

FFP Kemptville Workshop, 2008 11 19 - Results of Scenario Discussions

Forest Futures Project of the Sustainable Forest Management Network

Transcribed from flipchart notes by Kyle McKenzie, Project Research Associate

Scenario A - Goods from the Woods

Important messages

- Good for economy short term, long term?
- Forest management support - highest returns (intensive plantations)
- Rural / urban divide increases
 - Public lands become private
 - Extreme competition (Agricultural, Development, Forestry)
- Weaknesses
 - Brittle limited input
 - Less creative
 - Unrest!! – regional, national, international
 - Lots to arbitrate
 - No systemic conflict resolution mechanisms
 - Our lack of progress with respect to multi-nationals (now) e.g. Domtar
 - No loyalty to community
- It's doomed to fall apart due to conflicts
- If World Trade Organization is dead, our government must be more powerful
- If use all forest waste as bio fuel, we will create a need for fertilizer use in the forest, which in eastern Ontario could come from farms and urban sludge
- Good regulation -- value-added mountain, diversity of products
- Big corporations eliminate small companies

How people feel

- Good if it works
- Much makes sense
- Bio fuels enough to power industry in situations presuming locally-based energy source
- What of social safety net?
- What of land claims?

Implications for eastern Ontario

- Eastern Ontario may not have much forest left (urban sprawl)
- Agricultural land claims potential conflicts
- Poor community pride - more fragmentation
- Our input to energy supply (nuclear, wind, sun)
- Our holding of fresh water
- Both are ours to hold as bargaining chips – consider our eastern Ontario assets: we could become a wood-based silicon valley, seat of industry and central for production, transportation decreases following reliance

- In the 2000s, population shifted to rural
- What will have happened to farms? Wood lots?
- Multinational acquisition of private land: money in individual hands land; land prices decrease (increases on crown land); land values increase and land owners can no longer afford to run wood lots
- Outstanding land claims - no better off
- Agriforestry
 - Mitigate pitfalls of intensive unsustainable practices
- Present first management - low cost, sustainable, disease resistant (better than plantation, more cultures)
- Small producers have disappeared or adjusted to support large forest property managers
- Research and development has led to commercial success
- Competing and winning with high value products

Responses, policy shifts required

- This is not a positive situation - changes are needed
 - Tax reform
 - Zoning
 - Better communication
 - Better representation for all parties concerned
 - Better stewardship
 - Eastern Ontario should become a player in forest economy
 - Encourage multiple use
- Climate change still happening despite technological advances and decreasing fossil fuels. Therefore, the remedy:
 - Long term policies to continue to mitigate/help in adapting to climate change
 - Continue to be proactive politically
 - How have multinationals embraced
 - How do they adapt to keep money increasing
 - There will be new plants and retrofits potential for Aboriginal industry?
 - Lots of conflict and compromise
- Need system / mechanism for conflict resolution - Who? New industry for facilitators of conflict resolution
 - Provincial government must regulate!!! On predominantly private land
 - Federal government must oversee and integrate and arbitrate
 - Increase in species at risk and decrease in forest health
 - Therefore, how to ensure sustainable industry for land owners, corporations
- This can only work if for the forest and the industry if:
 - Provincial government is a strong regulator
 - Federal government is a strong mediator
 - World government/international regulations shift toward 'Asian' values, is this a reduction of majority population?

- Corporate values shift to embrace sustainability only if it's profitable!
- National forest strategy?!? - Not so relevant for Scenario A
- More likely self-regulation, enlightened self interest...
- Can we trust it?
- This can only work for the people if there are:
 - Local hiring requirements
 - Impression that individuals have a voice (wood lot owners getting same tax breaks as farmers)
 - Salaries...taxes
 - Unions no longer a factor? Because corporations look after their own workers, because they must regulate, it works
 - Something in it for them
 - Stuff
 - Lifestyle
 - Employment
 - 'Social safety net' provided by paternalistic corporation
 - Virtual nature
 - Might folks of eastern Ontario become the market?
- Maintain present forest management standards
- Restore more forest to natural state
- Protect via good/strong regulation, the flora and fauna to maintain biodiversity and resulting product mix
- Invest, expand in research, demonstration, development
- Invest/Expand/continue: education, training, science, research and development

Scenario B - Peace in the Woods

Important messages

- Increased collaboration
- Stable environment - predictable
- Stable markets, but weak E7 in change
- Decrease in logging
- Increase in non fossil fuel energy
- Demographics - integration of urban and rural values
- Increase demand for forest management information for rural/near urban/urban
- Forest management and water resources
- Increased importance of private wood lots - education/extension; development pressure
- Models/frameworks for land management including private and public land
- Improved ecological integrity
- Is this much different than the way things are today?
- How will we feed all these people?
 - Demographics are a major concern

- Increase pressure on forest; result of increase in population and use of agricultural land for energy production, also in construction resulting from urban to rural shift
- Forest has no economical value
- Increased level of awareness for value of forest

How people feel

- Comfortable
- At ease
- Star Trek
- Suspicious
- Concern for market

Themes to discuss

- Why are we changing?

Implications for eastern Ontario

- Benevolent 'back forty' history
- E7/G7 'stick'
- Financial / economic drivers
- Prosperity for innovations - eastern Ontario ideal (spin off technologies)
- Eastern Ontario - non traditional perspectives
- Regional demographics
- Wood demand
- Integration with chemical chain in Canada
- Integration of forestry with other industries
- Abated consumerism
- Increased consumer conscience
- Global trade?
- Invasives?
- Management of resource to meet this scenario intensive and non-productive
- Skilled labour requirement
 - Immigrants tend to move to urban areas
 - No money to pay for this skilled labour
- Reduced monetary consideration; more emphasis on 'woods' as opposed to 'wood'
- Change in value of forest - more recreational
- Negative overall for forests / forest industry as a whole
- Greater focus on management for recreation as opposed to production
- Wood products devalue
- Loss of forest management expertise - unpredictable evolution of forest
- 'Community forest', a good concept - success will depend on capacity at local level

Responses, policy shifts required

- Capacity development \$

- Infrastructure \$
- Energy 'bio fuel' \$
- Local food production
- Education before regulation
- Events (often unrelated) that have impacts on forests (industry)
- Public forests-leases and ownership changes?
- New technologies - increase application of wood products
- Increase tourism (to Canada) for forests
 - Ecotourism
 - Biodiversity,
 - Tree museum
- Community managed forests that are managed well are key to the success of this scenario
- More intensive training/education - effective public engagement at local/community level including aboriginals; 'community specific' may be recreation focused etc. depending on area
- Vertically integrated cooperatives? - Adapted for above
- Regional/community policy as opposed to Provincial/Federal
- Leadership/governance/organizational development training / education

Scenario C - Turbulence in the Woods

Important messages

- How much of crisis is due to poor forest practice if
 - Nuclear energy increases
 - Fossil fuels decrease
 - Renewables increase
- There are no real energy problems, no real transport problems
- This is extreme
 - Some old problems become obsolete
 - Innovation – employment, infrastructure
 - Crisis will provoke change in values / behaviour
- Inevitable move to collaborative framework (social side)
 - Transport
 - Safety
 - Dollar
 - Adapt new infrastructure
 - Shift in interest, accountability, responsibility, power, social side
- Bad situation
 - We must take action to mitigate this situation
 - Must treat forests as an important issue

How people feel

- We are now severely depressed – there is no upside to this scenario
 - Depressed
 - Not good

Implications for eastern Ontario

- Educate entrepreneurs, industry-base
- We have population
- Innovation (educate entrepreneurs, industry-base)
- Agricultural land
- Road network/water transport
- Experience/history (low technology, living off land)
- Diverse population
- Embrace multi-culture
- No linked markets for declining supply of wood product
- What options for labour force?
- Forest migrating north or expansion of Carolinian forest but
- Advantage via early works in wood refineries
- Still access to water
- Increased demand for
 - Wood products
 - Wood for industry
 - Wood for energy
- Decrease in forested land for food production for increased population feeding
- Survival of peri-urban forest for recreation; water source protection
- Amount of forested land would decline significantly

Responses, policy shifts required

- So what can we do? What lessons learned can we draw upon?
 - Immigration policy - encourage move to rural areas
 - A lot of these factors are beyond our control in eastern Ontario – we must find ways to adapt
 - Canada should maintain diversity of international markets
 - Need to learn from recovery strategies following past conflicts and other major disasters
 - Forest sector must be smarter to survive - be proactive, not reactive
 - In area of degraded forests and young age classes, maybe eastern Ontario should explore niche in foresting more mature forest
 - Invest in research and development
 - Diversify uses of fibre basket to counteract market fluctuations
 - Improve and intensify forest management (more silviculture)
 - This is the inevitable result of A + calamity since A had no auto buffer – sustainable forest practices

- Unlikely outcome because lots of opportunities for intervention before now
- Intense damage due to calamitous weather – innovative low energy buildings!!
- What happens to migration? E.g. inland from coast, northward, internationally (refugees)
 - Implications: feeding us - food imports – transport
 - Population control
- There is a lack of leadership
- Innovation must come into play
 - Remove glass ceiling
 - Remove old thinking
 - Corporate values shift
 - Large need – population to work together
 - We will need to see the crisis coming in order to respond
 - Need more forest management toward renewal
 - Policy/government level response
 - Need genetic engineering and increased research in warmer zone species
- Wood supply crisis
 - Wood as biofuel
 - Non-sustainable forestry
 - Educate community (political, bureaucrat cities, businesses) to combat loss of value of forested land
 - Increase forest tax incentives program to protect woodlots, encourage maintenance of forested lands
 - Amend building codes to incorporate more wood products to increase market share, increase demand for wood

In summary

1. Most important questions / messages:
 - Programs, values, crisis, significant emotional experience
 - Need crisis to cause shift or must not allow this to happen
 - Gap in thinking
2. Chicken - Egg
 - Forest – practice – climate change
 - Poor policy framework – ‘change’ (inadequate overlap of jurisdiction); Canadian Forest Service must be proactive
3. Climate change begets more climate change
 - Canada has minimal impact (2% of problem) or we have responsibility, power, opportunity to innovate and reduce climate change globally

Scenario D - Restoration in the WoodsImportant messages

- Climate change drives cooperation
- Climate change drives significant changes
 - In forest cover
 - Collaborative management
 - Traditional harvest and markets
- Despite climate change socio/ economic capacity in growth mode
- Climate change increases, temperature increases but increases in fossil fuel use?? (more irresponsibility?)
- International bodies not effective in addressing climate change
- No light at end of tunnel

How people feel

- Real disappointment but positive outlook because adaptation to change and lowered expectations with increased cooperation
- In the life boat (i.e. resources are limited and handled/treated different)

Implications for eastern Ontario

- Positive IF different
 - Low quality forest
 - Species/crops shift
 - Shift of/in valuation – ‘Concept of value’
 - Shift conventional to restoration
 - Jobs and education
- Increase in population - increased demand for construction timber; increased demand for household paper products
- Increase in bio products and engineered wood products
- Increase consumer conscience - buy local; strong demand for local forest products
- Increased demand for urban forest management
- Tree planting strategically - right position around homes for energy; rooftop gardens
- New form of horticultural industry for restoration - tree breeding for new environment realities (invasives, climate)
- Private wood lot owners aging - increase demand for services in the wood lots...cutting...management
- Aging population in urban areas - demand for forest service
- Payment for ecological goods and services - water resources, biodiversity
- Increase tax to protect and manage environment
- Conflict over resources
 - Land use
 - Land ownership

- Land ownership for recreation is limited opportunity for management
- Increased land use for agriculture - increase population
- Maple syrup production gone!
- More forest fragmentation - wild life issues
- Enhancement of non-timber Forest products
 - Mushrooms (increase regulation)
 - Blueberries
- More research and development to cope with change
- Forest around urban areas - more impact due to inflation
- Doomsday scenario if no action is taken
- Low power status of provinces, not working
- De-centralization of industrial workers so as to avoid long commutes to bigger centres.
- More theatre groups, more chefs and restaurants

Responses, policy shifts required

- Eco goods and services \$
- Aggressive management for
 - Water quality
 - Forest cover/crop
 - Infrastructure
 - Development plans
 - Policy development for/of community stewardship approach
 - Invasive species restriction/redaction
- Collaboration (innovation)
- Local – regional - provincial
- Tenure reform as industry fades
- Communities take more ownership of public forests
- Change in forest policy for source water protection
- Policy for forest restoration and protection
- Increase forest tourism - ecotourism
- New regulation/restrictions on private land due to environmental degradation
- Increase regulation and management of non-timber forest products – e.g. berries, mushrooms, Taxus
- Afforestation - soil preservation, moisture
- More zoning of forest lands – e.g. triad – (intensive forest management - plantation)
- Afforestation and policy - agriculture lands, in riparian areas around streams /creeks
- National / provincial urban forest policy and urban forest leadership
- Federal government recognition of trees as small infrastructure in cities and small towns - investments in infrastructure
- Increase money for research and development – re forest change with climate change; species at risk

- Policies to encourage forest retention – habitats for species at risk
- Policies to reduce consumption – especially fossil fuels
 - More use of renewables
- Leadership needed – people will respond
- More support for community – government / action
- Policies to encourage value added products from forest
- Positive scenario building for future; creative solutions (policies, programs); strategic focus
- Find niche markets to excel at national level
- Industrial and business cluster (small and distributed)
 - - Can use a variety of wood sources
 - - Directly contributing to aboriginal well-being
 - - Wood and non-wood
 - - Responsive to change and opportunity, so get community buy-in
 - - Also source for funds and expertise for forest restoration
- Develop integrating mechanisms to knit together society's different players
 - Support small business
 - Policies to discourage over concentration of organizational size
- Immigration issue?? – No consensus