

**Project Name**      **Old Growth Thresholds Workshop**

**Program Area**      Ecological Integrity  
**Element**            Old Growth Thresholds Workshop  
**Project No.**        EI03a

**Related Projects**    EI 01b: Second Old Growth Workshop  
                          EI 03: Ecological Baseline

**Start Date**            December, 2006  
**Completion Date**    March, 2007

**Background:**

Section 2.3.1 (page 19) of the Central Coast LRMP and 3.2.4.1 (page 45) of the North Coast LRMP recommends the refinement of representational thresholds as follows:

*The representational thresholds in the Handbook are recognized as being a central/critical component of EBM. There may be a more refined approach to establishing representational thresholds at the sub-regional/territorial level that is more effective/ efficient in terms of concurrently achieving high degrees of ecological integrity and high degrees of human wellbeing. This more refined approach to establishing representational thresholds at the sub-regional/territorial level would be based on:*

- i. Grouping ecosystems according to specified ecological criteria (e.g. the habitat value of individual ecosystems, connectivity value of the ecosystems, sensitivity of ecosystem function to reductions in old seral stage conditions, the portion of ecosystems reserved in protected areas, relative frequency/rarity of ecosystems, and the potential ecological impacts of excess level of mid and early seral habitats);*
- ii. Developing group specific risk curves and thresholds;*
- iii. Establishing a range of precautionary targets for each ecosystem grouping based on the ecological criteria as well as the estimated reliability of data (where surrogates are used); and*
- iv. Specifying spatial deployment strategies.*

*The LRMP Table recommends that (i) this more refined approach to developing representational and precautionary targets be developed under the direction/management of the EBM Council (ii) the Handbook be amended under the direction of the EBM Council to incorporate this more refined approach once completed and (iii) this more refined approach will be implemented as part of the LRMP.*

The interim EBM Working Group through the Transition Subcommittee initiated this work by exploring alternative approaches to the transitional representation requirements. However, this

group was discontinued before developing a suite of recommendations to refine representation thresholds and targets.

The Forest Research Extension Partnership (FORREX) has access to funds through the Forest Science Program to address representation issues on the Coast and is willing to utilize these funds to host a workshop specific to issues in the Central and North Coast plan areas. These funds amount to \$5,500 for “external” expenses in addition to FORREX administrative costs for workshop coordination. These funds are accessible prior to March 31, 2007.

To ensure this workshop is as productive and as focused as possible, CFCI and RSP have commissioned a joint paper by Rachel Holt, Laurie Kremsater and Karen Price titled: Old Forest Targets: Refining Thresholds with Science. This paper highlights some of the key areas of uncertainty related to representational targets and is working to develop some preliminary thoughts and questions with respect to the threshold refinement process.

### **Draft Workplan:**

Although FORREX will contribute some external funds for workshop participants, venue, etc. and cover much of the administrative cost of this workshop, these funds are not sufficient to arrange an effective workshop on threshold refinement. An additional \$15,000 is expected to be necessary to fund the travel cost and time of the professionals attending this workshop as well as for workshop facilitation.

<b>Task</b>	<b>EBM Working Group Leads</b>	<b>Other Engagement</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
Complete draft Discussion Paper (Old Forest Targets: Refining Thresholds with Science)	TBA	Rachel Holt, Laurie Kremsater, Karen Price, Andy MacKinnon	February 5, 2007
Finalize workshop structure (i.e. duration, presentation/ participation)	TBA	FORREX	January 20, 2007
Finalize list of workshop topics / questions / tools	TBA	FORREX	February 10, 2007
Confirm participants and facilitator	TBA	FORREX	January 15, 2007
Finalize Workshop Agenda	TBA	FORREX	January 31, 2007
Host Workshop	TBA	FORREX	February 27 <sup>th</sup> and 28 <sup>th</sup>
Develop final report for EBM Working Group including recommendations and next steps	TBA	FORREX	End of March