

Tree Species Selection Project: Update

February 12, 2009

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Tree Species Selection Project working group

Outline

- Background
- Analysis phase
- Who's involved in the project?
- Conceptual approach
- Mock-up demo
- Next steps

Background - tree species selection business questions

- What are the ecologically suitable species and potentially suitable species choices in the context of climate change and increased management complexity?
- What is needed to inform species selection decision-making for Forest Stewardship Plans; and conversely Ministry reviewers of stocking standards in FSPs?
- What do practitioners need to make tree species selection decisions at the stand-level and to understand desired outcomes over time, i.e. cumulative effects at the landscape-level?

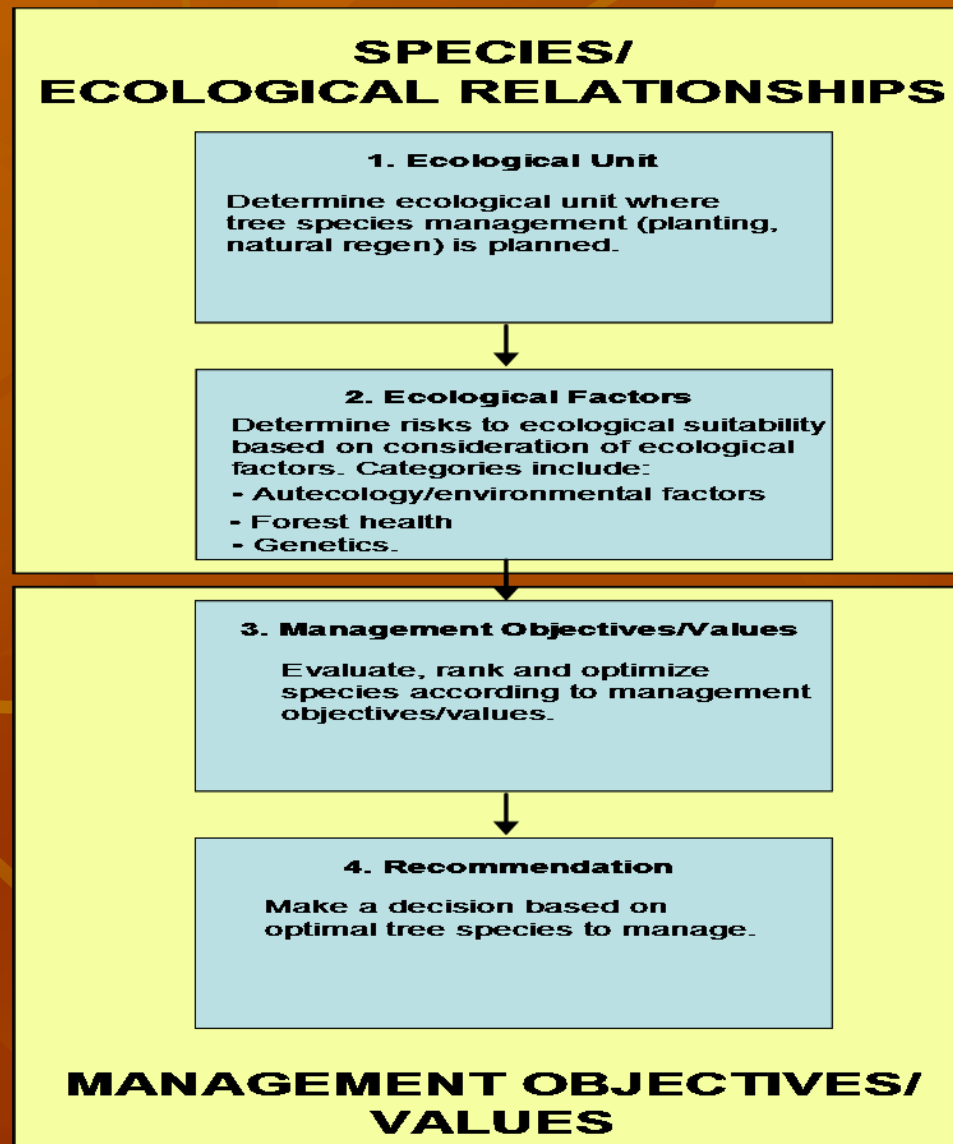
Analysis phase

- Project charter (Dec 2007)
 - confirm, refine, define processes and build supporting tools to inform species selection/management decisions
- Clearly define the general business requirements of a decision support tool that provides the best available science to inform species selection decision-making in the context of climate change (Nov 2008)

Who's involved in the project?

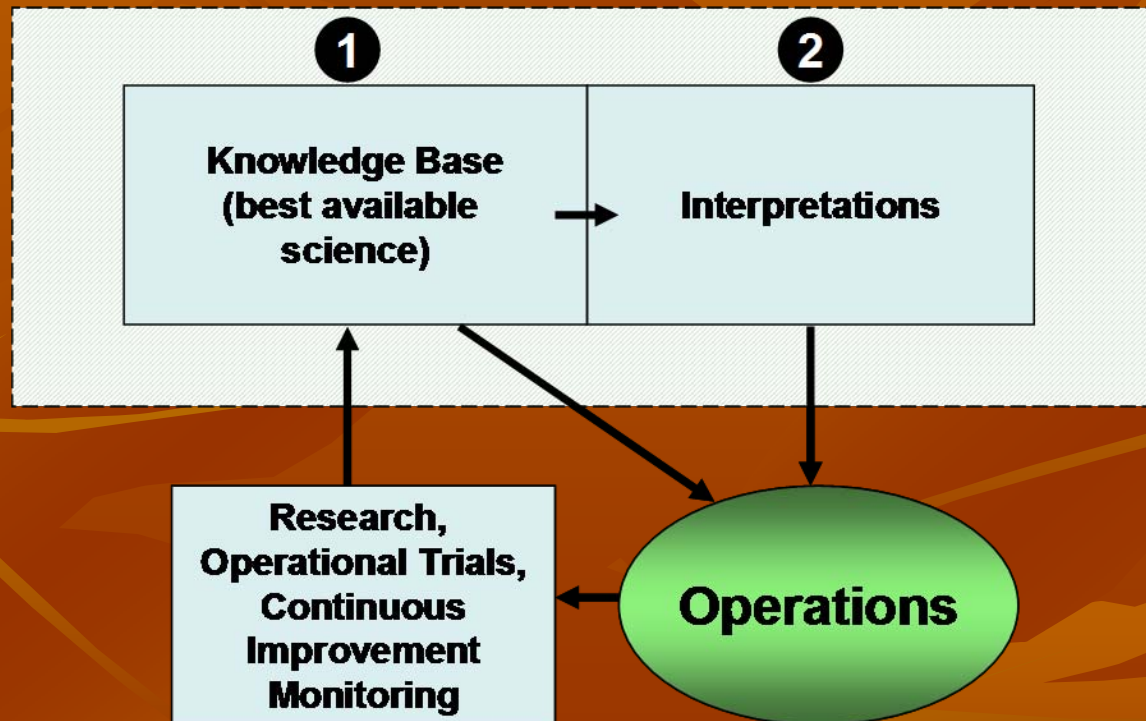
- Shirley Mah
- Kevin Astridge (Brian Raymer)
- Susan Elo
- Guy Burdikin
- Michelle Cleary
- Craig Delong
- Mike Dittaro
- Tim Ebata
- Cheryl Edwards
- Lyn Konowalyk
- Phil LePage
- Archie MacDonald
- Michael Murray
- Mike Madill
- Leslie McAuley
- Rick Monchak
- Teresa Newsome
- Annette van Niejenhuis
- Greg O'Neill
- Bernie Peschke
- Jennifer Plummer
- Kristine Sacenieks
- Melissa Todd
- Mary Viszlai-Beale
- Craig Wickland
- Pam Wilkins

Conceptual approach for species selection decision-making at the stand and landscape levels in the context of climate change



Conceptual design - species selection decision support tool

Decision Support System



Benefits of this decision support approach

- Adaptable, easy to update - provides specialists from multiple disciplines a place to focus NEW species-related information WHEN it's available, including "grey" literature
 - coordinated review and updates, e.g. interactions of climate, species, and insects/diseases, potentially suitable species
- Supports Future Forest Ecosystems Initiative objectives around managing for resilient ecosystems at the stand and landscape levels
 - will include climate-related research results as they become available (species shifts, assisted migration, vulnerability assessments)
 - will include work on landscape-level strategies as they are developed
- Provides information for licensees who wish to depart from the current Reference Guide 'defaults' for their stocking standards and for government staff to evaluate those choices in meeting the FRPA tests
 - a starting place for dialogue
 - supports the upcoming Forest Stewardship Plan extensions, stocking standard amendments, site plans, new FSPs

Mock-up demo

- Based on the conceptual approach and “straw dog” developed by sub-group sessions
- Mock-up screens provide the potential “look and feel” and the content of a climate-based species selection decision support tool
- *START MOCK-UP DEMO*

Next Steps

- Project sponsors sign-off on general business requirements for the climate-based tree species selection decision support tool and OK to start next phase [Nov 26/08]
- Timeline for Tree Species Selection decision support tool
 - Next phase in progress - Detailed business requirements and prototype development (January 2009 - April 2009)
 - Contingent on DBR and funding - climate-based tree species decision support tool Release 1 (Nov 2009)
- Landscape level species strategies - scoping document
 - Scoping workshop (March 2009)
- Requires commitment by all involved in the species selection project (people's time and funding)
 - Forest Stewardship and Operations Division - ADM support
 - Working group, specialist reviewers, user test group including licensees

For more information

- Tree species selection project website:
 - <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/silviculture/TSS.htm>