



## FIA Forest Science Program

# What's new for 2005/06

**E**ach research project funded by the FIA-FSP is required to provide related and topic-appropriate extension activities.

by FIA-FSP Secretariat

The Forest Investment Account's (FIA) Forest Science Program (FSP) has now allocated its funds for 2005/06. Of the overall research budget of \$8.3 million, almost \$1.0 million will support new single-year projects and over \$1.2 million will go to new multi-year projects. The balance of \$6.1 million is targeted for continuing multi-year projects and maintenance activities on selected long-term research installations.

This year's group of new projects meets the priority themes for 2005/06 set out by the FIA-FSP Board for the two research programs:

### Sustainability Program

1. Ecosystem structure, function, and processes; and biodiversity related to forest management:
  - riparian ecology and management of small streams
  - coarse filter approaches to maintaining biodiversity at the landscape scale
  - effectiveness of stand-level structures and habitat in maintaining biodiversity
2. Sustainable forest management indicators, targets, and monitoring systems:
  - indicators and monitoring systems

**Table 1** Examples of Sustainability Program projects for 2005/06

Title	Proponent
Amphibians as indicators of wetland habitat conservation under variable retention harvesting practices	Bill Beese (Cascadia Forest Products)
Establishing a scientific basis for recovery of woodland caribou in north-central British Columbia	Scott McNay (consultant)
Evaluating and refining guidelines for forested buffers for grizzly bear habitat management	Bruce McLellan (B.C. Ministry of Forests and Range)

**Table 2** Examples of Timber Growth and Value Program projects for 2005/06

Title	Proponent
Regeneration and stand structure in stands in the east Ootsa and Entiako areas after infestation by mountain pine beetles	Debbie Cichowski (Bulkley Valley Centre)
Evaluation of an ecosystem-based approach to mixed-wood modelling	Brad Seely (U.B.C.)
Predicting advanced regeneration density in lodgepole pine stands in the Northern Interior of British Columbia	Philip Burton (NRCan)

- indicator targets and functional thresholds of sustainability
3. Scientific information to inform policy, regulations, and FRPA practice requirements:
    - species at risk recovery research

### Timber Growth and Value Program

1. Basic research on tree growth and stand development:
  - complex stands
2. Design and analysis of silvicultural systems:
  - complex stands
3. Growth and yield modelling/predictions:
  - complex stands
  - estimating impacts
4. Timber losses to environmental factors (wind, drought, insects, and disease):
  - stand and forest dynamics following mountain pine beetle

A sampling of projects is listed in Tables 1 and 2.

### Extension Program

Each research project funded by the FIA-FSP is required to provide related and topic-appropriate extension activities. This project-level extension is carried out as part of the project, using project funds. The FIA-FSP also supports a provincial Forest Extension Program that is delivered by the provincial forest extension provider, FORREX, which plans, co-ordinates, and undertakes activities to:

- synthesize existing knowledge on key forest policy, management, and practice issues;
- identify user needs for information and knowledge;

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# Extension important to research

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- enhance awareness and application of effective extension practices; and
- provide users with the knowledge and tools they require to manage Crown forests effectively.

In 2005, the provincial extension provider, with Extension Program Advisory Committee input, will complete a strategy to deliver existing and new knowledge to practitioners and decision makers. The strategy will identify extension goals and objectives, priority topics, and a schedule for undertaking extension to 2010.

"I am pleased with the progress the Board and its Program Advisory Committees are making in providing focus to the FSP," says FSP Board chair Bill Bourgeois. "The Strategic and Business Plans, and the work being done by the research and extension

communities, will greatly assist in making the FIA-FSP a valuable contribution to advancing forest management in British Columbia. I encourage all foresters, biologists, and technicians to monitor the progress and results, and become involved."

This year, the Board has also funded three proponent-driven projects, which deal with (1) prediction of tree-growth response to climate change, (2) baseline studies on economic value and compatible management of non-timber forest products, and (3) synthesis of research on the nutritional sustainability of variable retention harvesting.

The FIA-FSP continues to produce timely and relevant results. More information on the program is available on the FIA-FSP Web site ([www.fia-fsp.ca](http://www.fia-fsp.ca)). A complete listing of this year's projects is found in the 2005/06 Business Plan, which can be downloaded from the Web site or obtained in hardcopy from the Secretariat. 

## More Information

For more information, please contact the FIA-FSP Secretariat at 250-360-1492 or [fsb@cortex.ca](mailto:fsb@cortex.ca)