



January 2008

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What's the purpose of the Future Forest Ecosystems Initiative?

To adapt B.C.'s forest and range management framework to a changing climate.

This framework includes legislation, policies, procedures and systems under or supporting the Ministry of Forests Act, the Forest Act, the Range Act, the Forest and Range Practices Act, and the Wildfire Act.

2. What effects could climate change have on our forest and range ecosystems?

Over time, climate change could lead to tree species that are poorly adapted to their environment, reducing their productivity and increasing their susceptibility to diseases and insect infestations such as the mountain pine beetle.

Climate change is also expected to result in more frequent and intense wildfires, droughts, floods and storms. This may increase landslides, debris flow, wind throw, and changes to water quality and quantity.

Encroachment of grasslands into forest ecosystems, and forests into alpine areas, will also likely be an increasing management challenge.

3. What outcomes do you hope to achieve through this initiative?

Ecosystems will remain resilient to stress caused by climate change, human activity, and other agents of change.

Ecosystems will continue to provide the basic services, products, and benefits that British Columbians depend on and value.

4. What's the scope of the Future Forest Ecosystems Initiative?

The scope of the FFEI is limited to the legislation and land base under the Ministry of Forests and Range's jurisdiction, and the environmental and ecological aspects of forest and range management.

These management aspects include biogeoclimatic classification, timber supply, ecosystem services, biodiversity, wildlife, fish, riparian, water, soil, terrain, timber and forest plant species, genetics, forage and range plant communities, biotic and abiotic agents, exotic and invasive plant species, and fire.

5. Who will implement the Future Forest Ecosystems Initiative projects?

Implementation is being led by the Ministry of Forests and Range and the forest science, forest practices, tree improvement, forest analysis and inventory, protection, and range programs and branches in its forest stewardship and operations divisions.

The Ministry of Environment will lead or participate in projects related to ecosystem services (nutrient cycling, carbon storage, soil formation, etc.), biodiversity, wildlife, fish, riparian areas and water.



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6. Does the Future Forest Ecosystems Initiative involve other partners?

Yes. Besides the Ministry of Forests and Range and the Ministry of Environment, other organizations will help deliver FFEI projects where their interests, expertise and resources support their involvement. These partners are expected to include:

- Canadian Forest Service
- Integrated Land Management Bureau
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans
- universities and research institutions
- Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium
- Forest Science Board
- FORREX
- Forest Genetics Council
- First Nations
- forest and range industries
- professional associations

7. How will the Future Forest Ecosystems Initiative be delivered?

FFEI will be carried out through or in collaboration with other climate change and resource management initiatives, such as:

- FIA-Forest Science Program
- Forest Health Program
- Mountain Pine Beetle Action Plan
- Forest and Range Evaluation Program
- BC Wildland Fire Strategy
- Gene Resource Management Strategy
- Ecosystem Restoration
- Forest for Tomorrow
- Future Forest Strategy

Other delivery mechanisms will be utilized and adapted to deliver FFEI projects. These include research installations and projects, monitoring and inventory initiatives, resource information systems, adaptive management (operational trials), policy review and approval processes, and extension programs.

8. What's the "big picture" schedule for FFEI over the next few years?

A cross-program/discipline approach to Future Forest Ecosystems Initiative delivery is being developed this year by a technical team.

Those involved in FFEI are to develop long-term implementation plans for their disciplines, as well as business plans for their programs and branches in 2008/09.

While implementation planning is underway, priority projects are being phased-in as capacity and funds allow.

Programs and branches will ramp up their FFEI activities to full integration in the Ministry of Forests and Range's core business in 2009/10.

9. How do I get more information about the Future Forest Ecosystems Initiative?

Refer to the Future Forest Ecosystems Initiative three-year strategic plan and supporting appendices posted at www.for.gov.bc.ca/hts/Future_Forests, or contact coordinator Silvia Lac at 250-387-8902 or Silvia.Lac@gov.bc.ca.