



CCBAC 2017 Land and Resource Symposium
October 30 & 31, 2017
Williams Lake, BC

Summary, Discussion, and Recommendations



“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has”. Margaret Mead

Executive Summary

Sponsored by the Cariboo-Chilcotin Beetle Action Coalition (CCBAC), the 2017 Land and Resource Symposium convened a mix of: elected officials from local and First Nations governments and their senior staff; representatives of resource-based economic sectors including forestry (major licensees, woodlot associations, community forests), agriculture, tourism, trapping, and guide outfitting; and provincial government agency staff from Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development, Indigenous Relations, and Reconciliation, as well as Agriculture.

Ten panelists brought their expertise about wildlife, fish, habitat, water, air quality, timber supply, agriculture, forest health, fire (wildfires, prescribed fire and management), forest policy and finding a balance between First Nations' traditional land use and western science. Panel presentations helped to tie together the complex challenges and interconnected events that led up to the 2017 wildfires. Panelists discussed the variable effects of the wildfires, the accompanying suppression activities and recovery efforts, as well as the measures needed to lessen the intensity and duration of future wildfire seasons.

The group increased their understanding of current legislative and regulatory plans in place for natural resource management and ecological functions and protection, and worked to identify opportunities and changes needed at the political and legal levels. The event also fostered partnerships across orders of government (municipal, provincial, federal and First Nation), and industry sectors, which if utilized, will bring more political leverage where needed.

On the second day participants focused on a deeper dive into six key areas of interest and concern and developed recommendations for each area based on the information shared by panelists, as well as any additional impacts, challenges or opportunities.

CCBAC will present this summary report to the Provincial government and advocate that the recommendations that resulted from the Land and Resource Symposium be included in the Province's upcoming budget for the fire impacted areas. CCBAC is looking to the new Provincial government to be the leaders in creating a comprehensive vision and the serious political strategies needed to achieve an unprecedented response to the unprecedented wildfire events of 2017.

Summary of Recommendations and Next Steps

The following is a collated list of common themes that emerged during the event. The comprehensive list of all recommendations begins on page 10 of this report.

Assess and Plan Proactively

1. Insist on open and transparent after-action reviews for all large fires with local communities impacted by the fires.
2. Assess the scale and severity of the most recent wildfires soon before the evidence is gone.
3. Risk-manage future threat; treat wherever there is an established risk vs only treat an index of risk (high and extreme hazard stands).
4. Salvage fire-damaged timber in a manner that maximizes economic value, respects other values, and is well coordinated and communicated with other licensed resource users on the landbase. Minimize approval time within FLNRORD.
5. Salvage harvest with habitat and hydrology considerations guiding operations due to excessive run-off effect on fish habitat and retain as much green trees as possible and retain some burnt stands with high habitat value.
6. Refine timber supply reviews and re-calculate annual allowable cut for the three Cariboo-Chilcotin timber supply areas, to enable industry to “right-size” their number and configuration of mills to adapt to a reduced AAC. Collect better inventory data, take a spatial approach to determining AAC, and more accurately take into account land use constraints such as OGMAs, visuals and ungulate winter ranges.
7. Develop landscape-level plans, to “close the gap” between the CCLUP and forest stewardship plans. Involve First Nations effectively.
8. Apply the cumulative effects model that the Province has created and is being piloted in the South Chilcotin to other landscape units in the Region.

Work Towards Efficiency and Effective Communication

1. Address regulatory hurdles and constraints to more effective fuel management activities and create incentives to carry out fuel treatments on both private and Crown land.
2. Streamline grant programs and referrals and improve access to treatment funds, as the current options are too process driven and complex and become barriers rather

than enablers for treatments (Forest Enhancement Society of BC, Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative).

3. Enable FLNRORD to liaise with small, rural communities who lack the resources or capacity to plan and carry-out hazard abatement. Increase communications between BC Wildfire Service and communities – include community representatives on planning teams.
4. Enable shared planning and decision making between all orders of government; First Nation Governments need to be included in the planning, not just the referrals.
5. Continue to build relationships between various land-users (producers, miners, trappers, guide outfitters, forest tenure holders, etc.) the local government and the BC Wildfire Service to ensure future emergency situations build upon the knowledge gained throughout the 2017 wildfire season and address any communication gaps identified.

Re-think the Forest Landscape and Strive for Holistic Forest Health

1. Utilize existing area-based tenures (Community Forest and Woodlot Licences) to proactively address wild land urban interface (WUI) planning issues and to explore non-traditional forest products and tree species (i.e. deciduous).
2. Plan for a future forest industry of smaller logs, deciduous fibre, fibre in smaller format, and biofuels and explore what that means for private industry, jobs and community stability. Work with universities and others to develop new products.
3. Develop bioenergy infrastructure and encourage the markets to address the need to manage forest fuels near communities in the wildland-urban interface. Rather than burning piled material, utilize the fibre and protect communities at the same time.
4. Implement a landscape approach to determine where investments are needed to grow fibre and where areas that burned should revert to grasslands or non-timber harvesting landbase.
5. Provide continuous support for government and community projects that balance between harvest for profit and funded projects. Explore trials to demonstrate what this would look like.
6. Enable a balance of various values; link salvage operations with getting the forest back to health but ensure other ecosystem values are considered.
7. Renew the First Nation traditional land practice of prescribed burning to address the intersection of fuel management, protecting communities and preserving

habitat, ensuring prescribed burning is carried out at the correct time of year for habitat and animal considerations.

8. Shift in worldview from “timber-centric” and look to examples from other places (i.e. Europe) where they have an overall plan that includes wildlife, trails, tourism, and forestry as equally important.
9. Utilize education approaches as an incentive to manage the land for different values and get public buy-in on integrated outcomes i.e. multi-use forests, ecotourism, non-traditional forest products, healthy forest equates to healthy communities etc.
10. Encourage proactive rather than reactive management of forest health in constrained areas such as ungulate winter ranges and old growth management areas.

Introduction

How can various parties with diverse points of view work toward building understanding of the complex land and resource challenges facing the Cariboo-Chilcotin Region? How can these various parties begin to identify collective solutions to the interconnected web of issues that led up to, and were further complicated by, the 2017 wildfires? It was questions like these that spurred the Cariboo Chilcotin Beetle Action Coalition into convening the 2017 CCBAC Land and Resource Symposium. The issues of wildlife, fish, habitat, water, air quality, timber supply, agriculture, forest health, fire (wildfires, prescribed fire and management), current forestry policy, and finding a balance between First Nations' traditional land use and western science are all connected but are often treated as separate parts.

Over 60 participants from local and First Nation governments, the provincial and municipal governments, the forest industry (major licensees, woodlot licensees, and community forest licensees), trappers, guide outfitters, the tourism industry, and interest groups met in Williams Lake to discuss the impacts of the 2017 wildfires on the land, resources, environment and economy of the Cariboo-Chilcotin. It was acknowledged that there are many other parties interested in, and vested in the outcomes of this event, and this was the beginning of a conversation that will need to be carried forward by many different groups.

The purpose of this report, and related online appendices (c-cbac.com/cariboo-chilcotin-land-and-resource-symposium) is to outline the objectives and desired outcomes of the event, welcoming comments, overview of the current situation in the Region, panel presentation synopsis, keynote address, and the summary of recommendations and next steps.

The objectives for the symposium were as follows:

1. Increase understanding of the challenges and opportunities across the Region including the effects of this season's wildfires, for environment and resource based issues including: wildlife, fish, habitat, water, air quality, timber supply, agriculture, forest health, fire (wildfires, prescribed fire and management)
2. Increase understanding of current legislative and regulatory plans in place for natural resource management and ecological functions and protection
3. Identify opportunities and changes needed at the political and legal levels
4. Foster partnerships across orders of government (municipal, provincial, federal and First Nation), and industry sectors

The desired outcomes for the symposium were as follows:

1. Participants will increase their understanding of current plans, policies, and legal measures in place
2. The need for partnerships and collaboration across orders of government and industry sectors will be realised and strengthened
3. A variety of perspectives will be heard from both within the Cariboo-Chilcotin and outside topic experts

4. An analysis of the current challenges and opportunities (protection, utilization of burnt timber, forest rehabilitation, soil, hydrology, range, forest etc.) will be outlined
5. Opportunities to advance regional resilience will be initiated
6. A plan for future protection and mitigation of risks from extreme events will be initiated

Welcoming Comments – Setting the Scene

Elder Virginia Gilbert from T'exelc (Williams Lake Indian Band) gave a welcome and acknowledged the event was taking place on Northern Secwepemc territory and discussed the importance of everyone working together for the benefit of the land and wildlife. Jim Rivett, CCBAC Chair and Mayor of Clinton, delivered a welcoming address and outlined how the event was aimed at addressing environmental and ecological concerns and highlighted how one group or government body cannot solve the challenges facing the Region, especially after the 2017 wildfires, so collaboration is key.

Mike Simpson, Senior Manager with Fraser Basin Council was introduced as the facilitator and expressed the intention of the event was to share information in the way of a dialogue, not a debate. The intent of the symposium was to focus on the challenges and opportunities for land and resource management as a result of fires and pre-existing circumstances and to share the diversity of viewpoints, as well as identify partnerships across orders of government and industry sectors.

Current Situation Plans and Policies

Harold Stolar, District Manager, Cariboo-Chilcotin Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD), gave an overview of natural resource management and land use in the Cariboo-Chilcotin. He noted that the Cariboo Chilcotin Land Use Plan (CCLUP) was created in 1994, and provides the higher level objectives for land use in the region. Other constraints on the landbase (i.e., old growth management areas, ungulate winter range, visual quality objectives, etc.) either were in place before CCLUP, or came about as a result of it. Stolar also explained how annual allowable cut (AAC) is calculated by each of the three timber supply areas (Quesnel, Williams Lake, 100 Mile House), and how other tenures are granted for other land-based activities: range; commercial tourism; guide outfitting; trapping; and other uses. The intention of CCLUP is to find a balance between the values on the land and how they are protected however it does not take into account large scale fire or mountain pine beetle.

Panellists presentation synopsis

For the remainder of the afternoon on the first day of the symposium, a variety of panellists from the provincial government, First Nations, consultants, the forest industry and the Forest Practices Board gave their perspectives on a variety of topics summarised below. The panel presentations were generally guided by the following questions:

- What was the situation at the beginning of 2017?
- What are the impacts of 2017 wildfires on the topic?

- What are the management challenges? Short, medium and long term?
- What are the key opportunities to address the challenges?

For the panellist's presentations, please visit <http://c-cbac.com/land-and-resource-symposium-panel-presentations>

Bob Gray, Fire Ecologist, R.W. Gray Consulting Ltd. has significant experience in fire behaviour. He spoke about the impacts, the challenges of a changing climate, and the fact that managing the fuel (vegetative material) is the most effective way to mitigate fire. Gray emphasized that we must explore new ways to limit the amount of dead wood on the land. Key recommendations involve changes to our forest practices, including increased prescribed fire, increased deciduous trees and grasslands restoration and grazing opportunities, firesmart activities around communities, and opportunities related to large scale industrial bio-energy processing facilities.

Larry Gardner, Vice-President, West Fraser Mills Ltd., spoke from West Fraser's perspective about the impacts, challenges and opportunities for the forest industry. Gardner discussed the long-term impacts of the 2017 fires and called for re-evaluating land use planning. Strategic approaches are needed for economic recovery including prompt salvage of burned timber (due to rapid value decline in severe burned timber) along with identifying areas that will not re-grow trees in the short term, as well as identifying and managing for forage to support wildlife and range values. Prioritizing planning and treatments that support long term forest resiliency and maintenance of multiple values was called for along with considering new approaches to current land use plans and legislation.

Brian McNaughton, General Manager, Federation of BC Woodlot Associations, spoke about timber supply from a woodlot licensee perspective, but also the bigger land use challenges from his past history as a district manager, a woodlot licensee, president of the Williams Lake Community Forest, and a current member of the Minister's Forest and Range Practices Advisory Council. The current challenges facing the forest come from management practise that encouraged a lack of diversity of species and too much fuel loading. When trees are too close together both pests and fires can easily spread from tree to tree, and patch to patch. McNaughton called for action in managing the forests differently by building objectives for fire and forest health into the Forest Range and Practices Act as well as reviewing the current objectives and management practices.

Cordy Cox-Ellis, rancher and President, Cariboo Cattlemen's Association, spoke about the immediate impacts of this past fire season on ranchers, including effects on fencing, natural range barriers and forage, cattle stress and reduced health, and the inability to manage cattle during evacuation orders/alerts. Cox-Ellis also addressed longer-term impacts on cattle health and forage as well as potential opportunities, including grazing to reduce fine-fuel hazards from grasses and the incorporation of local knowledge into fire management practices in future emergencies.

Dr. Lorraine MacLauchlan, entomologist, Forest Sciences, Thompson-Okanagan Region FLNRORD spoke about forest health challenges, in particular Douglas-fir bark beetles in relation to wildfires. She described the beetle situation in the region pre-wildfires and addressed the concerns of Douglas-fir beetle spread in fire-affected areas, the difficulties in locating infestations within burnt areas, and post-fire mortality caused to Douglas Fir. MacLauchlan emphasized the need for salvage and management practices that prioritize the removal of beetle infested trees and ensure monitoring and minimization of beetle spread.

Kerri Howse, Stewardship Forester, Cariboo-Chilcotin District, FLNRORD, highlighted local examples of managing Douglas-fir bark beetle, and the reforestation challenges with Douglas-fir and other resource values such as ungulate winter range. Howse discussed how Douglas-fir regeneration is different than other species and salvage must be done to maximize fir regeneration in sensitive areas. Clear-cut harvest makes regeneration more difficult. She highlighted the need to maintain remnant fir stands to secure mid-term supply, habitat values and seed supply.

Dr. Rita Winkler, hydrologist, Forest Sciences, Thompson-Okanagan Region FLNRORD spoke about the hydrologic (water) cycle, how it works, and what the possible outcomes are from wildfires and loss of forest cover. Winkler explained that depending on wildfire extent and intensity, the loss of forest cover will alter how precipitation impacts streamflow and soil and terrain stability. Best practices for mitigating hydrological impacts will be to minimise riparian disturbance to mitigate erosion and sedimentation, to ensure good drainage management and plan salvage and rehabilitation based on hydrologic regime, landscape, and downstream values. There should be a focus on retention where possible, particularly in snow-dominated ecosystems, and identifying and communicating risks to downstream values.

Chief Patrick Harry, of Stswecem'c Xgat'tem (Canoe/Dog Creek) discussed how poor forest health, the epidemics of beetles and other pests like spruce budworm, contributed to the conditions that lead up to the wildfires. Chief Harry identified the need for better communications between First Nation, Regional District and provincial governments, not only during disasters, but on a day-to-day basis as well. Chief Harry advocated focusing on what positive opportunities have resulted from the fires, such as increased chances to sit down and share strategic priorities. More engagement is needed rather than traditional consultation and referrals through letters on a cutblock by cutblock basis. Increased economic diversification, such as clean energy and alternate uses of forest products was called for to keep the economy stable.

Rodger Stewart, Director Resource Management, Cariboo-Chilcotin FLNRORD spoke about potential impacts of wildfires and forest health issues on fish, wildlife populations and their habitats. He described how ecosystems are in a constant state of change and that the wildfires effects were so varied, broad generalisations or solutions will not be possible and in many cases, the management response to impacts will depend almost entirely on

recovery of ecosystem functions, depending largely on how well vegetation communities respond to post-wildfire conditions. Stewart emphasized the need for investment into measures to recover the proper ecological function of forests for wildlife, watersheds, timber and range productivity, wildfire and forest health resiliency, and recreation.

Tim Ryan, Chair, Forest Practices Board, gave an overview of the board as the independent watchdog of forest and range practices in BC. The mandate of the Board is to promote overall stewardship of the forests in the province, to serve the Public's interests by promoting improved performance from licensees, managers, practitioners and users of the forests, rangelands and resources. This is achieved through the Board completing audits and investigating complaints related to activities occurring on crown lands. In the current policy landscape, decisions are left to forest licensees and their professionals (professional reliance). There is the perception that decision-making excludes other interests, that stakeholders perceive the system as biased and unfair, and that the forest licensee is in a conflict of interest. Tim highlighted several policy issues which the board is monitoring and making recommendations to the provincial government on, including professional reliance and access management.

CCBAC directors Chief Stuart Alec and Chief Ervin Charleyboy were scheduled to present on Southern Dakelh (Carrier) and Tsilhqot'in perspectives, respectively, but were not present.

Keynote Address

Bob Simpson, Mayor of Quesnel and CCBAC director, shared stories of his different roles in the Cariboo-Chilcotin over the years, including: teacher, writer, forest industry executive, consultant, MLA, and now mayor. Mayor Simpson discussed the need to manage the forest in a more resilient way that allows for multiple values beyond fibre and saw logs and advocated for a decrease in volume based tenures. He advocated utilising the forest for non-traditional products (i.e. bio-fuels, deciduous fibre) and using the model of the 'working forest' where different values are managed for. Based on his experiences, he outlined how "bad process begets bad outcomes" and talked about how good process wrestles with the complexity of situations. Mayor Simpson challenged those present to take unprecedented action to address this unique crisis, as opposed to tinkering with the status quo.

The Recommendations and Next Steps

On Day 2, participants had the option to participate in three of six breakout sessions on the topics of:

- fire and its management;
- timber/fibre supply;
- forest health
- fish, wildlife and habitat;
- agriculture; ; and

- hydrology/water.

Participants were asked to debrief what struck them from the panellist's presentation; add any additional impacts, challenges or opportunities, and identify the most immediate next steps. Based on this information, the following set of recommendations has been developed. Find the complete notes from each breakout group at <http://c-bac.com/cariboo-chilcotin-land-and-resource-symposium>

Fire and Its Management Recommendations and Next Steps

1. Address regulatory hurdles and constraints to more effective fuel management activities and create incentives to carry out fuel treatments on both private and Crown land.
2. Streamline grant programs and referrals and improve access to treatment funds, as the current options are too process driven and complex and have become barriers rather than enablers for treatments (Forest Enhancement Society of BC, Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative).
3. Utilize existing area-based tenures (Community Forest and Woodlot Licences) to proactively address wild land urban interface (WUI) planning issues and to explore non-traditional forest products and tree species (i.e. deciduous).
4. Enable FLNRORD to liaise with small, rural communities who lack the resources or capacity to plan and carry-out hazard abatement and increase communications between BC Wildfire Service and communities – include community representatives on planning teams.
5. Insist on open and transparent after-action reviews for all large fires with local communities impacted by the fires.
6. Assess the scale and severity of the most recent wildfires before the evidence is gone.
7. Risk manage future threat; treat areas where there is an established risk rather than only treat an index of risk (high and extreme hazard stands).

Timber/Fibre Supply Recommendations and Next Steps

1. Enable more effective First Nations engagement regarding fire salvage that looks at larger areas and encourages working together, rather than a cutblock-by-cutblock referral process through correspondence only.

2. Salvage fire-damaged timber in a manner that maximizes economic value, respects other values, and is well-coordinated and communicated with other licensed resource users on the landbase. Minimize approval time within FLNRORD.
3. Refine timber supply reviews and re-calculate annual allowable cut for the three Cariboo-Chilcotin timber supply areas, to enable industry to “right-size” their number and configuration of mills to adapt to a reduced AAC. Collect better inventory data, take a spatial approach to determining AAC, and more accurately take into account land use constraints such as OGMAs, visuals and ungulate winter ranges.
4. Plan for a future forest industry of smaller logs, deciduous fibre, fibre in smaller format, and biofuels, and consider what that means for private industry, jobs and community stability. Work with universities and others to develop new products.
5. Develop bioenergy infrastructure and encourage the markets to address the need to manage forest fuels near communities in the wildland-urban interface. Rather than burning piled material, utilize the fibre and protect communities at the same time.
6. Develop landscape-level plans, to “close the gap” between the CCLUP and forest stewardship plans. Involve First Nations effectively in this process.
7. Implement a landscape approach to determine where investments are needed to grow fibre, and where areas that burned should revert to grasslands, or a non-timber harvesting landbase.

Forest Health Recommendations and Next Steps

1. Encourage proactive rather than reactive management of forest health in constrained areas such as ungulate winter ranges and old growth management areas.
2. Enable a balance of various values. For example, link salvage operations with getting the forest back to health but ensure other ecosystem values are considered.
3. Empower communities to have more area based tenures (i.e. woodlots, community forests, first nation woodlands tenures).
4. Utilize education approaches as an incentive to manage the land for different values and get public buy-in on integrated outcomes i.e. multi-use forests, ecotourism, non-traditional forest products, healthy forest equates to healthy communities etc.

5. Provide continuous support for government and community projects that balance between harvest for profit and funded projects. Trials are needed to demonstrate what this would look like.

Fish, Wildlife and Habitat Recommendations and Next Steps

1. Mitigate access management to decrease predation on and disturbance of wildlife and increase habitat values, as well as decrease some of the cumulative impacts to fish and wildlife.
2. Apply the cumulative effects model that the Province has created and is being piloted in the South Chilcotin to other landscape units in the Region.
3. Renew the First Nation traditional land practice of prescribed burning to address the intersection of fuel management, protecting communities and preserving habitat, while ensuring prescribed burning is carried out at the correct time of year for habitat and animal considerations.
4. Create more area-based tenures in partnership with communities to balance and protect community values while encouraging habitat for other values (i.e. eco-tourism).
5. Salvage harvest with habitat and hydrology considerations guiding operations due to excessive run-off affect on fish habitat. Retain as many green trees as possible and retain some burnt stands with high habitat value.
6. Enable shared planning and decision making between all orders of government. First Nation Governments need to be included in the planning, not just the referrals process.
7. Identify communications and research gaps between groups (trappers, guide outfitters etc.).
8. Shift in worldview from “timber-centric” and look to examples from other places (i.e. Europe) where they have an overall plan that includes wildlife, trails, tourism, and forestry as equally important.

Agriculture Recommendations and Next Steps

1. Ensure range fences are rebuilt in burned areas. Assess the impacts to natural range barriers and explore opportunities to prevent cattle migration in these areas.

2. Explore seeding opportunities on burned areas to establish increased forage for cattle as well as to prevent the influx of invasive species.
3. Increase education about agriculture and ranching to the general public with an emphasis on the potential for grazing as a means of 'firesmarting' a community as well as the need for a change away from dense forest as a desired viewscape.
4. Explore the potential to adjust silviculture practices in accordance with the fire's impacts on the land and local hydrology and plant/seed in accordance with best future success.
5. Continue to build relationships between producers, local government and the BC Wildfire Service to ensure future emergency situations build upon the knowledge gained throughout the 2017 wildfire season and address any communication gaps identified.
6. Consider extending/adding range tenures in areas where there may be an increase in forage and a deficit of other resources (i.e. timber).

Hydrology/Water Recommendations and Next Steps

1. Research watershed level governance to find a model that will work in the Region to provide mechanisms for landscape level management, mitigate further impacts, increase leveraging through different organizations, and undertake planning from the ground up with guidance and resourcing from all orders of government.
2. Determine cumulative impacts on watersheds. Consider the effects of various industries with direct and indirect impacts, roads, climate change, and now ash, clay and loss of vegetation after the fire that will increase temperature and sedimentation.
3. Identify best practices for replanting and stabilising the landbase after the fires (i.e. examples from The Filman Report in 2003).
4. Coordinate a meeting of all the water people to continue to share information and provide input to continued recovery works by Spring 2018.
5. Foster high level coordination to ensure that restoration and salvage harvesting does not cause more problems (i.e. a MPB disturbance, followed by a wildfire disturbance, followed by a harvesting disturbance).

6. Find a mechanism for watershed level management within existing policies or create a new direction (CCLUP is not dynamic enough). Collaboration between all relevant parties is needed to share knowledge, to make better decisions, and to increase understanding while still moving forward.

Moving Forward

The 2017 wildfires were a catalyst for change in the Cariboo-Chilcotin, both in the tangible impacts to the land, the people and the animals who rely on it for survival, but also a catalyst for change in how the landscape is perceived and managed as a result. The recommendations that were captured at the CCBAC Land and Resource Symposium underscore the need to create comprehensive landscape-level plans that can account for the multitude of values inherent on the land. Landscape-level plans aim to effectively “close the gap” between the CCLUP and forest stewardship plans.

Identifying the complex (and sometimes conflicting) intersections between fuel management, forest health, protection of community values, hydrology, agriculture, mining, tourism, wildlife, habitat and access to forest products is needed to move forward. There is an identified need to accelerate work already taking place in the Region on cumulative impacts, access management, diversifying beyond traditional timber harvesting, expanding shared decision making with First Nations, increasing area-based tenures, and landscape-level management. Long term collaborative planning and management that encourages ecosystem restoration and recovery, coupled with a funding environment that makes entire ecosystems a priority, will help to proactively address the issues facing the Cariboo-Chilcotin.

At the close of the symposium, CCBAC Chair Jim Rivett advised that this summary paper would be produced, and that CCBAC will advocate for the provincial government to take continued action. CCBAC will work to advance the recommendations within their mandate and enable other organisations within the Region to advance other recommendations. CCBAC will also connect with related initiatives that have taken place in the Region to ensure the momentum for change is continued.

CCBAC is advocating that the Provincial government prioritize the recommendations that resulted from the Land and Resource Symposium in their upcoming budget for the fire impacted areas. CCBAC is looking to the new Provincial government to be the leaders in creating a comprehensive vision and the serious political strategies needed to achieve an unprecedented response to the unprecedented wildfire events of 2017.