

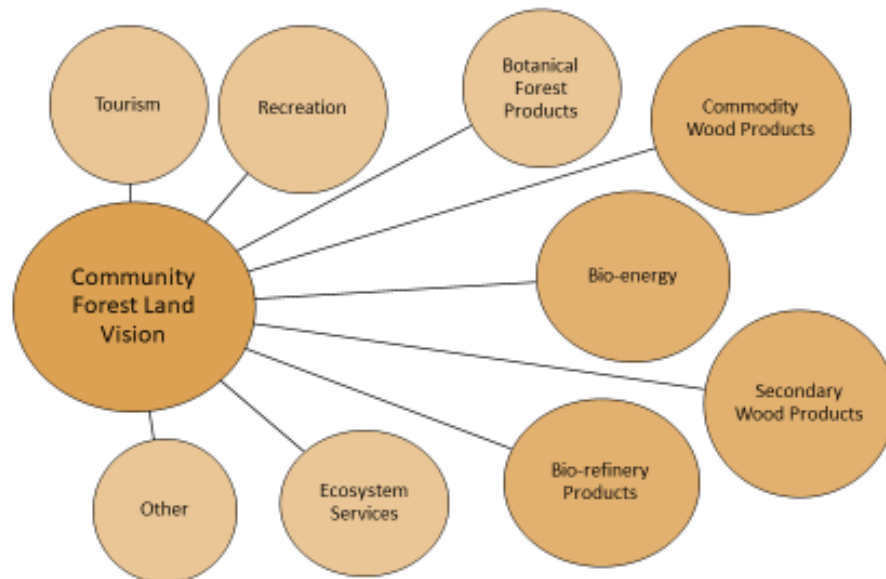
AN APPROACH TO LOCAL FOREST SECTOR DIVERSIFICATION

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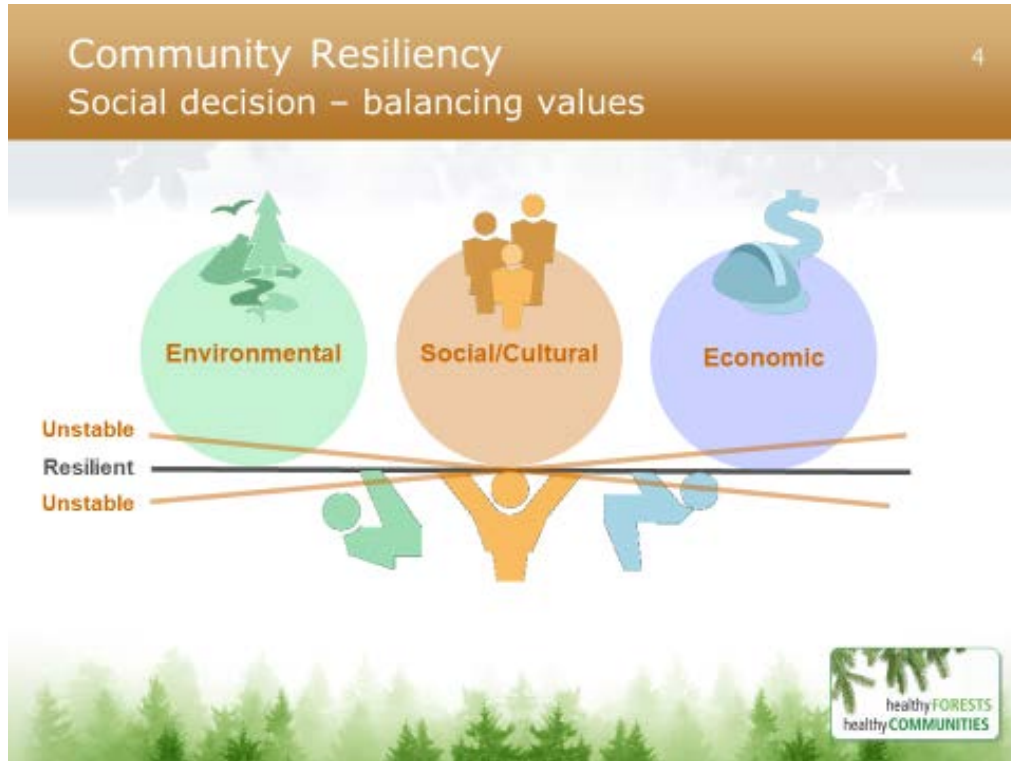
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As forest dependent communities struggle with an uncertain future and tough economic times, it requires deployment of the limited available resources in an efficient and effective manner. This is best achieved through a strategic approach to the issue, beginning with identifying or confirming a community resiliency vision and goals based on the natural resources in the region and sustainable markets that would arise from them as depicted in the following graphic.

OPTIONS FOR BUILDING FOREST RELATED COMMUNITY RESILIENCY



In developing a forest resources strategy for community diversification, balancing values is critical and needs to be considered throughout decision-making within the process and implementation of the strategy.



The BC wood products sector can be categorized into primary (commodity) product producers and secondary (value-added) product producers. Much of the current forest industry has developed emphasizing commodity products. The future of the BC wood products sector is in the creation of clusters where the available fibre is fully utilized and directed to the highest value products. This involves building community diversification through clusters. This is discussed in <http://bcforestconversation.com/wp-content/uploads/Building-through-clusters-1.pdf> to stimulate discussion within communities in achieving their vision and goals.

Industry cluster - An industry cluster is a group of firms and institutions located in close proximity whose businesses are interlinked through value and supply chains, labor, and use of similar inputs, technology, and complementary products. Reference: *The status of and opportunities for business clustering within the forest products sector in the US*, US Endowment for Forestry and Communities, 2009, 27p.