BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
Adapting to Climate Change Seminar 2012

Forest Stewardship Action Plan for Climate Change Adaptation

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Abstract

On February 28, 2012, BC's Chief Forester Jim Snetsinger released British Columbia's Forest Stewardship Action Plan for Climate Change Adaptation. This plan outlines a new vision and signals an important new policy direction for climate change adaptation within the sphere of forest management in British Columbia. This Action Plan builds on BC's over-arching Climate Change Adaptation Strategy developed by the Ministry of Environment for Provincial Government as a whole.

The MFLNR Forest Stewardship Action Plan for Climate Change Adaptation outlines actions the Ministry will undertake to move adaptation to climate change into policies and practices to keep BC's forests healthy, resilient, and productive. The Action Plan aims to manage the risks to our forests from climate change and to capture the opportunities that arise.

In the words of Jim Snetsinger, BC's Chief Forester, "*The Action Plan builds on ongoing work, partnerships, and commitment to climate change adaptation in British Columbia's forests. This work began with the Future Forest Ecosystems Initiative (FFEI) in 2005, deepened through the Future Forest Ecosystems Scientific Council projects, and benefits from synergy with partners including industry, universities, the Canada-USA Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, and others. The Action Plan starts with the forest resource and will be expanded to include other resources such as water, land, fish and wildlife habitat, etc. in the future.* ...For more information, see Adapting to Climate Change on the *Chief Forester website*, or the *Competitiveness and Innovation Branch website*."

Biography

Kathy Hopkins is a professional forester working for the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations in Victoria BC. As a *Technical Adviser for Climate Change* since 2005, Kathy led the team that developed the Ministry's Adaptation Action Plan. Under the auspices of the Chief Forester and more recently Competitiveness and Innovation Branch, she also contributed to the Future Forest Ecosystems Initiative technical team and Canadian Council for Forest Ministers Climate Change Task Force. Kathy's background includes about ten years working for the forest industry on the BC coast, a year teaching forest management at Malaspina College, and leading various initiatives for the Forest Service including managing training for the *Forest and Range Practices Act*.