



"Our environment is our future"

RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM SERIES

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3:30 - 4:30

LECTURE THEATRE

7 - 150

Seeing the forest beyond the trees: Do BC's reforestation standards contribute to SFM?

A key element of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) that is poorly understood is the concept of the desired future forest condition. This is the standard against which forest management success should be judged, and the primary measure by which we can assess the ability of future generations to benefit from forest-based goods and services.

By far the largest influence we have on future forest conditions revolves around harvest and reforestation decisions. These activities occur within a very short time period relative to the typical life span of a forest stand, suggesting that we have limited opportunities to "get-it-right". Once trees are established and growing there are very few reasonable opportunities for corrective actions. The rationales we use to plan reforestation activities and the standards by which we assess performance are thus critical elements of SFM planning.

Regeneration stocking surveys are almost universally conducted on logged areas in Canada, much of the United States and many other jurisdictions throughout the world. Historically on public lands, the results have been primarily used to assess achievement of statutory or contractual reforestation requirements. Despite the huge collective costs and implications for future generations, standards against which performance is assessed have been poorly linked to forest management objectives for most of the past century. The reasons for this shortcoming will be explored, and some solutions suggested.