

# Forest Inventory and Information Considerations for Large Integrated Forest Companies

Forest Information Management  
Workshop

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# Who COFI Is

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- Represents majority of BC interior major forest companies.
- Offices in Vcr, Kelowna, PG, Tokyo, Shanghai, Beijing, Shanghai, Taipei, Seoul.
- CEO is John Allan, former Deputy Minister of Forests.

# What COFI Does

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- Ensure lumber grading standards are upheld.
- Community relations.
- Forest Education.
- Market access and development.
- Forest policy in BC.

# Inventory is Important

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- Improves the Province's ability to optimize the realization of multiple forest values while at the same time minimizing downward pressures on the **rate of timber harvest**.
- Improves the natural resource sectors' and the Province's ability to demonstrate and document world-class management, in order to **gain market access**.

# To Do List

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- **Aerial Photographs** – the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management (MSRM) reports that in some cases, the photography upon which forest cover information is premised upon is over thirty years old.
- **Vegetation Resource Inventory (VRI) Phase I** – the MSRM reports that as of July 9th, 2004, 5 of 37 TSAs have VRI Phase I 100% completed, and 14 of 37 have VRI Phase II completed. In the case of TFLs, 12 of 34 and 14 of 34 have VRI phases I and II respectively completed.
- **Net Volume Adjustment Factors (NVAF)** – Many TSAs have identified as priorities NVAF ground sampling and analysis according to MSRM reports.

# To Do List

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- Growth and Yield – Timberline and J.S. Thrower expect site index sampling needs to occur in each TSA.
- Traditional Use Studies (TUS) and Archaeological Overview Assessments (AOA's) Timberline and J.S. Thrower indicated that 60% of the province had TUS's completed at a cost of \$17 million.
- Recreation Inventory – This inventory is considered completed for all TSA's.
- Visual Landscape Inventory – This inventory is considered completed for all TSA's.
- Operability Assessment - This inventory is considered completed for all TSA's.

# To Do List

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- **Ecosystem Mapping** – Timberline and J.S. Thrower report that only a small amount of this mapping has occurred. The great majority of the province has yet to be mapped.
- **Riparian Classification** – Timberline and J.S. Thrower report that stream classification needs to be conducted and mapped in a manner that is compatible with TRIM.
- **Other Inventories and Related Information Management Tools** – Other inventories important to the forest industry include: wildlife habitat, terrain, GIS data management, TSR data package, TSR analysis.

# The Gap

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- The cost will be \$230 million (2002 estimate).
- Amortized over ten years and prorated over 59 million m<sup>3</sup> of AAC, the cost will be \$0.40 per m<sup>3</sup> for the next ten years.
- The range of estimates is \$0.30/m<sup>3</sup> for the Southern Interior to \$0.56/m<sup>3</sup> for the Coast.
- Maintenance of inventories thereafter will cost \$0.12/m<sup>3</sup> (\$0.06/m<sup>3</sup> for the Northern Interior to \$0.89/m<sup>3</sup> for the Coast). See Appendix 4.

# Recommendations

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1. That FIA funding for inventory and information management be maintained at \$25 - \$30 million per year until the gap is closed (estimated to be 8-10 years). This is the best model to achieve cost neutrality.
2. That the successful current model of willing licensees and other stakeholders voluntarily pooling their FIA allocations to undertake TSA/TFL based projects. This allows localized groups to establish mutually agreed to spending priorities.

# Recommendations

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3. That the COFI/CFLA Inventory and Information Management Subcommittee continue to advocate measures to:
- Streamline information exchange between government and industry;
  - Reduce the amount and frequency of industry reporting requirements;
  - Ensure that government held information needed by industry to exercise their harvesting rights is available and accessible;
  - Subject proposals to business case tests.

# Forest Investment Account

- The forest industry has significant concerns that further erosion or continuation of the current level of funding will:
  - Increase the time to bring all areas of the province to the minimum acceptable of quality of inventory.
  - Increase the risk of off-loading to the private sector.
  - Impair the Province's ability to optimize the realization of multiple forest values while minimizing downward pressures on the rate of timber harvest.
  - Jeopardize the natural resource sectors' Province's ability to demonstrate and document world-class management.

LBIP Component	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05
Information Gathering and Management	29.615	23.088	13.435
Standards Development and Data Management	11.648	11.359	8.493
	41.263	34.447	21.928

# Defined Forest Mgmt

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- Original intent was to off-load inventory and forest health obligation to industry.
- Would have forced a coalition of the unwilling, priority of cost minimization.
- Intangible interests are best managed by gov't for the collective good.
- DFAM is indefinitely postponed.

# Future Trends

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- Timber supply analysis as a tool in MPB areas to
  - Model scenarios to determine optimal achievement of multiple values.
  - A major value is mitigation of the depth and duration of timber supply falldown (and thus contribute to community stability objective).
- Mitigation of falldown using TS analysis
  - Determine appropriate rate of harvest.
  - Establish harvest schedule guidelines.
  - Identify candidate areas for rehabilitation.

# Future Trends

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- Harmonization of timber quantification systems:
  - Cruising (tree classes, FIZ loss factors)
  - Scaling (firmwood volume available to cut lumber, log grades)
  - Vegetation inventory (net factoring, BEC loss factors)
- AAC, timber pricing, cut control
- FAIB, RB, RTEB need to work together.

# Questions and Discussion

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- Thank-you.

