



COLLEGE of
APPLIED BIOLOGY
BRITISH COLUMBIA



ASSOCIATION OF
BC FOREST PROFESSIONALS

Understanding Similarities and Respecting Differences

A Roadmap to Professional Cooperation between the College of Applied Biology of BC and the Association of BC Forest Professionals

Preamble: The College of Applied Biology and the Association of B.C. Forest Professionals have common values regarding the integrity of land and ecosystems, improving management practices and promoting sustainability. With mandates to regulate their respective professionals, they endeavour to promote the use of qualified professionals and to ensure that British Columbia's ecosystems are properly managed.

Common Interests:

Public Interest is paramount.

Operating in the public interest includes:

1. Due diligence: the right people doing the right job
2. Appropriate Expertise: Professionals operating within their individual sphere of expertise
3. Accountability: ensuring nothing falls through the cracks
4. Continuing Professional Development: Ensuring members are up to date and competent
5. Ethical practice

Member Interest:

Both organizations also operate in the interest of their members:

6. Conflict resolution
7. Responsibilities to members i.e. communication, CPD,
8. Mechanisms to address issues with members

Both organizations recognize the need for cooperation between the professions. The Guiding Principles to achieve this include:

9. Ensuring that all interactions are transparent, fair, respectful and open
10. Focusing on the intent of the legislation which is to ensure sound management of natural resources
11. Developing the ability to respond jointly and cohesively to incidents and issues involving both professional bodies



12. Developing a protocol for conflict management and dispute resolution – eg: joint body/committee – if the group cannot resolve disputes, bring in a mediator
13. Resolving differences jointly rather than abdicating the responsibility to government
14. Achieving the same image at the corporate level as the ground level (there do not seem to be many practice-overlap issues at the ground level, so we should be able to achieve this between professional bodies)

Both organizations have strategic interests in common:

15. Ensuring the success of the professional reliance model
16. Giving opportunities for Professional development (eg; share of practice advisory service, training opportunities etc)
17. Advocating for sound management practices (eg; for inventory needs)
18. Defining overlaps and what it means to be competent in a certain area
19. Achieving administrative efficiencies
20. Promoting the use of professionals – every professional body needs to promote the application of professional services to meet the public interest

Guiding principles respecting areas of overlap:

- Members in both organizations need to test themselves against their education, knowledge, experience and training within the areas of overlap to determine whether they have adequate expertise to practice in that area. The link to the professional reliance concept is the ‘self test’ – the professional organizations cannot provide definitions of the exact qualifications for all areas of practice.
- Err on the side of caution when defining your area of expertise
- Professional discussion and dialogue between disciplines is encouraged
- The professions support their respective members working in the areas of overlap to the extent that they are qualified to work there.
- The professions will inform each other of any issues that arise from either members working in the areas of overlap, and will seek to jointly address such issues.

Examples of Potential Areas of Practice Overlap (areas where professionals from both disciplines operate, or could operate):

- Forest Ecosystem management
- Forest Ecosystem classification
- Inventory of non-timber resources (vegetation resources inventory)
- Signing a Forest Stewardship Plan (who is the coordinating registered professional?)
- Protection of forests, forest lands, and forest ecosystems



- Conservation of forests, forest lands, and forest ecosystems
- Rehabilitation of forests, forest lands, and forest ecosystems
- Forest health management (entomology & pathology)
- Range management (includes agrologists)
- Soil management
- Forest fuel management

Guiding principles respecting areas of collaboration:

- Clarify the roles of individual professionals in a team-designed project.
- Identify and define the role of the ‘coordinating registered professional’.
- Determine how accountability is executed (eg; who gets the credit/blame?)
- Develop a guide to decide which professional should be the coordinator: “the coordinating professional on a collaborative plan/product should be someone whose professional designation most closely parallels the overall intent and purpose of the plan/ product.”

Examples of Areas of Collaboration to Achieve a Professional Team Product:

- Watershed assessments (CWAP, IWAP)
- Riparian management
- Crossing design
- Forest Stewardship Plan results and strategies
- Landscape unit planning
- Wildlife habitat classifications and management strategies (WTPs, UWR, RMZs etc)
- Meeting FRPA practice requirements (eg; not to ‘damage or render ineffective’)
- FDPs
- Site plans
- Harvesting prescriptions
- Strategic landscape planning (eg; patch size analysis)
- Access management plans – where should the road not go?
- Log dump locations
- LRMPs
- Ecosystem based management plans
- Timber supply review
- Monitoring, evaluating and auditing operations, planning, legislation effectiveness etc.



FOR THE RESPECTIVE COUNCILS APPROVAL

Following are the recommendations of the Joint Council Committee:

1. **Legal Issue:** The committee suggests that we do not pursue the issue of differing opinions on the meaning of our respective Acts.
2. **Management of the issue of practice overlap, conflict, the challenges of roles in collaborative plans/products, and taking advantage of strategic opportunities.**

The committee recommends that we set up a permanent Joint Practices Committee to address these challenges and opportunities. Some of the guidelines for the committee would include:

- Members are drawn from Councils of both professional bodies and do not include staff (staff would be engaged as a resource to provide information)
- The Committee would engage outside expertise as required for specific practice issues of appropriate practice
- The Committee would have an advisory role to the respective Councils
- The Committee will meet at least twice a year and may meet more frequently as needed

Some of the work of the Committee would include:

- Defining the areas of overlap, both initially and on an ongoing basis
- Develop an MOU for the two professional bodies
- Develop terms of reference for the Committee
- Serve as a joint practice advisory service to members and employers
- Create a list of strategic opportunities and identify the resources required to take advantage of them and target dates on high priority items.
- Within the terms of reference, set out a model for dispute resolution and conflict management that would include the use of mediator when agreement can't be reached.
- Provide guidance on roles of respective professionals on collaborative plans/products
- Develop a communication plan to make members and government aware of our resolution to work together as professionals. A joint statement from Councils should address our common interest of ensuring the success of the professional reliance model.



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3. **Approve the recommendations on guiding principles for areas of overlap and collaboration above.**