

May 23, 2006

With increasing frequency, we are hearing warnings of climate change and its potential impacts. Although there is uncertainty about the magnitude and timing of climate change, especially at regional and landscape scales, a warming trend is evident and supported by a growing body of scientific information.

Warmer conditions could increase forest and range productivity in some areas. However, higher temperatures could also result in damaging events to forests and rangelands, such as insect and disease outbreaks, fire, and drought. Changes in weather will also have implications for forest and range operations, and the communities that depend upon our natural resources.

In June 2005, I initiated a task team consisting of staff from the Ministry of Forests and Range (MoFR) and the Ministry of Environment to review the opportunities and risks that climate change poses to our forest and range resources, and to prepare a report outlining how the MoFR should strategically position itself in response to these changes.

Today, I am pleased to present you with their report: *Preparing for Climate Change: Adapting to Impacts of Climate Change on BC's forest and range resources*. This report may be downloaded at the following site: [http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/mof/Climate\\_Change/](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/mof/Climate_Change/)

*Preparing for Climate Change* contains 13 recommended short-term actions that the MoFR could undertake in response to climate change. These actions include increasing knowledge through analysis and research, reviewing operational policies and practices, and building awareness and capacity within and outside the ministry.

The report itself contributes to increasing awareness of climate change within the forest and range sectors. It also represents the start of a dialogue that will occur between the MoFR and forest and range tenure holders, professional associations, research institutions, communities, First Nations, environmental groups and others on how we should respond to the implications of climate change in our forest and range policies, plans and practices.

The report and its recommendations are also consistent with the action items contained in BC's climate change plan: *Weather Climate and the Future: BC's Plan*.

Those recommendations that fall within the scope of the Future Forests Ecosystem Initiative (FFEI) will also be incorporated into the FFEI report, which I will be releasing in a few weeks time. These and other initiatives, and the actions that will stem from them, will ensure that BC's forest and range resources continue to be managed in a sustainable manner.

I invite you to submit comments on *Preparing for Climate Change* using the feedback form found on the website noted above before July 31, 2006. Comments may also be submitted in writing to Brian Barber, RPF, Technical Advisor, Tree Improvement Branch, Ministry of Forests and Range, PO Box 9518 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, BC, V8W 9C2. email: [brian.barber@gov.bc.ca](mailto:brian.barber@gov.bc.ca)

Please feel free to pass this email and invitation onto your staff, members, and colleagues, as the case may be.

Thank you,

Jim Snetsinger, RPF  
Chief Forester  
Ministry of Forests and Range