



**OBAC Briefing Note**  
**Proposed Interim Action Plan for Future Forest Products and Fibre Use Strategy**  
**January 24, 2009**

**BACKGROUND:**

The Future Forest Products and Fiber Use Strategy is the fourth of the regional response strategies to be released (November 2008), and sets out four broad recommendations. To support the recommendations, over 20 specific actions are proposed. As each successive regional response strategy is developed, it is expected that there will be many common and interdependent recommendations and actions.

The purpose of this Interim Action Plan is to identify what work can effectively take place now, in order to ensure that: a) High priority (important and immediate) opportunities are addressed in a timely manner, and b) Individuals and organizations whose mandate it would be to undertake specific activities are informed and engaged in implementation.

The Interim Action Plan proposes 6 key areas where the OBAC can take a direct role to seeing the opportunities in the Strategy addressed:

1. Take an early opportunity to test new approaches for communities to participate in forest management decisions.
2. Advocate for regional interests on actions arising from Recommendations of Working Roundtable on Forestry.
3. Work with the Province and BC Hydro to promote diversification of fiber use, including the opportunities identified in the Alternative Energy Sector Strategy.
4. Engage local governments, industry and CN Rail in a dialogue.
5. Work with senior governments to ensure all components of the Future Forest Products and Fiber Use Strategy are considered in policy and program development.
6. Establish a regionally based process for tracking and reporting on achievement of sector strategy objectives.

OBAC does not have the mandate or resources to take on implementation of most actions in the Strategy. However, in line with its role to advocate for regionally important community interests, it will work collaboratively with others to see they are addressed. As such, OBAC is seeking the support and involvement of the Ministers and provincial agencies to embark on the identified priorities in the interim action plan.

In addition to the above actions which arise directly from the Strategy, a general need for regional economic development capacity is becoming evident in a number of sectors. Implementation of the sector strategies will require a concerted project-management effort. This effort will need to be staffed and resourced in some manner.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The OBAC Board of Directors recommends that the Minister adopt the interim actions in principle and direct staff to work with OBAC to develop the necessary detailed options, proposals or workplans and resource requirements for approval.

**ATTACHMENTS:** Interim Action Plan, Future Forest Products and Fiber Use Strategy.



## INTERIM ACTION PLAN

# FUTURE FOREST PRODUCTS AND FIBRE USE

## STRATEGY

### **BACKGROUND**

Motivated by the impacts of the Mountain Pine Beetle epidemic, the Omineca Beetle Action Coalition (OBAC) was established in 2005 to “work to ensure sustainable development and resiliency” in the north-central region of British Columbia bounded roughly by Smithers, Valemount and Mackenzie. A key function of the OBAC is the development of a series of regional response strategies. When complete, these strategies are expected to address eleven high-priority subject areas ranging from industry sectors to community services.

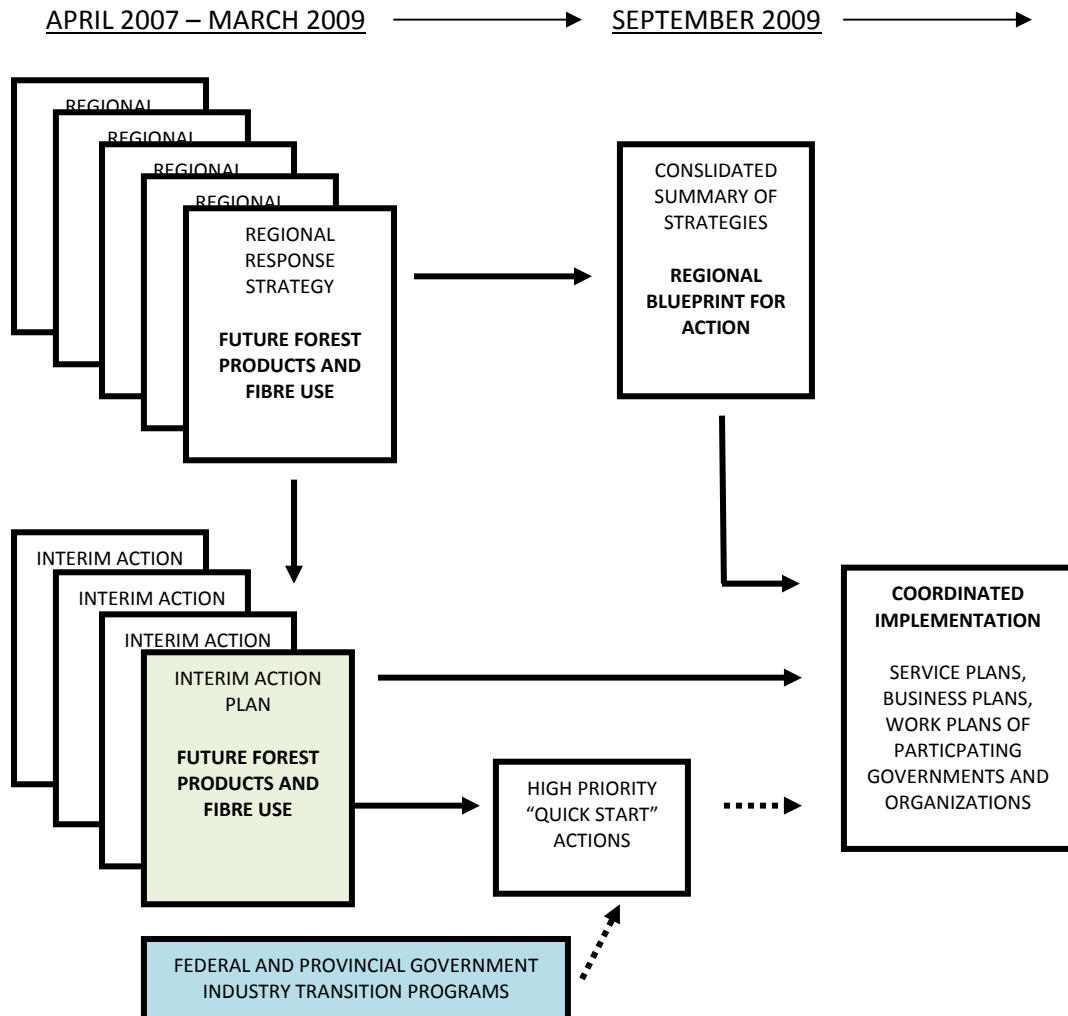
Each of the regional response strategies will provide an up-to-date profile of the current situation, analyze the opportunities and challenges associated with each subject area, and recommend a series of immediate and longer-term actions. Although each strategy is developed with broad stakeholder involvement, the final product remains advisory in nature – identifying what could be done by senior and local governments, industries, public institutions and others.

The Future Forest Products and Fiber Use Strategy is the fourth of the regional response strategies to be released (November 2008), and sets out six objectives and four broad recommendations. To support the recommendations, over 20 specific actions are proposed. As each successive regional response strategy is developed, it is expected that there will be many common and interdependent recommendations and actions.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this Interim Action Plan is to identify what work can effectively take place now, in order to ensure that

- a. High priority (important and immediate) opportunities are addressed in a timely manner, and
- b. Individuals and organizations whose mandate it would be to undertake specific activities are informed and engaged in implementation.



As more of the regional response strategies are completed the Interim Action Plans will inform the implementation activities of a variety of government and non-government organizations. During that period it is expected that a longer-term implementation structure will be developed.

## KEY OBAC ACTIONS SUMMARY

OBAC does not have the mandate or resources to take on implementation of most actions in the regional strategies, including the Future Forest Products and Fiber Use Strategy. However, in line with its role to advocate for regionally important community interests, it will work to see they are addressed.

OBAC will actively encourage the applicable parties to advance all the recommendations and specific actions identified in the Strategy. It is understood, however, that this does not mean that every action will be completed exactly as it is currently described – as work progresses and circumstances evolve, actions are expected to fall into a number of categories:

- a. Addressed through existing initiatives,
- b. Implemented as described,
- c. Intent is achieved, but through different means, and
- d. Deferred or dropped with reasons.

Appendix 1 describes each specific action and identifies steps the OBAC will take to encourage and advocate for implementation. In many situations, the OBAC function will be to communicate the opportunity, encourage partnerships and advocate for action by the appropriate government or organization. Concurrent to the completion of regional response strategies, the OBAC will work with other levels of government to determine what type of collaborative model will be best suited to oversee the implementation, monitoring and adaptation of strategies over the longer-term. In the meantime, the following actions should be undertaken with OBAC leadership:

**1 Take an early opportunity to test new approaches for communities to participate in forest management decisions.**

*Target:* Support enhanced participation of communities in the input process for AAC decisions expected in 2009 and use the opportunity to pilot effective approaches to a greater role for communities within a forest management unit.

**2 Advocate for regional interests on actions arising from Recommendations of Working Roundtable on Forestry.**

*Target:* Respond to any invitations for input from OBAC within 30 days. Conduct an assessment and provide comments on the Roundtable's recommendations within 60 days of their release.

**3 Work with the Province and BC Hydro to promote diversification of fiber use, including the opportunities identified in the Alternative Energy Sector Strategy.**

*Target:* (See Alternative Energy Sector Strategy – Omineca Alternative Energy Office).

**4 Engage local governments, industry and CN Rail in a dialogue**

*Target:* (see Regional Infrastructure Strategy Interim Action Plan – item #4).

**5 Work with senior governments to ensure all components of the Future Forest Products and Fiber Use Strategy are considered in policy and program development.**

*Target:* Conduct initial meetings with senior officials by mid February 2009 and establish an on-going process for collaboration by June 30, 2009.

**6 Establish baselines and track progress**

*Target:* Put in place a regionally based method to credibly track progress toward the objectives set out in the Future Forest Products and Fiber Use Strategy, including documenting the baseline, by September 2009. (See example below).

Upon agreement in principle, a detailed proposal will be developed for each of these actions.

## EXAMPLES OF POSSIBLE MEASURES AND TARGETS

As part of the interim action planning process, a proposed performance measure and target is identified for each recommendation.

1. Increase the benefits that communities can rely upon from forest resources and forestry.

Proposed success measure: Change from baseline for a net benefits indicator (s) – to be determined

Information source: To be determined

Proposed target: To be determined

2. Ensure that the forest sector remains a strong economic contributor to the region.

Proposed success measure: Contribution to regional GDP

Information source: To be determined (likely existing government data)

Proposed target: To be determined (from baseline – to be established)

3. Recognize the mountain pine beetle impacted stands as a valuable asset which should be used to its full potential before its commercial value is depleted.

Proposed success measures: %utilization of volume available for commercial use

Information source: Ministry of Forests and Range and industry records (possibly with some additional information gathering or analysis) and models

Proposed target: To be determined

4. Increase awareness and understanding of the long-term viability of the forest sector.

Proposed success measures: To be determined

Information source: To be determined

Proposed target: To be determined

## APPENDIX 1

Appendix 1 is based on the “specific actions” set out in Chapter 6 (pages 28-38) of the Integrated Regional Infrastructure Strategy.

Actions colour coded yellow indicate an immediate opportunity for OBAC



Actions colour coded green are considered to be already underway



## FUTURE FOREST PRODUCTS AND FIBRE USE STRATEGY

### Recommendation 1: Increase the benefits that communities can rely upon from forest resources and forestry.

Specific action (from Strategy)	Comments and/or tactics	Contacts and/or responsibilities	Cost considerations	OBAC function
<p>a) Expand viable tenure opportunities for communities and First Nations</p> <p>i. Tenures need to be for larger volumes and longer term than is the present practice</p> <p>ii. Both area and volume based tenures should be available</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This needs to be within the context of an overall restructuring of “tenure” for forest resources.</li> <li>The direct role of communities (e.g., local governments) in forest resource harvesting operations should be looked at to determine whether it is a transition strategy or a long-term policy. (In other words, do we really want public entities in the forestry business, or do we need other policies that ensure they have a role in decisions and participate equitably in the risks and benefits, including financial revenues, of the resources?).</li> <li>We should expect to see recommendations on this from the Working Roundtable on Forestry early in 2009.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Ministry of Forests and Range</b>                      Natural Resources Canada – Canadian Forest Service has capacity and expertise to help develop and analyze options.                      First Nations and local governments will need to participate in the framework discussions.                      Industry input will be required (new and emerging industries)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The direct cost of developing and implementing a major policy change (i.e., tenure reform), is significant. The direct cost of piecemeal policy changes is minimal.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocate for the region’s perspective as described in the sector strategies and the draft discussion document “The Way Forward” (OBAC 2008).</li> </ul>
<p>b) Put in place other complementary measures which will provide communities with direct benefits from forest resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This will need to be part of a comprehensive policy change, including the relationship between / mandates of the Province and local governments.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Province (multiple ministries)</b>                       Local governments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There will be a modest cost to doing the necessary policy analysis and putting changes in place. The actual net costs or benefits will depend on the policy options chosen.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage and support OBAC region communities’ input.</li> </ul>

## FUTURE FOREST PRODUCTS AND FIBRE USE STRATEGY

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Specific action (from Strategy)	Comments and/or tactics	Contacts and/or responsibilities	Cost considerations	OBAC function
<p>c) Community resilience considerations should be at the heart of forest management decisions.</p> <p>i. Provide capacity and support to enable communities within a TSA or Forest District to collectively develop goals and objectives.</p> <p>ii. Amend legislation to require that the goals and objectives expressed by local communities are considered in major forest management decisions</p> <p>iii. Decentralize functions within the forest ministry to engender a partnership between the Province and communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Item (i) is suited to an OBAC led project, perhaps with support and resources from the Province.</li> <li>Item (ii) may be suited to a pilot project with upcoming AAC determinations to test a more formal role/process for communities.</li> <li>Item (iii) will need considerable analysis and options development to find a cost-effective model that meets community needs. The underlying sentiment is to create a “stewardship partnership” whereby the Province and local communities work actively together to define and achieve sustainable management of public forest lands.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Province: Ministry of Forests and Range and Ministry of Community Development.</b></p> <p>Local governments. First Nations</p>	<p>(i) Funding will be required to conduct the necessary processes, and collect and document information. Estimate \$50 - \$100 thousand per forest district (actual amount will vary according to number of communities, First Nations involvement, and complexity of issues)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with the Province to confirm objectives and regional community interests.</li> <li>Support member communities to participate in pilot projects.</li> <li>Where appropriate, support member communities to develop goals and objectives or provide input to Provincial decision processes.</li> <li>Review and assess the recommendations of the Working Roundtable on Forestry, and advocate for any actions to appropriately address the needs of the Omineca region.</li> </ul>

## FUTURE FOREST PRODUCTS AND FIBRE USE STRATEGY

### Recommendation 2: Ensure that the forest sector remains a strong economic contributor to the region.

Specific action (from Strategy)	Comments and/or tactics	Contacts and/or responsibilities	Cost considerations	OBAC function
<p>a) Provide for more equitable and diverse access for existing and new users of fibre</p> <p>i. Assess whether existing mechanisms (largely market forces) are sufficient to provide for this access or whether additional policy measures are needed.</p> <p>ii. Expand the use of area based tenures where this would result in a more comprehensive and beneficial use of forest resources and provide the flexibility needed to adapt to changing market conditions</p> <p>iii. Continue to identify and remove legislative and policy barriers to use of roadside debris and other underutilized sources of fibre. Members of the forest sector to work together and with local governments to develop optimization strategies for the use of fibre.</p>	<p>Comments are similar to Recommendation 1(a):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This needs to be within the context of an overall restructuring of “tenure” for forest resources.</li> <li>The direct role of communities (e.g., local governments) in forest resource harvesting operations should be looked at to determine whether it is a transition strategy or a long-term policy. (In other words, do we really want public entities in the forestry business, or do we need other policies that ensure they have a role in decisions and participate equitably in the risks and benefits, including financial revenues, of the resources?).</li> <li>We should expect to see recommendations on this from the Working Roundtable on Forestry early in 2009.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Ministry of Forests and Range</b>                      Natural Resources Canada – Canadian Forest Service has capacity and expertise to help develop and analyze options.                      First Nations and local governments will need to participate in the framework discussions.                      Industry input will be required (new and emerging industries).                      FPInnovations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The cost of policy analysis and change is relatively modest.</li> <li>Cost – benefit implications of each policy proposal will need to be assessed in light of the overall situation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocate for the region’s perspective as described in the sector strategies and the draft discussion document “The Way Forward” (OBAC 2008).</li> <li>Where appropriate, support member communities to provide collective input to policy work.</li> </ul>

## FUTURE FOREST PRODUCTS AND FIBRE USE STRATEGY

### **Recommendation 2: Ensure that the forest sector remains a strong economic contributor to the region.**

Specific action (from Strategy)	Comments and/or tactics	Contacts and/or responsibilities	Cost considerations	OBAC function
<p>b) Improve the region’s infrastructure and related services</p> <p>i. Improve the quality of freight rail services including short haul services</p> <p>ii. Continue to make safety and traffic flow improvements to Highways 16 and 97</p> <p>iii. Provide a coordinated approach to transportation infrastructure planning and funding</p> <p>iv. Enable opportunities for power grid connections for rural communities which would allow them to produce electricity from wood fibre for their own use and sell the surplus into the grid.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Linked directly to the Integrated Regional Infrastructure Strategy (see that document and action plan).</li> </ul>	<p><b>Identified in the Regional Infrastructure Strategy</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identified in the Regional Infrastructure Strategy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to communicate and follow-up on the Regional Infrastructure Strategy as set out in that Action Plan.</li> </ul>
<p>c) Increase the range of products produced from the region’s forest resources</p> <p>i. Update and improve timber and non-timber forest resource inventories.</p> <p>ii. Complete the Omineca portion of the information assessment for non-timber forest products and determine which products are best suited for production in the region.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forest policy (e.g., access to resources, forest practices, and revenue); practices (e.g., harvesting and silviculture), information (e.g., inventories and research) and non-forest factors (e.g., skilled labour, technology, taxation) are all important to creating a suitable business environment for diversity of forest products.</li> <li>• A number of provincial initiatives</li> </ul>	<p><b>Province (mainly Ministry of Forests and Range)</b>                      Natural Resources Canada – Canadian Forest Service and FPInnovations, UNBC, CNC                      First Nations and local governments will need to provide input and support.</p> <p><u>Private sector</u> will need to lead the activities to actually produce products.</p>	<p>(i) Resource inventories are expensive to collect and maintain. A program of at least \$5 million per year of incremental work is required for a decade or more.</p> <p>(ii) Modest cost.</p> <p>(iii) Incremental investments to current provincial programs amounting to at least \$1 million for research and \$1 million for marketing would add significantly to the region’s ability to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the province on behalf of the region to define and promote the necessary programs.</li> <li>• Support community leaders’ contributions.</li> </ul>

FUTURE FOREST PRODUCTS AND FIBRE USE STRATEGY				
<b>Recommendation 2: Ensure that the forest sector remains a strong economic contributor to the region.</b>				
Specific action (from Strategy)	Comments and/or tactics	Contacts and/or responsibilities	Cost considerations	OBAC function
iii. In preparation for post MPB forest conditions, undertake research into: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Products and manufacturing processes best suited for the region’s future fibre supply</li> <li>– Markets for these new products</li> </ul> iv. Develop supports to assist entrepreneurs in marketing, packaging and selling of wood and non-wood products.           v. Include community leaders in the process and find innovative ways to expand market access for BC forest products at the national and international levels.	are underway. It will be important to objectively analyze the obstacles, limitations and opportunities.		achieve these actions.	
d) Put in place detailed objectives which are tied to the land base and which will guide resource management decisions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently a provincially led process (LRMP’s, FRPA, etc.).</li> <li>• Process changes are closely linked to Recommendation 1(c)</li> <li>• This action is also closely tied to the concept of integrated <u>area based</u> management, landscape-level resource targets, etc. – all of which require direct First Nations and local government involvement.</li> </ul>	<b>Province</b> Local governments First Nations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Processes, including proper preparation and analysis are time consuming, however the work can be prioritized and does not have to start from scratch.</li> <li>• One staff member or consultant in each forest district to actively manage and facilitate the process would cost approximately \$1 million per year, and significant progress could be made in 5 years.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support member communities to participate in objective setting processes.</li> <li>• See also Recommendation 1(c).</li> </ul>

## FUTURE FOREST PRODUCTS AND FIBRE USE STRATEGY

### **Recommendation 2: *Ensure that the forest sector remains a strong economic contributor to the region.***

Specific action (from Strategy)	Comments and/or tactics	Contacts and/or responsibilities	Cost considerations	OBAC function
<p>e) Provide incentives which will encourage investment in the forest land base and the making of forest products.</p> <p>i. Evaluate the use of tax credits or other measures to encourage investment in research, new technologies and equipment needed for the manufacture of a wide range of forest products.</p> <p>ii. Support employee training and development at all levels, including apprenticeships, and technical and management training required for the transition to new processes and products.</p> <p>iii. Consider establishing an industrial training centre in the region using an existing industrial site.</p> <p>iv. Allow tenure holders to derive enough benefits from the forest to allow reinvestment in forest management.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each of these sub-actions is a significant undertaking in its own right.</li> <li>All levels of government will need to examine the taxation questions in light of their own (broader) circumstances and objectives – a coordinated taxation strategy would be desirable – this might require consideration of a geographically-based tax regime, which is difficult for senior governments.</li> <li>Tenure holder benefits (iv) will only be reinvested in the forest if there is a sense of “ownership” and a potential return on the investment – this is linked to policy reforms (i.e., tenure) previously mentioned. Also the benefits will need to be balanced with those demanded by communities (1b).</li> </ul>	<p>e(i) Provincial and Federal Governments</p> <p>e(ii) Provincial Government Industries and industry associations Education providers (e.g., UNBC, CNC) Professional Associations</p> <p>e(iii) Provincial Government Industries and industry associations Education providers (existing or new)</p> <p>e(iv) Provincial Government Industry</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each of these sub-actions will require more detailed options development and feasibility work before a cost can be assigned.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage members (local governments) to act on opportunities within their mandate.</li> <li>Support and contribute to further analysis and business plan development for each sub-action on behalf of members as appropriate.</li> </ul>

## FUTURE FOREST PRODUCTS AND FIBRE USE STRATEGY

**Recommendation 3:** *Recognize the MPB impacted stands as a valuable asset which should be used to its full potential before its commercial value is depleted.*

Specific action (from Strategy)	Comments and/or tactics	Contacts and/or responsibilities	Cost considerations	OBAC function
<p>a) Recognize the multiple values of MPB impacted stands and provide more targeted management:</p> <p>i. Identify stands which provide the best opportunities to maintain environmental services and ecological function and manage appropriately for the long term</p> <p>ii. Identify and target stands which provide the best harvest opportunities for existing and new industries</p> <p>iii. Assess timber supply and project future harvest flow by management unit and prioritize and optimize the timing of harvest of dead pine stands so that opportunities for existing and new forest products are not lost as a result of stands being harvested in a non-optimal sequence.</p> <p>These actions will require putting in place area based objectives (Recommendation 2 d) to guide harvest and retention.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As noted in the last sentence, these actions require that a good deal of prerequisite work be done relative to setting resource objectives for specific geographic areas.</li> <li>• A critical assessment of timing is needed to determine whether this can be accomplished within a timeframe that is relevant to deteriorating timber.</li> <li>• Some of this work is underway in various forms.</li> <li>• Consideration must be given to the current tenure and FRPA requirements, as many decisions are currently driven by licensees' plans – the government's forestry revitalization initiative changed legislation to give industry more flexibility in order to adjust to market and competitiveness issues. There is a risk of this being an expensive, hypothetical exercise if results cannot be implemented.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Province – Ministry of Forests and Range (lead)</b> Industry</p>	<p>In addition to the costs of information gathering, analysis and various consultation / negotiation activities, significant specialist skills are needed for some of this work. A very basic process could possibly be completed for about \$100,000 per forest district (using existing data) = \$1 million.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide input about regional-level community interests as appropriate.</li> </ul>

## FUTURE FOREST PRODUCTS AND FIBRE USE STRATEGY

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Specific action (from Strategy)	Comments and/or tactics	Contacts and/or responsibilities	Cost considerations	OBAC function
<p>b) Ensure that MPB impacted areas are promptly and adequately reforested and, where needed, expand forests health rehabilitation programs to allow for larger scale projects and productive uses of the resulting fibre. There is a strong linkage to action a) as the full value of the dead pine stands must be realized prior to reforestation.</p> <p>Planting species other than pine may be needed given the likelihood of future climate change and the likelihood of increasing pest and disease problems.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Forest for Tomorrow Program is in place and could possibly be expanded to address this action.</li> <li>There are potential linkages to forest-worker employment programs and bioenergy initiatives (see also Alternative Energy Sector Strategy – OBAC June 2008).</li> <li>Recognizing the “full value” of the dead pine before reforestation should be based on a multiple-values analysis.</li> <li>The Future Forest Ecosystem Initiative (MOF) is examining the question of species from a biophysical perspective, however it is also linked to the management of defined forest areas for a set of clear long-term objectives – a need identified earlier in the Strategy and Action Plan)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Ministry of Forests and Range</b> Federal Government, NRCan-CFS Industry</p>	<p>There could be significant cost implications if large-scale survey, site preparation, planting and rehabilitation activities are undertaken. A more detailed analysis is required, however an conservative estimate of \$50 million per year for the region would not be unreasonable.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assist regional communities to communicate their interests and priorities.</li> <li>Support government to secure program funding.</li> </ul>

## FUTURE FOREST PRODUCTS AND FIBRE USE STRATEGY

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Specific action (from Strategy)	Comments and/or tactics	Contacts and/or responsibilities	Cost considerations	OBAC function
<p>c) Consider the following when AAC determinations are made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Shelf life estimates should be updated periodically to include new research and industry experience</li> <li>ii. Shelf life estimates should cover a wider range of forest products</li> <li>iii. AAC's should be partitioned for low quality wood and dead pine profiles to limit harvest of non-MPB-killed stands which will contribute to the mid-term timber supply</li> </ul> <p>These actions are strongly linked to action a) above.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is information that can be considered in an AAC determination.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Ministry of Forests and Range</b> Industry</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some additional information gathering and analysis may be required. Direct costs should be modest, however indirect costs and benefits will need to be part of the analysis.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help communicate community interests to decision makers.</li> <li>• See Recommendation 1 Action (c)</li> </ul>
<p>d) Provide meaningful incentives to expand productive uses of MPB wood.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is very general. Further work is required to describe any analyze potential incentives and their pros and cons.</li> <li>• Proposals should continue to be sought from industry.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Province</b> Industry</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Costs will depend upon the incentive.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate collective input by members when appropriate opportunities exist.</li> </ul>
<p>e) Develop strategies and milling and other technologies which will result in MPB wood having a longer useful life for the production of forest products.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This will be a continuation of work by FPInnovations and others.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Industry</b> Provincial and Federal Government R&amp;D programs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Costs to be determined by specific innovation programs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide support to industry and government as appropriate.</li> </ul>

## FUTURE FOREST PRODUCTS AND FIBRE USE STRATEGY

**Recommendation 3: Recognize the MPB impacted stands as a valuable asset which should be used to its full potential before its commercial value is depleted.**

Specific action (from Strategy)	Comments and/or tactics	Contacts and/or responsibilities	Cost considerations	OBAC function
f) Explore the opportunities and potential for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. short rotation and/or deciduous stands on suitable forest land</li> <li>ii. Intensive management of forest crops on suitable forest lands</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Linked to (b) above.</li> <li>• Private land opportunities should be examined (perhaps by a landowners organization or the Real Estate Foundation).</li> <li>• A lot of “agroforestry” work has been done in this area.</li> </ul>	On public land: <b>Ministry of Forests and Range</b> Industry Federal Government NRCan-CFS On private land: Industry / landowners (possibly some government \$ available) Possibly organizations like Resources North Association	Cost to explore opportunities on public land can be incorporated into initiatives already proposed.  An examination of private land opportunities (if not in existence in a government department) could likely be completed for approximately \$100,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide support to industry and government as appropriate.</li> </ul>
g) Implement the bioenergy portion of the Provincial Energy Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Consider a two-tier energy pricing system or other measures which would help to kick start the industry in the region</li> <li>ii. A stepped pricing approach which links electricity rates to individual sources of fibre -mill residues, roadside debris, or standing grey MPB-killed stands should also be considered.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Linked to Alternative Energy Sector Strategy (OBAC June 2008)</li> </ul>	<b>Province of BC</b>	Policy analysis work – moderate cost.  Implementation costs and benefits depend on the approaches chosen.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide support to industry and government as appropriate.</li> <li>• See Action Plan for the Alternative Energy Strategy.</li> </ul>

## FUTURE FOREST PRODUCTS AND FIBRE USE STRATEGY

### **Recommendation 4: Increase awareness and understanding of the long-term viability of the forest sector.**

Specific action (from Strategy)	Comments and/or tactics	Contacts and/or responsibilities	Cost considerations	OBAC function
<p>a) Actively provide information to the public on the long term viability, social economic and environmental value of the forest sector. This should include existing and future employment opportunities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>While there are a number of players in this arena, it is an area where a concerted, regional effort may have a beneficial impact. A professionally delivered, sustained effort to provide information, redefine and rebrand “the forest sector” and paint a picture of a realistic, positive future scenario may be a very good investment. This could build upon, and help focus existing efforts.</li> <li>Work is required to further define the objectives, assess the feasibility and develop a business plan.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Local governments (working regionally)</b>            Industries and industry associations            Support from the Province            Chambers of Commerce and other business organizations            School boards.</p>	<p>A basic program to provide a regional focus and help turn opinions within the region would cost about \$250,000/year and would need to run for at least 5 years (then be evaluated and continued/adjusted/discontinued) = \$1.25 million</p> <p>Both the Province and NDIT may have a role to play in financing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote follow-up by local governments and industry.</li> <li>If there is sufficient interest, OBAC may play an initial catalyst role to facilitate the parties to design and establish a program.</li> </ul>
<p>b) Provide relevant forest related educational and training opportunities at secondary and post secondary institutions.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">i. Ensure that these programs are well coordinated across the various institutions.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">ii. Remove barriers which limit enrolment in the Natural Resource Program at secondary schools.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">iii) Market the training and educational opportunities to the regions at the secondary and post-</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is a similar issue as arises in other sector strategies.</li> <li>Some of this work may require a major review of how education is funded and regulated in regard to curriculum – the amount of emphasis on basic K-12 competency areas as compared to sector-specific learning.</li> <li>There is a close tie between this action and (a) above.</li> </ul>	<p><b>School, University and College Boards</b>            Industry            Professional Associations            Provincial Government</p>	<p>Human resources and \$ are required to have an impact on this.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocate solutions from a regional communities’ perspective.</li> <li>Support appropriate initiatives.</li> </ul>

**FUTURE FOREST PRODUCTS AND FIBRE USE STRATEGY**

**Recommendation 4: Increase awareness and understanding of the long-term viability of the forest sector.**

Specific action (from Strategy)	Comments and/or tactics	Contacts and/or responsibilities	Cost considerations	OBAC function
secondary				
c) Develop and maintain an information sharing network for the forest sector. Include expanded communications on relevant provincial and regional initiatives and research findings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are networks in existence- FORREX for example has a province-wide mandate for extension of research results. It may be possible to fund a regional program within one of these organizations.</li> <li>• There is a great deal of information provided by individual organizations (e.g., Ministry of Forests and Range) that is readily available on the web.</li> <li>• There may be opportunities for more in-person presentations at distributed locations if sufficient funding was available.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Post-secondary and research extension organizations</b>                      Provincial government                      Industry</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It may be possible to substantially achieve this action by providing a grant of about \$150,000/year to an existing organizations (e.g., FORREX or UNBC) to hire a staff person or contractor to provide this service for the region. This would have to be on-going to be successful.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be available to provide a regional communities' perspective to</li> </ul>