



FGrOW VISION AND MISSION

July 7, 2016

BACKGROUND

The Forest Growth Organization of Western Canada (FGrOW) was formed in 2015 as an amalgamation of the Alberta Forest Growth Organization, the Foothills Growth and Yield Association, the Mixedwood Management Association and the Western Boreal Growth and Yield Association. In 2016, Tree Improvement Alberta became a project team of FGrOW. As a new organization, it is vital for FGrOW to understand its role within forestry in western Canada, how it relates to other organizations, and the needs of its members.

FGrOW's Vision and Mission statement, and its associated goals, are intended to provide a common understanding of FGrOW and its intended outcomes. This document acts as a standard against which FGrOW can measure its success and provides guidance in initiating new activities. It is also a communication tool to be used by members and to help establish an identity for FGrOW.

BENEFITS OF FGrOW

The key benefits that FGrOW brings to its members are:

- More effective use of funds and reduced chance of duplicating efforts through collective priority setting and planning,
- Training and tech transfer that ensures that results are implementable,

- Efficient use of members' time by reducing numbers of meetings, and
- Shared data collection leading to cost savings for member organizations.

VISION

FGrOW is the leader in cooperative growth and yield research, model development and data management in western Canada. FGrOW drives the advancement of the science of forest growth and provides information to support policy development and changes in forestry practices.

MISSION

FGrOW serves its members by providing access to better forest growth data and knowledge, and to tools that support forest management decision-making. FGrOW facilitates collaboration, seeks partnerships, identifies efficiencies for its members, and pursues alternative funding sources to advance member-defined priorities.

GOALS

- **Improve practice through the development of best practices and tools.**
 - Develop minimum standards and recommended best practices for sampling programs and data collection.
 - Support forest growth model development.
 - Support the development of tools that will accurately reflect forest growth in natural and managed stands under a range of conditions and in response to management activities.
 - Help members realize investments in silviculture and tree improvement by ensuring that growth response is accurately reflected in approved growth models.
 - Assist in production of guidelines for growth and yield plan and yield curve development

or other practices of interest to members.

Current Initiatives: MGM (UofA), FRIPSY, GYPSY (GOA), Support for G&Y Model Development

- **Facilitate discussion among members on forest management practices related to growth and yield policy and provide input on growth and yield policy.**

- Strike working groups to develop recommendations for addressing identified areas of concern to members.
- Provide technical review of proposed policy changes when invited by government or other agencies.
- Engage members in discussions that encourage collaboration.

Current Initiatives: Cutblock Inventory Classification Subcommittee, Development of Guidelines for Implementing PGYI within a Growth and Yield Plan, Liaise with Alberta Forest Products Association (AFPA)

- **Provide a venue for members to collectively prioritize, pursue and implement forest growth research and related analysis.**

- Identify existing gaps and emerging topics and their linkages to the science of forest growth.
- Develop and support proposals for external funding (e.g. FRIAA open funds).
- Support the implementation of projects that receive funding, including publication of results in peer reviewed journals.

Current Initiatives: Annual review of research priorities, ad hoc proposal development workshops, Expanded Climate Change Adaptation Testing, Mortality Project, Understory Protection Project, Realized Gain Trials, Site Index Estimation Project

- **Coordinate collaborative solutions in forest growth data collection and management.**

- Centrally manage programs for data management and/or field measurements where it is the most efficient means of implementation.
- Enable collection of data suitable for growth model validation, development and enhancement and allow members to achieve cost-savings in their growth and yield programs through collaborative data collection.

Current Initiatives: Collaborative Management of Historic Research Trials, Dynamic Aspen Density Experiment, Enhanced Post Harvest Assessment Project, MPB Monitoring, MPB PSP Network, Provincial Growth and Yield Initiative, Regenerated Lodgepole Pine Trial, Strip Cut Understory Protection Study, WESBOGY Long Term Study

- **Deliver and facilitate training and extension for practitioners.**

- Build extension materials, including reports and research summaries or QuickNotes.
- Hold sessions to communicate findings and train practitioners on use of tools and models.
- Conduct field tours to enhance on-the-ground experience for members and partners
- Ensure that research is communicated to practitioners and government in a way that enables implementation of relevant results and facilitates associated changes in policy.
- Support development of qualified practitioners in the field of growth and yield.

Current Initiatives: Annual General Meeting, FGrOW field tours

6) Raise profile of growth and yield.

- Meet with senior managers of member organizations to discuss FGrOW's results and members' priorities for research.
- Communicate with managers in the energy and other natural resources sectors about the value of FGrOW's work.
- Maintain an FGrOW presence at select conferences or meetings, such as the AFPA or CIF AGMs.
- Maintain a website that highlights FGrOW's work and which makes reports available.

Current Initiatives: Publicly available website

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

- **Defensible data:** Quality data collected to agreed-upon standards maximizes its potential utility.
 - **Target:** PSP measurements are submitted to the PGYI database for all FMA in Alberta.
- **Application of results:** Research is completed, models and tools are developed, and knowledge is transferred to members.
 - **Target:** A minimum of 5 tech-transfer products, such as QuickNotes or workshops, are produced annually.
- **Reduced costs:** Association activities and strategic collaborations will lead to efficient use of member investments.
 - **Target:** 75% of members report that FGrOW's work has led to cost savings.

- **Enabling informed decision making:** Scientifically defensible results support choices made by practitioners and support policy development.
 - **Target:** Two papers published in peer-reviewed journals annually.

- **Training:** Members gain knowledge through participation; training of new practitioners to develop skills needed to contribute to future research.
 - **Target:** 100% of member organizations have staff attending at least one training session annually.

- **Membership: Value of FGrOW is recognized by its members and within the growth and yield community.**
 - **Target:** FGrOW membership is stable or growing.