

Results Based Code Pilots

Progress Report # 2 – May, 2000

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INTRODUCTION

This report describes the status and next steps of the results based code pilot projects that are under development, outlines common themes that continue to emerge; and discusses some current issues being addressed.

For overviews of the history of the initiative and the process for developing pilots, please refer to the March 2000 progress report on the project web-site at: <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/rbpilot/index.htm>, where additional background information can be found.

STATUS OF PILOT PROJECTS

For a brief statement describing the focus of the pilots refer to the March 2000 progress report.

Pilots under development include:

Cariboo Lumber Manufacturers Association

The draft of the detailed proposal is almost completed. It is anticipated that the proponent will present a concept draft to the regional working group on June 7 and 8, 2000. Following completion of the draft, consultations will be initiated with the Cariboo Regional Resources Board, First Nations, communities, interested public, and the Forest Caucus of the B.C. Environmental Network prior to taking the finalized detailed proposal to the Joint Steering Committee.

Cariboo Woodlot Associations

Five individual woodlot holders have now been identified as the specific proponents to carry this initiative forward. They are Woodlots 0545, 1808, 1452, 0555 and 1866. The pilot concept of a comprehensive management plan replacing the present hierarchy of plans has been tested on one prototype woodlot, and is currently being tested on a second. The proponents and the regional working group are scheduled to meet on June 6 to assign tasks to finalize development of the detailed proposal and begin drafting the regulation.

Canfor and Partners

This pilot was recently expanded to cover the entire Fort St. John Timber Supply Area in order to capture greater efficiencies and better pilot the concept of a sustainable forest management plan for certification purposes. The formation of a public advisory group is underway. The proponents and the regional working group are scheduled to meet on May 26 to review a draft of the detailed proposal, and clarify responsibilities and steps for drafting the regulation. Consultations will be initiated with the Public Advisory Group, First Nations, communities and other interested public, and the Forest Caucus of the B.C. Environmental Network prior to taking the finalized proposal to the Joint Steering Committee.

Riverside Forest Products

A Project Advisory Panel consisting of stakeholders, public, proponent and agencies has been formed and has been meeting to review draft proposals developed by the proponent. The project management team has met to provide direction to the completion of a project implementation plan and form a regional technical committee, which is scheduling meetings to work towards finalizing a detailed proposal prior to presenting to the project advisory panel in late June.

Weyerhaeuser Stillwater Division

A public advisory group has been formed to provide input to the pilot project. A number of teams are working on various aspects. It is anticipated that the proponent and regional working group will meet June 2 to review an initial draft of the detailed proposal. Following the public advisory group meeting, consultations will be initiated with First Nations, other interested public, and the Forest Caucus of the B.C. Environmental Network prior to taking the finalized proposal to the Joint Steering Committee.

West Fraser and Partners

This project is well into the development phase, following Joint Steering Committee acceptance in early April. A number of teams are working on the detailed proposal, which is to be completed by the end of July (tentatively). Following this, consultations will be held with the Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board, First Nations, other interested public, and the Forest Caucus of the B.C. Environmental Network prior to taking the finalized detailed proposal to the Joint Steering Committee.

Iisaak Forest Resources

This project's goal is to encapsulate planning and public involvement improvements based on a sustainable ecosystem-based forest management approach to planning and harvest regulation that delivers the Clayoquot Sound Scientific Panel recommendations. The Joint Steering Committee is expected to review the proponent's preliminary proposal on May 26. Following this, work on the detailed proposal will begin.

CURRENT THEMES AND ISSUES

- All pilots make provisions for a management plan that specifies the site-specific objectives and strategies for forest resource management. This includes the establishment of measurable indicators against the achievement of results that will be monitored and evaluated. These plans are expected to be consistent with any higher level plans in the area or a provision for alternately balancing competing values and interests in the pilot regulation.
- Adaptive management is an important feature on several of the pilots. This is a management process focused on continuous improvement in forest management by assessing performance towards objectives and strategies as measured against established criteria and indicators. Adaptive management also assesses the effectiveness of objectives and strategies in safeguarding forest resources. This is an important requirement of the Canadian Standards Association certification system, which is significant to several pilots.
- Most pilots consider provisions for performance assessments to be conducted by independent auditors. It is believed this will involve a greater reliance on licensed professionals to measure site specific management results. Notwithstanding these changes, it is anticipated that enforcement requirements and penalty provisions will be maintained to ensure accountability for achieving fundamental forest management standards.
- Public participation and oversight is an important feature of the pilots. Some pilots provide for the establishment of public groups dedicated to the projects, while others propose to work with established boards. All detailed proposals along with a draft regulation will be advertised for public review and comment before taking the regulation to Cabinet.
- The legislation requires that a pilot be subject to a higher level plan or alternate balance of competing values and interests that is approved by Cabinet. One pilot satisfies the higher level plan requirement, with approval being sought on a second. The others will be pursuing alternate balance in scenarios ranging from no Land Use planning processes to LRMP's approved, but not legally designated. The proponents are putting a solid effort into the public support mechanisms necessary to manage this requirement, which adds to the complexity of those pilots.

ESTIMATED KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

It is now expected that the first pilot should be into regulation drafting by early June, with two more to follow within a few weeks. These regulations should be before Cabinet by early fall, along with two to three others to follow by year-end. Following are some estimated pilot achievements:

By June 30: - Three detailed proposals completed, and draft regulations well underway (Cariboo Lumber Manufacturers Association; Weyerhaeuser in Powell River; and Canfor and Partners in Fort St. John). A seventh pilot, Isaak Forest Resources, will soon be underway.

By Sept 30 – The above three should be into the regulation approval process following completion of drafting and advertising. Three additional (Riverside, Woodlots, and Bulkley partners) should be well into the regulation completion phase.