



## ESTABLISHING A WORKING FOREST

### An Alternative Approach

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#### Industry Fibre Security

The forest industry has, for some time, recommended Government create a land designation called the “Working Forest” to provide certainty of a fibre supply over the long-term. This was re-introduced by the Council of Forest Industries in their submission to Government regarding Forest Renewal Initiative.<sup>1</sup> In the past request generated a major push-back, primarily from environmentalists and others concerned about the impact such a decision would have on non-timber resources. It is expected this recent recommendation will receive the same response. Although certainty of fibre supply is a valid objective to provide a competitive and sustainable forest industry, those concerned about resources other than timber also have the same validity. So how can we meet the concerns and objectives of both areas of interest?

#### Fibre Security and Community Resiliency

There is another approach that will meet the fibre security objective within the requirement of community resiliency and lead to long-term forest stewardship. It is based on community resiliency being the cornerstone of a proposed BC Forest Renewal Vision Framework.<sup>2</sup>

***“Resilience rests on the combined abilities to deal with and bounce back from disturbances and shocks, the ability to adapt to change, and the ability to be proactive, forward-looking and self-determining, rather than just reactive and outside-determined, to create a desirable future.”<sup>3</sup>***

The contribution of the BC forest asset (i.e., BC forest) to community resiliency in the 140 BC forest dependent communities,<sup>4</sup> has three (3) components as outlined below. Fibre security is a result of long-term forest stewardship and fundamental to a diversified forest resources sector.

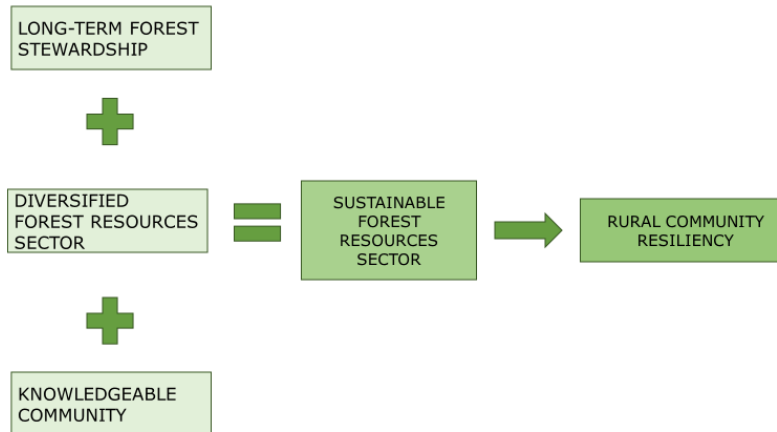
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<sup>1</sup> *Smart Future: A Path Forward for B.C.’s Forest Products Industry, COFI, September 2019*

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.bcforestconversation.com/bc-forest-renewal-vision-framework/>

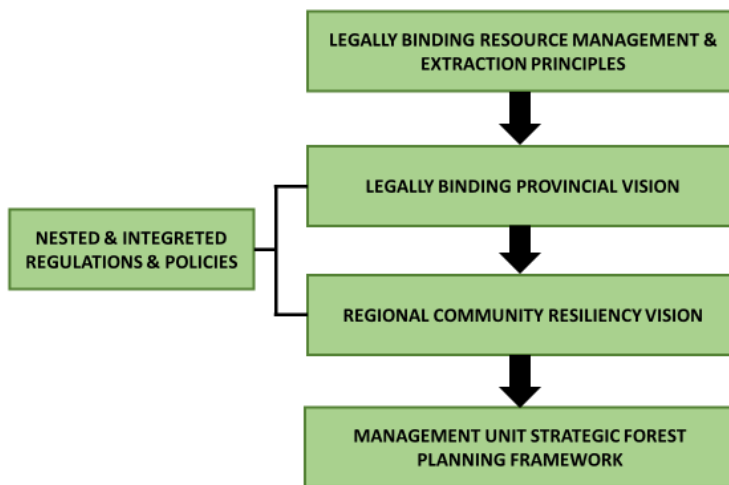
<sup>3</sup> *COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND WEALTH: The Challenges and Opportunities for Rural Communities in a Rapidly Changing World*, Shanna Ratner (Yellow Wood Associates) and Susanne Moser, PhD (Susanne Moser Research & Consulting), A Report to the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities, Inc., October 13, 2009

<sup>4</sup> The use of the term community in this paper includes Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities



Achieving community resiliency requires five (5) priority, high-level infrastructure instruments as outlined in the proposed BC Forest Renewal Vision Framework.

### FOREST RENEWAL INFRASTRUCTURE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK



Establishing and adopting the principles, vision statements and regulations and policies across the Province will become the foundation for building certainty in the fibre supply for each region while achieving long-term forest stewardship.

The regional community resiliency vision is the guidance document for developing regional long-term forest stewardship plans and the nature of the regional wood manufacturing sector. It will determine the contribution of the regional forest sector to community resiliency. This is the time where various segments of the regional community, including First Nations, identify what they want from their forest. Local government(s) in partnership with First Nations are expected to arrive at the vision by balancing the

management and conservation of the regional social/cultural, environmental and economic values consistent with the Provincial vision for the BC asset.

Fibre security resides as an output of applying the Management Unit Strategic Forest Planning Framework process as outlined below.



The creation of the Strategic Plan involves developing scenarios using the inputs noted in the right side of the graphic. It involves using this information to conduct spatially and temporally explicit computer simulation scenarios involving the identified forest values projected over 100 years. Inevitably during the process, not all single preferred targets for the values can be attained. This is where the balancing occurs. However, once a scenario has been identified that achieves the best balance and within acceptable risks to values, it will identify the available timber land base and constraints for long-term forest management and the potentially accessible fibre for the regional wood manufacturing sector. Approval of the Strategic Plan, as done currently with the Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) provides the certainty of fiber supply but in the context of the Provincial and regional community visions and the balancing of the various forest related values that exist in the regional forest. The approved scenario could also be used as the currently required FSP.

Although the available forest for timber production using this process may not meet the legal designation desired by the proponents of the “Working Forest” concept it does bring together the balancing of the values of the forest and the desires of the communities. It is expected that this would be a more acceptable approach to not only meet the industry need for fibre certainty but also the desire of communities for resiliency. A more thorough discussion of the major benefits related to long-term forest stewardship using this approach are provided in: <https://www.bcforestconversation.com/wp-content/uploads/SPATIALLY-AND-TEMPORALLY-EXPLICIT-STRATEGIC-PLANNING-FRAMEWORK.pdf>.