



Tree Improvement Branch

Research Branch

FGC

Forest Genetics Council
of British Columbia

August 31, 2007

Re: Forest Tree Genetic Resource Conservation and Management (GRM) in BC.

Dear Colleagues;

Attached you will find the second Progress Report for the Challenge Dialogue on Forest Tree Genetic Resource Conservation and Management (GRM) in BC. This progress report includes a synthesis of the comments received from stakeholders and the public during the second round of our dialogue and proposed next steps.

Feedback on the most recent GRM Challenge Paper was received from 54 persons representing government, industry, universities, non-government organizations and consulting firms. Their consolidated and unattributed feedback was previously posted on the GRM website at: http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hti/grm_dialogue.htm

The rich and diverse feedback received indicates that stakeholders and the public value the importance of conserving and managing the province's forest genetic resources for present and future generations. Although many expressed views in alignment with current GRM practices and assumptions, a number expressed views contrary to these or requested further information and clarification. Our intent to develop a broadly-supported vision and strategy for GRM has been reaffirmed by receipt of this diversity of views.

Six challenges or themes emerged from the feedback received. These include: 1) need for refining the scope of the GRM vision and strategy; 2) responding to climate change; 3) integrating and balancing the three objectives for GRM (conservation, resilience and gain); 4) integrating GRM with other forest management initiatives; 5) clarifying roles and responsibilities within the GRM community of practice; and 6) improving communications about GRM to stakeholders and the public.

The above 6 themes will serve as the basis for developing a draft GRM strategy. We intend to hold a workshop in mid-October (previously scheduled for September 18) to focus this work. In order to ensure balanced representation at this workshop by members of the GRM community of practice, stakeholders and the public, participation at the workshop will be by invitation. These invitations and further information regarding the workshop will follow in early September.

Even though everyone with an interest in GRM will not be able to attend the upcoming workshop, we encourage everyone to continue following this dialogue. Comments on the attached Progress Report and forthcoming GRM strategy are welcome from all - via our website or directly to one of us by email.

Thanks again to those who provided comments and continue to follow the progress of this dialogue.

Yours truly,

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MoFR

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Jack Woods for John Elmslie,
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