
FFP Prince Albert Workshop, 2008 06 12 - 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

Scenario A - Goods from the Woods

Inconsistencies

- ozone episodes - fewer but more severe?
- Aboriginal pop'n growth not accounted for
- with CC, perhaps more wind?
- God's whip - violations, imbalances, natural law
- role of spirits missing
- "natural regeneration of native species" in southern boreal - probably impossible

Key Messages

- market economy rules
- urban economy
- adapting to CC
- power imbalances (disaffected groups)
- societal marginalization (esp. rural people)
- knowledge-based society
- unspiritual future
- water as a big issue
- some balance here (not totally rapacious)

Implications for SK

- good for forest sector, broadly conceived
- demographics - little immigration; Ab dynamics strongly influence the total
- interesting potential developments in minerals
- corporatization OK for the SK economy
- balanced economic development for Ab communities, but not without internal tensions
- TRIAD implementation

SK Responses

- resist the Exronification of the economy - but how?
- Exron OK to process timber, but different (smaller) corps/orgs managingn forests to deliver timber to mills
- ensure protection of opportunities to collect traditional medicinal plants

Scenario B - Peace in the Woods

Inconsistencies

- biomass energy vs. biofuels
- high price of oil would encourage bioenergy from forest fibre
- energy prices linked to inflation - what about pop'n increases and wealth increases?
- disturbance impacts on C source
- boreal old growth??
- value-added focus still requires large-scale timber harvesting

Key Messages

- Aboriginal employment is increased
- great impacts from reduced timber harvest rates
- community-based initiatives may benefit NTFPs
- food vs. fuel for bioenergy; other environmental impacts of agr. biofuels

SK Responses

- public awareness of values in the boreal forest
- double per-capita wood consumption
- train architects etc. to build with wood

Scenario C - Turbulence in the Woods

Inconsistencies

- wonder if oscillations in harvests are consistent
- why hasn't Canada captured increased global market growth?
- Aboriginal employment up?

Key Messages and Implications for SK

- SK to be big loser - high disturbance, drought a major factor, Aboriginal unrest and social problems

SK Responses

- education about potential impacts of severe climate change
- new species in forest management - exotics, genetic selection
- maintain forest cover
- afforestation
- adaptation, planning at strategic (provincial) level

Scenario D - Restoration in the Woods

Inconsistencies

- free tuition, more babies?
- declining fortunes vs. companies doing well

Key Messages

- people closer to nature, aware - people in the forests, conservation-minded)
- shift in value set - recreation, forest-sympathy movement, intrinsic values
- a different world, hard to make sense of
- strong global perspectives (e.g., IMFN)
- tempered consumption; acceptance of responsibility; quality of life rules; participatory democracy

Implications for SK

- huge demand for recreational properties in northern SK
- alliances between mining companies and Ab groups a definite prospect
- surface resource developments in shambles
- current transportation infrastructure disrupted - focus on air transport
- shift in recreational focus - “working” vacations, eco-tourism, spiritual tourism
- shift north of agriculture; diversification of agr; stronger interventions, greater water efficiency

SK Responses

- more education
- forest Ab leadership in restoration and respect for the land
- reluctantly shed big trucks
- try to keep farming, etc. - resist change
- face a culture and identity shift, with forestry not being a part of it