

Professional Forestry: Ensuring excellence in Forest Stewardship

A presentation from the Association of BC Forest Professionals
on Recent Climate Change Initiatives

March 9, 2015

Megan Hanacek, RPF, RPBio– ABCFP Staff
(Slideshow framework fr. Casey Macauley, originally presented
Summer 2014)

Who is the ABCFP?

- Established in 1947 (the first Foresters Act)
- Regulates the practice of professional forestry in BC.
- 5,500 members including Registered Prof Foresters, Registered Forest Technologists, Limited Licenses, Certificate holders, Retired members.
- Members are employed in a wide range of sectors, broadly grouped as Government, Industry, NGOs, First Nations, Consulting and Academia.
- Council, CEO and staff.
- Mission of the ABCFP:

“Our mission is to ensure British Columbia has qualified forest professionals and to support them in providing excellence in forest stewardship”

Mandate

Duty and objects of the association - *Foresters Act*

4. (1) It is the duty of the association

(a) to **serve and protect the public interest**

(2) The objects of the association are the following:

(a) to uphold the **public interest** respecting the practice of professional forestry..

(b) to advocate for and uphold *principles of stewardship* of **forests, forest lands, forest resources and forest ecosystems**

Principles of Stewardship

Forest Stewardship is the responsible use of forest resources based on the application of an **ecological understanding at the stand, forest and landscape levels which maintains and protects ecosystem function, integrity and resilience**. It is based upon an ethical responsibility to the land and people for current and future generations.

http://abcfp.ca/publications_forms/publications/documents/Principles_of_Stewardship_2012.pdf

ABCFP Strategic Plan 2014-2016

1. **Leading in the Stewardship of BC Forest Lands and Ecosystems**
2. **Driving Excellence in Professional Practice**
3. **Growing our Profession**
4. **Enhancing Public Trust**
5. **Ensuring Organizational Excellence**

Balancing Choices



Background

- » 2008 position statement
- » 2012 AGM resolution
- » Nov 2012 Climate Change Task Force
- » 2013 membership surveys, workshops
- » 2013 position paper, new award
- » 2014 joint association statement
- » 2014/2015 Joint Association Climate Change Webinars

Climate Change Task Force

- » Identify and prioritize **issues of concern**, regarding climatic effects on forests and the effects of forest management options on the emissions or sequestration of greenhouse gases
- » Assist in the preparation of **guidance material** on climate change for ABCFP members, or in the development of other, related advocacy papers

“that forest professionals will be guided and supported in adapting practices to a changing climate”

Climate Change Task Force

Task Force and Contributors:

Jonathan Armstrong

Michael Bragg

Cam Brown

Dave Daust

Lyle Gawalko

Kathy Hopkins

Laurie Kremsater

Phil MacDonald

Deb MacKillop

Harry Nelson

Sarah O'Keefe

Cindy Pearce

Jeremy Srochenski

Dave Wilford

Guy Burdikin

ABCFP Position Paper

“Pushing some forest species beyond their tolerance and expanding the range of others..”

- » Insects, disease, hydrology, infrastructure, wildfire..
- » Adaptation *with* mitigation
- » Re-examine past approaches
- » Science-based profession
- » Must expand awareness
- » Policy, practice and economic drivers
- » Advocacy, collaboration and innovation

Survey Results and Findings

Awareness survey – March 2013

- » 1300 responses
- » 40% government, 22% industry, 23% consulting
- » 83% noted incr. levels of disturbance due to insects / disease
- » 60% without appropriate training for adaptation decisions
- » 42% do not have access to development opportunities
- » 43% indicated that employers have awareness of impacts
- » 29% indicated employers have an adaptation strategy
- » **Over 40% indicated lack of vision / policy / guidance or BMPs**

Survey Results and Findings

Barriers survey – October 2013

- » 1200 responses
- » 41% government, 23% industry, 20% consulting
- » 90% working in forestry, wide range of practice areas
- » 59% somewhat or very concerned about adapting forest mgt.
- » 71% have some knowledge of appropriate practices;
16% quite knowledgeable

Barriers survey cont..

Barriers grouped into 3 themes:



POLICY

COSTS

PRACTICES



Legislation, gov. policy or standards that limit development and implementation of adaptation strategies..

Top responses:

1. Reliance on models that depend on historic data
2. Stocking standards
3. Unrealistic expectations of G&Y
4. Free Growing



Cost items that limit your progress towards developing or implementing adaptation strategies..

Top responses:

1. No incentives for increased investment in adaptation strategies
2. Training costs (and human resources)
3. Balancing multiple priorities



Standard practices and procedures that limit your progress towards developing/implementing adaptation strategies..

Top responses:

1. Inventory and monitoring are inadequate
2. Lack of knowledge and capacity
3. Science is contradictory
4. Adaptation is inconsistent with the political / business mandate

Barriers survey cont..

Items that would support your practice:

1. Increased flexibility for decision makers to approve innovative practices
2. Community of practice for info and research
3. Increased flexibility to select suitable tree spp.
4. Additional vulnerability assessments
5. Guidance / how to propose innovations to decision makers

Barriers survey cont.. (see Appendix 3)

Commentary: it's a lot about money

“Implement cost allowances that provide incentives to licensees”

“allow for additional costs from a special fund for specific practices”

“silviculture recognition in the appraisal system needs to be derived in a manner other than licensee experienced costs”

“Increase stumpage and offset some of this increase through changes in pricing policy to allow for more incentives to invest in long term road network infrastructure”

“Improve timber pricing policies to immediately reflect up-front adaptation costs”

“Providing funding through grants always makes things a higher priority for our organization”

Barriers survey cont..

Commentary: legislation is a tool

“Legislative fix will be necessary so Licensees can use legal framework to justify actions instead of having to fight over professional interpretations. One independent approver can stall millions of seedlings worth of progress. Chief Forester’s recommendations fall on deaf ears. RPF's are not interested nor have the time to think outside the box. Demographics and reluctance to change are significant factors. Stop talking about options, start requiring meaningful change.”

“Improve regulations to require climate change adaptation under FRPA.”

“Engage policy makers and senior managers in developing clear guidelines on adaption strategy development”

Barriers survey cont..

Commentary: we need leadership and collaboration

“Professions to provide strategic leadership with big picture focus, create business environment that focuses on collaboration..”

“Create working groups in different cells throughout the province.”

“A joint campaign by industry, academia, NGOs and government (below the political level) to inform the public of likely consequences..”

“Greater recognition and awareness by government and company. Get away from "Race to the bottom" mentality to have lowest costs..”

Where the Rubber Hits the Road

1. Nadina district – FSPs and stocking standards
2. Cumulative effects
3. Trust in submissions and reviews
4. Certification standards
5. Social license

ABCFP Recommendations

1. Need information to support professional practice; inventory, forest health
2. No single party should bear the risks associated with climate change; need a framework to build trust; appraisal pathways for stand level investment
3. Continued investment in education, informed by monitoring and trials

Growing Awareness

- » Continued investment in training and workshops
- » ABCFP webinar series: Fall 2014 to Spring 2015
- » Magazine theme Nov/Dec 2014 and March/April 2015
- » Web resources (ABCFP website) and info sharing
- » How do we best support this continued learning?

Advocacy and Relationships



COLLEGE OF
APPLIED BIOLOGY
Professional Accountability



ASSOCIATION OF
PROFESSIONAL BIOLOGISTS
Serving Biology Professionals since 1980



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, 8 July 2014

BC professionals pledge joint action on climate change

Vancouver. As national controversy about how to address climate change continues, four of BC's professional associations, representing more than 9,000 forest professionals, professional biologists and technologists, and professional planners, today released a joint statement recognizing that "climate change is occurring and it has fundamental impacts on British Columbia's communities and ecosystems." This is the first time anywhere in the world that a joint statement of this kind has been released by professional associations, and recognizes the role and responsibility of the associations and their members in addressing climate change.

[http://www.abcfp.ca/about_us/media_centre/documents/Pro Leadership in a Changing Climate-Joint Statement 20140708.pdf](http://www.abcfp.ca/about_us/media_centre/documents/Pro_Leadership_in_a_Changing_Climate-Joint_Statement_20140708.pdf)

The Global Perspective

“Efforts to understand the climate system better are important, but they should not be allowed to divert attention and effort from decision-making and policy formulation based on what is already known and can be addressed.”

http://www.ucl.ac.uk/public-policy/Policy_Commissions/Communication-climate-science/Communication-climate-science-report/TIME_FOR_CHANGE_Final_Proof.pdf

Next Steps

- » Continual evaluation of ABCFP role (evolution of CCTF)
- » Discussions with COFI, certification bodies, regulators
- » Maintain collaboration with agencies
- » Joint warehouse of timely data/trials
- » ??



www.abcfp.ca

Contact Megan mhanacek@abcfp.ca

250.956.4614