

THE CUMULATIVE EFFECTS FRAMEWORK NEWSLETTER

Assessing and Managing Cumulative Effects in British Columbia

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Cumulative Effects Framework Interim Policy Approved

The Cumulative Effects Framework (CEF) [Interim Policy](#) has been approved by the Natural Resource Board – a deputy minister governing body. The approval is the result of years of collaborative work developing the CEF, testing procedures, refining assessments, engaging stakeholders and improving the policy.

The approval of the CEF Interim Policy represents a significant milestone and transition to province-wide implementation of the CEF. The CEF Interim Policy is currently interim to allow for a structured evaluation period where consultations with First Nations and stakeholders can continue, and any resulting revisions can be made to the policy.

[The CEF Interim Policy](#) does not create new legislative requirements; rather it informs and guides cumulative effects considerations through existing natural resource sector legislation, policies,

programs and initiatives. Integrating the CEF into existing natural resource decision-making processes and enabling cross-sector governance will ensure cumulative effects are identified, considered and managed consistently.

The CEF Interim Policy is the first step in providing a coordinated, transparent and predictable set of policies, procedures and decision-support tools to help identify and manage cumulative effects across the natural resource sector.

The CEF Interim Policy strengthens and adds to the suite of tools used for integrated resource management within the natural resource sector.

The CEF Interim Policy contributes to the overall objective of ensuring that the social, environmental and economic values important to the people of British Columbia are managed in a consistent and balanced approach. *Continued...*

What Is the CEF?

The **Cumulative Effects Framework** is a set of policies, procedures and decision-support tools to help identify, assess and manage cumulative effects consistently and transparently across British Columbia's natural resource sector.



Cumulative Effects Framework

Assessing and Managing Cumulative Effects in British Columbia

Cumulative Effects Framework Interim Policy Approved (cont'd)

Once fully implemented, the CEF will help inform and support the following decisions:

- **Strategic** (e.g., land use planning, objective setting, other forms of management and direction for values)
- **Tactical** (e.g., defining priorities for research and monitoring, tactical /development planning)
- **Operational** (e.g., informing authorizations for natural resource activities)

[Check out our website](#) for more information about the CEF and the CEF Interim Policy. You can also download the [Cumulative Effects Framework Brochure](#).

Cumulative Effects Framework Interim Policy – What does it do?

- Identifies consistent standards and direction for assessing and reporting cumulative effects
- Provides guidance for considering and managing cumulative effects sector-wide
- Ensures consistent and coordinated provincial assessments and regional management responses
- Defines regional and provincial governance structures for implementation
- Confirms continued monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of CEF policy and assessments
- Outlines expectations and commitment for continued engagement and collaboration

CEF Values

Work is underway to develop Standard Assessment Protocols for five provincial **Cumulative Effects Framework Values**. Interim Protocols have been approved for Aquatic Ecosystems, Grizzly Bear and Old Growth Forest, and are nearing completion for Forest Biodiversity and Moose. Assessments of current condition will be rolled out by region through 2018, as well as assessments for other, regional values in selected areas.





Cumulative Effects Framework

Assessing and Managing Cumulative Effects in British Columbia

Phase 2 Engagement

After various meetings, workshops, online presentations, 4,500+ visits to our website, almost 2,000 engagement documents downloaded and over 1,100 comments received – Phase 2 engagement activities wrapped up in late summer 2016.

“The Cumulative Effects Framework is a complex initiative, and engagement helps us to get it right.”

The goal of Phase 2 engagement was to seek critical input, comment and feedback from stakeholders, First Nations and provincial staff on the draft CEF Interim Policy and value assessment protocols. Engagement also provided opportunities to raise awareness on the draft CEF Interim Policy and value assessment protocols with other audiences.

Engagement feedback was provided by First Nations, internal staff and a diverse group of external stakeholders including industry partners, environmental NGOs, academia and practitioners. Engagement feedback helped to guide revisions and improvements to the CEF Interim Policy.

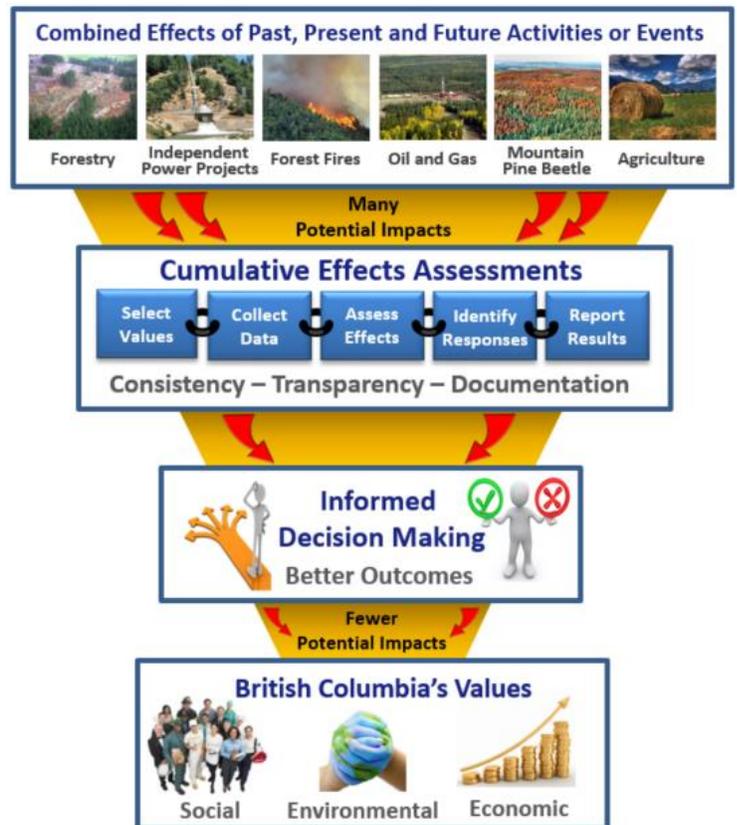
See the [Phase 2 Engagement Summary Report](#) for more information.

Ongoing Engagement

Further engagement with government staff, First Nations and stakeholders will continue in 2018. However, you can always provide your comments and feedback on the CEF at any time at CumulativeEffects@gov.bc.ca

Reducing Impacts on Values

The CEF uses cumulative effects assessments to help inform and support decision-making so there are fewer potential impacts on values.



The CEF focuses on the big picture. Cumulative effects assessments are conducted on a broad scale, not on a project-by-project or sector-by-sector basis.



Regionally Speaking

From the start, the CEF has been collaboratively developed and tested through various regional cumulative effects projects. Regional perspectives and learned experiences help to ensure that as the CEF is developed and implemented it will be effectively integrated with existing regional initiatives and decision-making.

The adaptive nature of the CEF allows for phased regional implementation, recognizing the various circumstances and timing needs of each region.

Meet Our Regional Implementation Team

Each region has a cumulative effects coordinator or project lead who is responsible for coordinating CEF implementation in their region. Regional leads coordinate assessment and validation work within their regions, engagement with First Nations and stakeholders and procedures for identifying cumulative effects management responses. They also engage collectively with branch staff to ensure provincial CEF policy, procedures and standards for assessment are responsive to regional needs and circumstances.



The regional team recently gathered in the lower mainland to discuss regional implementation, staff training needs and procedures for validating value assessments.

More Information

Information Bulletins

Information bulletins are being developed to help provide greater understanding and guidance on how the CEF will be operationally implemented.

[Information Bulletin #1](#) provides guidance for understanding the relationship between cumulative effects assessments and major project environmental assessments.

[Information Bulletin #2](#) provides further information on the linkages between the CEF and the Province's broader approach to adaptive and integrated resource management.

Case Studies of CE Application

Case studies are being developed to profile how cumulative effects have been considered in different types of decisions.

[Case Study #1](#) shows how cumulative effects assessments supported First Nations consultation on cutting permit approvals.

[Case Study #2](#) shows how cumulative effects assessments informed development of a tactical Stewardship Plan.

We welcome your feedback

Please email us at:

CumulativeEffects@gov.bc.ca