Deliberating Climate Change Mitigation Options and Policies in British Columbia’s forests

Guillaume Peterson St-Laurent, PhD Candidate
Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability, UBC

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1. PICS engagement process
Carbon as one of many forest values
PICS engagement process

Phase 1. Define objectives → First series of workshops

Phase 2. Develop alternatives → Climate and economic modelling

Phase 3. Evaluate alternatives → Second series of workshop
Public survey
Phase 1: Identification of objectives

First series of workshops (January-March 2016)
Phase 1: Identification of objectives

First series of workshops (January-March 2016)

- 25% northern interior (Prince George, 18 participants)
- 21% southern interior (Kamloops, 14 participants)
- 20% coast (Nanaimo, 21 participants)
- 12% lower mainland (Vancouver, 23 participants)

Number of participants:
- NGO\(^a\)
- Forestry professionals\(^b\)
- Forest industry\(^c\)
- First nations
- Academia
- Carbon offset
- Local/regional government

\(^a\) includes environmental (15), tourism (2) and development (2) NGOs
\(^b\) includes consultants (12) and community forest representatives (4)
\(^c\) includes large scale forest companies
Phase 1: Identification of objectives

First series of workshops (January-March 2016)

Objectives: What really matters when evaluating climate change mitigation strategies in the forest sector.
Phase 1: Identification of objectives

12 objectives

MAXIMIZE THE CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION POTENTIAL OF THE FORESTS AND FOREST SECTOR.
- maximize carbon sequestration from BC forests and forest sector
- minimize greenhouse gases emissions from BC forests and forest sector

INCREASE CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND FOREST RESILIENCE.
* Increase the natural capacity of BC’s forests to:
  - adapt to climate change
  - respond to climate change perturbations by resisting damage and recovering quickly

MAINTAIN EXISTING BIODIVERSITY.
- ensure biodiversity conservation
- ensure the protection of natural old growth forests

MAINTAIN ECOSYSTEM SERVICES.
- maintain water quality and quantity
- maintain air quality
- maintain soil quality
- maintain recreational, cultural and spiritual opportunities
Phase 1: Identification of objectives

12 objectives

RECOGNIZE FIRST NATIONS RIGHTS AND CLAIMS TO FOREST LANDS.
- recognize First Nations existing titles and claims
- respect First Nations rights
- ensure inclusion of First Nations in decision-making

INCREASE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR FIRST NATIONS.
- increase generated revenues
- increase employment
- increase professional development

INCREASE PROVINCIAL NET ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF FOREST-RELATED MITIGATION.
- increase industry competitiveness
- maximize efficiency of resource use
- increase the production of value-added products (e.g., long-lived wood products)

INCREASE PROVINCIAL SOCIOECONOMIC BENEFITS.
- maximize direct employment from the forests and forest sector
- maximize indirect employment from the forests and forest sector

INCREASE RESILIENCE OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES.
- increase sustainable economic opportunities
- increase local government revenues
- increase local participation in decision-making

MINIMIZE THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS ON LOCAL FOOD SECURITY.
- minimize the negative impacts on local food security, defined as the reliable access to a sufficient quantity of locally-produced food
Phase 1: Identification of objectives

12 objectives

ENSURE EVIDENCE-BASED DECISION MAKING.
Ensure that future forest carbon mitigation strategies make use of:
- the best available science
- First Nations traditional knowledge

ENSURE SOCIAL LICENSE AND POLITICAL FEASIBILITY.
Ensure that future forest carbon mitigation strategies make use of:
- ensuring participation and public sense of ownership
- promoting public awareness
- maximizing administrative flexibility, adaptability and feasibility
Phase 1: Identification of objectives

Ranking of the 12 objectives
Phase 2: Development of alternatives

6 mitigation alternatives

1. Higher utilization
2. Harvest residues for bioenergy
3. Longer-lived wood products
4. Harvest less
5. Restricted harvest
6. Rehabilitation (not in modeling)

Phase 2: Development of alternatives

Output of modelling

**Biophysical**
- Mitigation potential (MtCO₂e/yr)

**Economic**
- Mitigation cost
- Mitigation cost/tCO₂e
- Impact on GDP
- Impact on government revenue

**Socioeconomic**
- Employment impact

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Phase 3: Evaluation of alternatives

*Second series of workshops*
Phase 3: Evaluation of alternatives

*Second series of workshops*

Evaluating options for managing British Columbia’s forests to mitigate climate change

Guillaume Potvin St-Laurent,
George Hobbs, Werner A. Kurg,
Tony C. Lempkôskô, Carolyn E. Smyth
and Zhou Xu

April 2017
Public survey
Level of support for forest carbon mitigation strategies in BC’s general population
Public survey

Public support for the 8 strategies

- Bioenergy strategy
- Harvest efficiency strategy
- Increased growth rate
- Increased harvest
- Longer-lived wood products
- Reduced harvest
- Old growth conservation
- Rehabilitation
Public survey

Public support for the 8 strategies

To what degree would you support or oppose the following climate change mitigation strategy? (-2 = strongly oppose, 2 = strongly support)

- Increased harvest
- Longer-lived wood products
- Reduced harvest
- Bioenergy
- Harvest efficiency
- Increased growth rate
- Old growth conservation
- Rehabilitation

Mean score
Conclusions

Engagement process
• Overall agreement on objectives, with the most important being:
  • Maintaining ecosystem services,
  • Increasing climate change mitigation
  • Increasing climate change adaptation
  • Ensuring evidence-based decision making
• Incoming workshops to evaluate mitigation strategies

Public survey
• In general, high level of public support for 8 mitigation strategies
• Multiple variables appear to predict public level of support:
  • Environmental values
  • Perceptions towards climate change
  • Trust in decision makers and other influential actors
  • Prioritized objectives of forest management
  • Socio-demographics.
Thank you!

Guillaume Peterson St-Laurent, PhD Candidate
Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability, UBC

peterson.guil@gmail.com