

EBMWG Project Close-Out Report

Project #: AM 03b

Project Title: Bella Coola Community Forestry Pilot

Steering Committee Members: David Flood

1.0 FUNDING

The total cost of the project is \$10,000. The project was completed within budget.

2.0 EXTENT TO WHICH PROJECT OBJECTIVES WERE ACHIEVED

Objective	Description	Evaluation (Text)	Summary*
1	Frame the pilot project to report into the AMF on how AM is applied to the strategies and initiatives conducted by the Resource Society in the Community Forest;	An outline was submitted to the Steering Committee identifying Bella Coola Community Forest key human well-being goals and attributes; key indicators currently used to monitor Community Forest outcomes; and current reporting structure applied to achieve identified goals.	Fully met
2	Develop strategies to address known and expressed limitations identified in the Strategies Inventory;	The report identifies 1) relevant economic development limitations to the Community Forest initiative; 2) current strategies to address BCCF Society's goals and limitations; and 3) methods of monitoring and adjusting these strategies over time.	Fully Met
3	Monitor those strategies and provide feedback into the management mechanism and report the results into the AMF.	The report includes an implementation and monitoring plan that addresses the gaps and strategies identified under Objective 2 and a review of 2008 BCCF Society activities consistent with the monitoring plan and reported results.	Not Met (too early to collect and/or report on monitoring results project will be monitored in the future)
4	Identify how well the pilot can achieve the intent of the legal order.	The report includes an evaluation of BCCF's capacity to meet the intent of the legal Order.	Fully Met

* Use: Fully met (100%), Substantially met (>75%), Partially met (50-75%), Marginally met (25-50%), Not met (0-25%)

3.0 MAJOR TASKS COMPLETED

Task	Description	Date
1	Project Work plan developed, Adaptive Management scoped with the BCCFS as related to HWB	November 15, 2008
2	Relevant known and reported limitations identified. Strategies designed to deal with known and reported limitations	December 15, 2008
3	Develop Community Forest Implementation and Monitoring Plan and a Community Forest Report on 2008 results.	January 31, 2009
4	A description and evaluation of how the BCCF initiative is consistent with EBM and how it can achieve the intent of the ministerial Order describing Land Use Objectives under EBM.	February 15, 2009

4.0 KEY PRODUCTS

Item #	Description	Completion date	Location
1	Project Work plan	November 15, 2008	
2	Identify and report on key and relevant local and regional economic development limitations to the Community Forest initiative, using Pierce Lefebvre (2008) as a resource	December 15, 2008	
3	Report on current strategies developed to address BCCF Society goals and develop additional strategies, if required, to address limitations identified in item 2	December 15, 2008	
4	Describe how strategies identified in 2 and 3 could be monitored and changed over time	December 15, 2008	
5	An implementation and monitoring plan that addresses the gaps and strategies identified under item 2..	January 31, 2009	
6	A review of Society activities from 2008 consistent with this monitoring plan and reported results	January 31, 2009	
7	Report on the BCCF initiative consistency and ability to meet the intent of the legal Order	February 15, 2009	
8	Final report that includes items 2 thru 7 above.	February 15, 2009	To be posted on the EBM WG website when complete.

5.0 PEER REVIEW

The project workplan was reviewed by the Project Steering Committee (PSC). The draft report was reviewed by the PSC and consultants revised the report based on comments received.

6.0 MAJOR FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Challenges for BCCF to Apply the Proposed Adaptive Management Framework:

Based on the proposed AMF checklist summary for evaluating potential success of implementing AM, the main weaknesses for the Community Forest in successfully implementing AM are:

- Setting Objectives – targets have only been specified for very few objectives (harvest the AAC) and trade-offs between objectives have not been addressed.
- Designing Management Strategies – trade-offs between strategies have not been addressed.
- Implementation Strategies – training is required
- Research & Monitoring – sampling and analysis needs are not well understood.
- Learn & Adjust – there are no protocols between organizations to inform managers about potentially important results.

Evaluating the Application of the Proposed Adaptive Management Framework:

The trial application of the proposed AMF, as described in the AM Guidebook, to the human wellbeing components of the Bella Coola Community Forest resulted in the following findings:

1. The AM Framework developed for the Central and North Coast is methodical and comprehensive.
2. Application of the AM Framework can be expected to identify issues that require new or better information, prioritize issues to focus on and produce strategies that will address the issues in a systematic and collaborative manner.
3. The broad application of the AMF requires an institutional structure/organization devoted to its implementation. EBM is all-encompassing and crosses many jurisdictions, planning scales and sectors and it is too broad for any one sector or local organization to undertake.
4. EBM is an elaborate system which does not lend itself to application by small business. Individual organizations will likely only apply the AMF for very specific issues, through development of a targeted AM Plan.
5. The Community Forest is a unique institution as it has very broad social, economic and environmental goals that reflect the values of the community; and as such, it is one of few private organizations appropriately-structured to potentially apply the AMF at the local level.
6. The framework utilized for forest certification (Forest Stewardship Council, Sustainable Forest Initiative) may provide opportunity for incorporating AMF tracking.
7. The HW indicators recommended by Rubus and Sheltair, generally depend on government data which is too coarse for application at the local business level. Most HW indicators at the local business level need to be tracked by the business entity itself.

8. Implementation of AMF will require training for practitioners. There are a number of complex documents and procedures to understand. The Prioritization Procedure is especially tricky to work through.
9. Given the comprehensiveness of the AMF, it is not clear whether it is a component of planning or whether the AMF procedures are the planning?
10. The AMF itself should be subject to Adaptive Management as well, so that it can evolve in response to planning and operational needs

Economic Development Limitations and Strategies to Address them:

The EBM WG commission report titled *Inventory of Economic Development Initiatives in the Central and North Coast of BC*, identified forestry as an industry facing difficulties in this region. The main constraints faced by BCCF to deliver economic development include:

- Access to resources in viable operating areas
- Costs and competitiveness
- Planning process requirements
- Access to markets and market knowledge
- Need for longer term or renewable tenures
- Access to capital
- Social Issues, capacity and training.
- Small volume licence
- Timber profile
- Stumpage

Key recommendations to address Community Forest economic development limitations include:

- Concentrating operations to use mainly one road system,
- Collaborating with neighbouring operators to “piggy-back” transportation of logs, share road maintenance costs, and planning,
- Reducing barge costs by pursuing export shipment from Bella Coola.
- Pursuing funding opportunities to conduct EBM related planning projects to supplement existing planning requirements
- Establishing a working agreement with a log brokerage firm.
- Minimizing administrative overhead by relying on contract services
- Raising >\$250,000 start up financing through a share offered to people residing in or owning property in the Bella Coola area.
- Developing local value-added and niche market products,
- Working with the British Columbia Community Forest Association to access marketing initiatives and lobby for revisions to the tabular rate stumpage system.

Achieving the Intent of the Legal EBM Orders:

The South Central and North Coast Land Use Orders do not apply to the Community Forest; however, there is interest in having the Community Forest apply EBM principles and evaluating how it measures up to the intent of the Orders. The Human Wellbeing aspects of the Legal EBM Orders are captured in Objectives 2-7 and they only relate to First Nations values. It is believed nonetheless, that all of these objectives are captured in the Community Forest’s objectives and strategies.

7.0 PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The LRF Technical Liaison Committee recommends that the Joint LRF WG forward this report to the Adaptive Management Steering committee to address the information contained.

8.0 RELEVANCE/SIGNIFICANCE FOR EBM IMPLEMENTATION

The Bella Coola Community Forest report prepared for this project provides practical insights and recommendations that will support more effective and accessible implementation of adaptive management as it relates to human well-being in local communities in the Central and North Coast.