

PractiSFM: Implementation, communication and optimisation

PROJECT TEAM

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COMPLETION DATE

December 2013

OBJECTIVES

- Field testing and validation of the system (the multi-resource inventory procedure and the decision-support component) with the help of management companies. The reporting requirements of those owners/managers who seek forest certification will be included in the validation process;
- Further development of the existing system in co-operation with management companies, including the reporting requirements for certification;
- The introduction of a wider range of management options that move away from the standard, static yield table based thinning and clearfell systems, towards flexible, user-defined management strategies, such as target diameter management, specified cash flow and rate-of-return generation, flexible thinning and rotation classifications, continuous cover management, and other non-standard or multi-resource management practices;
- The development of an optimisation component to the PractiSFM system, including an objective procedure to compare,

weight and integrate the owner's objectives and requirements into the mathematical modelling process;

- The development of a communication system, enabling the uploading of PractiSFM management plan information into a central database, allowing for the development of multi-resource production forecasts for the private forest estate and for facilitating the day-to-day business contacts of management companies with the Forest Service in areas such as grant applications, felling licence approval and record keeping;
- The implementation of the completed system in the private forest management sector by providing a training and support service.

PROGRESS

The project started in January 2008. Preparatory work began in September 2007, including familiarisation of team members with the multi-resource inventory methodology and decision support software. The User Manual for PractiSFM has been updated.

ACTIVITIES PLANNED

It is planned to initiate the research work by introducing PractiSFM to the three management companies who are partners in the project. Feedback will be evaluated and, where possible, modifications will be made to the system to enhance its usefulness.

A start will be made with the development of the optimisation module by investigating methods to capture stakeholders' preferences and to translate these into optimisation goals and weights.