

FFT Fall meeting 2013 ADM – RSD introduction and opening remarks

- While 2013/14 continues to be a fiscally tight and challenging year, I would like to recognize the excellent work that all of you have contributed as part of the longest running government funded silviculture program in the history of BC.
- Even with this tight budget you were able to plant the highest number of seedlings in a single year by the FFT program – a 35% increase over the previous year's planting.
- The accomplishments for this year build on the success of FFT since its inception.
- Since 2005 FFT has:
 - Surveyed over 1.3 million ha
 - Planted about 130 million seedlings on over 95,000 ha increasing future volume by about 18 million m³ resulting in a future GDP of about \$2.1 billion
 - FFT has Reduced backlog NSR by about 136,000 ha resulting in an increase in current provincial AAC by about 275,000 m³ per year increasing GDP by about \$3.2 million. We are well on our way to the goal of eliminating the Backlog NSR by 2015 and meet the 2008 throne speech commitment as only about 35,000 ha remain in this status.
- Since 2010 FFT has also:
 - Spaced over 3,800 ha bringing these areas into production earlier contributing about 750,000 m³ more volume available to the mid-term.
 - Fertilized over 73,000 ha increasing mid-term timber supply by about 1.3 million m³ resulting in a GDP of about \$151million.

- Last year we saw the largest fertilization program ever and as we move to meet government commitments relative the Mid-term timber supply committee report we hope to be soon seeing those levels again
- In accomplishing these goals FFT has striven to be a leader and flagship for stewardship and reforestation in this province
- Both the FFT components of current reforestation and timber supply mitigation are incorporating, to the best of their ability and to the extent that the information that is available, climate change impacts, including wildfire, into our planning and on-the-ground processes.
- The FFT program has attempted to provide leadership and be a testing ground for translating climate change practices into on-the-ground results by producing guidance on:
 - Assisted migration
 - Promoting species mixtures
 - Use of alternate under-represented species
 - Silviculture regimes for fuel management
 - Guidance to adapt forest management for climate change
 - Development of species indicators and targets and testing ways to track these
- The ecological benefits of the silviculture activities within FFT, to name a few, range from mitigating the impacts on the hydrological cycle by restoring water interception and retention to improving wildlife habitat conditions by manipulating vegetation cover, density, and forage availability.
- FFT has worked with, and will continue to work with, other programs in this and other Ministries to develop positive and fruitful working relationships in

order to develop the broad team to ensure we accomplish multiple objectives through our on-the-ground activities.

- It is through this cooperative approach that we will be able to assess over 3 million hectares in order to efficiently and effectively find the best investment opportunities in order to plant the nearly 300 million seedlings that this program will put into the ground over the next 15 years.
- For example, the successful arrangement FFT has with BCTS has generated efficiencies that has reduced site clearing costs for FFT allowing for more area to be treated for lower costs while at the same time generating revenue for BCTS by marketing over 4 million m³ of fibre from very low value stands.
- It is also the collaborative relationships that we build with branches such as Forest Analysis and Inventory and Wildfire Management and program such as Forest Health that will allow FFT to collect and record the necessary information so decision-making in investing in, and delivering, reforestation and stand tending activities is informed and directed at government priorities.
- At a higher level we are working with ADMs and REDs to ensure that their priorities are heard and help inform the strategic direction for the program.
- The LEAN project covering the broader LBIS will assist us in making sure that the work we do is done in an effective and efficient manner.
- There is very strong public and political support for the work you do as evidenced by the Mid-timber timber supply Committee report and its recommendations related to both reforestation and intensive silviculture.
- Your accomplishments now and in the future are essential not only to many communities but also to the province as a whole.

- As I alluded to before, your work, this past year has contributed over 3.5 million m³ more volume to the provincial inventory (which is also a major component of this ministries service plan goal #7), resulting in a future GDP of over \$410 million dollars, created the potential for over 3,700 future full time jobs, and sequester over 2.8 million tonnes of Carbon, and over 68,000 person days of employment to carry out this work.
- As we move into the future I see FFT continuing that innovative leadership role and continuing to ensure that what we do is always, from a strategic context, addressing the critical issues of our time in a safe and efficient manner.
- The work that you do through FFT is critical to the BC realizing environmental sustainability and economic prosperity.
- Thank you and i hope you have a successful workshop over the next 2 days.