



PROJECT OVERVIEW

TITLE: *Linking Resources for Community Forests*

Date: December 2009

FOR INFORMATION – DECISION REQUIRED IN JANUARY 2010

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

This is a multi-region, multi-agency project that will create information and systems to facilitate value-added forest products producers and community forests to develop fiber supply arrangements. It will also identify specific opportunities to expand the business opportunities and viability for community forests and value-added manufacturers. The project will involve the collection and analysis of information on supply of fiber available in community forests, and demand from the many small and medium-sized businesses doing value-added production. The project will also identify and describe opportunities to improve fiber flow and coordination, and enhance profitability. The overall project cost is estimated at \$200,000. The OBAC would participate in the final design and implementation of the project. A Phase 2 project will be considered in order to add woodlots.

RATIONALE:

This proposal is consistent with the OBAC region's *Future Forest and Fiber Use Strategy*, including recommendation 1 "Increase the benefits that communities can rely upon from forest resources and forestry" and a number of recommended actions. Small manufacturers often have little access to information about what raw material is available, and where. Conversely, community forest managers are challenged to optimize the value of their timber by getting wood to the market for which it is most suited and most valuable. By closing the information gap and putting an on-going system in place, both sectors of the industry will be more viable.

PARTNERS:

Community Futures of Cariboo Chilcotin (lead), UBC Alex Fraser Research Forest, BC Community Forest Association, Ministry of Community and Rural Development, Northern Development Trust (pending), Community Futures REDI (pending), Regional Beetle Action Coalitions (pending), Ministry of Forests and Range (role to be confirmed).

TIMELINES:

Target – confirm partners and begin detailed project design by late January 2010. Project completion in approximately one year.

RESOURCES:

OBAC would be required to contribute \$10,000 in funding toward the total project budget, plus approximately \$5,000 in staff/consulting time during the life of the project.

REGIONAL STRATEGY: Future Forest and Fiber Use

ACTIVITY

- Information gathering about fiber supply and demand
- Identify and pre-feasibility analysis of opportunities

OUTPUTS

- Information system usable by community forests and manufacturers
- Information for industry on supply chain opportunities

INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES

- More efficient and profitable fiber transfer
- Better returns for community forests
- More dependable wood supply for manufacturers

OUTCOMES

- A more diverse and viable forest sector
- Greater benefits to communities