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## FFP Fredericton Workshop, 2008 05 14 - Results of Scenario Discussions

Forest Futures Project of the Sustainable Forest Management Network

Transcribed from flipchart notes and workshop recorder files by Peter Duinker, Project Manager

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### Scenario A - Goods from the Woods

#### Internal Inconsistencies

- wood harvests up, carbon no net change? no carbon market?
- compatibility of attitudes, employment, and strong industrial fortunes
- role of provincial forest agencies - more direct management, like USDA-Forest Service, or some European countries
- labour vs. out-migration vs. Ab pop'n
- Ab political empowerment - courts vs. negotiated arrangements (the latter more flexible)
- sustainable NTFP harvests?

#### Important Messages

- privatization of water and recreation rights
- governance - industry power, shifts in provincial control
- feels like current trends extrapolated
- people's general detachment from forests

#### Implications for NB

- strengthened corporate sector may reduce prospects for woodlot enterprises
- woodlot-owner outlook depends partly on the relative strength of their collective orgs
- more buyer power due to corporate concentration, more seller power due to higher prices
- fewer people in rural NB
- problems in NB private-forest environment

#### Possible Responses

- discontent already appearing in corporate influence on NB forest management and policy
  - communities making noises about alternative models
  - would need political and financial support for such models to flourish
  - many elements are desirable
  - add an indicator reflecting social equity
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### Scenario B – Peace in the Woods

#### Internal Inconsistencies

- Geopolitics – water will become much more important than many of the products from the forest. The water supply may become a flashpoint for civil unrest and tension between countries and jurisdictions within countries.
- Invasive Alien Species – It is unlikely, based on what we know, that the impacts of climate

change will not cause increased problems with invasive alien species. Our experience with adelgid and beech bark disease indicate that warming of the climate will invariably increase IAS problems.

- Demographics – 46 million maybe a small number.
- Societal Values – as stated above, the importance of water maybe understated with the projected population increase.
- Governance – instead of the word “ownership”, maybe tenure, management or tenure maybe more appropriate.
- Biodiversity – in NB, 50% of the land is privately owned. To get to 35% of the area protected would mean that 70% of the Crown land would be under protections. This is very unlikely to happen under the current systems of management in place. There may be other ways of protecting private land through easements and trusts but they are not well developed in this region.
- Water and Soil – climate change may reduce the amount of natural regeneration in some provinces. Weather events during the year may have detrimental effects on the ability of tree species to regenerate if periods of hot or cold result in high rates of mortality in seedlings.
- Carbon Cycle – the amount of carbon released to the atmosphere under this scenario may be quite high due to natural processes and because the harvest level is quite low. With a low harvest, the rate of carbon sequestration is likely to be lower if the average age of the stands is driven higher.
- Markets – in addition, NTFP’s and recreation should be important.

### Important Messages

- this is the best-case scenario; we are adapting and mitigating the impacts of climate change and most of our predictions and management actions are accurate
- there is a need to shift from a commodity to a value-added paradigm
- there is a need to shift to a mix of large and small enterprises
- need to consider more local control of the resource
- there is a need to build back appreciation for the forests – and have active pride in the forests
- under this scenario, the forests are increasing in value and we are better at capturing the value

### Implications for NB

- the sector is profitable, communities vibrant and the ecosystems healthier
- the forest sector is more diverse and stable
- there is increase value placed on water and other values, and the forests that protect them
- this scenario is very consistent with the Wyatt, Nadeau and Beckley study done on behalf of the gov’t of NB

### Possible Responses

- there would have to be major changes in the NB Crown Land Act
- is very consistent with the Wyatt, Nadeau and Beckley study; therefore the people of NB should be happy about the results
- there would be some pain as there would need to be structural changes in the forest sector; there would have to be more emphasis on value added, research and development; and training

in the sector, but the long-term outcomes would likely be more desirable  
- workers should be better trained and their jobs better and more stable

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### **Scenario C - Turbulence in the Woods**

#### Internal Inconsistencies

- would there be more jobs in the forest sector?
- would be more consistent to have reduced exports, not just stagnant exports

#### Important Messages

- immigration - serious implications
- Ab pop'ns double plight - economic and political disempowerment
- industrial adaptation to wood-supply swings - overwhelming
- if disturbances are really large, adaptation may be compromised - challenge for small management units
- community forests become timber barons - yikes!
- overwhelming influence of climate change

#### Implications for NB

- probably not major pop'n influx
- manage the forest for industry, or for the forest itself?
- biodiversity out of NBers' control, and cant' get it back
- huge transition cost for industry
- socio-political turbulence
- throw your hands up!

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### **Scenario D – Restoration of the Woods**

#### Internal Inconsistencies

- Geopolitics – climate change would drive problems with food supply chain resulting in political unrest (potentially riots and other acts of violence). There maybe an increased focus on Canada as a sink for immigrants.
- Global Energy – it seems that a high demand for fossil fuels would result in an increase in fuel prices. Even if there is a good supply, it is likely prices would increase.
- Biodiversity – greatly instead of strongly.

#### Important Messages

- advances in social cohesion don't solve ecological problems – social cohesion is being used as a response to ecological problems
- the scenario fails to take into account benevolent facism/totalitarianism or an enlightened dictator
- should immigration be decreased, we also reduce environmental migrants

#### Implications for NB

- there should be an increase in the NB population as it should be a more desirable place to live relative to the rest of the world
- the forest industry will be a relatively small part of the economic picture
- because of the need for self-sufficiency, rural NB should be maintained and benefit from communalism; the scenario puts a new and meaningful influence on self-sufficiency
- communities will rely on local resources and smaller economies and businesses
- NB needs to develop other industries and diversify the economy
- there would be an increase in value-added communities

Possible Responses

- there will be angst as we shift paradigms
- there will be many new ideas and false starts
- should increase the amount of money spent in local economies (local farms and small mills)