

Provincial Forest Extension Program

Eligible Synthesis Topics 2007/08

September 2006

NOTE: The 2007/08 Call for Proposals is focused on a subset of the Program themes and topics. Please refer to the *Provincial Forest Extension Program Strategy 2006-2010* for the complete set of themes and topics.

Table of Contents

Introduction 1

 FIA Forest Science Program 1

 Synthesis Call for Proposals 1

 Submitting Proposals 1

Syntheses Goals 1

Eligible Synthesis Topics and Priorities for 2007/08 2

 Theme 1.0 Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) and Conservation Biology 3

 Theme 2.0 Socio-economics and Aboriginal Forestry 3

 Theme 3.0 Watershed Management 3

 Theme 4.0 Forest Dynamics 3

Provincial Forest Extension Program— Eligible Synthesis Topics 2007/08

Introduction

FIA Forest Science Program

The FIA Forest Science Program (FIA-FSP) focuses on applied research and the extension of forest science results to meet the information needs and priorities of those who plan and manage British Columbia's forest lands.

The FIA-FSP research program addresses knowledge gaps through the research strategies of its Sustainability and Timber Program Advisory Committees. The Provincial Forest Extension Program (PFEP) focuses on synthesis and extension of both new and existing knowledge.¹ PFEP strategies focus on bridging the gaps between new and existing research and the application of that knowledge to address information needs.

Synthesis Call for Proposals

In September 2006, the FIA Forest Science Program (FIA-FSP) is issuing a special Synthesis Call for Proposals on extension topics separate from the Research Call for Proposals. The purpose of the Synthesis Call is to solicit proposals from qualified individuals and teams for operationally-oriented syntheses on priority topics. Synthesis products may range from extensive scholarly works for refereed journals to concise operational summaries and decision aides (e.g., FORREX SEDA series, MoFR Extension Notes) that provide operational audiences (practitioners, including First Nations land managers, and policy makers) with practical management recommendations in concise and easily accessible formats.

Submitting Proposals

Proposals must be submitted using the appropriate proposal templates, which are available on www.bcfsp.com.

Syntheses Goals

1. To encourage the advancement of science-based sustainable forest management through synthesis projects that:
 - Undertake a thorough, critical review of existing knowledge and research findings, relevant to BC.
 - Take pro-active measures to minimize interpretive bias (e.g., meta-analysis techniques).

¹ FORREX, the provincial extension provider, designs and delivers the PFEP through a multi-year recipient agreement with PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC), the FIA-FSP Program Administrator, on behalf of the Ministry of Forests and Range.

- Re-examine current paradigms and management practices in light of research findings and recommend informed changes where appropriate.
 - Where possible, further assist operational application and utility by linking interpretations to current management tools and concepts, e.g., biogeoclimatic ecosystem classification, natural disturbance types, silvicultural systems, habitat requirements, thresholds, targets and indicators.
 - Scientifically document the synthesis and facilitate and/or expedite extension to BC forest practitioners using methods preferred by that audience.
2. To address priority themes and topics aligned with Forest Science Board strategies, in particular those contributing to the learning goals within the *Provincial Forest Extension Program (PFEP) Strategic Plan 2006-10* and addressing the following areas of focus in that Plan:
- managing for changing environments, timber value, productivity, markets, and public expectations
 - maintaining functioning forested watersheds, water quality, quantity and aquatic habitats
 - enabling SFM and stewardship planning through the adoption of ecosystem management principles
 - managing landscapes and landscape attributes to mitigate species losses and maintain viable reproducing populations or forest and range dependant species
 - achieving a balanced social, economic and environmental forestry portfolio
 - enabling understanding and use of indigenous knowledge in policy and SFM and stewardship planning
 - adapting to the social, economic and environmental impacts of the MPB epidemic
 - continuing competency: empowering forestry professionals through access to timely, relevant and trustworthy information.

Eligible Synthesis Topics and Priorities for 2007/08

The following topic priorities for 2007/08 are based, in part, on the results from the 2005 province-wide Client Needs Survey (Morford and Hollstedt, in press) and the 5-year PFEP cluster extension strategies. It is strongly recommended that the synthesis products contribute to the overall goals and objectives of the PFEP strategic plan. Proponents are strongly encouraged to involve the PFEP provider (FORREX) in design and quality assurance processes associated with the synthesis projects.

Proposed synthesis topics may focus on geographic or ecological sub-sets of the following themes and topics.

Theme 1.0 Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) and Conservation Biology	
1.1	Ecosystem representation by ecosystem type (how much is enough); emphasis on areas impacted by mountain pine beetle (MPB) and areas of the coast managed under EBM
1.2	Habitat fragmentation and connectivity by ecosystem type; emphasis on areas impacted by MPB
1.3	Maintaining riparian habitat quality; emphasis on areas impacted by MPB
1.4	Maintaining coarse woody debris in all ecosystem types
1.5	Maintaining wildlife trees in all ecosystem types
1.6	Maintaining critical habitat for species at risk by ecosystem type; emphasis on southern interior and areas impacted by MPB
1.7	Identification and control of invasive species; emphasis on southern interior bunchgrass and ponderosa pine zones and south coast

Theme 2.0 Socio-economics and Aboriginal Forestry	
2.1	Valuation of non-timber values and applications in management and planning
2.2	Incorporating socio-economic indicators into management and planning
2.3	Understanding indigenous traditional knowledge and incorporating it in management plans and practices

Theme 3.0 Watershed Management	
3.1	Forest management effects on water quality: site to watershed scale studies
3.2	Fish-forestry interaction: forest management practices that protect fish and fish habitat
3.3	Hillslope and stream geomorphology: research and case studies
3.4	Hydrologic response (recovery): cumulative watershed effects and natural/ land-use disturbance response trajectories
3.5	Natural forest disturbance effects on water quality and quantity: climatic, wildfire, landslide, and forest health disturbances

Note: Proponents in this theme are strongly encouraged to coordinate synthesis plans with the FORREX-led "Compendium of Forest Hydrology and Geomorphology in BC" project to avoid duplication and enhance synergies. See www.forrex.org/program/water/compendium.asp

Theme 4.0 Forest Dynamics	
4.1	Interior mixedwood management (aspen/birch-conifer complexes): forest health challenges (rusts, root disease, weevils, beetles); vegetation management for commercial broadleaf co-production
4.2	Planning for sustainable forest management (SFM)
4.3	Monitoring strategies and methods: timber and non-timber values and objectives
4.4	Managing the impacts of large-scale salvage
4.5	Non-timber forest products: forest management impacts and co-production strategies
4.6	Anticipating climate change and managing for ecosystem resiliency