

# ***Exploring Climate Change Impacts, Vulnerabilities and Adaptive Strategies in the Kamloops TSA Future Forest Strategy (K2 Project)***

## **What is the purpose of this project?**

This project is examining the possible impacts from climate change and expected ecosystem and forest management responses in the Kamloops Timber Supply Area, which includes the North Thompson Valley.

## **How is this project being done?**

In 2008 the project used climate models to define a range of possible changes in temperature and precipitation for the area. This information was the basis for mapping analysis and expert opinion 'stories' describing likely changes in tree species, biodiversity, water, wildlife, fish and visual quality, as well as implications for forest management.

In 2009-2011 the project team will use computer modeling to further examine the expected changes.

**Go to:** <http://k2kamloopstsa.com> for more information about this project

## **How does this relate to Clearwater?**

The project area includes the forests within the District of Clearwater as well as the forests in the valley that are the viewsapes from the District, that the timber and tourism businesses rely upon, and that community members recreate within.

The District of Clearwater is crafting the community's first Official Community Plan. Climate changes and the possible impacts on risks such as wildfires and flooding, as well as District infrastructure such as water and sewer, viewsapes, outdoor recreation and the economy are all important considerations in this plan.

The Tourism Strategy is also due to be updated, and likely should incorporate information about climate and forest changes. Other community decisions such as development of the Nordic ski area and the ski hill would benefit from a strong understanding of climate change. Managers of woodlots, the community forest

and other forest businesses will need to know more about climate change to make the best business decisions.

Changing climates are likely to affect everyone living in forest communities. This project creates a unique opportunity for residents, businesses and community organizations in Clearwater to learn more about climate change and what it might mean to community life.

## **Who is involved in this project?**

The project is lead by researchers from the University of BC and Symmetree Consulting (<http://www.symmetree.ca/>). The team includes experts in climate change, ecology, forest management and community development. The three members who will be at the events in Clearwater in April 2010 are:

**Stewart Cohen**, *Adaptation and Impacts Research Division at Environment Canada and Department of Forest Resources Management at UBC* - For over 25 years, Stewart Cohen has examined climate change impacts and adaptation. His experience includes case studies on various regions in Canada, including the Okanagan and Metro Vancouver. He was also a member of the author-team for the Impacts Volume of the 2007 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 4th Assessment Report.

**Cam Brown**, *Strategic Planning Forester, Forsite Inc., Salmon Arm, BC* - Cam has been responsible for the climate change statistics and mapping for the project. He also contributed to the timber values, vulnerabilities assessment and development of adaptive strategies. For over 15 years Cam has been analysing and reporting on forest conditions. He is known for his ability to gather and present data in ways that allow users to gain knowledge and insight into key issues.

**Cindy Pearce**, *Rural Climate Change Adaptation Facilitator, Mountain Labyrinths Inc. Revelstoke, BC* – For over 20 years Cindy has bridged the disciplines of natural resource management and rural community development with project for government and industry clients. Since 2006 climate change has been a primary focus of her work. She is a member of a group exploring climate change adaptation for rural forest based communities across Canada, and an advisor to the Communities Adapting to Climate Change initiative for the Columbia Basin Trust. She is responsible for the community adaptation portion of the project.

**For more information** about these events contact Cindy  
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