



PROJECT OVERVIEW

TITLE: Pilot Project - Improving Community Input to Forest Management Decisions – PG Timber Supply Review

Date: December 2009

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The project is taking advantage of timing for an updated Timber Supply Review and Allowable Annual Cut (AAC) determination for the Prince George Timber Supply Area. Using a working group of local government representatives supported by a consultant, the OBAC will work collaboratively with the MFR to test a new approach to advising the Chief Forester about the *social and economic objectives* that need to be considered in the determination of the AAC. The pilot project will produce:

1. One or more reports to the Chief Forester setting out the interests of communities in the region, as expressed by local governments,
2. A report to the Minister of Forests and Range and the OBAC directors describing the results of a joint post-determination assessment of the pilot project, including.

RATIONALE:

Legislation requires the Chief Forester to “...consider the economic and social objectives of the government, as expressed by the minister, for the area, for the general region, and for British Columbia...” The most recent expression of the government’s objectives says that “You should also consider important local social and economic objectives expressed by the public during the timber supply review process...” The regional strategies are an expression of the objectives by local governments for the region. The forest strategy refers directly to improvements to communities’ role in decision making and provides the basis for input to the timber supply review process. For the purposes of implementation, both the OBAC and the MFR would like to determine how the local governments’ objectives can best be considered in the Chief Forester’s decision, and what improvements (process or legislative) should be considered in future.

PARTNERS:

Ministry of Forest and Range, local governments

TIMELINES:

Based on MFR schedule for Timber Supply Review and AAC determination – should be complete in mid 2010

RESOURCES:

OBAC will incur approximately \$15,000 in staff and consulting costs plus \$3,000 for working group meetings. The MFR will incur (un-quantified) in-kind costs.

ACTIVITY

- Working group
- Information briefings
- Documenting interests
 - Submissions
 - Debriefings

OUTPUTS

- Written submissions to Chief Forester
- Analysis report and follow-up recommendations to Chief Forester and Minister

INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES

- Improved methods for including regional community interests and priorities in the AAC determination process (and possibly other decisions)

OUTCOMES

- Better decisions
- Increased likelihood of long-term economic sustainability for affected communities