

FFP Toronto Workshop, 2008 11 07 - Results of Scenario Discussions

Forest Futures Project of the Sustainable Forest Management Network

Transcribed from flipchart notes and workshop recorder files by Kyle McKenzie, Project Research Associate

Scenario A - Goods from the Woods

Important messages

- High investment in technology
- Movement from fossil fuels to forest fuels
- Emphasis on technology solution to problems rather than social
- Public not participating
- Sad that forests are franchised
- People have less say in governance
- Market influence
- Forest employment stable +
- Market – controlled message
- Industrial controlled forest
- Lack of wilderness
- Too little protected forest (bad that we don't think we need more)

How people feel

- Comfortable, familiar, close to today
- Most realistic
- Politically sad
- Wood is good
- Well regulated
- Not overwhelmingly scary or sad

Themes to discuss

- Dominance of wood market
- Privatization of resources
- Lack of progress on non economic issues
- disregard for non economic issues

Unique Implications for Ontario

- Population will spread north (North will thrive)
- New 'gold rush': wood rush
- Immigrants will go to northern towns for opportunities
- Reverse of north to south migration trend
- Unique opportunities to create a value added sector
- More privatized industry may result in more value added domestically
- Where is influence of government over private land?
- Geographic locations of private, public, and protected land

- Provincial parks may be privatized as tourism drops
- Bio energy too far from population centres; need better transportation networks
- Lots of new road building
- Cultural assimilation and degradation for aboriginal communities despite economic advances
- Aboriginal relationship with forests changes
- What might people do?
 - People might just go along with it
 - View this as hopeful for forest sector after tough times
 - People accepting of economy over environment because of economic and geopolitical situation

Changes to policies needed, 2010-2020

- Extensive regulation (difficult in this scenario)
- Greater focus on ecosystems and environmental conservation
- Reacquaint population with natural forest
- Public awareness on natural values
- Regulations for bio energy harvest practices
- Keep value added in Canada
- Export processed product
- Fuel prices increase may make this happen anyway

Alternative Names for scenario

- Wood is Good!™

Scenario B - Peace in the Woods

Important messages

- Must have been major political shifts to occur - some shifts may be occurring
- Societal desires shifted
- Behaviour changed occurred

How people feel

- Lots positive - desirable outcomes - - conservation
- On the doorstep of this
- Idealistic - - Euphemistic
- Negative aspect - - - traditional forest decreases
- Sounds almost too good to be true

Themes to discuss

- Who is paying for new jobs?
- May be internally inconsistent
- Scenario

- What occurred?
- Policy vs. society shift?
- Where is new money source?
 - Capitalistic / business model
 - Public
 - Both
- Crow land divestment (unlikely?)-- must have been huge shift (human culture)
- Note response
 - ENGOs ☹ vs. industry (small business) ☺

Unique Implications for Ontario

- For training totally different
 - New specialists (including civil engineers, habitat vs. roads) and holistic integrative experts
- Role of communities
 - Very strong
 - Institutions
 - Rules of play
 - Rules of play - balance what communities cannot do
 - Mechanisms - balance what communities cannot do
 - Land use mix will facilitate role of communities
 - Technology shifts have to occur

Changes to policies needed, 2010-2020

- Broaden Sustainable Forest Licence Ontario definition /scope
 - License terms
- New education / curricula for students and society to enable shift
 - Water
 - Biodiversity
 - Recreation
- Total shift in foreign legislation (Dave will chain himself to trees!)
- Urban people pleased
- New government investment needed (but government is dismal, a failure!) – need a kick!
- Opportunity over-ride (vs. fear)

Hurdles to Overcome

- Tradition for people unhappy (move change / re-train)

Scenario C - Turbulence in the Woods

Important messages

- Bali
- Privatization trend – water
- Conflict; governance
- Governance; Aboriginal non-empowerment
- Good urban–forest focus!
- Disconnects among stakeholders
- Anger, but could unfold
- Disappointing
- Wood refineries – new products
- No communications
- Concerns off forests but onto urban issues
- Environmental connections only through market mechanisms?
- Market vs. non- market approaches

How people feel

- Feel comfortable – personally pessimistic

Unique Implications for Ontario

- Differences across the province
- Improvements in formal management in southern Ontario
- Afforestation focus in South Ontario
- Strained inter–provincial relations; solo provincial behaviours
- Ontario would focus even more strongly on itself
- Toronto to Tokyo (skyscrapers); San Paulo (violence, big slums)?
- Unfettered development
- Differences north to south in degree of Aboriginal disenfranchisement
- Waste management
- \$ from south to north for bio energy (bio refineries in the north)
- Northern Ontario secede from Ontario

Changes to policies needed, 2010-2020

- Research and infrastructure development for bio energy in northern Ontario
- Incentives for more industrial processing capacity (mothball rather than demolish individual capacity)
- Invest in fast- growing species
- Get cracking on nuclear!
- Proceed with extreme caution around community forests
- Encourage responsible timber baronism!?
- Tenure reform – tightened conditions (not relaxation), but encourage timber production

- Promote value shift among southern Ontarians - to the communitarian model
- Try to accelerate green thinking (more from values to action)
- Transportation infrastructure in the north – rail development
- Strengthen the grip of government

Hurdles to Overcome

- Cost of steering society away from 'C' will be enormous

Scenario D - Restoration in the Woods

Important messages

- People are coming together as a response to ecosystem degradation
- There's not much good done when people come together to feel good about stuff.
- 'Societal green wash' (cynical view)
- Disconnect between what's happening and what's being done (e.g. fossils fuels – still used)
- People may have become more comfortable with less material goods.
- Aboriginal Issues
 - Smaller tenures may = better management
 - How will intensive restoration /management balance with traditional ecological knowledge?

How people feel

- Have we woken up too late?

Unique Implications for Ontario

- Ontario's flat relief = faster impacts of climate change
 - More extreme weather events
 - Blow down, invasives (+ Population = + invasive species)
- Climate change out pacing species migration
 - Challenged to strategically adapt operations to cope with climate change
 - - Operations likely smaller – may prove beneficial to small communities and better for restoration of degraded forest
 - - But high climate change uncertainty, a disincentive to invest in intensive management

Current policies out of sync with this scenario

- Collective action may lead to 'groupthink' – policies must encourage multi-stakeholder processes (i.e. aboriginal etc.)
- Conservation vs. 'wreck; restore' - policies in this direction

Changes to policies needed, 2010-2020

- Industry: policies to encourage smaller enterprises, species; product diversification

- Government investment in less commodity based, less species-specific products
- Early policy direction to support biomass - could invigorate flat forest industry

Hurdles to Overcome

- Issue of forest impoverishment credits - need to clarify terms to develop policy directives