
ABCFP Position Statements

June 2008

Guidelines

Contents

Introduction	3
Climate Change and Carbon Management	3
Cultural Heritage Resources	3
Forest Tenures	3
Fuel Management	4
Inventory	4
Non-Timber Forest Products	4
Parks and Protected Areas	4
Private Land Forest Management	5
Public Consultation	5
Recreation and Tourism	5
Research	5
Timber Management	5
Visual Resource Management	6

Introduction

In the past, the ABCFP has produced a number of short position statements on a range of forestry-related topics. The purpose of these position statements is that they are used as general guidance – for staff and members – when asked about key issues. These statements are not meant to encompass everything forest professionals deal with or address any topic in great detail. We recognize that there is always new information and changed circumstances so these statements are meant to be dynamic and reviewed on a regular basis. For some of the most critical issues the ABCFP often creates position or guidance papers to inform and guide our work.

Developing these position statements is an ongoing process. These statements are by no means the most important position statements or necessarily the highest priority, but rather just the first ones council chose to tackle. If there are priority topics you think council should address next, send your ideas to: sglover@abcfp.ca.

Member comment is being sought on the first statements. Please take a few minutes to read them over and send your comments and suggestions to: sglover@abcfp.ca.

Climate Change and Carbon Management

There is a large body of scientific research showing that climate change will have a profound effect on BC forests. Projections of climate change and assessment of carbon cycle dynamics should be derived from the most defensible scientific evidence available. The ABCFP supports a diverse range of approaches to managing BC's forest land adaptively to a changing climate. Our goals must be to minimize the negative impacts and maximize positive impacts wherever possible. Impacts to the carbon cycle from BC's forest management should be considered and addressed in balance with providing the forest values, over the long term, that are assigned by society, in the context of all human caused impacts to the carbon cycle.

Cultural Heritage Resources

Forest management must take into account Cultural and Heritage Resources (CHR). CHR are items that are of ongoing importance to First Nations and the public. They may be related to First Nations in pre- or post-contact eras. These resources and their values vary from time to time and place to place. By being engaged with First Nation groups, and the public, forest professionals will gain and keep a current understanding of CHR and how forest management can affect or be affected by CHR.

Forest Tenures

Forest tenures are tools used by the government of BC to facilitate management and administration of public working forests. The form of these tenures has varied

over the years and will likely continue to do so. It is important that qualified forest professionals be retained to advise and inform government decision makers and stakeholders on the social, cultural and economic benefits and costs of current and proposed tenures.

Fuel Management

Fire is a natural part of the forest ecosystem and plays a role in naturally regenerating forests. Low intensity fires serve to keep forest insects at healthy levels and clear out underbrush that would otherwise be consumed as fuel in higher-intensity fires. Programs which promote the burning of underbrush and the restoration of grasslands for range animals are an excellent way to reduce fuel on the ground. Generally, the goal is to manage fuel towards a naturally occurring level however, priority attention should be paid to reducing fuel loads at the urban/forest interface and these programs should be well-funded by government.

Inventory

Forest and land management decisions are best based on good resource inventories. Forest professionals need to use the best available inventory information when making recommendations or decisions. Forest professionals must be aware of the scale for which inventory information is applicable, and must apply inventory information at the scale it was intended. Where good resource inventory information is lacking, forest professionals should advocate for better information and should indicate how poor inventory information limits recommendations or decisions. Forest professionals need to advocate for ongoing updating and improvement of inventory information for all forest resources, and for new inventories as resource management evolves.

Non-Timber Forest Products

BC's forests provide a diversity of botanical products. In many cases, the cultural or economic potential of these products has yet to be reached. Forest professionals need to keep this diversity and untapped potential in mind and should be aware of how decisions will affect opportunities for continued access to and management of these products.

Parks and Protected Areas

Parks and protected areas, both terrestrial and marine, are designated in BC to conserve both representative ecological systems and special places and features while providing a diverse range of recreational experiences. These areas also serve as ecological benchmarks to compare with more intensively managed areas outside of parks. Forest professionals serve as experts in assisting in ecological restoration and management in these areas as well as ensuring adjacent forest lands are managed compatibly.

Private Land Forest Management

Professional obligations outlined in the Foresters Act and Bylaws are applicable to both crown and private forest land. Forest practices on private land are determined by the owner's objectives and relevant legislation. Forest practitioners must consider the impact on important public values on adjacent or nearby land. This includes downslope or downstream impacts, endangered species management and protection of cultural and heritage resource values.

Public Consultation

Public consultation, besides being a legal requirement in the preparation of certain operational plans, is also a means for forest professionals to assess public expectations. These expectations can be considered to help determine the public interest if there is an absence of, or incomplete direction from, legislative requirements. Forest professionals must always be willing to listen to and consider public input, regardless of when it is provided.

Recreation and Tourism

Nature-based recreation and tourism are at the core of our lifestyle and an important part of our economy. Forest lands, adjacent waters, and the resource roads that access them are instrumental in providing opportunities for a diverse range of recreation and tourism uses. Some forms of recreation and tourism require remote backcountry settings where forest harvesting activities are less dominant while other forms are best in easily accessible areas close to towns or major highways where all uses can be integrated. Forest planning and management should proactively acknowledge the value of recreation and tourism. Planners must work jointly with others to create a balance between efficient resource extraction and our needs for recreation and tourism.

Research

Research is critical to the continued improvement of forest practices. Research programs must be adequately funded and staffed and given the long-term nature of forestry, secure funding is required for longer term research programs. Whenever possible, research agencies should coordinate efforts and work with practitioners to reduce duplication and ensure research applies to practice. It is important that this research be communicated to practitioners and that practitioners apply the lessons from research.

Timber Management

Timber harvested from BC's working forest is critical in maintaining the social, cultural, economic and physical infrastructure that ensures the well-being of the people of our province. Timber harvesting and manufacturing jobs are the economic backbone of many communities in the province. Forest professionals must ensure

that public, corporate and governmental decision makers are aware of timber's contribution, and must advocate for, promote, and manage for efficient timber production within BC's working forests.

Visual Resource Management

BC is blessed with great natural beauty from rugged coastal forests, to rolling forested grasslands of the southern Interior to the rich northern boreal. This visual resource is central to a strong sense of place and is important to all of us from forest workers, to communities, to backcountry lodges, to the traveling public. Forest professionals need to be aware of and address scenic areas and visual resource management when preparing and implementing plans. Forest professionals can work proactively with concerned groups to identify scenic landscapes that need special consideration and also explain forest practices through interpretive forest sites, signs and other materials.



**ASSOCIATION OF
BC FOREST PROFESSIONALS**

1030-1188 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, BC V6E 4A2

Tel: 604.687.8027 Fax: 604.687.3264

E-mail: info@abcfp.ca

Web Site: www.abcfp.ca

Ensuring BC's Forests Are In Good Hands.