Improving Fibre Supply on Southern Vancouver Island by Increasing Utilization of Residual Fibre

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Improving utilization of fibre is an important government objective; it supports existing and new forest industries, mitigates future timber supply shortfalls, and reduces carbon emissions caused by slash burning.

The government is considering applying carbon tax on slash burning in the next couple of years.
Future Timber Supply

Projected Harvest Forecast
Provincial TSAs and TFLs
(February, 2018)

- Current AAC 65.2 million
- Pre-uplift AAC ~ 70.5 M m³/yr
Waste Levels

- Waste levels in **Coast Area** have been increasing over the last decade:
  - Waste accounts for ~2.6 mil cubic m³/year
  - Ave. avoidable waste (monetary billing) ~ 110 m³/ha
Coast Area Waste Summary 2012 to 2017

Average Annual Avoidable m³/year by District

Avoidable m³/ha by District

Data Extraction Date: Dec 2017
Let’s utilize this waste wood, let’s recalibrate our thinking because it’s not waste; it’s important fibre for secondary users like pulp mills, small-log mills, and future businesses (eg. pellet plants, bioenergy, laminate wood products).
What is the Fibre Recovery Process Pilot?

- Establish ‘non formal’ Fibre Recovery Zone(s) (FRZ) where residual fibre can be economically harvested and where demand exists
- Within the FRZ, encourage Business to Business agreements to use residual fibre
- Review results (after one year)
- Implement other tools if necessary
Business to Business is Preferred Approach

The most efficient and effective method of using residual fibre is for primary harvesters and secondary users to form business-to-business relationships.

B2B leads to cost-effective removal of residual fibre through integrated methods, or “one pass” harvesting.

Primary harvesters and secondary users are encouraged to share information and work together on harvesting opportunities to improve overall utilization.
When there is no Business to Business Relationship

The district manager may:

- Require primary harvesters to provide notice declaring if they will be using the residual fibre, and if they are abandoning their rights to the residual fibre;
- Allocate rights to use roadside and landing residual fibre to the holder by issuing a Fibre Forestry licence to Cut or a Fibre Supply licence to Cut; and,
- Issue a “do not destroy” order to the primary harvester if there is concern that the primary harvester may destroy the residual fibre prior to it being harvested through a fibre recovery tenure.
Fibre Recovery Tenures

Fibre Forestry Licence to Cut
- Short term opportunity for specific site (months)
- Direct awarded or competitive
- No volume limits

Fibre Supply Licence to Cut with cutting permits
- Terms up to 10 years for a geographic area
- Competitively awarded or direct to First Nation
- 1st right of refusal to any residual fibre abandoned
What is happening on South Vancouver Island to improve fibre utilization you ask?

Well, we are piloting the new Fibre Recovery Process.
South Island Fibre Recovery Process Implementation

Step 1: Understanding where and how much Residual Fibre Exists in South Island
Using FPInterface to Estimate Availability of Forest-Origin Biomass in British Columbia: Arrowsmith TSA

Technical Report no. 15 - March 2018
Kevin Blackburn, Technician, Fibre Supply
FP Innovations concluded that most of the economically available fibre (biomass) is located near Port Alberni, Chemainus, Nanaimo and Victoria.
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Step 2: Bringing people and businesses together to share the vision of improved fibre utilization in South Island and to discuss ways and means to achieve the vision, sharing best practices, discussing existing and new tools needed, and identifying the boundaries of a new Fibre Recovery Zone
ROADSIDE RESIDUAL HANDLING GUIDELINE

VERSION 3.0

The purpose of these operational guidelines are to provide advice on how to handle forestry biomass in the most efficient and cost-effective manner where economics and sufficient demand for secondary fibre allows that some or all of the biomass will be harvested.

This guidebook contains an overview of a new publication completed by FPInnovations titled “Best Management Practices for Integrated Harvest Operations in British Columbia” which describes the most popular and widely used methods for integrated biomass extraction in B.C. and deals largely with providing proper techniques that increase efficiency and save costs for both primary and secondary harvesters.
Step 3: Establishing the South Island Fibre Recovery Zone and communicating expectations to improve utilization in support of new and existing businesses
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Step 4: Encouraging proponents to submit FESBC proposals by Nov 30th to tap into provincial/federal Forest Carbon Initiative Funding to help move the dial on utilization
In March 2018, the Canadian and BC governments entered into an agreement known as the Forest Carbon Initiative (FCI) under the Low Carbon Economy Leadership Fund for $140 million in Federal funding over five years. The Federal and Provincial funding combined total $290 million for 2017/18 to 2021/22. Eligible projects may be delivered by a range of service delivery partners, including Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC).
FESBC Funding Available – Apply Now

Intake 5

- 2 Streams – potentially for up to a total of approximately $63 Million.
- 5a Utilization focus – $30 Million to improve utilization of wood fibre that is otherwise burnt. Assisting Province in meeting Carbon objectives.
- 5b Wildfire risk reduction - other purposes – up to $33 M

October 1 to November 30 online application using the FESIMS Portal.
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Step 5: Developing a monitoring strategy – ‘real-time’ assessment of achievement. How do we measure performance in the FRZ? How do we demonstrate that greater utilization in FRZ is happening on the ground?

- Tracking/measuring utilization inside vs outside FRZ
- Improved contact utilization specifications
- Lidar/drone/photo interpretation
- Changes in scaled species/grade outturn
- Reductions in slash burning, number and frequency
- Monitor requests for post harvest material
- Public access to firewood
- Timeliness of waste assessments to facilitate B2B
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Step 6: Monitoring performance, enhancing communications and sharing information on opportunities and challenges, celebrating successes, making adjustments, continuously improving.

Refining the FRZ based on improved information and knowledge

Sharing the learnings with other areas on coast and province-wide
Helpful Web links:

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/forest-tenures/forest-tenure-administration/residual-fibre-recovery

https://fesbc.ca/applying-for-funding.html

QUESTIONS?