



A Conversation on BC Forests

HEALTHY FORESTS-HEALTHY COMMUNITIES:

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2011 Activities Summary Report

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BC Crown lands represent 94% of the Province. The public expects the Provincial Government to manage these lands in the public's best interest (i.e., management will be done in such a manner as to protect social, cultural and economic values over the long term and provide the BC residents with expected products and services). The demands can be summarized in the overall objective of achieving healthy and resilient communities (Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal), which depend on conservation and use of healthy forests. This is commonly reflected in the practice of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM). Concerns began in 2009 regarding the future of BC forest lands by groups with a wide range of perspectives. This generated the *Healthy Forests-Healthy Communities* initiative (HFHC).

The HFHC was initiated in January 2011 as 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 management of BC forests. Over 150 volunteers across BC contributed to delivery of the HFHC through providing expert opinions based on experience and science and community views arising from local experiences. Twenty-seven (27) Background Briefs were provided by experts in various fields of forest lands management as information for use by participants in the 20 Community Dialogue Sessions held across all regions of the Province.

The results of the input from experts, communities and concerned citizens included:

- A forest lands vision to guide legislation, regulation, policies, practices and plans
- A framework brief for use in evaluating BC forest lands management
- Twelve (12) key challenges arising from the expert opinion Background Briefs
- Six (6) priority community issues arising from the Dialogue Sessions regarding the management of local-regional forest lands
- A number of suggested actions by decision-makers to address the priority issues

The 2011 HFHC activities generated six (6) conclusions:

- 1) The concern over the future of BC forest lands is 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 is 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 are 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 are consistent throughout the Province with key issues related to communities needs
- 5) Decision-makers and communities are 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 are required to give guidance to decision-makers

Recommendations are:

- 1) Political parties engage in dialogue with communities and concerned citizens regarding community and family long-term needs
- 2) Government review the legislation, regulation and policies to be consistent with the focus on long-term forest lands stewardship
- 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
- 5) Decision-makers establish opportunities to bring together people to generate innovative ideas to address issues and challenges
- 6) Communities identify initiatives to assist in providing clarity regarding what is needed from local-regional forest lands and mechanisms to become more involved in forest management decisions
- 7) Professional associations and academia consider development of a program to provide assistance to communities

A 2012 activities plan is presented to build on the results from 2011.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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

- The over 150 volunteers across the Province who contributed to the writing of expert papers and organizing the Community Dialogue Sessions. Without the commitment of these individuals to provide their time and expertise to this grassroots initiative the 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 that took the time to share their views by attending the Community Dialogue Sessions or submitting comments through the HFHC website.
- The members of the Advisory Team, the Website Management Team and the Strategic and Administrative Advisory Team for their work, advice and assistance.
- The financial assistance by the Vancouver Foundation, the other financial partners and the many community businesses and organizations who contributed in-kind and money to facilitate the holding of the Community Dialogue Sessions. The HFHC would not have been possible without their contributions.
- Special recognition is given to the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC who conducted the financial administration of the HFHC expenses.
- Special thanks is given to the Canadian Institute of Forestry, who provided assistance in various activities and lent their name to the HFHC as a provincial partner.
- Personal appreciation to the leadership of the BC2 Network, CommonsBC and BC Forest Society initiatives who provided the collaboration, inspirational support and encouragement throughout.



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INTRODUCTION

Ninety-four percent (94%) of British Columbia's (BC) land base are owned by the public with the expectation the BC Government will manage these lands in the public's best interest (i.e., management will be done in such a manner as to protect social, cultural and economic values over the long term and provide the BC residents with expected products and services). In a changing world, resource managers are confronted with a challenge to know if today's policies and regulations are resulting in sustainable forest use for industry, communities, families and future generations. The complexity of the current and future forest sector is and will have to confront a wide range of requirements to maintain or attain global competitiveness while delivering on societal expectations from BC forest lands. These demands can be summarized in the overall objective of achieving healthy and resilient communities (Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal), which depend on conservation and use of healthy forests. 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 expected by the public.

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

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 the 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, the main message was the natural environment is still relatively healthy. However, it was stated the natural values are now 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.

The BC forest is responsible for 29% of the provincial 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 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.

Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) is the concept currently being used to demonstrate forests will provide the long-term social, environmental and economic expectations of BC residents. The BC Government and forest industry have declared for some time they are practicing SFM on BC forest lands. The claim of this practice cannot be taken lightly. Forest stewardship has long been a claim by the BC Government and forest industry. Over the last decade, this commitment appears to have been diminished in priority and overtaken by short-term economic decision-making. Without long-term forest management strategies and actions, 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 in the long-term to allow this to happen. SFM has to be demonstrated that it is being accomplished to accepted international standards such as those arising from the Montreal Process.

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

BACKGROUND

A growing concern began in 2009 and continued through 2010 among professional foresters and biologists, conservationists, academics, community leaders, forest support companies and First Nations that BC forests are in need of greater attention to meet societal expectations over the long-term. 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 willingness of all initiative leaders to share ideas and inform one another of their individual activities. Together, the conversations and comments from interested parties generated the initiation, in January 2011, of the *Healthy Forests-Healthy Communities: A conversation on BC forests* (HFHC) initiative. 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 to achieve the provincial, community and family goals. This would be accomplished through 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 and public opinion, captured through the HFHC, would provide vital information for responding to climate change, supporting the economy, enhancing community resilience and creating lasting natural resource policies for forest lands management in the Province. Informed decision-making would assist in ensuring healthy forests and healthy communities for a brighter BC future.

"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"

PURPOSE AND GOALS

Purpose

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

Goals

The goals are:

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

PROCESS

HFHC is a non-partisan, volunteer-supported initiative intended to capture the concerns and recommendations of experts, communities and concerned citizens. The background information from experts in the various fields is intended to assist and stimulate citizen dialogue regarding development of a vision for BC forest lands that can be used by decision-makers, Aboriginals and stakeholders. The public's future vision for BC forest lands is intended to help shape legislation, regulations, policies and forest practices for sustainable forest management in BC and continue to protect cultural and spiritual places, food, medicine, clean water and resources for community livelihood, habitat for biodiversity and clean air to counter the effects of climate change.

The HFHC process involves:

- Experts providing evidence-based input on the status of BC natural resources and their concerns for SFM
- Communities gathering to identify and register their concerns for the future of BC forest lands, and
- Experts and citizens joining together to provide opinions on the preferred future for the Province's forest resources as depicted in Figure 1.

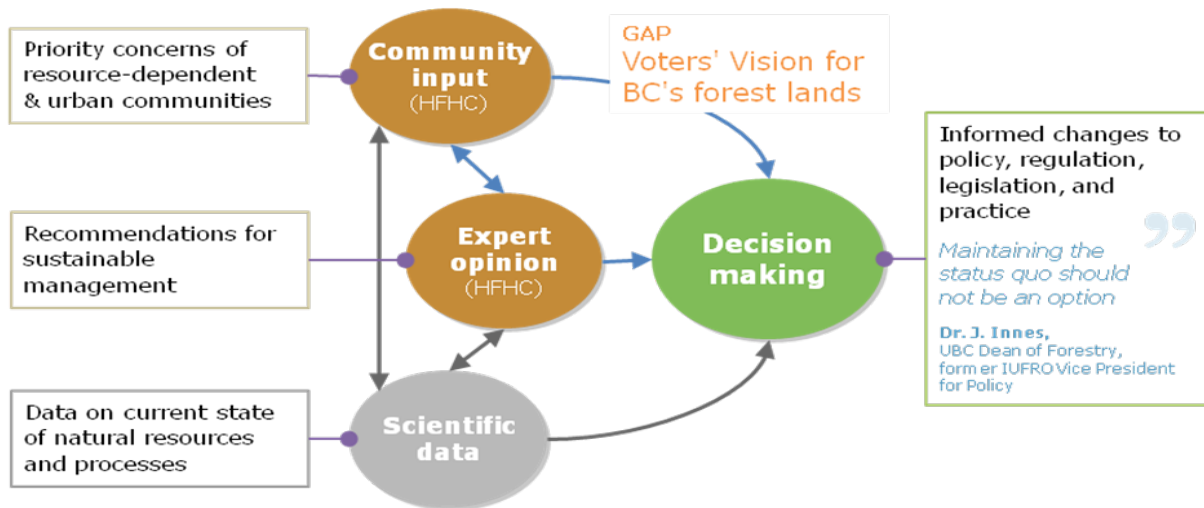


Figure 1 HFHC process to provide decision-makers with expert and public opinion. Courtesy of AGE Consulting and Cortex Consultants Inc.

Operating Principles

HFHC operating principles were developed to guide decisions regarding input into HFHC. These are:

- 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

“Activities will seek to integrate perspectives on the communities' needs from BC's forest lands in the future, balancing ecosystem integrity and socio-economics”

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 and reporting progress
- **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. The advice was to provide overall guidance and recommendations regarding:
 - General approach to implementation of the initiative
 - Topics and authors of Background Brief papers
 - Locations, content and agendas for Community Dialogue Sessions
 - Website content and maintenance structure
 - Social media applications
- **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

HFHC success was dependent upon contributions from the following partners:

- **Non-financial** – 13 partners offered the name of their organization in support of the HFHC. The Canadian Institute of Forestry (CIF) was a provincial partner and 12 other organizations provided regional support.
- **Financial** – The Vancouver Foundation participated in the initiative by providing contribution funding for expenses. Other organizations provided an equivalent amount of funding for expenses but asked to remain anonymous. Overall, the initiative had limited funding and was dependent upon the efforts of volunteers and local in-kind contributions from supporting organizations.

Volunteers

The volunteers were the backbone of the initiative. Over 150 contributed their time and expertise to HFHC. Their perspectives ranged from professional foresters and biologists, conservationists, forest industry, First Nations, community advocates, environmental lawyers, academics, outdoor recreationists, natural resource consultants, etc. The volunteers included:

“Volunteers were the backbone of the initiative”

- Background Brief authors/co-authors
- Advisory Team members
- Community Dialogue Session Organizing Team members and facilitators
- Website Team members
- Strategic and Administrative Team members

RESULTS

The results reported are a summary of the key points 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 where 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,

Draft Forest Lands Vision

“BC’s forests are managed to:

- ensure the health & protection of all forest values
- support healthy, diverse & resilient communities
- support viable & sustainable forest sector community businesses”

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. 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 is that 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 range from academics, practicing industry and consulting foresters, biologists, agrologists, hydrologists, ecologists, conservationists, First Nations and environmental lawyers.

Performance Measure 6:
"A flexible forest planning system allowing for adaptation to unknowns, such as natural events and climate change"

Framework Brief

Dr. John Innes, Dean, 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;

Performance Measure 11:
"A forest able to support jobs in all rural communities and in many urban centers"

- 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;
- 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 are 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 are 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 is 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 is critical to identify and fill knowledge gaps and adjust to external influences such as climate change”

- **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 is 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 provides his views on what is needed to move towards the forest lands vision. Also, three experienced professionals outline mechanisms to guide decision-making and the management of forest lands.

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

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 is clear the scientific and expert opinions suggest changes are required if we are to conduct and demonstrate 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 of each is presented in Appendix 1 and the full reference of each included in the posting on the 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.

- 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

Attendees at the 18 Community Dialogue Sessions (CDS) 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

“Communities want to be better informed regarding state of local forest lands”

The priority issues as identified by the communities are presented in Table 1.

The issues identified by the communities are consistent with many of the viable forest sector performance measures outlined by Dr. John Innes. The fact the issues are 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.

Community Suggested Actions

Table 2 summarizes the suggested actions to address the priority CDS issues. The full reports from each of the community sessions are posted on the HFHC website. In most instances the suggested actions provide an area for discussion and decision but do not give specific content of policies, regulations and community involvement. However, they do identify direction required in creating or modifying guidance documents to move towards delivering on the Innes' suggested performance measures at a high level. In developing the more detailed responses to the priority issues, the participants should focus on innovative, efficient and effective responses that will achieve the performance measures outlined by Innes.

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					■													■

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 appurtenancy 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

CONCLUSIONS

- 1) Concern over the future of BC forest lands is 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 is 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 are 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 are 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
 - f) A high level of stewardship on private forest lands
- 5) Decision-makers and communities are 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 are required to give guidance to decision-makers

“Concern over the future of BC forest lands is shared by a wide range of BC residents”

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 through 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

“Provide assistance to communities in building forestry and forest management knowledge and respected forest lands data sources”

2012 PLANNED ACTIVITIES

As in the case of all HFHC contributions, the *2011 Activities Summary Report* will be posted on the HFHC website and distributed to key decision-makers (e.g., politicians, forest industry representatives, influencers, supporting partner organizations, organizations interested in the initiative, media, etc) with encouragement to act on the recommendations.

In discussions with politicians, more specific recommendations than those provided through the 2011 activities are desired. This has generated a 2012 activities plan designed to build on the results from 2011. The objectives will include continuing to build momentum regarding support for BC forest management with a focus on community capacity building and involvement and building on current initiatives of resource ministries that meet community needs.

“More detailed recommendations and community actions that are practical, realistic and innovative are required”

More detailed recommendations and community actions that are practical, realistic and innovative are required. These will be acquired from communities and concerned citizens through:

- 1) Twelve (12) 1-day workshops held within six (6) BC academic institutions to obtain views from concerned citizens, experts and senior implementation people regarding the specific changes to forest management decisions
- 2) Fifteen (15) 1-day community workshops as a basis for community dialogue regarding community recommendations on the specific changes
- 3) Reports from all the expert and community workshops will be provided and summarized into a 2011-2012 activities summary report
- 4) Thirty (30) communications sessions to inform decision-makers, decision-maker influencers, communities and concerned citizens regarding the 2011 - 2012 dialogue recommendations and to encourage further dialogue

These 2012 planned activities are dependent upon sufficient funding contributions, volunteer commitments and partner in-kind contributions.