



Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

**Cariboo Region**

*Vibrant, Connected and Resilient Communities*

**Imagine.....**

**What could we accomplish for our communities,**

**by recovering the proper ecological structure and function of our forest ecosystems?**



Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

**Cariboo Region**

*Vibrant, Connected and Resilient Communities*

- **Economic diversification and job creation**
- **Training and capital investment**
- **Community stability and security**
- **Land-base recovery** – from wildfire, infestation
- **Resilience** – resistance to disturbance beyond range of natural variation
- Enhanced **timber** and **range** productivity
- Improved **fibre flow**, and **diversification** of commodities
- Enhanced **habitat suitability** and **supply**
- Improved **recreation** opportunity



Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

**Cariboo Region**

*Vibrant, Connected and Resilient Communities*

## **Consider the current condition of forest ecosystems:**

- A marble on an inverted plate....
  - We tip the plate, the marble rolls off the dome of the plate and out of our grasp
  - The disturbance is “catastrophic”, beyond reasonable expectation
  - Our interests in the services provided by that ecosystem are compromised, recovery is a serious challenge
- What if we turned the plate right side up?
  - We tip the plate, the marble rolls around the bowl of the plate, but stays within the rim, resisting the disturbance
  - Our interests might be influenced, less severe impact, a quicker return to stability.



Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

Cariboo Region

*Vibrant, Connected and Resilient Communities*

## Symptoms of “instability” in our forests

- **Dry belt, uneven aged** - overstocked dry belt sites, stagnation and poor health from inter-tree competition, contiguous fuel laden stands, ingress, forest structure not representative of a fire maintained ecosystem
- **Even aged** - loss of patch diversity across the landscape mosaic, concentration of contiguous forest types in a narrow range of age classes, deciduous and open forest types poorly represented.



Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

**Cariboo Region**

*Vibrant, Connected and Resilient Communities*

## **A challenge with perceptions:**

### Ecosystems are dynamic in the BC Interior

- NDT 2 – smaller scale, infrequent stand destroying disturbance (wet belt)
- NDT 3 – large scale, frequent stand destroying disturbance (plateau pine)
- NDT 4 – maintained by frequent low intensity fire (dry belt)

### **Ecosystems as experienced today....**

- have not always been this way, and
- should not be expected to remain static into the future.

Objective public engagement is needed to build common understanding of the required shifts in forest management



Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

Cariboo Region

*Vibrant, Connected and Resilient Communities*

## **Public expectations:**

That we respond to their highest priority.

- What are you doing to protect my house?

Then once they feel secure:

- How are you stabilising our economy and recovering our quality of life?

## **As tenure holders:**

We are obliged to deliver a material contribution to land base resilience.

- Manage forests in ways that build ability of ecosystems to resist the influences of natural disturbance



Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

Cariboo Region

*Vibrant, Connected and Resilient Communities*

## **Given the large amount of land area that requires attention, we need to:**

- earn and sustain our social license based on the public's understanding of the need to address current forest conditions
- without delay, ramp our initiative to build ecosystem resilience
- demonstrate our resolve to adapt our forest management practices by actually “doing”



Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

**Cariboo Region**

*Vibrant, Connected and Resilient Communities*

**Where to start?** A lot of land area requires specialised forest management.

- Communities and their **Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)** are nodes for the prioritisation of forest management actions
- **Harden communities** – treatments internal to community to reduce fuel load, create wildfire resistance (along with fire resistant buildings, safe egress routes)
- **In the WUI (2 to 3 km)** – crown fire to the ground, reduce head fire intensity, create safe conditions for responders, increase suppression effectiveness, prevent sustained ignition
- **Beyond the WUI** – build landscape level resilience to natural disturbance





Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

**Cariboo Region**

*Vibrant, Connected and Resilient Communities*

**Some thoughts for getting started.** Once the area under tenure is prioritised:

- Assess current forest conditions across the tenure area
- Engage the ministry and Indigenous governments (as the province's Land Managers), your partners, and stakeholders
  - Share insights, build understanding of your management pathway
- Review land management designations across the tenure area
  - Capitalise on substantial compatibilities
  - Treatments for resilience will also positively benefit other values



Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

## Cariboo Region

### *Vibrant, Connected and Resilient Communities*

- Determine desired forest conditions
  - How should a resilient forest be structured at the landscape and stand levels?
- Develop prescriptions, determine an appropriate rate and distribution of treatment given tenured AAC , schedule treatments
- Maintain the productivity of forest land under tenure – focus on **recovery of a health forest ecosystem**
  - Beware of unduly targeting best growing stock
  - Focus on what’s creating the undesirable conditions
  - Reduce forest floor and ladder fuels
  - Clean up forest health influences “as you go” (rather than chasing them around)



Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

**Cariboo Region**

*Vibrant, Connected and Resilient Communities*

## **What are we seeking?**

Health, resilient forest ecosystems

Resistant to the influences of natural disturbance

Providing for secure, stable communities that offer a  
desirable quality of life