

# Decision Support Advisory Committee, Forest Genetics Council of BC

**Date:** Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2011

**Time:** 10:30 am to 11:50 am

## **Attendance:**

Guy Burdikin, West Fraser (chair)  
Lee Charleson, TIB  
Susan Zedel, TIB  
Matt LeRoy, TIB

Jack Woods, FGC Program Manager  
Michael Postma, IMB / Tree Seed Centre  
Vincent Day, Canfor

**Regrets:** Chris Runnals, BCTS; Cathy Cook, Western Forest Products

## **Orchard Staffing Update:**

- The position at Timberwest – Mt. Newton Seed Orchard has been filled – Deirdre Bruce has just started there.
- The Orchard Manager position at Skimikin Seed Orchard, TIB – has been posted external to government.
- PRT Armstrong is also looking for a new Orchard Manager.

## **Review of minutes from Feb. 18, 2011 meeting:**

- 1) The DSAC Terms of Reference (TOR) were ratified by the committee via email after the Feb. 18 meeting. The TOR were then accepted by the FGC at their March 2011 meeting.

## **Minutes – Sept. 27, 2011**

- 1) The minutes of Feb. 18 were reviewed. The proposed items in item 3 of the minutes were brought forward to the Sept. 27 meeting for further discussion.
- 2) DSAC budget allocation of \$60,000 was given (\$70,000 was requested) for 2011/12 fiscal year. A contract was tendered and awarded to HR GISolutions for \$5800 for the production of Lodgepole Pine Cone Collection Opportunity maps. Only \$290 of this has been spent on the Mackenzie TSA. The maps for the Williams Lake and Quesnel TSAs were completed in the previous fiscal year by Caslys. There has not been enough feedback from foresters to indicate whether it's worth producing maps for more TSAs.

Discussion on proposed work that DSAC could recommend:

- a) *Availability of information on orchard crops expected, projected seed orchard production and information on planned/recent natural stand cone collections.* A Live Meeting on how to interpret Species Plans could be run. A forum for information exchange could be created, such as a Sharepoint site. Added to action items.
- b) *Training sessions on SPAR Seedlot reports to view current seedlot inventories.* One or more Live Meetings will be done in the late fall /early winter on this subject. Added to action items.

- c) *Western Forest Products would like to have access to the Sowing Rule screen in SPAR to reduce seedlot quantities, rather than just entering reduced gram amounts.* This has been added to the SPAR Issue Tracking Log as an item to investigate, but lack of funding for SPAR means it is not likely to be looked at soon. Susan will update Cathy.
- d) *Suggestion to have spatial data for each seedlot's Area of Use available.* Matt started to investigate this, but he is now on a temporary assignment working with RESULTS. Some of the DSAC funding from FGC could be used for a contract to create Seedlot Area of Use spatial data. Matt explained how RESULTS is building average elevation, slope and aspect data for openings. It would be useful to compare seedlot area of use and seedlot deployment in openings spatially. Added to action items.
- e) *Cathy suggested that seed orchards update their information in SPAR regularly (eg. no. of ramets for each parent tree) so that TIB could improve orchard information on SPAR.* This is up to individual orchard managers to do at their discretion. There could be a reminder sent to orchards via CTAC and ITAC lists to update their SPAR data. Added to action items.
- f) *Vince requested that SPAR could include information on the cost of seedlot / cone collections and value of seed.* Vince can supply Susan and Michael with the type of information that Canfor has in their separate application to investigate the pros and cons of adding seed cost data in SPAR. Added to action items.
- g) *Another suggestion is that a comment screen be available for nursery growers and others to add comments on specific seedlots – eg. germination issues and growth problems in the nursery or field.* This could be a topic area on a Sharepoint site, as per item a) above.

### 3) New Topics

- a) Feedback from FGC meeting:  
Jack gave an overview of what is currently happening with the Forest Genetics Council after their Sept. 21 meeting. This fiscal year, the \$3.5 million budget has been allocated and contracts signed. The FGC annual report will be distributed by late October. The 2010 orchard production year was good for Sx. Pli orchard production is increasing gradually, but there will never be large crops as there are for other species. The FGC is expecting new technologies to request funding from the FGC. The FGC is concerned about succession planning in tree breeding, seed orchard management, etc.
- b) Development of easy to use tools to conduct regional and management unit level seed planning. To support seed planning activities such as cone collection and seed inventory management, TIB integrated seed planning spatial data with the Mountain Pine Beetle Impact Mapping project and geodatabase. The resultant maps were posted in June 2011, see link [http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hti/seedplanning/MPB\\_Impact\\_Opportunity.htm](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hti/seedplanning/MPB_Impact_Opportunity.htm) Further seed planning concepts may discussed by this committee.
- c) Moving seed transfer into professional reliance:  
MFLNRO is investigating this subject. Questions on this subject - what tools do

practitioners need to make informed decisions? Matt suggested using the new Sharepoint site as a place to discuss new ideas.

- d) Feedback from Guy on current work such as risk analysis and FRPA series of workshops: Forest health risks are a major concern.
- e) Climate change and orchards:  
There are challenges with orchard sizing for climate change, as the demand for what seed under a new climate based seed transfer cannot be predicted yet. The locations of the orchards themselves could be an issue, although they have the ability to irrigate.

#### 4) Other topics added to agenda

- a) A proposed additional project on western larch deployment of seedlings planted beyond the existing or new Lw seed planning zones to build information on Lw performance was briefly introduced. This is a communication item and will be added as a folder for discussing within the new Sharepoint site, see item 2a). Also, could be used to discuss Lw seedling performance within the new LW1, LW2, and LW3 seed planning zones.
- b) Lee proposed an additional project on a monitoring tool. The intent is our need to develop tools to assist in evaluating the effectiveness of our seed use policies and practices, in particular the recent seed transfer amendments that reflect a changing climate. We need to develop effectiveness evaluation and monitoring mapping tools to track where seed transferred through expanded elevation limits and western larch through limited range expansion ends up across the land base. It is prudent to initiate such work now prior to implementing a completely new climate based seed transfer system and seed transfer under professional reliance. Discussion was that this topic may not fall under our DSAC terms of reference. Lee asked that we table that question and any further discussion until the next meeting.
- c) To follow-up item 3 b) additional cone collection opportunity maps could possibly be produced for species other than Pli, for example Fdi, under the existing HR GIS contract. If time permits TIB staff to investigate whether it is possible to work on another species under the HR GIS contract.

**Action items:**

2a	Investigate creation of a Sharepoint site for the exchange of information on seedlots. This could include information from orchards on expected production, information from nurseries on seedlot growth/germination in the nursery, from foresters on growth performance in the field and a variety of related topics.	Susan, Lee, Michael
2a	Training sessions on SPAR seedlot information/reports and FGC species plans. Susan can arrange Live Meeting sessions and provide SPAR training. Jack can provide expertise on species plans.	Susan, Jack
2c	Possible SPAR enhancement – Cathy – WFP nursery wants to update seedling request specific sowing rules on SPAR.	Michael, Susan Cathy
2d	For seedlot ‘area of use’ spatial data, TIB will look at doing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for productions of scripts that would produce the data.	Susan, Lee, Michael
2e	Orchard parent tree and ramet data – check with Cathy on what this would be used for. It may just be a question of educating and reminding nurseries to add the data in SPAR.	Susan, Cathy
2f	Possible SPAR enhancement - Vincent – Canfor would like seed cost for each seedling request recorded in SPAR for financial reporting. Vincent to provide screen shots and/or reports from the Canfor system to show what information they would like to have in SPAR and how it is used.	Michael, Susan Vincent
3c	Lee will update the DSAC at the next meeting on seed transfer and professional reliance as an option in the future.	Lee

Minutes prepared by Susan Zedel