

Charter:

Future Forest Ecosystems Scientific Council (FFESC)

Purpose of the FFESC

Overall, the purpose of the FFESC is to promote research that supports adaptation of BC's forest management framework to anticipated effects from climate change.

The specific objectives are to:

1. Increase our understanding of how forest and range ecosystems can be expected to change over time as a result of climate change.
2. Develop projections to forecast those changes.
3. Develop methods of adapting forest management in response to climate change that will help mitigate the impacts on forest and range ecosystems and productivity.
4. Research the economic and social consequences to BC of the changing forest and range ecosystems, and of the effects of the proposed mitigating options.



Membership

1. Council will be made up of a cooperative from:
 - University of British Columbia (UBC)
 - University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC)
 - Ministry of Forests and Range (MFR)
2. Membership may be changed through unanimous agreement by and invitation of the current Council.

Governance

1. FFESC will prepare a Strategic Plan that integrates its priorities and projects with other research institutions and agencies that support delivery of the Future Forest Ecosystem Initiative, to fill information gaps, improve efficiency and avoid duplication.
2. FFESC will follow the principle of providing funding to worthy projects regardless of their sponsoring organization or institution's connection to the FFESC.

3. Disbursements will be based on the principles of good value for money, timeliness of the product and scientific merit
4. UBC will undertake the role of “administrator” to the FFESC and provide administrative support functions. UBC may be reimbursed an administrative fee as per specific contribution agreements.
5. FFESC may accept contributions in kind or in cash from institutions or agencies wishing to support the goals and objectives of the FFESC.
6. All funds received by FFESC and disbursed to agencies other than the administrator (UBC) will be subject to a maximum administration fee of 5% by the receiving agency.
7. FFESC will disburse all funds from each contribution within 4 years of receipt.
8. An annual report will be prepared to publicly report on funding decisions and deliverables as well as to provide an accounting of funding received and disbursed. Reasonable costs of report preparation incurred by the member institutions may be recovered from FFESC funds.
9. Biannually a value for money audit will be conducted by a third party auditor to verify the effective utilization of disbursed funds. Reasonable costs incurred by member institutions may be recovered from FFESC funds.
10. FFESC may amend this Charter as required with full agreement of council members and will annually publish a business plan to guide their decision making processes.

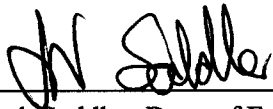
FFEI Research Objectives

1. Identify functional constraints for key species and ecological processes to establish a baseline of information for forecasting and monitoring ecosystem changes.
2. Develop forecasting models to determine how key species and ecological processes might respond to potential future climates.
3. Develop scientific approaches to (a) monitoring ecosystem changes and (b) evaluating existing and new approaches to forest and range management under changing ecological and climatic conditions.
4. Monitor and document the effects of climate change on key species and ecological processes.
5. Carry out experimental tests or trials of existing and new approaches to forest and range management for their effectiveness under changing ecological conditions.
6. Assess the environmental, economic and social risks and benefits associated with implementing climate change adaptation strategies and practices.
7. Communicate and extend knowledge gained through research activities to the forest and range management community.

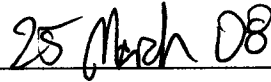
FFEI Research Priorities

Research and analysis into the following areas and concerns will be included as the first set of priorities to be addressed in the pursuit of the above objectives.

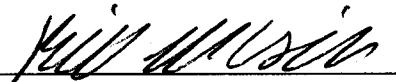
1. Studies on the impacts of forest management actions such as harvesting in mountain pine beetle areas and fertilizing on the coast, on the forest carbon balance and CO₂ emissions.
2. Predict effects of climate variability on forest growth at the regional level to assist in long-term timber supply analysis.
3. Develop understanding of the effects of declining species in forest stand composition on the management of the current and future timber supply (e.g. yellow cedar decline along the coast).
4. Expand our ability to forecast future risk of insect and disease pests of commercial conifer and hardwood species.
5. Understand the effects of a warming environment to Northern BC hydrology and geomorphology, where there is evidence of increasing landslides.
6. Understand the effects of climate change on wildfire and wildfire prediction, and the impacts on hydrologic and geomorphologic processes.
7. Assess the vulnerability of dominant tree species to successful regeneration under various climatic projection scenarios
8. Determine the primary vulnerabilities, adaptation opportunities and challenges to BC and Canada's main tree species (including genetic, mortality and pest susceptibility issues).
9. Identify the tolerances of major grasses, forbs, and shrubs to predicted levels of climate change and determine implications for the range industry.
10. Determine how changing climate will affect wildlife habitat supply, (especially where there are compounding environmental impacts such as in the mountain pine beetle region).



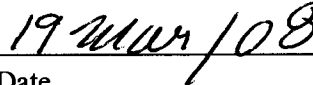
Dr. Jack Saddler, Dean of Forestry
University of British Columbia



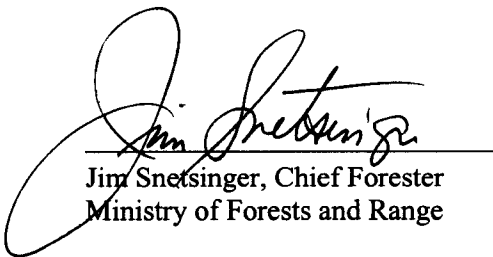
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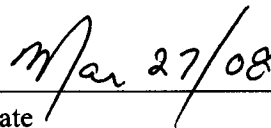
Dr. William McGill, Dean
College of Science and Management
University of Northern British Columbia



Date



Jim Snetsinger, Chief Forester
Ministry of Forests and Range



Date