

BRIDGES II: Creating More Regional Economic Value from Regional Forests



Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training
Pine Beetle Epidemic Response Branch

Goal of Bridges II

Through collaboration at a sub-regional scale, communities, First Nations, small forest tenure holders, and value-added manufacturers will increase their economic benefits of the regional fibre supply.

Bridges II Objectives

Engage the project partners, local communities, and value-added manufacturers

1. Fibre

- Increase awareness of current and future fibre supplies and tenure opportunities
- Assess current fibre usage, needs and flows
- Identify currently underutilized species and volumes

2. Business Opportunities

- Identify potential business opportunities for underutilized species and volumes
- Increase knowledge and awareness of the bio-energy sector
- Identification of new forest products
- Explore opportunities to bundle individual tenure volumes

3. Business Models

- Identify and develop new collaborative business models and opportunities
- Assist with the development of new business relationships

Work collaboratively with FLNRO, who is working to enhance the WoodSouceBC website

Future State – West Kootenay Lake and the Slocan / Arrow Lakes corridor

- Create a directory of VA businesses and document their needs.
- Avoid log waste in the woods by increasing knowledge of specialty forest product purchasers and their needs.
- Research bio waste options and match to existing local opportunities.
- Check consumption of waste users including Atco, Celgar and Avista to compare with an estimate of actual waste produced and available.
- Determine cost of set up of a puck facility. Determine best location
- Check into the feasibility of locating a bio char facility to supply US Coal fired power plants or the smelter in Trail. Be aware of Pembina Institute research at Harrop involving small scale bio char facilities and participate in the Pembina Institute investigation into pellet plant feasibility.
- Leverage information and log pricing and separation of high value component logs by working with all woodlots and community forests to present a coordinated plan for 2014. Levels of involvement will be up to the individual participant.
- Consider the use of a log sort yard to increase selection of higher value logs. Consider adding additional value through canting for US or International markets
- Strengthen local connections through increased knowledge of local buyers and sellers.
- Bring in new business to take advantage of underutilized species including hemlock and white pine.
- Work with labour force specialists to increase availability of trained workers.
- Create new business in the non timber forest product markets
- Work to lessen transportation costs through knowledge of truck configurations and enabling back hauls to remote communities.