



002



THE UNIVERSITY
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Faculty of Forestry



NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Harrop Procter Climate Adaptation in Action!



<https://hpcommunityforest.org>

The Harrop Procter Community Forest (HPCF) now has a real climate action plan with clear management priorities and site-specific treatments. They want to collaborate with other interested Community Forests to do the same in order to scale up and refine methods. As forest manager Erik Leslie says “Let’s get to work on the ground and make it real”

When faced with action on the climate adaptation front it can be a frustrating for practitioners on the ground. With a plethora of information about our changing climate it can be overwhelming. The HPCF went to work to build a systematic risk assessment approach to prioritize areas for adaptation (doable treatments on the ground). They looked at the likelihood of drought and wildfire for each stand using climate projections out 30 to 50 years and plotted it against the consequences to values important to them (homes, infrastructure, water, biodiversity and timber). The combination of these two exercise created a map that highlights the gradient of risks and created clear priority action areas for forest managers (Figure 1).

With the priority action areas in hand (the map) HPCF considered a gradient of adaptation strategies, ranging from resistance to resilience to transition (Table 1). Once a resistance/resilience/transition decision is made, a treatment is chosen.

In the final part of the project, timber supply modelling is being used to assess the potential impacts of a suite of adaptation-based harvest scenarios. The scenarios will be used to inform discussions during HPFP’s next AAC determination. Stay tuned for an update!

Table 1. Adaptation Options (adapted from Nagel 2017)

| Adaptation Strategy | Definition | Operation Treatment Examples |
|---------------------|--|---|
| RESISTANCE | Act defensively to maintain current conditions and resist undesirable change | Locate landscape-level fuel breaks, protect rare habitats |
| RESILIENCE | Accommodate some change and promote resilience | Thin to lower stand densities, diversify forest structure |
| TRANSITION | Current stand conditions are incompatible with future changes | Convert maladapted stands, introduce new species |

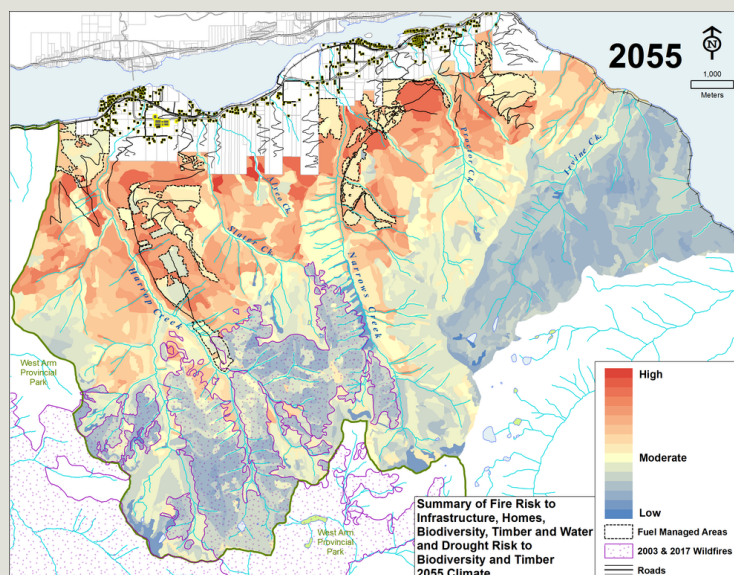


Figure 1. Climate risk map

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If your Community Forest would like to be included in the next “Notes From The Field” series, please reach out to:

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