

Climate Change Adaptation for Forest Stewardship

Opportunities to Foster Resilience in BC Forest Management

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Most Promising Opportunities¹

1. Set goalposts and provide clear direction
2. Move beyond the stand level and free growing: develop plans or strategies that address the broad scale and long term
3. Reforest with a broader mix of species
4. Align reforestation with the direction of climate change
5. Ensure adequacy of monitoring especially beyond free growing
6. Improve capacity to adapt
7. Create incentives: address cost and risk

What Could we do in the Short Term?

1. Regional, management unit or landscape level strategies and plans; (especially species strategies)
2. Provide clear direction and guidance, (particularly to support innovation and stocking standards)
3. Provide knowledge and tools, particularly on species selection, forest health and climate change
4. Use the Forests for Tomorrow program to further demonstrate leadership and best practices on adaptation.

Longer Term and Pivotal Issues

BC's ability to foster ecosystem resilience and adapt successfully to a changing climate over the longer term is contingent upon several issues that will take time to implement. They include:

- 1) Plan for the long term at the forest scale
- 2) Recognize additional costs for innovation related to resilience, and address the risk to licensees for failure of novel plantations or doing something different
- 3) Balance objectives: resilience is needed for more than just trees
- 4) Incorporate resilience into timber supply
- 5) Improve capacity to adapt
- 6) Monitor to support and align with climate change adaptation

Next Steps

In fall 2011, the project team consulted with various groups including, for example, the Minister's Forest Practices Advisory Council and Provincial Forestry Forum. An Action Plan will be developed for release in early 2012.

¹ Based on input gathered from four workshops held in June 2011. Participants included government, industry, BCTS and community forest managers ¹