

Background for the next phase of the Kamloops Future Strategy (K2)

The Kamloops Future Forest Strategy (K1) was undertaken by the Kamloops TSA steering committee and a group of consultants led by Ken Zielke and Bryce Bancroft of Symmetree Consulting Group. This strategy provided suggested actions to address climate derived ecological and management sensitivities for the Kamloops TSA. Interpretation of modeling results for two climate change scenarios provided a framework that allowed expert opinion to identify issues and possible management actions to address plausible futures.

To be clear, the K1 team was not trying to forecast the future, but rather explore how significant the impacts could be on the TSA forests and their values, and design a strategy that would prudently maintain options for the future. The main actions suggested revolved around the following three themes:

1. Planting different species and species mixes than those presently used to address a changing climate.
2. Targeted harvesting in vulnerable stand types, i.e., stands whose vigour is projected to decline with changing climate.
3. Rethinking retention strategies to take into account greater uncertainty that climate change highlights.

Each of these suggestions appears relatively straightforward at first glance, but becomes more complex when envisioned over the landscape of the TSA. Because K1 utilized expert opinion without subjecting the recommended actions to spatial and time related implementation, the impacts were simply estimates and require added quantification to rank their magnitude.

For more information on K1 – see: www.symmetree.ca and choose the Document button at the bottom of the page – The following files are available:

- **Ecological Narratives folder** – within the folder you will find a general overview of climate change for the TSA and 10 individual narratives by subzone. Each provides a description of a probable future based on the climate change scenarios tested in K1 with the forest and stand types found in that subzone.
- **KFFS report only** – this is the main report covering the overall findings of the strategy.
- **KFFS technical presentation**, this highlights the project, sensitivities, vulnerabilities and adaptive capacity issues identified for the Kamloops TSA - to view the presentation allowing notes to be viewed, save it first to your hard drive.

For additional files associated with K1 see: <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hcp/ffs/kamloopsFFS.htm>

K2 – Making K1 recommendations more robust, credible and useful.

The intent of K2 is to build on the adaptive actions recommended in K1 by utilizing process-based computer models to answer specific species, stand and landscape level questions that could not be answered in K1. While K1 used climate envelope mapping to facilitate dialogue on ecosystem and management vulnerabilities to climate change, K2 will step beyond this framework and use stand and landscape level models that can directly incorporate changes in climatic conditions along with the effect of management actions to simulate outcomes under different climate change scenarios. These outcomes can be used to test assumptions and explore potential management actions. K2 has a team of specialists and a set of modeling tools to help the local clients create more robust, credible and useful recommendations for the TSA. The specialists include consulting foresters and experts originally involved in K1 as well as experts and modelers from UBC, UNBC, and the Saskatchewan Research Council. Their expertise spans climate science, economics, the impacts of climate change on stand dynamics, tree regeneration and ecosystem productivity, along with how to model these complex interactions and processes.

To begin this next step a workshop is planned to engage local clients in the project and ensure that the results will be most relevant to them. The workshop will introduce the project, highlight the direction from K1 and provide insight into the models, including their strengths and limitations. The intent of the workshop then is to engage you, the local clients, to help identify priority questions and begin to link those questions to the modeling process.

An additional workshop objective is to solicit interest in your participation in follow-up working groups that will discuss questions further to inform and interpret the modeling results and make recommendations. In all projects that have multiple participants, scope and scale are two areas that must be managed carefully. It is hoped that this initial workshop will inform expectations and whet the appetite for greater learning and participation. Thanks for your interest and participation in this piece of the climate change puzzle.

K2 Timeline: November 2009 to December 2011

K2 Research Team & Potential Clients (in no particular order):

- University of British Columbia
- Symmetree Consulting Group, Ltd.
- Forsite Consulting
- Saskatchewan Research Council
- Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium
- University of Northern British Columbia
- BC Ministry of Forests & Range
- Tolko Industries, Ltd.
- Canfor Corporation
- BC Ministry of the Environment
- District of Clearwater
- BC Timber Sales
- Thompson Rivers University
- West Fraser Timber Co, Ltd.
- Kamloops & District Woodlot Association
- Clearwater Woodlot Association
- Kamloops Indian Band
- International Forest Products Ltd