

FRPA Policy Assessment
Summary of Principles, Goals, Desired Outcomes, and Objectives
June 7, 2011

Principles

Four core principles have been identified to guide the adaptation of BC's forest policies and practices for a changing climate. They are:

- Principle One** An effective response to climate change must **consider both the landscape level and the stand block level**: Both lenses are necessary: the block level alone is insufficient. Stand level strategies must be consistent with the landscape level goals.
- Principle Two** Project outcomes will seek to provide sufficient guidance, empowerment, and flexibility to enable success through **reliance upon professionals**.
- Principle Three** Because of their singular opportunity to influence the future forest estate, **stand establishment practices should consider a full suite of values and objectives over the landscape and the rotation**.
- Principle Four** In order to deal with increasing uncertainty of management outcomes in a changing climate, **future forest management will consider a range of possible outcomes**, and favor those activities that can produce favorable outcomes for society over a range of potential climatic futures.

Goals

Five goals have been identified for adapting British Columbia's forest practices for a changing climate. They are:

- Goal One** **Keep Pace** with a changing climate: Managed forest ecosystems that are suited to a changing climate.
- Goal Two** **Maintain Diversity**: Complex and diverse ecosystems and landscapes that foster resilience to impacts of climate change.
- Goal Three** **Protect Resources and Values**: A full suite of forest resources and values are maintained to safeguard future management options and benefits.
- Goal Four** **Manage Risks and Capture Opportunities**: Enhanced benefits and reduced climate change impacts and risks over a rotation.
- Goal Five** **Build Adaptive Capacity**: Increased capacity to apply climate change information, knowledge and tools in BC forest management.

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Desired Outcomes

These desired outcomes are designed to work together toward the objective of ecosystem resilience in a changing climate. Each one alone is insufficient, but together they represent a suite of desired outcomes that could lever practices toward increased ecosystem resilience. Other desired outcomes may be identified to support each goal in the future. The desired outcomes are:

Desired Outcomes in a Changing Climate

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| Outcome One | Managed forest ecosystems that are suited to a changing climate so that forest productivity and associated ecological, social, and economic benefits are maintained or enhanced; |
| Outcome Two | Ecosystems and landscapes that are complex and diverse (e.g. biological, genetic, and functional diversity; and diverse forest species and age class distributions) to foster resilience to impacts of climate change; |
| Outcome Three | Adequate biological legacies (e.g. seed and areas that are likely to tolerate climate change impacts) are managed to safeguard future forest management options and benefits; |
| Outcome Four | Enhanced benefits and reduced climate change impacts and risks over a rotation. Can include such elements as increasing productivity on cold sites, increasing forest carbon sequestration, fuel management, etc.; |
| Outcome Five | Increased knowledge, awareness and organizational capacity of forest and natural resource policy makers, practitioners and decision makers to consider climate change adaptation within BC forest management. |

Currently, the proposed desired outcomes are notional in nature. They should not be interpreted as FRPA objectives which are set by government through regulations. Nor are they equivalent to “results” in Forest Stewardship Plans. There are many possible ways to get to desired outcomes: not necessarily through a result or strategy. In future it may be possible to incorporate some or all of these desired outcomes as policy levers or implementation mechanisms arising from them, within the FRPA policy framework, or elsewhere such as in plans or decision support tools.

Objectives

Objectives help answer “what” we might hope to achieve under each goal. In many cases, multiple objectives could be articulated for any given goal, and the ones presented here represent an initial attempt to articulate what we should be aiming for in order to adapt forest management practices to a changing climate in BC. (Similarly, there may be multiple opportunities available to meet any Proposed Objective). Several proposed objectives have been identified to support the goals and desired outcomes. Over time, it is anticipated that additional objectives could be developed. Just as multiple objectives could contribute to a single goal or desired outcome, a single objective could contribute to multiple goals.

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The proposed objectives include:

- Objective 1.1** Forests are planted with stock suitable for a changing climate.
- Objective 2.1** Reforested stands and landscapes have no less diversity than that prior to harvest.
- Objective 2.2:** Reforested stands and landscapes should have sufficient stocking in secondary and/or tertiary species to meet minimum stocking levels for the site.
- Objective 3.1** BC has a mechanism in place to ensure the adequacy of biological legacies to safeguard future management options and benefits.
- Objective 4.1** BC's forests are managed in a way that captures opportunities and addresses climate change risks and impacts.
- Objective 4.2** Cumulative impacts associated with climate change are considered in forest management decisions.
- Objective 4.3** BC has measures in place to assess the achievement and progress in sustaining ecosystem benefits in a changing climate.
- Objective 5.1** BC forest managers have the knowledge, tools and organizational capacity to adapt BC forest practices for a changing climate
- Objective 5.2** Research, extension, monitoring, and training supports the development of policy, administrative guidance and decision support tools that address climate change adaptation in BC forest management.

A note about objectives for climate change adaptation

The objectives outlined in this paper have no legal status of May 2011. Rather, they are notional in nature. The intent of bringing them forward is to initiate a conversation as part of a policy assessment process geared towards managing public forests sustainably in a changing climate. In other words, the proposed objectives outlined here are not FRPA Objectives (Objectives Set By Government for the values outlined in FRPA, nor are they Objectives set by Regulation, etc.) at this time.