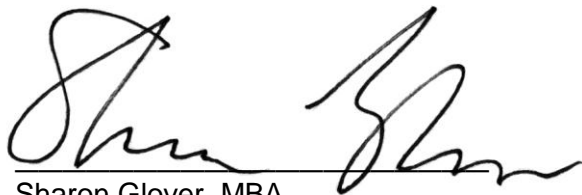


Mid-Term Timber Supply Report

November 7, 2011
(Amended Jan 24, 2012)

Association of BC Forest Professionals
Ensuring BC's Forests Are in Good Hands.



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Amendment to the Mid-Term Timber Supply Advocacy Report (January 24, 2012)

New information has been brought to our attention regarding the identification of values in the original advocacy report. Specifically, when viewed with a tourism lens, the issue of VQOs can look quite different. Tourism associated with BC's forestlands and forest resources makes a significant contribution to local economies and the overall provincial economy. Nature-based tourism generates \$1.6 billion for BC and is a major driver of BC's \$13 billion tourism industry.

The ABCFP is concerned that references to specific values in the advocacy report may weaken the impact of key points in the report by suggesting that the ABCFP endorses a preferred choice. For example, Recommendation # 6, which states that Visual Quality should be a focus for trade-off, might suggest that the ABCFP has a preferred choice, when in fact, such a decision needs to be discussed by the government agency, their partners and the communities. The advocacy of the ABCFP is that this stewardship discussion needs to occur, soon.

The Advocacy Report also says that the association and its members are valuable knowledge advocates and support the needed public discussion regarding the forest ecosystems of BC and in particular the mid-term timber supply following MPB.

It is in this context that we change the recommendation in our report to focus on the primary point drawn from what we have heard from our members and experts regarding compromise and non-timber forest management objectives:

6. Difficult trade-offs exist when considering the right balance following MPB forest damage. Increasing or reducing one value at the expense of other values requires informed discussion and debate.

The amendment notice is provided to the Chief Forester and forest professionals as a revision to our advocacy report of November 7, 2011.

The ABCFP is pleased to contribute this report to the Chief Forester for inclusion in his analyses of the mid-term timber supply in mountain pine beetle damaged forests and affected communities. Many ABCFP members contributed to the report by providing comments and advice over several weeks.

How we approached the issue

The ABCFP recognized that our members have a great deal of professional and community based knowledge centered on their experience working in pine beetle-killed stands. As a result, the ABCFP asked members to contribute to an advocacy initiative regarding the mid-term timber supply analysis in three ways.

1. ABCFP members were consulted using three scenarios patterned after the Chief Forester's article in **BC Forest Professional** magazine in three consecutive issues of the e-newsletter **The Increment**. http://www.abcfp.ca/publications_forms/e-newsletter.asp
2. ABCFP staff travelled to several communities and discussed with members how the impacts of the mountain pine beetle (MPB) have affected their work and lives.
3. Individuals (most were ABCFP members) who were deemed to be 'experts' on the subject due to their location, experience and work history, were interviewed by J. Perry Resource Communications, on behalf of the ABCFP.

Advice from members

Our members think in terms of forest maturation cycles of 60 to 100 years. They do not support making short-term tradeoffs now that would jeopardize non-timber forest management objectives or the mid-term timber supply if not supported by scientific research and consultation with the public.

Members felt that the existing higher-level plans were still relevant due to their long-term view and that the original reasons for the forest management constraints still apply. They commented that in their view, changing management requirements would not prevent mill closures. Rather it will just postpone the inevitable fall down in timber supply. There was a concern that the consequences of such forest management decisions would be worse than the benefits derived from an increase in today's timber supply. Harvesting a wildlife tree patch or old-growth management area now would make it extremely difficult to recreate them in the future. The long-term planning for such forest management objectives is an essential part of the solution. Members talked about the broad and specific planning initiatives of the past and the requirement for similar programs in the future.

When asked about Visual Quality Objectives (VQOs) versus other values our members were split on this trade-off. Some felt that the visual objective is the only human-centric objective and therefore should naturally be the first to be sacrificed for a timber supply use. While other members commented that in their view, the multi-billion dollar tourism industry in the province should be a major factor of consideration and furthermore, that there would not be significant amounts of timber supply gained if VQOs were relaxed. Many members also raised the caution that other resource values are often combined with VQOs within an area.

When asked what the public, as owners of the resource, should consider in making decisions around changing objectives, members pointed out that a gain to one group may be a loss to others and a theme that kept coming up was broad public input must be sought on these issues

before decisions are reached on changes to forest management strategies. Public consultation in areas of high sensitivity is required to prevent undesirable outcomes.

Members commented that decisions made by the land owner should be based on ethical stewardship and science and not solely short-term economics. Some members suggested that the public needs to be involved in these decisions or forest professionals working for a tenure holder or government may not be seen as acting in the public's best interest. Others felt that the land owner should provide incentives for any activity that enables timber in the mid-term age classes to mature faster. In most circumstances members responded that local communities should have a greater say in what happens in and around their communities.

Advice from Experts

The following information and advice was collected by interviewing experts who live and/or work in MPB-affected areas of the province. The bulleted points are the experts' comments.

1. Protect the supply of mature green wood

Members strongly agree that one of the keys to protecting the mid-term timber supply is to exclusively harvest the dead pine and delay harvesting any green wood until it is absolutely necessary.

- Encourage harvesting of dead pine for as long as possible
- Focus harvesting on low mid-term valued economic stands for harvest while identifying and avoiding areas with high economic mid-term value until the mid-term.
- Expect natural regeneration in identified areas that provide a reasonable establishment time line with no establishment costs.
- Consider partial cutting incentives to encourage harvest innovation in mixed stands that would enable the harvest of dead pine while protecting live trees and secondary structure.

2. Protect and manage the understory of beetle killed stands

- Protect the understory.
- Change secondary structure rules from at least 4 m tall understory to 2 m tall to protect those stands.

3. Increase funding for silviculture and the establishment of new forests

- Improved silviculture techniques and strategies can improve the quality and quantity of future timber supplies.
- Modify stocking standards to include more mixed species management, including healthy deciduous species.
- Look at sites to determine whether natural regeneration will occur and how successful it will be. Don't spend money on sites where regeneration will happen naturally.

4. Improve management of young stands targeted for mid-term timber supply

- Develop a resilient forest strategy that includes an action plan of stand interventions that reduce the susceptibility of future forests to MPB and protects sapling development in current dead pine leading stands.
- Fertilize targeted stands 30 years of age and older, or close to rotation for beginning harvest in 2020.

5. Offer incentives to forest resource based-businesses to focus on the long term

- Investigate and pursue alternative strategies such as committing MPB-affected forests to carbon sequestration.

6. Communities need to have a say in the mid-term timber supply process

- Communities need a say in the mid-term timber supply decision including the discussion of changing forest management objectives and constraints.

7. Finding an acceptable balance

- The key to finding the acceptable balance in the timber supply discussion is to focus on the pillars of sustainable forest management – healthy ecosystems, economies and societies. This includes meeting current needs without compromising future needs and managing forests for forest resiliency.

Conclusion

There is considerable potential to better engage communities in discussion on how they value and contribute to their local forest resources. Most of the members consulted believe that the ABCFP has an important role in leadership for stewardship and resource sustainability. It is in this context that we provide the following recommendations drawn from what we have heard from our members and experts:

1. Consult the local communities affected by MPB more broadly, incorporate the experience of members of the ABCFP, and make decisions that take into account the sustainability of the communities as well as the spinoff effects on the entire province.
2. Use principles of sustainable forest management to find the appropriate balance for industry, government and communities.
3. Regarding the various analyses to change non-timber forest management objectives and constraints, a one-size-fits-all approach is not in the interest of the communities or the forest at large. Community by community, area by area solutions are necessary.
4. Changing non-timber forest management objectives and constraints will affect more than just the areas damaged by MPB. Ensure the broad implications of these changes are provided the same rigor with which they were originally established.
5. Higher level plans are still relevant and valuable due to their long-term view and the original reasons for non-timber forest management constraints still apply.
6. Difficult trade-offs exist when considering the right balance following MPB forest damage. Increasing or reducing one value at the expense of other values requires informed discussion and debate.
7. Ensure that the terms of any cost-benefit analysis be from a perspective that is long term and wide ranging.
8. Ensure that specific expectations developed by the Chief Forester and others are clear so forest professionals know what the expected outcome on the ground is. Advice that uses vague statements about a percent reduction in some values will force decision makers to default to short-term economics.
9. Establish greater economic incentives for the forest industry to harvest the dead wood.
10. Develop strategies for the appropriate use of forests of green wood not affected by MPB.
11. Develop partial cutting incentives for harvest innovation in mixed stands that protect live trees and secondary structure in a MPB-affected forest.
12. Offer greater incentives for the forest industry to focus on long-term forest resource management and innovation.
13. Provide technical resources for proper forest management implementation at the operational level. This is different than prescribing the details of what to do in the forest

operationally and focuses on supporting good forest management tools such as inventory, research and the technology transfer of information to forest professionals who direct the implementation activities.

14. Improve the management of young stands because every tree for the mid-term timber supply is already in the ground and growing.
15. Invest in updating all forest inventories in the MPB affected forest.
16. Invest in a broad range of establishment and intensive silviculture techniques to enable forests to mature earlier and keep forest worker expertise within the community.
17. Government must include the long-term perspective in land use decision making and not solely base it on short-term economics.