

Growth and Yield Monitoring Task Force

Terms of Reference

September 1996

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Introduction

The Growth and Yield Monitoring Task Force (GYMTF) represents the interests of the provincial Growth and Yield Program as established and documented by the Forest Productivity Council of B.C. (FPCouncil). The establishment of a GYMTF was recommended by the Ministry of Forest's Growth and Yield Steering Committee (GYSC) in September, 1995 and confirmed by the FPCouncil at the Hinton, Alberta meeting of October 13, 1995.

At the top level, a monitoring program is needed by the Chief Forester to assess the risk and uncertainty around the application of growth and yield information for the determination of Allowable Annual Cut and timber supply planning. At a lower level, the program must assess the risk and uncertainty around growth & yield predictions in areas such as resource inventory, research, silviculture and forest health.

Mandate

Reporting to the GYSC, and working in cooperation with other stakeholders, the GYMTF will

1. identify provincial growth and yield needs related to monitoring; and
2. develop a framework for provincially coordinated programs to meet the identified growth and yield monitoring needs.

This two-phase approach is necessary since no general agreement exists among stakeholders of what constitutes growth and yield monitoring. The resulting expectations regarding the mandate of the GYMTF therefore differ, and these differences must be addressed.

Definition

In reviewing the growth and yield needs, the following definition will be used:

Growth and Yield Monitoring is the process of observing the growth and yield of a forest and comparing this with the predicted growth and yield of that forest to assess risk and uncertainty around predictions.

This definition is a simplified version of the one proposed by Thrower & Associates in their 1994 report to the MOF. They also state:

"this definition implies that a prior expectation of growth and yield must exist before it can be monitored. Thus the objective of growth and yield monitoring should be to check existing growth and yield predictions - not to develop new predictions." In this context, "a prior expectation of growth and yield" includes everything from a ballpark estimate by a reasonably informed field practitioner to a model or permanent sample plot based output.

Scope

The Task Force will focus on:

1. growth and yield in the traditional sense, i.e., of wood fibre;
2. monitoring in the areas of forest inventory, forest research, silviculture and forest health;
3. monitoring at the stand aggregate level.

Linkages to monitoring systems of other resources will also be developed. Here, the primary focus will be on those resources which have a direct impact on wood fibre flow, e.g. other vegetation, range, recreation, wildlife and visual quality objectives (VQO's).

Strategy and Tasks

Phase 1

The GYMTF will identify provincial growth and yield needs related to monitoring by:

- reviewing existing information;
- identifying the stakeholders and working with them to update the information, i.e. to determine the current status of growth and yield and their future needs;
- developing a rationale and process for identifying growth and yield monitoring needs, including linkages among them and their uses for planning and other purposes.

The stakeholders include the Ministry of Forests' forestry and operations divisions, industry, private land owners and other non-government agencies.

Phase 2

The GYMTF will develop a framework for provincially coordinated programs to meet the identified growth and yield monitoring needs by

- establishing Working Groups which will develop procedures for meeting these needs;
- coordinating and integrating the tasks of the Working Groups;
- developing common monitoring standards (terminology) and procedures. In doing so, the GYMTF will build on the standards and procedures already developed by the Resource Inventory Committee and the FPCouncil. Training material will be produced as part of this task;
- making recommendations to the Chief Forester on the implementation of the Provincial Monitoring Programs, including resource needs and schedules; on the use, application and limitations of the monitoring process; and on a procedure for on-going evaluation;
- establishing linkages with any other (non-growth and yield) monitoring programs and identifying areas for program integration and consolidation as well as opportunities for shared data collection; and
- reviewing the Silviculturally Treated and Intensive Forestry Programs and proposing the integration of suitable components into the Monitoring Program.

Work Plan and Timetable

Phase 1

1. Establish Task Force, preliminary Terms of Reference Mar. 1, 1996
2. Obtain FPCouncil agreement Mar. 7, 1996
3. Obtain GYSC endorsement Mar. 20, 1996
4. Complete needs assessment (Phase 1) Oct. 31, 1996
5. Obtain Phase 1 sign-off Dec. 31, 1996

Phase 2

1. Establish Working Groups and programs
2. Develop draft standards and procedures
3. Establish linkages with non-growth and yield programs
4. Complete field tests of standards and procedures
5. Produce training material and manuals
6. Report to the Chief Forester (Complete Phase 2)

Membership

Membership of the GYMTF will consist of technical specialists chosen as individuals from the provincial government staff, industry, the consulting community and academia. They will be drawn from a number of disciplines (growth and yield, resource inventory, silviculture and forest health). Membership will be approved by the GYSC.

The GYMTF membership list is as follows:

Name Agency Field of Expertise

- Jon Vivian (chair) RIB growth and yield, program development
- A.Y. Omule RIB inventory, sampling, growth and yield
- Peter Marshall UBC growth and yield, modelling, sampling
- Abdel Azim Zumrawi RB growth and yield modelling
- Pat Martin SPB silviculture, growth and yield
- Steen Magnussen CFS inventory, sampling, growth and yield
- Steve Northway Industry growth and yield, modelling
- Mike Bonnor (sec.) Consultant inventory, sampling, growth and yield
- Val Fletcher SPB forest health, sampling/surveys
- Bob MacDonald MOF/Region regional growth and yield
- Larry Henry Weyerhauser TSA, planning
- Balvinder Biring RB veg. mgt. monitoring, research

Working Groups will be established, as required, and be comprised of varying numbers of technically qualified specialists within the province. Recognized experts outside the province will be utilized when necessary.