

Examining the 'state of the art' of cumulative effects policy through an interjurisdictional comparative case study

Project Collaborators: Chris Buse, Art Fredeen, Chris Johnson, Matt Mumma and Michelle Venter

Project Funders: UNBC General Research Fund

Project Status: Draft manuscript, Aiming for Spring 2018 Submission

Project Description: The need to address and understand cumulative effects in British Columbia is gaining widespread recognition, as multiple resource industries continue operating across the landscape, land uses and local values conflict, significant speculation on future projects accelerates, and policy frameworks to manage cumulative impacts to environments and communities emerge. The challenges associated with adequately measuring and monitoring cumulative effects were documented in a 2015 report issued by the BC Auditor General, which concluded that cumulative effects were not being adequately addressed or accounted for within the current BC Cumulative Effects Framework (BC CEF) and associated environmental assessment processes (BC Auditor General 2015). In response to these conclusions, the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is developing and implementing a [policy framework](#) aimed at addressing the cumulative effects of multiple forms of land use and resource development operations. This project will compare BC's emerging policy with other provincial, national, and international best practices in cumulative effects assessment to extract lessons for the continued development of the provincial policy framework. Ultimately, this project seeks to strengthen BC's cumulative effects assessment and monitoring processes in order to enhance the sustainability of communities and ecosystems across the province.

Role of the CIRC: CIRC staff are collaborating with researchers from across UNBC on this project. CIRC staff will provide strategic project oversight, utilize research outcomes in ongoing research and community engagement activities, and ensure insights gained help to inform a broader understanding of cumulative effects assessment and monitoring in BC, and beyond.

Key Deliverables: Key research outcomes will be collated in a policy brief and circulated to contacts at the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development.