

Terms of Reference

Forests for Tomorrow Effectiveness Evaluation Working Group

Version 1.0 July 18, 2005

Effectiveness Evaluation Working Group Background/Context

The mountain pine beetle (*Dendroctonus ponderosae*) is endemic in BC; however, present populations have reached epidemic levels. This is attributable to large numbers of mature pine and the trend to warmer weather. Management measures include salvage harvest operations to remove infested timber for use however, in some areas high operating costs and poor accessibility means that killed stands are left standing. Wildfires represent a significant agent of change in British Columbia forest ecosystems. On average, every year in British Columbia there are more than 2,000 wildfires. The trend in recent years to hotter weather, combined with greater fuel availability provided by MPB killed stands, is resulting in more frequent and severe wildfires. The implications of large scale harvesting and of MPB and fire killed stands need to be known and monitored to ensure that resource values are maintained.

In March 2005, the provincial government allocated a total of \$86 M from 2004/05 to 2007/08 for a “Forests for Tomorrow” reforestation program. The program involves planning and the establishment of new and free-growing reforested areas for non-satisfactorily reforested (NSR) lands under provincial responsibility. The Effectiveness Evaluation Working Group was established as part of the Forests for Tomorrow program. The Draft Program Management Plan, Appendix F states that “FFT effectiveness evaluation develops a knowledge base that will allow the MPB and wildfire reforestation program to be carried out in a way that restores timber, biodiversity, soils, hydrology and other forest values. The effectiveness evaluation includes the concept of continuous improvement through adaptive management and the incorporation of new research and operational trials.”

Effectiveness Evaluation Working Group Goals / Objectives

The purpose of the Effectiveness Evaluation Working Group is to coordinate and implement monitoring and evaluation projects related to issues affecting forest stands killed by mountain pine beetle or wildfire. One goal of the Working Group is to provide informed advice to licensees ahead of large-scale application of silviculture treatments. The Working Group will implement silviculture treatment trials and use the results to make recommendations to licensees for effective silviculture strategies. The team will:

- Identify completed, current and proposed research, monitoring, and evaluation projects
- Identify gaps and monitoring needs of the regions and branches
- Develop a Program Charter
- Identify and implement two-three key monitoring projects to be conducted in the 2005 field season.
- Develop a list, description and priority ranking of potential future evaluation and monitoring projects

- Produce an 18 month plan for the Effectiveness Evaluation Working Group
- Produce a 5 year plan for the Effectiveness Evaluation Working Group

Effectiveness Evaluation Working Group Membership

- Peter Bradford FOR, Range and Integrated Resources (250)356-2134
- Nancy Densmore FOR, Range and Integrated Resources (250)356-5890
- Ivan Listar FOR, Stewardship Resources (250)825-1115
- Dave Maloney FOR, Stewardship Resources (250)565-6213
- Art Tautz MWLAP, Biodiversity (604)222-6763
- Wayne Martin FOR-Northern Interior Forest Region (250)565-6102
- Colene Wood MWLAP, Ecosystem Planning (250)356-5538
- Alanya Smith Co-ordinator (250)387-8922/ 418-1310
- Ken Soneff MOF, Southern Interior Forest Region (250)828-4164

Key Expert Consultants

- Marvin Eng FOR- Strategic Planning 387-2710
- Evelyn Hamilton FOR- Wildlife Hab. & Range Ecology 387-3650
- Craig Delong FOR-Stewardship 565-4113
- Phil Burton CFS/UNBC 960-6130
- Barry Dobbin Prince George 565-6255
- Nigel Fletcher FOR/FFT 387-8738
- John McClarnon FOR/FFT 387-8903
- Gord Nigh FFT Research Working Group 387-3093
- Mike Pelchat FOR-Stewardship Officer 992-4462

Roles and Responsibilities, and Reporting Relationships

Alanya Smith will coordinate the Effectiveness Evaluation Working Group and be the primary contact for general information. The team will report to Forests For Tomorrow Chair, Lorne Bedford and communicate with the MPB Stewardship Committee Chair, Ralph Archibald.

The Team Coordinator will be responsible for:

- Arranging Team meetings
- Providing agendas/minutes
- Maintaining the Team Sharepoint site
- Producing Terms of Reference
- Producing Project Charter
- Helping to draft project descriptions
- Producing project planning documents
- Producing the 18 month and 5 year plans
- Producing contract tendering documents
- Producing contracts for successful bidders
- Coordinating the evaluation of tenders
- Producing reports and extension materials

- Distributing information/materials
- Developing a formal communication strategy
- Producing a registry of monitoring and research projects related to fire/MPB
- Producing a registry of priority monitoring and evaluation projects

The Team Members will be responsible for:

- Contributing productively to team discussions and planning sessions
- Providing expert advise on monitoring project needs, objectives, and design
- Contributing to developing the Program Charter (including objectives, scope, deliverables, and roles and responsibilities)
- Developing monitoring projects
- Contribute to determining program and project priorities, deliverables and timelines
- Contribute to developing a 18 month and 5 year plan
- Completion of various tasks to be agreed upon in the team Work Plan

Communication Strategy

The Team Coordinator will contact all team members via phone or email to arrange meeting times. Meetings will be held monthly, unless a change in schedule or cancellation is agreed to by consensus. Meeting schedules, agendas, minutes and other documents will be posted on the FFT Sharepoint Site, under Effectiveness and Evaluation Working Group (<https://sharepoint.forests.gov.bc.ca/fft/Effectiveness/default.aspx>). All team members will be able to download documents and contribute to the site. Sharepoint also offers a discussion board that may be a useful medium for posting questions or issues to discuss with the other team members. Please see the official communication strategy for further information.

Deliverables and Timelines

The following is a list of specific deliverables, timelines and responsibilities for the Effectiveness Evaluation Working Group. Please see the Workplan for details.

Deliverable	Timeline	Responsibilities
Formation of team	June 20, 2005	Team Coordinator
Approval of terms of reference	June 30, 2005	Team
Summary of existing MPB/fire monitoring projects- Gap analysis	July 15, 2005	Team Coordinator
Approval of 2005 season projects- ID leads	July 15, 2005	Team
Initiation of Wildlife/Danger Tree Project	July 15, 2005	Nancy Densmore
Approval of Work Breakdown Structure/ Schedule/ responsibilities	July 22, 2005	Team
RFP- Proposal FFT Effectiveness Evaluation Coordinator	August 15, 2005	Team Coordinator
Approval of Program Charter	August 22, 2005	Team
Draft 18 month plan	August 30, 2005	Team Coordinator
Award contract- Effectiveness	September 16, 2005	Team Coordinator

Evaluation Coordinator		
Final 18 month plan	September 30, 2005	Team Coordinator
Stakeholder survey and scoping of monitoring needs	October 30, 2005	Team Coordinator
Produce list/description/priority ranking of potential future evaluation and monitoring projects	October 30, 2005	Team
Draft 5 year plan	November 30, 2005	Team Coordinator
Final 5 year plan	December 30, 2005	Team Coordinator

Principles of Effectiveness Evaluation Working Group Membership

The following is a set of core principles for those participating, or contributing to, the FFT Effectiveness Evaluation Working Group:

- Commitment to the objectives of Effectiveness Evaluation Working Group as outlined in this Terms of Reference;
- Full participation in the responsibilities of the team as specified in this Terms of Reference;
- Willingness to commit the time required to complete the mandate;
- Willingness to objectively consider all team members' views;
- Willingness to interact and communicate with other team members in an open, honest and respectful manner; and
- Commitment to the Effectiveness Evaluation Working Group decision-making process and principles.

Adaptive Management

Adaptive management is a systematic, rigorous approach to improving management and accommodating change by learning from the outcomes of management interventions (Murray et al., 2000). The Effectiveness Evaluation Working Group will apply the principles of adaptive management to the planning and implementation of monitoring and evaluation projects. This means that as results and information becomes known and as uncertainties are addressed, the Working Group and monitoring projects will be improved.

Decision Making

The Effectiveness Evaluation Working Group will strive to operate by consensus and collaboration. Decision making will be through a process of problem identification, assembling of facts, brainstorming, evaluating solutions, obtaining commitment to solutions, and continuous improvement. In the event that an issue cannot be resolved by consensus, the sponsor, Lorne Bedford, will be consulted.