

LAND BASED INVESTMENT STRATEGY SILVICULTURE PLANNING

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DRAFT for Discussion

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INTRODUCTION

The development of a consistent structure for land based investment silviculture planning across the province will lead to more transparent and effective decision making at the local level along with coordination and feedback loops between Branch, Regions, Districts, First Nations, and stakeholders.

The Land Based Investment silviculture planning process involves Forest Management Unit¹ committee (licensees, district staff and other local stakeholders) working with a provincial and regional silviculture planning committee with a feedback loop. The success of the proposed committees in providing streamlined and clear direction regarding investment decisions depends on the quality of the information provided to them. Local expertise combined with quantitative data is critical to good decisions. The intent is that identified local natural resource needs will inform and assist in the development of provincial and regional goals, objectives, and priorities.

This document provides details on the membership, structure and goals of the committees that would be responsible for determining forest management unit land based investment opportunities and priorities for non-obligation silviculture activities.

PRINCIPLES

Principles for land based investments:

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- 1. The planning process should encourage local ownership of each program through the involvement of local constituents with knowledge of timber supply, First Nations and environmental values;**
 - 2. Goals and Objectives must be clear and specific;**
 - 3. Indicators and targets that measure the state or condition of the landbase must be directly related to the goals and objectives**
 - 4. Targets must be easily measurable, verifiable, and relevant to the associated indicator;**
 - 5. Activities must have a positive impact on target values;**
 - 6. Activity outputs must be of scale large enough that the impact is measurable;**
 - 7. Activities focusing on log quality must be of sufficient scope and duration to provide opportunities for the development and marketing of value-added products;**
 - 8. Reporting of activity outputs is an essential part of all activities;**
 - 9. Investment strategies must be based on real opportunities, and must be flexible to allow**

¹ While the current resource districts may be the most efficient grouping for the forest management unit committees. The term forest management unit is used in this document to denote that the local committees should be tailored in scale and membership to meet local business needs.

adaptation to changing goals and objectives; and

10. Investment priorities for each landbase must be commensurate with the productive capacity of the site and forest management unit.

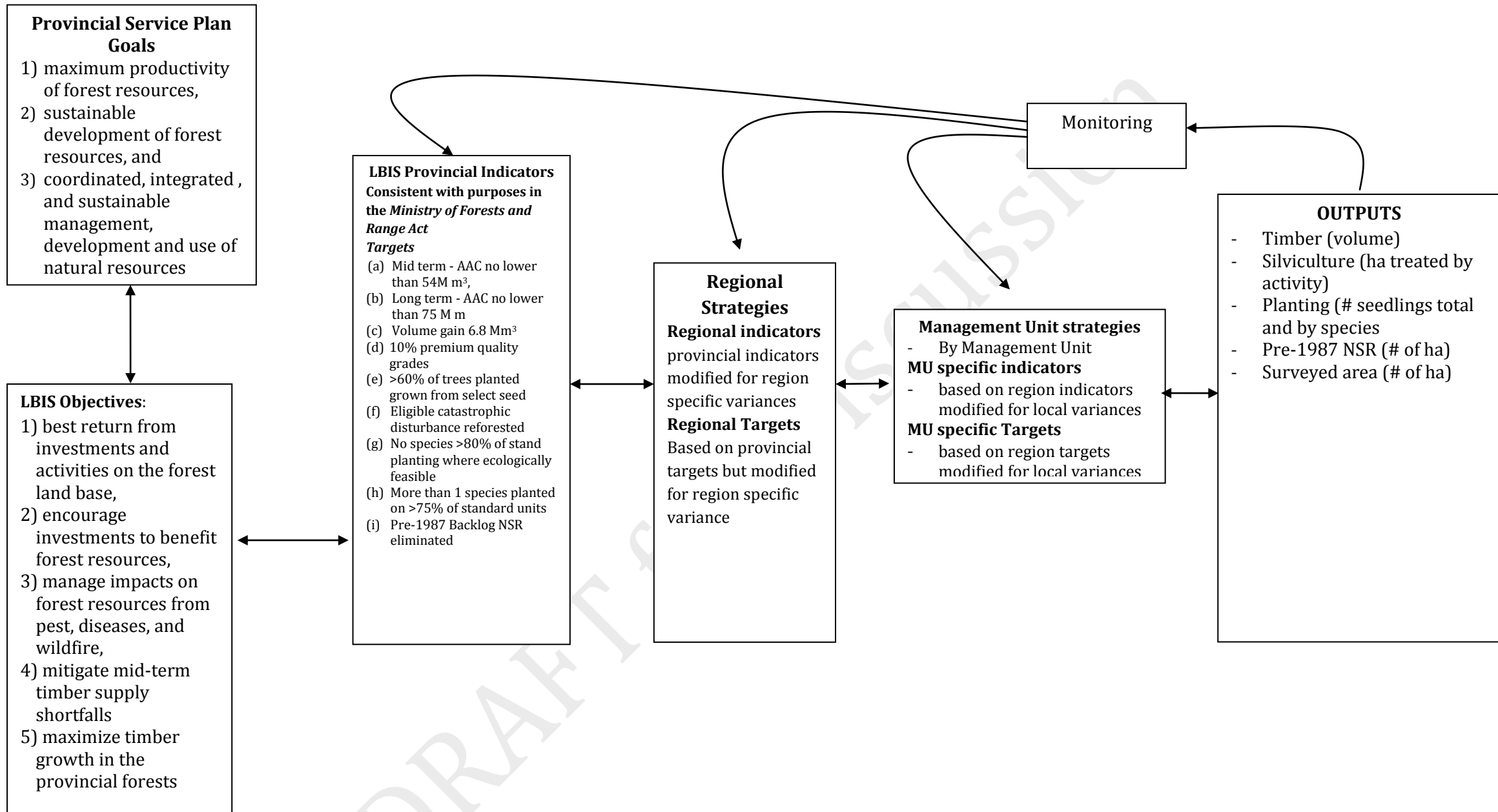
OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED PROVINCIAL STRUCTURE

The proposed structure identifies three levels of decision-making:

1. Provincial Silviculture Steering Committee,
2. Eight Regional Silviculture Committees, and
3. Forest Management Unit (FMU) Silviculture Technical Team.

Figure 1 outlines a proposed planning model. Details of the proposed structure, goals and responsibilities of these teams involved in this planning model are outlined in the sections following figure 1 below.

Figure 1: Example of a Proposed Planning Model



PROVINCIAL SILVICULTURE PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Provincial Silviculture Planning Committee would include representatives from each of the Regional Silviculture Planning Committees and Resource Practices Branch Silviculture specialists. This committee provides advice on strategic priorities and high-level silviculture goals, indicators, and targets for the Province; makes recommendation on the investments, and advocates for resources at the Provincial level. The Provincial Silviculture Planning Committee sets the schedule for reporting by the Regional Silviculture Planning Committee to meet program budgeting deadlines.

Provincial Silviculture planning Committee

Focus:

- Provincial silviculture indicator and target establishment
- Provincial balancing of activities to achieve strategic goals and objectives
- Investment priorities and funding criteria
- Recommendation of adjustments to goals, indicators and targets to Ministry executive

Members:

1. Resource Practices Branch silviculture and harvesting section manager (lead)
2. Resource Practices Branch silviculture, research, and forest health specialists,
3. Chairs of the Regional Silviculture Committees,

Role

- Provide direction to the Regional Silviculture Planning Committees on indicators and targets (e.g. volume, product values, species objectives) for each geographic area.
- Set investment priorities , criteria, and target geographical locations
- annually review program accomplishments for efficiency and effectiveness
- Roll up and rationalization of the Regional and Forest Management Unit (FMU) plans for prioritization at the provincial levels
- Prioritizing regional strategic planning investments (i.e silviculture strategies)

Decision Making Factors:

Qualitative

- Government goals, objectives, and commitments as identified in the service plan and other related documents.
- Regional Silviculture Planning Committee recommendations

Quantitative

- Program targets (volume and value)
- Management unit mid-term timber supply shortfalls.
- Location of catastrophic disturbances
- Return on investment
- Regional Silviculture Planning Committee proposed outputs

Committee Level Outputs and Responsibilities:

- Provincial specific indicators and targets developed and published in the land based investment strategy and shared with the Regional Silviculture Planning Committees;
- Support Regional and Forest Management Unit (FMU) plans at higher levels.
- Annual review summary and recommendations for changes and continuous improvement;
- Provincial implementation priorities and areas

REGIONAL SILVICULTURE PLANNING COMMITTEE

The 8 Regional Silviculture Planning Committees would include representatives from each of the FMU Silviculture Technical Teams. This committee provides advice on higher-level goals, indicators, and targets for the Region as a whole based on those of the Province; makes recommendation on the regional investments; and advocates for resources at the Regional level. The Regional Silviculture Planning Committee also prioritizes recommendations from the FMU Silviculture Technical Teams and sets the schedule for reporting by the FMU Silviculture Technical Team to meet program budgeting deadlines.

Regional Silviculture planning Committee

Focus:

- Regional indicator and target establishment
- Regional balancing of activities to achieve regional and provincial goals and objectives

Members:

Membership in the regional silviculture planning committee should be based on capacity and expertise in the subject areas. Membership is not restricted specific identified individuals but should be based on the persons ability to provide regional silviculture expertise and or knowledge. Existing regional groups such as the Coast Region Implementation Team (CRIT) could form the basis or act as the Regional Silviculture Planning team.

Where local bodies, such as CRIT, do not exist suggested membership in the silviculture technical team is as follows:

1. Stewardship Team Leader or similar (lead),
2. Regional Stewardship specialists (e.g silviculture, forest health, research)
3. Chairs of the FMU Silviculture Technical Teams,

Role

- provide direction to the FMU Silviculture Technical Teams on indicators and targets (e.g. volume, product values, species objectives) for each investment category and geographic area.
- Roll up and rationalization of the Forest Management Unit (FMU) plans at the regional levels.
- Recommend activities for consideration to the Provincial Land Based Investment Program.
- Annual review of program accomplishments and challenges moving forward in relation to the Regional objectives.
- Regional strategic planning priorities

Decision Making Factors:

Qualitative

- Program goals
- FMU Silviculture Technical Team Recommendations
- Regional goals and objectives set by Higher Level Plan or Sustainable Forest Management Plans
- Local knowledge, priorities, issues and direction

Quantitative

- Program targets at the regional level
- Management unit mid and long term timber supply shortfalls
- Return on investment
- Overview of FMU Silviculture Technical Team proposed outputs

Committee Level Outputs and Responsibilities:

- Region specific targets to the FMU Silviculture Technical Teams;
- Indicators and Targets to be forwarded to the Provincial Silviculture Planning Committee;
- Support FMU plans at higher levels.
- Annual review summary and recommendations for changes and continuous improvement to the FMU Silviculture Technical Teams;
- Regional priorities

FOREST MANAGEMENT UNIT SILVICULTURE TECHNICAL TEAM

Two main levels are involved in FMU decision-making: a Forest Management Unit (FMU) Land Based Investment Planning Level and FMU Technical Teams (e.g Silviculture Technical Team) to utilize member's times efficiently.

Plans and activities developed by the Technical Teams would be presented to the Planning Level for approval. The Technical Team would also review and report out on annual program accomplishments and their success in meeting the FMU targets and indicators. The Forest management Unit Silviculture Technical team will be one of the technical teams within a Forest management Unit

Forest Management Unit Silviculture Technical Teams

Focus:

- Local silviculture expertise
- Establishing local operational priorities
- Articulating timber supply issues for local management units and determining the best regime of treatments to help mitigate.

Members:

Membership in the technical team should be based on local capacity and expertise in the subject areas. Membership is not restricted specific identified individuals but should be based on the persons ability to provide local silviculture expertise and or knowledge. Where district Forest Management Leadership Teams exist could form the basis or act as the forest Management Unit Silviculture Technical Team.

Where local bodies, such as forest management leadership teams, do not exist suggested membership in the silviculture technical team is as follows:

1. District stewardship officer (lead)
2. District Stewardship Foresters
3. BC Timber Sales Practices foresters
4. Forest license holders silviculture representatives,
5. other agencies (e.g MoE), and
6. First Nations.

Role:

- Provide expertise in timber supply, growth and yield, silviculture, forest health, fire management, and inventory.
- Makes recommendations to the Regional Silviculture Planning Committee for annual investment opportunities
- Provides oversight to the development of local management unit silviculture strategies.

Goals

- To develop specific activities in relation to the indicators and targets articulated by the FMU Land Based Investment Planning Level.
- To develop a sound knowledge base for land based investment decision-making within each FMU.
- To annually review the Land Based Investment Strategy and all other relevant plans within the FMU .
- To report accomplishments quarterly to the FMU Land Based Investment Planning Level and Regional silvicultural planning committee.

Decision Making Factors:

Qualitative

- Program goals
- Indicators and Targets for each management unit
- Local knowledge, priorities, issues and direction

Quantitative

- Land based Investment Strategy and all other relevant plans or strategies
- Potential project and treatments costs
- Multiple Accounts Decision Analysis, Return-on-investment, and net gains from treatments

Technical Team Outputs:

- In relation to the indicators and targets
 - a. FMU activity priorities
 - b. Priority areas within each local management unit
 - c. Proposed cost by treatments.
- Quarterly report accomplishments
- Recommendations on training, analysis, or improvements to the process.