



## Picking up the pieces with strategies, innovations, and visions

# How forestry communities plan to make

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by Kathie Swift, Extension Specialist, Early Stand Dynamics.

The theme of this year's Winter SISCO held in Naramata, April 6–8, 2009 was to showcase examples of the forward, fast, futuristic thinking that is necessary for silviculturalists to respond to the myriad of challenges including unpredictable markets, economic uncertainty, changing climate, and emerging unknown ecological responses and regimes.

The two-day event opened with "A Likely Story" from **Robin Hood**, Manager of the Likely Xats'ull Community Forest and Forest Director of the Likely Community Forest Society. Hood discussed "kitchen table forestry," which is a term that describes how decisions are made jointly in managing their community forest, such as developing strategies that focus on employing local contractors for all of their harvesting and planting activities. Hood also described the mechanisms that the community has developed to help determine priorities that address local needs. This community forest recently received an uplift from 12,000 m<sup>3</sup> to 25,000 m<sup>3</sup> and was awarded a 25-year licence.

**Lisa Marak**, Woodlot Manager for the Tower Ranch Woodlot continued discussions around small community tenures with her presentation, "Responsive Resource Management for Environmental, Economic and Social Prosperity." She discussed how recent legislation has increased the size of woodlot licences to 1,200 ha in the Interior and 800 ha on the Coast, and that there are over 830 of these types of licences around the province. Typically, woodlot tenures are managed by families whose private lands are usually included as part of this licence arrangement. Since many of these licenses are family-based, their management approaches tend to focus on the long term, often with strategies and practices passing from one generation to the next. These families are also very aware that their small land base means there is little room for mistakes and have therefore developed intensive, innovative, and personal management approaches to meet objectives. Woodlot licence holders also tend to live near the land they are managing, and in some cases have developed strong bonds with their neighbours and local communities. This means they can respond to the increased demands for environmental goods and services—and the occasional school tour that comes along!

The remainder of the morning was spent hearing presentations about new markets and commodities that are currently under development, especially in areas affected by the mountain pine beetle (MPB). **Jim Savage**, Executive Director of the Quesnel Community and Economic Development Corporation, led the discussions by describing how the community of Quesnel is trying to move towards a vibrant future. This community has developed a multi-faceted vision of a "Green City"—all in the context of sustainability. Much of their future is looking towards a bio-waste economy—sewage, food by-products, and MPB-killed wood—all as a source of energy for their community and others. Following the Quesnel experience was a presentation from **Chief David Walkem**, board member of the First Nations Forestry Council, who shared his experiences as part of a trade mission to China, where they tried to attract investments from that country to revitalize the forest sector in of the Merritt area.

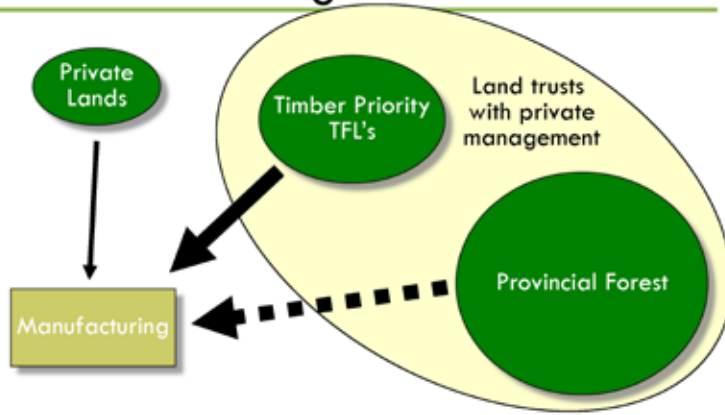
**Robert Parisotto**, Director, Product Development and Technical Research for Forestry Innovation Investment Ltd., gave a presentation on the latest research and development on products manufactured using MPB wood. Forestry Innovation Investment (FII) is the provincial agency responsible for developing and diversifying markets for BC wood products and is accountable for the wood products research and development component of the Mountain Pine Beetle Emergency Response. Research and development funded through FII has focused on fibre quality, manufacturing processes, product, and market development. Results to date suggest that MPB wood has opportunities in the strand component of raw materials such as thick laminated panels, thick-strand composites, laminated-treated beams, wood plastic pellets, and concrete-coated particles. However, these products have to move from prototype to productivity to determine their viability in the marketplace.

Another MPB-related product that is causing much discussion is bioenergy—a product that is produced from historically low-value wood fibre. According to **John Swann**, Executive Director of the Pellet Association of Canada, bioenergy is not only viewed as a mechanism to make use of the volumes of dead MPB-killed stands, but also as a possible solution to many of the economic woes of forest-dependent communities. What is driving this push towards bioenergy? Energy security, fossil



# it through the next few years (and beyond)

## Alternative Management Model



the Forum  
on Conservation Economics & Policy

Thomas Maness slide

Thomas Maness highlighted an alternative management model for forest tenures in British Columbia during the "Soap Box Session" on tenure reform.

treatments for protecting communities from fire risk, and economics of our new "marginal" products.

This year's winter SISCO ended with an interactive "Soap Box Session" on tenure reform.

**Dr. Thomas Maness** (Department of Forest Resources Management, University of British Columbia), **Brian McNaughton** (General Manager, Federation of BC Woodlot Associations), Chief David Walkem (Board Member of the First Nations Forestry Council), and **Mike Apsey** (Past Deputy Minister, BC Ministry of Forests and Range, and Past President and CEO,

fuel-supply risk and price increases, climate change, and air-quality concerns. But bioenergy development faces many challenges, including production costs, fibre access, logging and harvesting practices and methods, sustainable forest practices, harvest levels, and long-term soil productivity and forest health. Will these challenges be overcome? Swann thinks so, but not without some cultural changes along the way.

During the discussion sessions that typify a Winter SISCO session, participants had the opportunity to hear updates on many forest programs, policies, and regulations as well as the range of current initiatives—Forest and Range Evaluation Program (FREP), Forests/Trees For Tomorrow, the Silviculture Investment Fund and Timber Supply Strategies, Future Forest Strategies, and new regulations for secondary stand structure.

There were also research updates that explored the latest work on topics such as seed planning for species on the move, non-timber forest products (NTFP), broadleaf standards, emerging ecological findings, modelling future forest conditions, ecosystem succession and stand dynamics, current stand-enhancement practices, new techniques and

Council of Forest Industries) all offered their opinions. Is tenure reform needed or do we just need to use the existing tools more appropriately? Can the existing structure accommodate the desires of First Nations for long-term, area-based, renewable-volume tenures with improved revenue-sharing mechanisms? Or do we need a perpetual commission—a permanent think tank that looks at a wider range of issues and examines what is happening nationally and internationally over space and time to help develop a vision for the province? This think tank could even have the ability to evaluate itself! Although many of the panelists didn't agree on what tenure reform could look like, they all agreed that a vision for our forests needs to go beyond timber. With so many potential forest values, why should we be only focusing on the revenue generated from timber?

For those interested in what is happening around the 2009 SISCO Summer Field Tour, it is scheduled for Williams Lake, September 14–16, 2009 with the theme of "Managing Mid-term Transition Forests in the Moisture Subzones East of Williams Lake, BC." For more information on this field tour, check out the SISCO website at [www.siscobc.com](http://www.siscobc.com) 