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**Forest Management Planning in Canada  
A Model Forest Network  
Strategic Initiative Concept Paper**

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**ABSTRACT:**

This proposed strategic initiative will: assemble information on the various forest management planning systems across Canada; do a first order interpretation of various approaches to forest management planning; and ensure the currency of the knowledge gained. Each model forest would be asked to serve as a collection site and/or point of contact from which information would be forwarded to a common site. Ancillary to this proposal are several regional planning workshops followed by a national planning workshop (if deemed useful) to explore and consider improved planning frameworks.

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### Opportunity Scan

There is no component more fundamental to the sustainability of forest management than the forest management plan and the elements of the associated planning process. To our knowledge, there is currently no single source of information (printed or in cyberspace) dedicated to forest management planning systems in Canada. The following proposed strategic initiative (SI) will address this gap in the form of a web-based information and discussion site. The SI will also provide a vehicle for the compilation, comparison, analysis and discussion of different approaches to forest management planning in Canada for posting on the site.

### Proposal Summary

The proposed SI includes several activities and incorporates room for adaptations. The first activity involves the development of an appropriate website to house information relevant to forest management planning in Canada. This activity may occur simultaneously with the second and third activities.

The second activity involves a scoping exercise to be performed at the model forest network level with contributions from each of the model forests. The objective of the scoping exercise will be to identify and list suggested topics, areas of concentration and key concerns related to forest management planning processes in Canada for use in standardized individual workshops.

**We invite and appreciate discussion and collaboration on this concept paper.**

The third activity involves the development of a standardized workshop template. The goal is to host a workshop at each model forest. Workshops may be at the model forest scale, regional scale, or national scale. A standardized approach will ensure that the objectives of each workshop will be the same, participants will be examining similar issues, and results will be comparable and of benefit to all. Each workshop should provide opportunities for discussion of all or some of the following:

- Key concerns and topics as identified in the scoping exercise.
- Analysis of the merits and shortcomings of existing planning processes.
- Results of research related to forest management planning processes.
- Identification of research gaps.

The final activity is the compilation of workshop results and discussions and their posting on the website. Ongoing updates and maintenance of the website are assumed.

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<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Project Leader	Development of website.
Model Forest Network	Scoping Exercise
Model Forest Network	Preparation of standardized workshop template.
Individual Model Forests	Hosting of workshops.
Project Leader	Compilation of results.
Project Leader	Maintenance of website.

**Program Objectives**

Due to the comprehensive nature of the proposed SI, there are linkages to all four of the Model Forest Program Phase III objectives. Specifically, the information acquired regarding forest management planning processes and their elements will inevitably be applicable both within and beyond model forest boundaries. The proposed web-based information and discussion site will provide a forum for the dissemination of results and knowledge gained through workshops as well as individual analyses and projects conducted at the local, regional and national levels. The spirit of sharing and cooperation as well as the increase in dialogue and communication between model forests will strengthen network activities. Analyses and discussions focused on the public participation component of forest management planning processes will help to increase opportunities for local-level participation in sustainable forest management.

**SFM Policy Linkages**

The proposed SI will attempt to forge a relationship with several relevant groups and organizations including (but not limited to): the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers, Canadian Forest Service, provincial government departments charged with the management of forest resources, industry representatives responsible for the implementation of legislation governing forest management planning, and woodlot owners with the need for forest management planning solutions at a smaller scale.

It is envisioned that this SI could also be used as a vehicle to focus on leading SFM issues; tenure options and associated softwood lumber agreement implications; First Nations' participation in forest management and associated management options; the effectiveness of public participation in forest management planning processes, the adequacy of current forest management plan sustainability monitoring and assessment processes; the most desirable components of an effective SFM process for a variety of differing social,

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economic and ecological situations; and other issues as identified in the scoping exercise.

It is anticipated that the Network would request that the Canadian Forest Service will adopt the responsibility for site maintenance at the end of Phase III.

### **Network Priority**

Forest management planning is the single most important factor for ensuring sustainability of the resource. With a model forest in every province, the model forest network is in an excellent position to bring together ideas, successes and failures in forest management planning for discussion and analysis. There is currently a lack of awareness across Canada of the myriad of differing approaches to forest management planning that exist as a result of provincial jurisdiction over forest resources.

This initiative will familiarize all Network participants with the possibilities and techniques being used in other parts of the country.

**Pending success of the proposed concept, it could be extended to other topics (eg. LLI)**

The Network's roles in addressing the identified issue include the following:

- Development and maintenance of website devoted to forest management planning processes in Canada
- Coordination of consistent workshops and research at individual model forests that draw upon the forest management planning experiences of partners.
- Ensuring a suitable host to maintain the project upon possible termination of the model forest program after Phase III.

### **Expression of Interest**

Interest has been expressed regarding the results of the report, "Forest Management Planning Processes in Canada". This report provides factual process information, but no analysis or discussion of merits and weaknesses of differing approaches. Several model forests have pointed out the previous lack of availability of such information in a quick-reference format. Some individuals have suggested that an analysis of the various differing approaches to different components of the forest management planning processes could be of great benefit.

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### Beyond the Boundaries

Who will be engaged in the initiative and how?

Who?	How?
Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM)	Providing a strong link to policy development.
National Aboriginal Forestry Association (NAFA)	Providing input and perspectives on First Nations' participation in planning processes.
Industry	Providing an industry perspective on issues such as tenure, plan components and stakeholder participation
Provincial governments	Ensuring up-to-date information regarding legislated forest management planning process requirements.
Academia	Conducting scientifically sound research on various aspects of forest management planning processes.
Model Forests	Hosting workshops and forums. Coordinating the gathering of opinions and perspectives from partners.
Model Forest Network Coordinators	Ensuring consistency and punctuality with initiatives. Ensuring currency and accuracy of information.

### Outputs and Outcomes

#### *Outputs*

- A one-stop, current (up-to-date) reference resource (including website, research reports, etc.) for forest managers interested in forest management planning processes.
- A searchable library of literature and research related to forest management planning process options in Canada.
- Increased connection between the research community, model forests, forest managers, policy makers and the public.
- Implementation of improved forest management planning processes designed for specific situations.

#### *Immediate Outcomes*

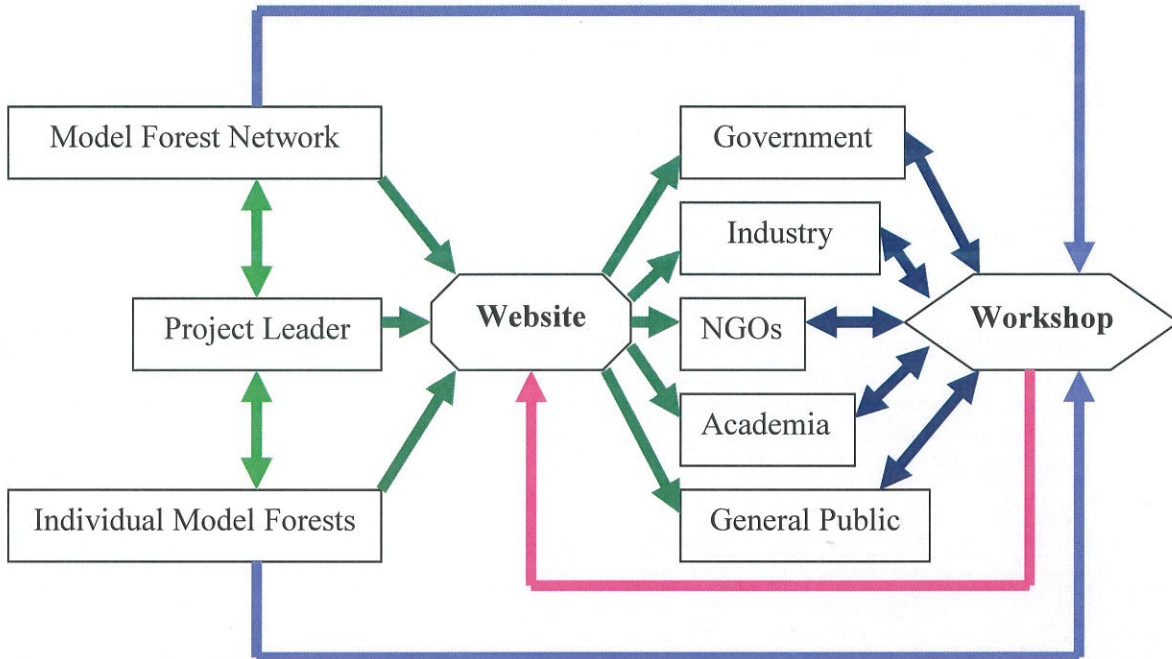
- Creation of closer relationships between and among forest management planners across Canada.
- Increased awareness of forest management planning options.

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*Intermediate Outcomes*

- Increased collaboration between jurisdictions in the studying of forest management planning process components.
- Increased analysis of the benefits and weaknesses of forest management planning approaches.
- Identification of research gaps and opportunities through joint partnerships.

**Communication Strategy**



**Expected Cost**

The expected costs are specified below (see table). Workshops would occur in the next fiscal year. The budgeting includes allowances for ½ person year. A second concept paper – Forest Harvesting and Water Quality – also provides allowances for ½ person year. These two proposals could most logically be implemented in tandem. Listed costs could also be reduced through several avenues – in kind contributions, individual model forest contributions, etc.

Activity	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	TOTAL
Staff (person*years)	\$27,500	\$14,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	<b>\$51,500</b>
Travel	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	<b>\$14,000</b>
Workshops	n/a	\$25,000	n/a	\$35,000	<b>\$60,000</b>
Miscellaneous	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,000	<b>\$5,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$33,500</b>	<b>\$45,000</b>	<b>\$8,000</b>	<b>\$44,000</b>	<b>\$130,500</b>