

## **Extension Tools for Recovery Team Program Planning**

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All Recovery Teams and Recovery Implementation Groups in British Columbia are expected to develop recovery action plans to describe their goals and objectives and how they will achieve these goals. In cases where species recovery depends on improvements or changes in several different sectors, this planning process can be quite complicated. Implementing a successful recovery action plan depends in part on the ability of each group to communicate effectively with different individuals (e.g. resource management sector, community groups, ranchers, etc...). Ensuring that each of these client groups has access to relevant information in appropriate formats will increase the likelihood that these groups will not only change their level of knowledge about threats to a particular species, but also change their behaviour to decrease threats to the species. This process is referred to as extension — where communication tools are tailored to specific client groups that should result in behavioural changes in these groups. It is these behavioural changes that are essential for recovery success.

FORREX – the Forest Research Extension Partnership – has been providing extension planning support to a number of Recovery Teams/Recovery Implementation Groups in British Columbia. This support has helped these groups formulate effective action plans by taking them through a logical process which helps them:

- Develop specific goals for the Recovery Team or Recovery Implementation Group;
- Identify key impacts on the species population;
- Identify client groups to whom information should be extended (based on the key impacts), and describe best methods to reach these client groups;
- Identify existing information which may be extended to client groups;
- Identify knowledge gaps/research needs with respect to key impacts on species populations;
- Prioritize actions to ensure that the greatest impact is made for the least resources;
- Define measurable objectives to allow these groups to show how their program has been successful.

In order to help facilitate extension planning for recovery initiatives, the Conservation Biology Extension Program within FORREX is developing a guide to extension program planning specifically for recovery teams. This guide will provide recovery teams and recovery implementation groups with the tools to develop effective communication/extension plans that are critical to the success of their program.