

FFP Kamloops Workshop, 2008 03 13 - 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

Possible Inconsistencies:

- bureaucracy can change in 40 years
- six-fold change in oil prices
- needs some explanation of effect on smaller communities such as transportation costs for food - do these other fuel sources come on line to address transportation/economic system?
- will an increase in oil prices mean a change in behaviour or maintain stability of Canadian economic system? Adaptation will take place in time
- industry profitability- more losses for First Nations communities rather than gains and a shift toward community controlled
- for Aboriginals, doesn't mean they have the capacity or time to get involved
- geopolitical assumptions may not be realistic with change in fuel prices
- where is the capacity going to come from in the next 40 years to manage the land base?
- mostly peaceful resolutions is inaccurate
- invasive species - particularly plants - vectors for species getting in
- is the water quality consistent with the climate driver?
- among the scenarios, will one or more have a greater local impact? Disparity i.e. will Canada under scenario A have more regionalization?

Main Messages:

- urbanization issue- how can rural communities have profitability (S. Interior tends to be rural in nature)
- how is the money staying in rural communities?
- how can FN communities make it work in the rural environment? May need to get out of forestry and diversify
- policies needed to address diversification in rural communities to survive
- technology really matters- we need to make sure we have the technology to do all the things the scenario says and available
- FN will look for different ways to get land-use control through ownership to broaden and diversify interest besides forest, e.g. technology (changing perspectives of what FN are looking for)
- monopolies' effect on local economies and local license to sell wood
- conflict over resources - we see changes in value of certain resources; the policies around land use and licenses will need to change/be adaptable to these changes (within the proper bounds/resiliency of the ecosystems)
- losing "status" designations in FN communities has implications for existing political systems
- feeling of comfort with where we are going

- reflects where we are headed
- trend of increased urbanization
- about consumerism
- not known where forestry is in relation to the "global" or rest of the Canadian economy
- a production scenario: for profit
- conflicts: land use rather than values, escalated

Implications:

- more takeovers/fewer companies and mills
- less forest production and increased population
- more participation by FNs
- fairly stable
- community safety is at risk due to fires and landslides
- closer to the climatic edge: fires, pests, water

Actions:

- training FN
- research into biofuels and bioenergy
- create institutes on FP
- put more effort into resolving conflict
- some inconsistency in societal values - disconnect vs. disaster
- invest in transportation public and commodity

Scenario B - Peace in the Woods

Possible Inconsistencies:

- could Canadian wood production be so low if we are environmentally oriented?
- neglects pain from economic transition
- economic growth is Asia-dominated and there's a decrease in fossil-fuel consumption?
- why/how did we start using less wood even though developing countries' populations are increasing?
- ecosystem condition would still need adaptive management- scenario is too optimistic and unrealistic (even with moderate climate change, systems will not be stable)
- how can you have good water quality with increased soil erosion?

Main Messages:

- thriving economy
- rosy for everyone except commodity-based forest industry
- climate change benign, learn to live without commodity forestry
- risk of complacency
- working co-operatively and valuing ecosystem services
- how will technology unfold in the forest-products industry?
- emphasis on protection /conservation
- ecologically, things have self-corrected

- forest management focuses on social-ecological resilience

Implications:

- diversity of species increases value
- well positioned to benefit from recreation-based tourism
- some decrease of forest land base due to increase in protected areas and amenity use and decrease of FP industry
- smaller mills that are diverse in what they produce
- more trails, skiing
- integrated forest use because decrease in conflict
- more tolerant
- decrease in industrial activity
- people are comfortable with co-management with FNs and FN relationships are a priority
- Okanagan growth will stabilize because of lack of water there
- Williams Lake the New Okanagan
- with mill closures, forests will get a rest

Actions:

- continued emphasis on civil education
- diversification of economy and more recreation
- people shift away from forestry and forestry schools
- investment (government) in amenities
- increased community resource boards
- smaller footprints
- increased taxes - yay! (People want to pay taxes for services)

Scenario C- Turbulence in the Woods

Possible Inconsistencies:

- assumption that FN values and beliefs will not change over the next 50 years
- what about a pandemic?
- supply will meet demand in terms of fossil fuels
- roundwood and global warming not affected elsewhere- worldwide supply of round wood will grow to meet consumption rate is not consistent with global warming assumptions and Canadian supply is going down
- demographic assumption increased population and decreased water supply
- given increased climatic impacts, question the plausibility of achieving harvest volume of 319 million m³/yr
- are increased consumerism and increased food requirements consistent with doom-and-gloom scenario and world outlook?
- decreased standard of living
- stability, internal strife, living conditions, resource availability
- devolution of authority/ownership (i.e. CF's, water) and increased production/decreased environmental stability - can all this happen so quickly?

- given level and pace of change and impacts, can we achieve amount of change and impact; can we achieve amount of trade and economic activity; will bioenergy fill this gap?
- harvest in response to catastrophic and unplanned events over vast areas - how can people respond or mobilize?

Key Messages:

- hope this doesn't come true
- doing nothing is not an option
- we need to make sure that we do what we can to limit the effects
- decreased standard of living
- unstable communities and high rural impact
- oil patch increases ten fold
- social strife

Implications:

- what S. Interior?!
- any labour-force issues that we have will not be solved through immigration
- significant issues with water supporting existing communities, water, infrastructure, health care
- droughts, more fires, regeneration issues, what forest types (change in policies)
- pineapples anyone?
- planning for species migration and resiliency
- if we could grow a tree, we are positioned locally for domestic markets
- shifting and moving of FN communities to urban areas for economic reasons. Will the environment and political relationship be such that communities move?
- less forest (trees)
- less productivity
- fires cause safety issues
- slope instability
- less water and more pressure to export water
- renegotiate Columbia R. Treaty
- people move to cities (rural areas will be under stress)
- need mobile manufacturing industry/complexes given harvest in response to events and spatial distribution
- governance: will the present system (Federal/Provincial/FN) fit this scenario?
- speed of change?
- providing services/maintaining order
- increased communication technology
- increased biological materials
- increased medical

Responses:

- provide incentives out of ecologically stressed areas
- studies on what is working within the FN communities now in these extreme environmental conditions (adaptation scenarios)

- planting different species of trees
- new technologies for water storage, new water-use strategies, technologies
- reduce demand and increase in water recycling
- increased awareness of effects of decisions, change in attitudes of consumer-social marketing
- housing shortage in urban areas
- NTFPs - grown in greenhouses, trying to sustain medicines and plants at a community level
- promote localized rural community products and services, moving towards self-sustaining communities with integrated economies, less dependent on distant transportation networks
- researching invasive species to see which can be useful and of market value
- governance: prep for increased population and education
- prepare social network safety net support
- prepare emergency response

Scenario D- Restoration in the Woods

Possible Inconsistencies:

- employment: says that it remains constant since 2000 but with domestic market constraint harvest levels low; should numbers be lower?
- settlement in woods might not be consistent with forest condition; fire hazards would require more salvage
- Aboriginals' concerns
- extreme events in climate
- oil price will increase, liquid fuel from forest constrained by GHG concerns
- who is paying for restoration; where's the wealth coming from?
- forest land base has decreased and forests are damaged due to climate change, so what is supporting the economy? agriculture?
- what about water - could need more control on water and access to water
- the costs for restoration are high
- climate changes is a global problem but scenario describes local governance, which results in a disconnect; large-scale climate change events need global responses
- needs to connect relationship between local and global levels of governance.
- geopolitical is too rosy
- time frame too short for the level of restoration described to have occurred (integrity index too optimistic); systems take time to respond
- FNs that are responsible for values have land base but why not wealthy? Control over water? Should have more power because they own the land. May need more emphasis on co-management

Key Messages:

- climate change is our worst nightmare that will change everything and nobody benefits from anything
- adaptation is a necessary component
- lives would be interrupted and should be avoided at all cost
- very little quality wood exists

- adaptation in the woods?
- forests used for amenities
- reduction in the forested land base
- decrease of traditional wealth from forests
- acting local to save what we have left

Implications for this Region:

- water and other conditions inconsistent with "forest habitation" creates potential for more conflict
- local population increase on water demand, vegetation changes (e.g. Grasslands)
- values resonate
- natural beauty- collaboration?
- regeneration obligations- challenging 30% mortality in plantation
- ecological diversity is greater here, increasing management challenges
- pests have always been higher here
- we are recreating an even age class of monocultures
- seed supply an issue
- NTFPs down or different
- closed canopy
- inhabited forest population at risk from climate change (public safety due to fire risks or floods need mitigation)
- what is the value set of immigrants?
- Okanagan dries up, which constrains growth and what they grow
- dams, water control/flooded land
- jobs in restoration boom/bust harvesting and jacks of all trades, agriculture
- agriculture has value due to warm season crops
- diversify to survive

Actions:

- we do see it happening, avoid silo approach and pursue ILM
- focus on what we can influence the most
- infrastructure: dams, aqueducts, transportation, grey water facilities
- policy around public safety because of all the people in the forests, fuel reduction, flood plain management
- more meetings!
- focus shifts from forests to agriculture
- increased transportation