



Measuring the Benefits of Community Forestry



Measuring the Benefits Workshop

1. Background & Rationale
2. Themes & principles to be measured
3. Guidelines for indicators
4. Brainstorm in groups

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Measuring the Benefits of Community Forestry

Top 3 Reasons to collect data

1. To promote community forestry and provide fact based information to policy makers.
2. To assist CFA holders with community reporting and education.
3. To measure progress towards the provincial objectives of the Community Forest Program.



Developing the Concept

- Economic Impact Analysis
- Need to account for social, cultural and environmental benefits as well.
- Concept of Annual Reporting
- Collaborative Project with UBC

Resources

- ❖ Criteria & Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management
- ❖ Community Forest Pilot Project Draft Monitoring Program
- ❖ Examples from other jurisdictions

Unique Context

- Need a system that is tailored to the unique characteristics of Community Forest Agreements.
- To be practical and durable, we are looking to develop a system that is simple, affordable, credible with stakeholders, engaging, and compatible with government objectives.

What do we want to measure?

Provincial Objectives:

1. Long-term opportunities
2. Diversified use
3. Social & economic benefits
4. Environmental stewardship
5. Safety
6. Community Participation
7. Relationships between Aboriginal & non-Aboriginal communities

What do we want to measure?

BCCFA Guiding Principles:

1. Long term management
2. Healthy communities & economies
3. Cultural, ecological & economic sustainability
4. Local employment
5. Leading edge forest practices
6. Meaningful representation & informed public participation
7. Respect for First Nations & Cooperation

What do we want to measure?

1. Economic
2. Social
3. Environmental
4. Cultural

What do we want to measure?

1. **Economic:** Local jobs, local manufacturing
2. **Social:** Ambulance, Community Hall, steady local employment, recreation, support for community groups.
3. **Environmental:** drinking water, wildlife inventory, management of sensitive areas.
4. **Cultural:** traditional use, protection of spiritual places.

Your Task

1. Break into groups
2. Brainstorm indicators that demonstrate the benefits of your community forest
3. Report back to the group



Attributes of a good indicator

Based on the feedback from our members to date, we want the indicators to be:

Simple
Affordable
Credible
Engaging

Attributes of a good indicator

- A. Relevant
- B. Measurable
- C. Understandable
- D. Predictable
- E. Process is participatory – grounded in local context

Sample Indicators



Economic Indicators

- a) Total dollars in wages & contracts
- b) Number of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) positions
- c) Percentage of log sales to small mills and value-added manufacturers

Social Indicators

- a) Percentage of employment and contracts to locals
- b) Total kilometres of recreational trails created, maintained or improved
- c) Annual reporting to the community of accomplishments

Sample Indicators



Ecological Indicators

- a) Compliance with BC legislation and regulations
- b) Number of tree species present in the pre-harvest stand compared to the regenerated stand.

Cultural Indicators

- a) Incorporation of FN knowledge into forest management planning framework where made available (yes/no)
- b) Protection of sites of cultural significance to First Nations
- c) Value of cash and in-kind investment in local cultural activities

Beware

The “Best” indicators – which are relevant, measurable, understandable, and predictable often have incomplete datasets to support them, a selection process needs to be developed to balance them with the “practical” indicators, which may not fully address the issue at hand.

- Gary Bull 2007



Feedback





Measuring the Benefits of Community Forests

