaps relative to achieving the provincial and community visions and goals*
- i) Government to establish and fund a vibrant forest research sector capable of generating new ideas and solutions to support world class forest and watershed management, enhance the competitiveness of the sector and capable of conducting research and monitoring to ensure forest practices lead to SFM by:
- (1) Selecting one of two options:
 - (a) Providing \$15 million/year as an annual budget allocation, or
 - (b) Establishing a stable research funding mechanism (e.g., Endowment or Trust Fund) of \$300 million over 5 years to generate a \$15 million/year forest research budget
 - (2) Investigating a shared (50/50) funding for the endowment between Provincial Government and forest industry to reflect the land owner and third party certification responsibilities respectively with the possibility of philanthropic contributions potentially being involved
 - (3) Investigating the option of providing provincial research tax credits to forest licensees contributing to forest lands research
- g) **Fish and wildlife habitat management and restoration actions** – *provide the resources to restore habitats necessary to achieve the provincial vision and goals*
- i) Government to move towards restoring critical habitat by:
- (1) Incorporating the principle of balancing the maintenance of ecological integrity, including biodiversity conservation, with socio-economics in strategic level planning and operational decisions
 - (2) Providing an additional \$5 million/year to the Species at Risk Task Force for the conservation of BC's biodiversity and the protection, and restoration of species and ecosystems directed to:
 - (a) Removing the Conservation Data Centre (CDC) backlog of inventory data entered into the system
 - (b) Establishing and implementing priority actions
 - (3) Working collaboratively with the forest industry in developing and implementing ecosystems and fish and wildlife habitat restoration and management plans through the Ministry of Environment Conservation Framework by:

- (a) Allocating and specifically directing \$2 million/year to the updating and implementation of the Conservation Framework
- (b) Allocating and specifically directing \$7 million/year to fish and wildlife habitat management and restoration
- (c) Providing stable funding of \$2 million/year (additional \$1.2 million/year compared to existing allocation) to eradication of invasive species
- (d) Evaluating availability of funds to implement existing and previous watershed restoration plans
- (e) Evaluating the additional resources to address added fisheries concerns expected to be “off loaded” by the Federal Government relative to environmental assessments

APPENDIX 2 – SFM principles¹³

Example of a principle of sustainable forest management:

Forest management works with the complexity of the landbase through explicit analysis, planning, implementation and monitoring within workable units and subunits that are appropriate in scale for the key management goals, the forest conditions and the strategic issues of concern.

Interpretation

SFM subdivides the management unit into workable subunits. For SFM to be successful, it must use suitable spatial scales for analysis and direction. No single scale works for everything. SFM does not try to manage everything at the cutblock level, where it is difficult to consider the significance of a particular cutblock to forest management values, goals and objectives across the entire forest. Conversely, SFM does not try to manage everything at the forest level where the myriad of overlapping values set in a mosaic of ecological conditions can become a complex muddle with irresolvable conflict.

To make sense out of a diversity of values and ecosystems, thoughtful subdivision of the landbase greatly simplifies the complexity by spatially limiting the potential conflicts, and clarifying the opportunities. With diverse forests, subdivisions may include a number of nested levels (e.g. landscape units, watersheds, sub-watersheds, ecological groups, stand units, ecosystems). The scales to be included in SFM in any one forest are determined within the process, based on the characteristics of that forest.

¹³ Example provided by K. Zielke, B. Bancroft, G. Weetman-HFHC Background Brief

APPENDIX 3 - Phase 1 results, conclusions, recommendations

1. RESULTS

The following is a summary of the HFHC Phase 1 key results included in the Background Briefs, input from the Community Dialogue Sessions, other contributions from concerned citizens and experts and analyses of the submissions. Considerably more detail can be found on the HFHC website (<http://bcforestconversation.com>) and interested parties are encouraged to review the documents in areas of interest.

FOREST LANDS VISION

The conservation and management of BC forest lands would benefit from knowing the land owners' desired future forest. Dr. Gordon Baskerville (Dean Emeritus, Faculty of Forestry, University of New Brunswick), in 1986, recommended foresters decide what they want from the forest before going to the tool box. The decision regarding what is wanted from BC forests should be provided through direction from the owners (i.e., the public) and used by foresters to develop strategies and plans and politicians in developing legislation, regulations and policies. Consequently, it is essential to establish a vision for BC's forest lands.

Currently, there is no formal vision approved by Government to guide the management of BC forest lands decisions. To focus the dialogue regarding the state of BC forest lands relative to what is desired, a draft provincial vision statement was developed and circulated for review by 22 professionals with expertise across the spectrum of forest management, research, community participation, forest policy and First Nations culture.

The draft was revised based on the input provided by these advisors for use in preparing the Background Briefs and guiding the Community Dialogue Sessions resulting in the following proposed provincial vision:

British Columbia's forests are managed to:

- *ensure the health and protection of all forest values;*
- *support healthy, diverse and resilient communities; and*
- *support viable and sustainable forest sector community businesses.*

The expectation the vision may be modified at regional levels to reflect local conditions and emphases identified through community discussions.

BACKGROUND BRIEFS – DESCRIPTION AND OUTCOMES

Purpose

A scientific and expert opinion database was prepared to inform interested parties participating in the dialogue. A number of forest management related priority topics were identified and leading BC forest management related experts asked to contribute short assessments of the current forest's ability to achieve the draft forest lands vision based on the most up-to-date knowledge regarding the state of BC natural resources. The authors ranged from academics, practicing industry and consulting foresters, biologists, agrologists, hydrologists, ecologists, conservationists, First Nations and environmental lawyers.

Framework Brief

Dr. John Innes, Dean, UBC Faculty of Forestry, was asked to capitalize on his extensive academic and international forestry experience to provide a brief describing the components of a forest sector demonstrating the practice of SFM. Thirty-one (31) performance measures were identified for use in evaluating whether BC is really managing the provincial forest lands sustainably.

Of those, the following 13 were directly related to forest management and could be used as a measure regarding how well BC is performing now and in the future:

- 1) All forest-dependent communities in the Province able to utilize the forest in ways that meet both the current and future needs of the community and forest;
- 2) A land ownership and associated tenure system that encourages investment by licensees in the future forest estate;
- 3) A provincial monitoring system capable of determining the conservation status of all species regularly assessed;

- 4) A full range of environmental values, enabling use of the land base by multiple groups with seemingly conflicting objectives;
- 5) An effective public consultation process for the management of public lands;
- 6) A flexible forest planning system allowing for adaptation to unknowns, such as natural events and climate change;
- 7) All forest lands managed to deliver strategic plans that addressed all aspects of Sustainable Forest Management;
- 8) A forest sector attracting more young people into the sector than it could accommodate;
- 9) Forest lands decisions based on up-to-date, comprehensive, inventory information and utilizing the best available science;
- 10) A diverse array of forest products manufacturers, ranging from low-cost suppliers of commodity materials through a range of value-added industries to high-end manufacturers that maximized the value of the wood being harvested in the Province;
- 11) A forest able to support jobs in all rural communities and in many urban centers;
- 12) A vibrant research sector capable of generating new ideas and products, enhancing the competitiveness of the sector, and capable of conducting research and monitoring to ensure forest practices lead to sustainable forest management; and
- 13) Genuine innovators exist in BC ready to introduce new processes, products and practices to the Province.

Topics

Twenty-seven (27) additional briefs were prepared in one of six (6) categories and posted on the web site for information, review and comment by interested parties. The following were the categories with overviews on each:

- **Positioning BC** (1 Brief)

Extensive communications over the years have been delivered by Governments, industry, professional associations, etc regarding BC's forests being managed sustainably. An academic raised questions and challenges regarding support for these statements.

- **Resource Inventories** (7 Briefs)

Information on the status of forest lands resources is critical for management decision-making. How can a professional manage a resource without knowing its status? Background Briefs on the methodologies used in BC for a range of resources, the status of the inventories and the challenges going forward to achieve the forest lands vision were commented upon by leaders from a range of resource management fields.

- **Resource Management** (9 Briefs)

The state and challenges of managing a range of resources are presented by leaders in each of the fields. The list was not exhaustive, but intended to provide expert opinion on the requirements needed to move towards the draft vision for BC forest lands.

- **Forest Lands Research** (1 Brief)

Forest lands research is critical to identify and fill knowledge gaps and adjust to external influences such as climate change and achieve the forest lands vision for BC. Three eminent BC researchers outlined their views on the current state of research in BC and the challenges ahead. This Brief was intended to inform non-scientific parties of the state and importance of forest lands research in meeting the needs of communities and families.

- **Community Diversification and Sustainability** (7 Briefs)

Moving towards community diversification and sustainability has many components. A number of BC forest management related leaders have presented their views on the status and challenges of some of the components associated with BC forest lands.

- **Governance** (2 Briefs)

Achievement of the forest lands vision requires complementary legislation, regulations and policies. An environmental lawyer provided his views on what is needed to move towards the forest lands vision. Also, three experienced professionals outlined mechanisms to guide decision-making and the management of forest lands.

BACKGROUND BRIEFS – CHALLENGES

In all Background Briefs the authors identified the need for more action to achieve the draft forest lands vision. As BC leaders in each of their fields, it was clear the scientific and expert opinions suggested changes are required to demonstrate the practice of SFM and meet the needs of the public as expressed in the forest lands vision. However, there are challenges to achieve this goal.

A high level review of the Background Briefs was conducted to assist the dialogue. In reviewing the comments made by the authors of the Briefs, 12 key challenges were identified for further consideration. The description and the full reference of each were posted on the HFHC website. If the decision-makers are to achieve the identified requirements by the authors to deliver on the forest lands vision, solutions to these challenges will need to be part of priority programs, initiatives, legislative changes, etc in the near future. The following are the identified challenges.

- 1) If BC managed its forest sustainably

Challenge: *How do we demonstrate the answer is yes to each of the 13 Sustainable Forest Management questions posed by Dr. John Innes?*

- 2) Maintaining the forest lands asset

Challenge: *How do we encourage potentially interested parties (e.g., investors, Government, communities, First Nations, professionals) to participate actively in maintaining the forest lands asset in BC?*

- 3) Providing a provincial forest lands vision

Challenge: *How do we encourage Government to enter into a provincial forest vision that will legally guide strategic and operational decisions to maintain or enhance the BC forest lands asset?*

- 4) Creating community forest lands vision

Challenge: *How do we encourage communities to create a vision for their surrounding forest lands to meet their needs and demand decision-makers use it as a guide for management and continue to involve communities in measuring progress to its attainment?*

- 5) Integrating First Nations knowledge

Challenge: *How can a collaborative working relationship be created and maintained between local Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities to deliver an integrated vision for the local forest lands?*

- 6) Providing laws to deliver a forest lands vision

Challenge: *What mechanisms are needed to enable communities to demand Government ensure governance instruments are consistent with delivery of the provincial and community visions?*

7) Community involvement in land use planning

Challenge: *What cost-effective mechanisms can be created to ensure community (Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal) needs are included in updating and implementing strategic land use plans?*

8) Community involvement in forest management

Challenge: *How can the current mechanisms be modified to ensure community needs are adequately considered in the development and implementation of Forest Stewardship Plans and/or Sustainable Forest Management Plans?*

9) Providing forest resource inventories

Challenge: *How can we encourage forest managers and inventory specialists to work collaboratively to utilize available funding in delivering on current demands for resource inventories?*

Challenge: *How do we encourage decision-makers to provide adequate and stable inventory funding to provide the necessary data and information to assist forest managers in meeting community needs?*

10) Providing suitable monitoring systems

Challenge: *How can Government be convinced to adequately resource monitoring the conditions of local forest lands?*

11) Filling knowledge gaps

Challenge: *With the expectation that there will be limited funds, how can we create a vibrant research sector capable of generating new ideas and products, enhancing the competitiveness of the sector, and ensuring forest practices are sustainable?*

12) Wildfire protection

Challenge: *How do we establish innovative funding mechanisms for communities to generate revenue from nearby forests to support necessary forest treatments?*

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE SESSIONS

Community Needs and Issues

Twenty (20) Community Dialogue Sessions (CDS) were held. Two involved discussions regarding specific presentations and the other 18 focused on community views regarding forest management. The Sessions identified the following six (6) priority expectations related to the local-regional forest lands:

- Communities want more influence on decisions regarding management of local forests
- Communities want to be better informed regarding state of local forest lands
- Communities want more diverse economic development opportunities from forest lands
- Communities want more sustainable, integrated resource management (e.g., forests, mining, agriculture)
- Communities want better monitoring and assessment of local forest lands management
- Communities want a high level of stewardship on private forest lands

Table 1 identifies the priority issues as identified by the communities.

The issues identified by the communities were consistent with many of the viable forest sector performance measures outlined by Dr. John Innes. The fact the issues were in the forefront of communities would suggest more work is needed to demonstrate BC is practicing Sustainable Forest Management.

The BC Government Employees Union (BCGEU) held similar community dialogue sessions in four (4) communities (Castlegar, Kamloops, Campbell River and Prince George) during the period December 2010 to March 2011. In addition, the BCGEU polled both their members and the public regarding forest sector issues. Although the suggested actions from the independent HFHC and BCGEU community dialogue sessions varied, the recommendations were very similar and offer a larger sample and consistency in the views of the BC public regarding the future of BC forest lands.

Table 1 2011 Community Dialogue Session priority issues

Issue	Community Dialogue Sessions																	
	Williams Lake	100 Mile House	Quesnel	Prince George	Nanaimo	Campbell River	Port Alberni	Port McNeill	Victoria	Grand Forks	Midway	Clearwater	Revelstoke	Salmon Arm	Golden	Squamish	Vancouver	Fraser Valley
Better informed regarding state of local forest lands	■	■		■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■
More influence on decisions regarding management of local forests	■	■	■	■	■		■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
More diverse economic development opportunities from forest lands	■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■
More sustainable, integrated resource management (e.g., forests, mining, agriculture)	■	■		■		■	■			■	■		■	■		■	■	■
Better monitoring and assessment of forest lands management	■				■					■		■		■				
Level of stewardship on private forest lands					■													■

Community Suggested Actions

Table 2 summarizes the suggested actions to address the priority community issues. The full reports from each of the community sessions were posted on the HFHC website. In most instances the suggested actions provides an area for discussion and decision but do not give specific content of policies, regulations and community involvement. However, they did identify direction required in creating or modifying guidance documents to move towards delivering on the Innes' suggested performance measures at a high level.

Table 2 Summary of key issues and suggested actions identified by communities.

Better Informed Regarding State of Local Forest Lands	
Collaborative Information/Education	Community Involvement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create efficient and effective mechanisms and adequate and sustainable funding (Government, industry) for programs to demonstrate the value of forests to all ages, and the link between human health and forests (e.g., clean air, water, recreation, stress relief, etc) are as important as hospitals and schools to individual health ▪ Work collaboratively between Government, industry and professional associations to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ demonstrate to the local and provincial publics the importance of forests to the lives and health of individuals ○ encourage people to recreate in BC forests and learn of the importance of experiencing nature to personal and community health ○ provide forestry and forest management information with the objectives of obtaining a: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ good understanding of forestry ▪ feeling of connectedness to the BC forest ▪ forest culture in communities ○ utilize quick, easy to understand and straightforward tools to send key messages to the public and concerned citizens ○ provide clarity regarding forest management processes, decisions and actions, e.g., <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ forest statistics ▪ definitions ▪ size of the timber harvesting land base ▪ impacts of Mountain Pine Beetle ▪ types and number of tenures ▪ roles and responsibilities regarding management ○ clarify the effects of current and past land-based activities ○ dispel myths regarding forestry and forest management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create and fund mechanisms for on-going local dialogue on views of all resource users ▪ Provide efficient and effective mechanisms approved by Municipal politicians that encourage discussion of local forest management issues with the provincial Government ▪ Encourage local foresters and biologists to volunteer to assist communities in basic understanding of forestry and the forest sector ▪ Investigate the option of communities becoming involved in data collection regarding state of local forests ▪ Commit to becoming knowledgeable of forest management and decision-making processes

More Influence on Decisions Regarding Management of Local Forests

Policies and Regulations	Community Involvement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Efficient and effective mechanisms that empower community involvement in forest lands management decision-making and quickly respond to changes regarding current forest practices ▪ Efficient and effective mechanisms for local community involvement in land use planning and implementation e.g., <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ re-establish, update and resource LRMP process and Implementation Committees with a mandate to include non-forest resources ○ address cumulative impacts ▪ Efficient and effective mechanisms to provide more information on forestry and forest practices for effective engagement in forest lands decision-making processes at local or regional scales ▪ Efficient and effective mechanisms to encourage community control or influence on forest management decisions, e.g., <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ revised legal framework for forest management to meet community needs ○ elected local forest Boards responsible for forest management to meet community needs ▪ Manage forests around communities for values & resources to provide basic services, improve safety (e.g., water supply, local jobs, wildfire protection) ▪ Move from centralized management to regional and community-influenced management with Government foresters located in communities ▪ Alignment of Government decision-making strategies with community needs and issues ▪ Forest management and land use plan requirement to balance business interests with those of nature ▪ Requirements to minimize loss of industrial land to other uses ▪ Limit log exports to situations which deliver on community needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage land and resources stewardship that creates resilient communities through strengthening local forest industries, including tourism and non-timber forest products, while maintaining cultural values, public recreation, clean air and water, soil conservation and other ecosystem services ▪ Concerned citizens to become knowledgeable on forest management and land use planning to provide constructive input into decisions ▪ Individuals and communities to become involved with third party certification processes to ensure their needs are being met ▪ Processes to encourage dialogue on forest land issues and involve communities in any potential change in forest management or the local forest industry structure ▪ Local Government and community members work together on local solutions to local issues ▪ Opportunity for a local oversight group to monitor performance and inform community of status, plans, decisions, etc ▪ Develop Aboriginal relationships and integrate First Nations into community processes ▪ Insist on a strong local industry social contract with communities

More Diverse Economic Development Opportunities from Forest Lands

Policies and Regulations	Incentives and Revenue Sharing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Policies to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ encourage innovation and diversification in products and services ○ encourage viable and sustainable local forest businesses ○ encourage a range of community businesses from small to large ○ maintain sustainability of local employment ■ Create tenures that encourage innovation and possibly separate the management of forest lands from manufacturing ■ Encourage more area-based tenures that support community needs, especially value-added manufacturing, with one Government overseer manager responsible for all resources ■ Encourage a range of sizes and types of tenures to support community needs, all with community influence or control of forest lands management ■ Allocate sufficient timber volume to tenures focused primarily on supporting local mills, including value-added opportunities ■ Provide a safe road network, based on innovative funding mechanisms to provide access for full utilization of forest lands resources and meet resource management and public demands ■ Increase full utilization of wood residue: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ modify pricing system for residue wood to encourage use ○ encourage small-scale bio-energy facilities for local use (e.g., pellets, heat) ○ incentives to use wood residue to produce cost-efficient energy ○ cooperative extraction and processing to increase efficiency ○ providing ready access to wood residue ■ Mechanisms to ensure availability of a sustainable, educated and trained forest management workforce ■ Reinstate apurtenancy requirement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Establish a local-regional forest lands vision, goals and objectives to guide forest practices and encourages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a sustainable economy at the local level ○ local manufacturing ○ local diverse forest products economy ○ protection of social values from the forest lands ■ Encourage Increased silviculture activity to create jobs and tree growth for short and long-term community and provincial benefits ■ Create incentives to manage for forest carbon sequestration, biodiversity, ecosystem services ■ Encourage private investment in forest lands management ■ Allocate funds for long-term forest lands management ■ Remove small business financing barriers ■ Institute revenue sharing between Government and regions/ communities

More Sustainable, Integrated Resource Management (e.g., forests, mining, agriculture, tourism)

Policies and Regulations	Community Involvement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establish a legal Provincial Charter and guiding principles for forest management developed with community influence ▪ Establish a provincial forest lands vision, goals and objectives that legally guide legislation, regulation, policies and practices to reduce impacts caused by frequent changing priorities and conflicting policies ▪ Ensure forest management embraces social, economic, and environmental values ▪ Remove FRPA constraint limiting non-timber resource (e.g., water conservation) impacts on AAC ▪ Ensure cumulative impacts from overlapping land uses are minimized ▪ Move emphasis from short-term forest economics to forest sustainability ▪ Modify and/or create consistent policies and regulations to reduce conflicts among overlapping resources and tenures ▪ Take actions to improve long-term forest health ▪ Ensure sufficient and current resource inventory data to ensure forest management decisions can address community needs and provide adequate information regarding the state of forest lands and forest management practices ▪ Maintain an adequate base level of funding for forest lands research directed at priority issues (e.g., climate change, climate change adaptation and forest management) ▪ Ensure information, including Aboriginal knowledge, is transparent and readily available to the public 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Insist on management plans for long-term resilience (economic, environmental and social-cultural needs) ▪ Insist on forest management to focus on ecological management and not just resource extraction commodities (e.g., timber management) ▪ Manage public activities to maintain water quality

Better Monitoring and Assessment of Forest Lands Management

Policies and Regulations	Community Involvement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Independent assessment of state of BC forests (e.g., Royal Commission) ▪ Mandate reputable independent forest organizations (e.g., Forest Practices Board) to monitor and report the status of provincial and local forest lands ▪ Adequate Government staffing for monitoring and assessment of provincial and local forest management ▪ Make available local civil servants to provide information on local-regional forests to communities and concerned citizens ▪ Monitoring and updating requirement for land use plans to meet community needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Opportunity for a local oversight group to monitor performance and inform community of status, plans, decisions, etc ▪ Insist on updates and decision-maker actions relative to locally-regionally identified forest management issues ▪ Pressure Government to implement Forest Practices Board recommendations

Level of Stewardship on Private Forest Lands	
Policies and Regulations	Community Involvement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Efficient and effective mechanisms for public input into forest management decisions impacting public resources (e.g., water, fish, wildlife, biodiversity, environmental values protection) and relative to community needs ▪ Ensure forest management regulations and policies will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ deliver commonly accepted standards regarding “good stewardship” ○ ensure public resources are protected ▪ Create incentives (e.g., compensation or reimbursement) for land owner to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ obtain and respond to public input ○ provide public access to local forest amenities near communities ○ inform the public of forest management practices and the state of the forest ▪ Require land owner communicates to the public their long-term strategies and plans regarding the protection of public resources ▪ Ensure public compensation is provided relative to land owner tax benefits received over time upon sale of private forest land for non-forestry use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overcome the lack of public education regarding forestry and forest management, especially related to land ownership and related issues

2. CONCLUSIONS

- 1) Concern over the future of BC forest lands was shared by a wide range of BC residents (professional foresters and biologists, academics, First Nations, youth and communities), including a move away from a short-term forest industry economic focus to a long-term stewardship focus while addressing current economic challenges.
- 2) There was a need for a Government approved vision for BC forest lands to guide legislation, regulation, policies and practices.
- 3) Experts in the fields of forest management were of the view more needs to be done regarding forest management to achieve the draft BC forest lands vision and deliver on the needs of communities over the long-term.
- 4) The concerns of communities were consistent throughout the Province with key issues related to communities wanting:
 - a) More influence on local forest lands,
 - b) More information on the status of local forest lands,
 - c) More diverse economic development opportunities from forest lands,
 - d) More sustainable integrated resource management,
 - e) Better monitoring and assessment of forest lands management, and
 - f) A high level of stewardship on private forest lands.
- 5) Decision-makers and communities were confronted with a number of challenges due to the current and foreseeable future provincial economic situation, thereby necessitating innovation and transformative change in the long-term management of BC forest lands.
- 6) More specific suggested actions were required to give guidance to decision-makers.

3. PHASE 1 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) Political parties engage in dialogue with communities and concerned citizens regarding actions to address the current shortcomings in meeting the community and family long-term needs from BC forest lands.
- 2) Government review the legislation, regulation and policies to be consistent with the focus on long-term forest lands stewardship while meeting the current economic conditions.
- 3) Government adopt the requirement for a forest lands vision to guide legislation, regulation and policy.
- 4) Decision-makers adopt the key messages and challenges identified though the HFHC, including the connection between forests and personal and community health.
- 5) Decision-makers establish opportunities to bring together people from a range of perspectives to generate innovative ideas required to address the identified issues and challenges and ensure BC forest lands provide the expected current and future community and family needs and values.
- 6) Communities identify initiatives that will assist in providing clarity regarding what is needed from local-regional forest lands and mechanisms to both become more involved in forest management decisions and the monitoring of forest practices.
- 7) Professional associations and academia consider development of a program to provide assistance to communities in building forestry and forest management knowledge and respected forest lands data sources.