

Project Name BCTS Adaptive Management Plan Pilot**Program Area** Adaptive Management**Project No.** AM 04b**Related Projects** AM 02 – Adaptive Management Framework**Start Date** October 3rd, 2008**Completion Date** November 14th, 2009**Overview**

The BCTS Skeena Timber Sales office develops and markets Crown timber in the North Coast Forest District to establish market price and capture the value of the asset for the public. This area is managed under Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) objectives established by government in the *Central and North Coast Order* (CNCO). The EBM Working Group (EBM WG) is developing a Framework for Adaptive Management (AMF) for application within an ecological integrity and human well-being context.

Given there is limited direction available on developing an Adaptive Management Plan (AMP) in an EBM context, this exercise will help develop guidance for adaptive management planning consistent with the EBM WG's AMF. The project will:

- identify research/monitoring priorities at a scale relevant to the implementation of the CNCO land use objectives (LUOs) and to Adaptive Management Planning,
- produce a model AMP that will apply structured learning to address uncertainty associated with the ecological values identified in the CNCO LUOs while also contributing to improved operational planning,
- inform the Guidance to Practitioners document that is part of the EBM WG's AMF.

This project will bring together AM expertise associated with the EBM WG and consultants to build an AM component into the BCTS planning cycle. When complete, this methodology can be used and improved upon by other AM planners and managers under EBM.

Objectives

1. Apply and test the prioritization procedure from the current draft AMF Guidance to Practitioners document, including current Knowledge Summary, to identify a priority research/monitoring question(s) related to uncertainties associated with one of the LUOs that contains provisions for AM planning. (Note: the EBM WG AMF Team or Experimental Watersheds Project may have already identified priority questions that can be used for this project.)
2. Develop a research/monitoring design that would be suitable to address the

question(s) identified under Objective 1 that would reduce the identified uncertainties in terms of both the regional understanding of the efficacy of the LUO that has been selected as well as operational capacity to address the underlying intent of the LUO , using the draft Guidance to Practitioners document as a resource.

3. Prepare a plan to implement the research design developed under objective 2.
4. Make recommendations relating to the implementation of AMPs given the emerging AMF that address:
 - a. potential improvements to the draft practitioner guidance;
 - b. practical ways to integrate or link AMPs that are being prepared in different locations that are addressing similar LUOs;
 - c. linkage with the EBM WG Experimental Watersheds Project;
 - d. how to efficiently and effectively deploy licensee AMP resources given the “where practicable” test that is in the LUOs that have AMP provisions;
 - e. other guidance material or regional scale background work (e.g. priority research designs for different LUOs) that can increase the efficiency of AMPs and increase the likelihood that they will generate reliable information;
5. Describe business area needs in support of AM planning, including information, administrative and coordination support, expert involvement, projected research and implementation costs; and
6. Implement this project in a manner that enhances the AMF while also building capacity within BCTS to address the AMP requirements associated with the LUOs. This will require collaboration between the contractor, the AMF Team, and BCTS planners.

Expected Use/User/Benefits

Provision of a model AMP that is consistent with the AMF and the practitioner guidance. This will enhance the potential success of forest development initiatives and thereby the relevance of the AMF to the forest sector and to achieving improvements in Ecological Integrity (EI) as part of EBM implementation.

Key Tasks:

1. Meet with the Framework team to become familiar with the AMF and the Guidance to Practitioners document in current draft form. Meet with BCTS and the Project Steering Committee to develop a workplan;
2. Assemble relevant information (BCTS plans, LUO's, experimental watersheds workplan, relevant Knowledge Summary documents) and apply prioritization procedure to identify research question(s) in consultation with the AMF team. Note: potential question(s) may have already been defined by the AMF team;
3. Develop a research/monitoring design to address the question(s) outlined in 2;

4. Describe and design research/monitoring needs in support of resolving key uncertainties;
5. Develop a plan to implement the research design in support of implementing the LUO's under an AMF; and
6. Make recommendations on designing "practicable" research and monitoring strategies in addressing the research question.

Milestones and Deliverables

<u>Deliverable</u>	<u>End date</u>
Project Workplan	October 10 th , 2008
Adaptive Management Plan	October 31 st , 2008
Recommendations to EBM WG	November 15 th , 2009

Method of Implementation

- Contract: ITQ
- Expert Panel / Workshop
- Internal EBMWG Task

Contractor qualifications: (to be confirmed/recorded to project file by EBM WG Director):

- Knowledge of Adaptive Management
- An understanding of operational planning relating to implementing the objectives in the *Central and North Coast Order* consistent with BCTS' forest stewardship plans.
- Extensive knowledge of the principles and implementation requirements of adaptive management.
- Strong background in natural resource science, including forestry, ecology, hydrology, biology and/or other LUO-related disciplines.

Peer Review

NA

Budget

Item	Budget	Source
Consultant/contractor:	\$20,000	EBMWG