

Project Statement

BC Coastal Forest Sector Development Initiative

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| Program | Harvesting and Conversion |
| Project Title | Coastal Hem-Fir for Composite Products |
| Project Number | H.07 |
| Project Leader | Chunping Dai |
| Project Team | Brad Wang |
| Start Date | April 1, 2008 |
| Completion Date | March 31, 2009 |

Rationale:

On the BC coast, there may be considerable opportunities to use hemlock and amabilis fir (hem-fir) species for manufacture of high-value composite wood products. The advantage of composite products is that the performance is not necessarily limited by fibre quality. Potential composite products include traditional plywood, LVL and strand lumber as well as other novel products for niche markets (e.g. thick, light-weight strand panels to replace concrete slabs in non-residential construction).

This project will investigate opportunities for using hem-fir in composite wood products. The results of this project will provide data that will be incorporated into the work being undertaken in the Products and Markets program area.

Key Objectives:

- To identify and demonstrate one or more new composite product opportunities for hem-fir.

Project Methodology:

The product opportunities will be developed through collaboration with our market group and field studies.

Project Milestones:

| Activities | Planned Completion Date |
|--|-------------------------|
| Collaboration with the Marketing Group to gather market intelligent | July, 2008 |
| Field studies and mill visits to identify realistic product potentials | October, 2008 |
| Reporting | March, 2009 |

Key Deliverables:

- Identification of one or two product opportunities

Expected Long-term Outcomes:

Help the coastal industry to realize maximum value of hem-fir using composite product technologies.

Potential Impact:

This project will help to identify new composite products that could potentially help the coastal industry to realize maximum value of hem-fir. The advantage of composite products is that the performance is not necessarily limited by fibre quality.

Collaboration:

Along with Forintek's western lab, Helsinki University of Technology, Finland, and ENSAM-LABOMAP, France, are two of the most active groups working in the veneer product area. A student from ENSAM will be hired to assist with this project.

Linkages to other BC Coastal Initiative projects including P.02, P.03, R.01.