

CBST Information Bulletin

Transitioning British Columbia to Climate-Based Seed Transfer (CBST) – July 2020

This information bulletin provides an update on the science, policy, and decision support available for the implementation of the optional use of Climate Based Seed Transfer when planning for, selecting and using seed for reforestation in British Columbia. For more information, refer to the Province of British Columbia website for Climate Based Seed Transfer:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/managing-our-forest-resources/tree-seed/seed-planning-use/climate-based-seed-transfer>

Climate Based Seed Transfer

In British Columbia, science-based seed transfer, enabled through forest genetic science and seed use policies and practices, is the foundation of the effective reforestation and genetic adaptation of stock planted as part of BC's sustainable forest management system. Climate Based Seed Transfer (CBST) is a climate adaptation strategy that promotes healthy, resilient and productive forests and ecosystems through the matching of seed sources (seed and vegetative lots) to climatically suitable planting sites. CBST is one of the ministry's first climate adaptation policies intended to increase the ability of BC's forests and ecosystems to adapt and respond to the impacts of climate change.

Science Foundation

Over the next 2 years, updates to the scientific framework are planned for the incorporation of data updates (e.g., ClimateBC, BEC, and Migration Distance (i.e. move forward in time)). Scientific analyses underway include a review of new methods to support the weighting of bioclimate variables used in the development of CBST areas of use. The intent behind the proposed use of weighted bioclimate variables is to provide a better representation of how different attributes of climate can impact tree growth performance. For example, research has shown that precipitation has less impact on tree growth than variables associated with temperature and growing season. The analysis of 10-year measurements from the Assisted Migration Adaptation Trial (AMAT) is also anticipated over the next 2 to 3 years.

Policy and Implementation

In April 2018, amendments to the *Chief Foresters Standards for Seed Use* were made for the optional use of CBST, followed by minor changes (refinements) in April 2019. These provisions continue to provide for the use of CBST, GBST, or a combination of both CBST and GBST. Transitioning to CBST using a phased approach is intended to provide time for stakeholder engagement; and, for updating seed and vegetative lots (i.e. BEC, Areas of use), the Seed Planning and Registry (SPAR) information system, and the CBST Seedlot Selection tool. Changes to CBST Areas of Use will be grouped together, where possible, to mitigate any potential impacts to seed producers, owners, and users. Updates to CBST Areas of Use are not planned for 2020/21 (Sowing Year 2021).

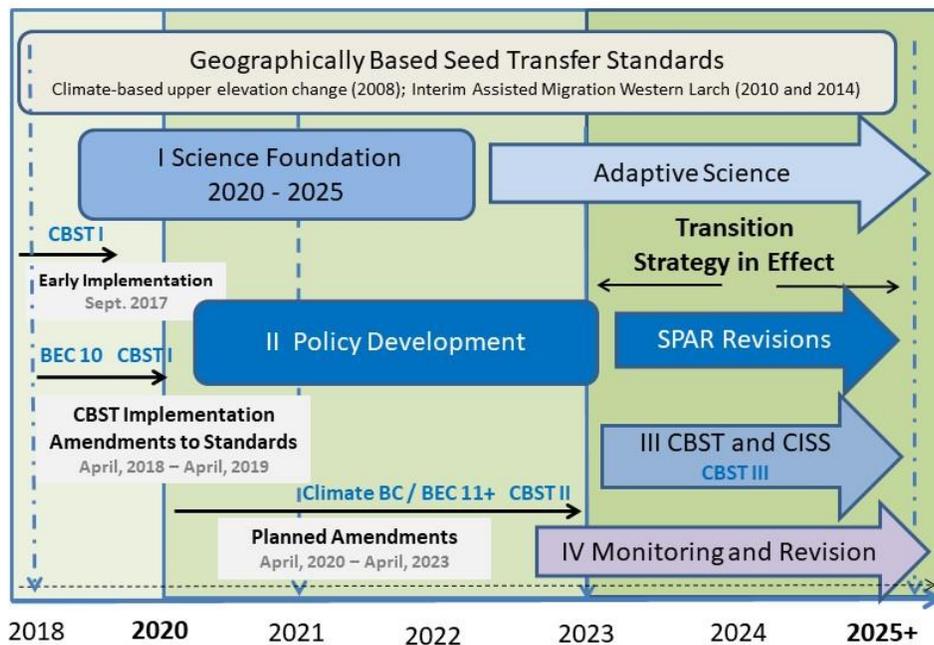
To view amendments to the *Chief Foresters Standards for Seed Use* and CBST Areas of Use, see: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/managing-our-forest-resources/tree-seed/legislation-standards/chief-forester-s-standards-for-seed-use>

Next Steps

In April 2020, adjustments to the CBST science and policy implementation timeline were made to address the need for adequate review of proposed changes and to minimize the frequency of changes to CBST; and, for integration of new and emerging climate science, adaptation policies and tools. The focus of activities planned for the next 2-3 years will be on the enhancement of the CBST scientific framework (e.g. incorporation of AMAT results); the development of a seed planning, monitoring, and reporting framework; and, continued stakeholder engagement to support the assessment of impacts, gaps and opportunities.

CBST Policy Timeline

Revised, April 2020



For More Information

Information bulletins, webinars, and tutorials (online and in person) are available through the Forest Improvement and Research Management Branch (FIRMB). SPAR training and CBST information session dates are posted here: www.gov.bc.ca/climatebasedseedtransfer. Questions regarding this bulletin can be directed to: FORHTIP.SEEDHELP@gov.bc.ca.