



British Columbia
**Community
Forest**
Association

local people, local forests, local decisions

COMMUNITY FOREST INDICATORS 2018

MEASURING THE BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY FORESTRY



WE WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR SINCERE GRATITUDE to everyone that made the time and effort to participate in the survey. The Community Forest Indicators Project would not be possible without the participation of our members. Thank you also to the British Columbia Community Forest Association Board of Directors and the Community Forest Indicators Project Advisory Group for guidance and support.

— Jennifer Gunter, BCCFA Executive Director & Susan Mulkey, BCCFA Manager of Communication & Extension

COMMUNITY FOREST INDICATORS 2018
MEASURING THE BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY FORESTRY

September 2018

Cover photos: Powell River CF tree planter, Anji Smith; Slocan Integral Forestry Co-Op (SIFCo) wildfire mitigation, Rachael Bone; Slocan Valley sign, Susan Mulkey; Wells Grey CF bike trail, George Brcko; LNTCFS dew drop on lupine, Mike Francis

Graphic design by Nadene Rehnby, Hands on Publications



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BELLA COOLA COMMUNITY FOREST, HANS GRANANDER PHOTO

Executive Summary

THIS REPORT SUMMARIZES the results of BC Community Forest Association's fourth Community Forest Indicators Survey. Twenty years since the introduction of the community forest agreement tenure, there are now 58 community forests in BC. These provincial forest tenures give communities, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, the opportunity to manage local forests for local benefit, challenging them to incorporate economic, social, cultural and environmental values.

Twenty years since the introduction of the community forest agreement tenure, there are now 58 community forests in BC.

The benefits that accrue to local communities, and to the province as a whole, from this innovative form of forest management can be seen as the return on investment. To better understand this return, the British Columbia Community Forest Association (BCCFA) has developed a system to measure and track the benefits of community forests in BC.

Eighteen indicators provide tangible, quantitative information on the economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits that community forests generate. Based on work with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, independent advisors and community forest practitioners, we identified the most common and easy to measure indicators that can be applied regardless of the organizational structure of a community forest or the location and ecosystem characteristics of the land base.

Forty community forests participated in the 2017/2018 survey, providing data from their last reporting year, specific to their operations. This sample represents 93% of the operating community forests in the BCCFA. Most are small rural communities, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, with an average population of 3,360. Sixty-six per cent of respondents represent communities of under 3,000 people and 39% per cent represent communities under 1,000.

The community forest organizations operate relatively small forest tenures, with an average Allowable Annual Cut (AAC) of 39,000 m³. While they may be small, the interplay of the results reported on the 18 indicators tells the

story of how important community forests are to their communities and the province.

Every community forest is unique and each one strives to generate benefits as defined by the local community. This report shows what can be achieved when communities are empowered to manage the forests that surround them.

This year's results show that community forests are creating 63% more jobs/m³ than the industry average in their forestry operations. They operate in sensitive areas and are meeting their cut control while reliably supplying logs to both major processing facilities and small manufacturers. They generate \$1.3 million/year in economic activity, on average, and contributed an average of \$359,000 cash and in-kind to local projects. The total funds donated to community projects by the participating community forests in the reporting year alone exceeded \$12 million.

Eighteen indicators measure progress towards the following four key objectives:

1. Community forests provide economic benefits to their communities and to British Columbia.
2. Community forests provide social benefits to their communities and to the province; they promote community involvement and participation, and forest worker safety.
3. Community forests promote communication and strengthen relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities and persons.
4. Community forest management is consistent with sound principles of environmental stewardship that reflect a broad spectrum of values.

The Community Forest Indicators Report was written for everyone that wants to learn more about community forestry in BC. It will be of interest to leaders, organizers and decision-makers at the local, provincial, and First Nations level. Resource management professionals and forest workers can learn what is happening across the province, and community members where community forests exist, as well as people in places motivated to manage local forests, will gain insight and inspiration. Readers will learn how community forests become integrated into local communities, building trust and cultivating social licence. Themes of ingenuity and creativity emerge, like how to combine ecosystem restoration, wildfire management, recreation, education and job creation into one project!

We hope you will enjoy reading it as much as we enjoy sharing the stories.



LOWER NORTH THOMPSON COMMUNITY FOREST SOCIETY

Leveraging CFA Profits

"In 2017, we partnered with Simcpw First Nation to conduct fuel reduction treatments in and around the reserve area, and to develop and expand the mountain bike trail network as part of the Simcpw First Nation McBride to Barriere Mountain Bike Recreation & Tourism Initiative. In our community grants, \$5,000 went to the Simcpw Youth Program, \$10,000 to the Chu Chua Volunteer Fire Department, and \$4,500 to Simcpw for Water Engineering Technology Certified Technician training. We are also using the CFA profits and tenure to leverage and create economic development in the valley through our recent land purchase and establishment of a small milling and value-added operation."

LOWER NORTH THOMPSON COMMUNITY
FOREST SOCIETY PHOTO



STUDENTS IN THE FIELD ON THE LOGAN LAKE COMMUNITY FOREST LEARNING ABOUT THE FIRESMART PROGRAM, GARNET MIREAU PHOTO

Economic Benefits

- Community forests create local jobs. The reporting community forests created on average 0.39 full time jobs/1,000 m³ in forestry, logging and support services, which is 63% more than the industry average of 0.24 jobs/1,000 m³. When activities such as trail building, firefighting and scientific study are included, the coefficient goes up to 0.42 jobs/1,000m³.
- Community forests boost local economic activity. Through their operations, they contributed an average of \$1.3 million to their local economies, most of which have populations of 3,000 people or less.
- Community forests support local priorities by sharing their profits. They donated an average of \$359,000 cash and in-kind to local projects. They used their profits to leverage, on average, another \$169,800 for community projects.
- Community forests are investing in the future economic return of the forest through intensive silviculture. The combined investment in the reporting year was \$2.1 million, 53% of which came from their own funds. Collectively they treated a total of 2,600 hectares.

Social Benefits

- Community forests are working to protect residents from the threat of wildfire. Half of the respondents made investments to reduce the threat in the reporting year. They treated an average of 71 hectares and spent \$17,000 of their own funds to reduce wildfire risk. To date, the reporting community forests have collectively treated 3,522 hectares and invested over \$1.8 million for wildfire mitigation. They managed an additional \$6.5 million from outside sources.
- 70% of respondents have collaborated with their local government on Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative projects.
- Recreation is a key benefit. Community forests invested an average of \$26,600 in the reporting year. They built or maintained, on average, 18 km of trail. In total, respondents built or maintained 282 km of trail in the reporting period.
- Community forests support education. Sixty-six per cent of respondents invested funds and/or time in education, collectively spending \$176,000 and 1,770 hours.



SIMPCW BIKE TRAIL, ROBIN MUNSHAW, MOUNTAIN BIKE BC PHOTO

Cultural Benefits

- Fifty-three per cent of survey respondents are community forest that are held by First Nations or in partnership with one or more First Nations. Forty per cent have First Nations representation on their board of directors.
- Forty-three per cent have employment contracts with First Nations, and 38% of community forests engage in cooperative planning with local First Nations.

Environmental Benefits

- Community forests operate in challenging areas around communities. Twenty-nine per cent of the land base of the reporting community forests is deemed sensitive.
- Thirty six per cent of community forests made investments in forest stewardship, incremental to legal requirements, averaging a \$124,000 investment and treating 625 ha each.

The quantitative information summarized in this report is augmented with stories and examples from the participating community forests. The first-hand examples, in addition to the data collected, fully illustrate the benefits and the significant impacts community forests have in their communities.

Background information on the Community Forest Indicators survey questions and methodology as well as an electronic copy of this report can be found on our website at bccfa.ca/category/indicators/. Visit our website at www.bccfa.ca to learn more about the BCCFA and community forestry in BC.



PONSSE HARVESTER, JENNIFER GUNTER PHOTO

The Burns Lake Community Forest (BLCF) is working hard to recover mountain pine beetle killed timber and reduce the risk of wildfire.

The block pictured above is unique because it is part of the mountain bike park/Kager Lake/Boer Mountain recreation area where they are managing for community, recreational & visual quality values all in one complex bundle. The operator used a Ponsse harvester that allows for a light touch on the ground and cuts the trees to length in the forest.

With an investment of approximately \$1 million, the BLCF has developed an innovative Mountain Pine Beetle Mitigation Plan to transition to a post-mountain pine beetle reality that includes Forest Stewardship Council Certification, partnerships with the local Indigenous People and comprehensive community engagement. BLCF is working to maintain a steady fibre flow to support sustainable local milling jobs.

The measures BLCF has taken to position them for the future, demonstrate a rare commitment to the long term economic, social and environmental health of the land and of the community.

Community Forests in BC

■ = Contributed to the *Community Forest Indicators 2018* report

100 Mile House Community Forest

Alberni Valley Community Forest

Babine Lake Community Forest

Bamfield-Huu-ay-aht Community Forest

Barkley Community Forest

Bella Coola Community Forest

Burns Lake Community Forest

Cascade Lower Canyon Community Forest

Cheakamus Community Forest

Cherryville Community Forest

Cheslatta Carrier Community Forest

Chinook Community Forest

Clinton and District Community Forest

Cortes Community Forest

Creston Valley Community Forest

Dungate Community Forest

Dunster Community Forest

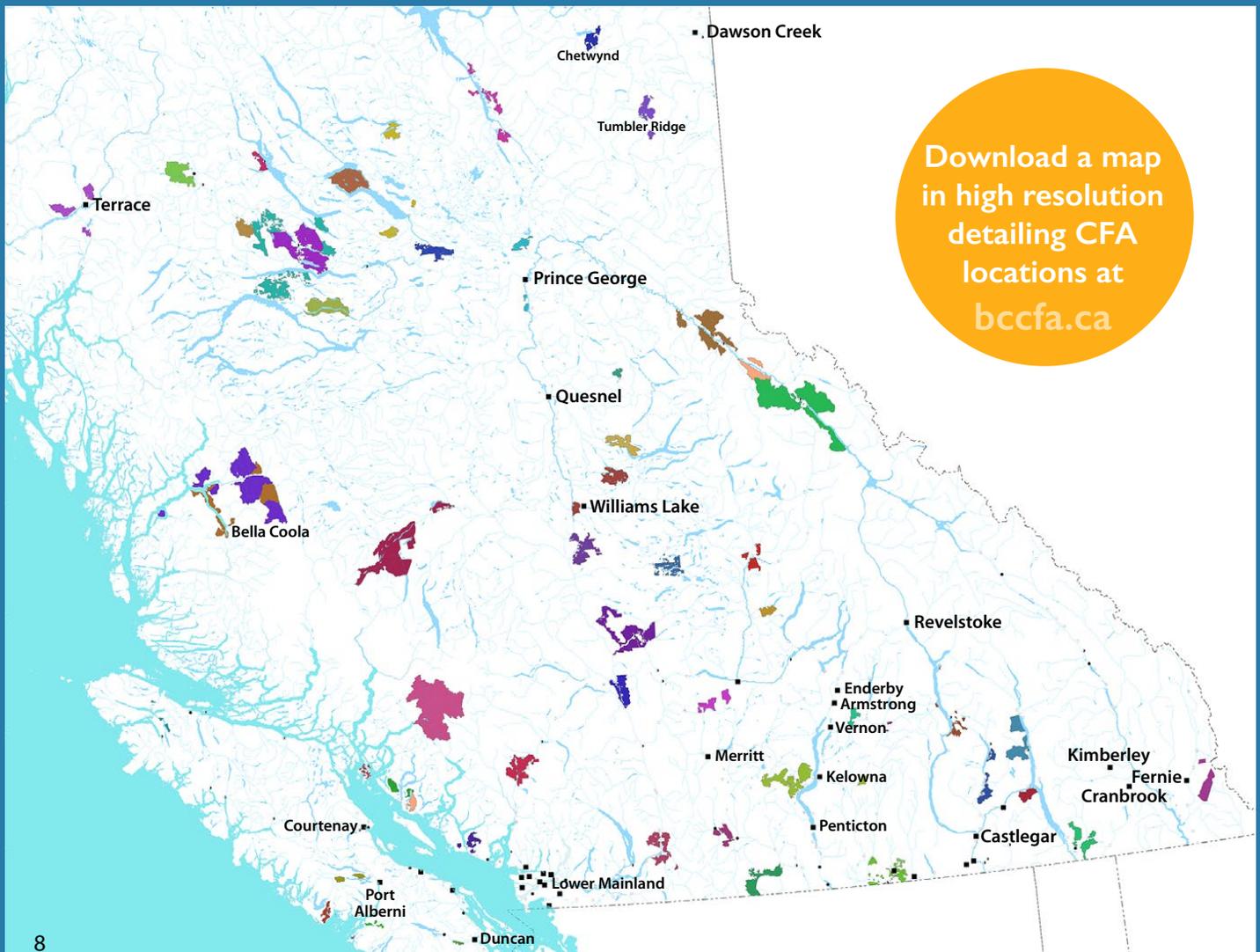
Eniyud Community Forest

Esk'etemc Community Forest

Fort St. James Community Forest

Fraser Lake Community Forest

Harrop-Procter Community Forest



Huu-ay-aht Community Forest

Kaslo and District Community Forest

Khowutzun Community Forest

Klahoose Community Forest

Ktunaxa Nation Community Forest

Likely-Xats'ull Community Forest

Little Prarie Community Forest

Logan Lake Community Forest

Lower North Thompson Community Forest

Lower Similkameen Community Forest

McBride Community Forest

McLeod Lake-Mackenzie Community Forest

Monashee Community Forest

Nakusp and Area Community Forest

North Island Community Forest

Nuxalk Community Forest

Powell River Community Forest

Qala:yit Community Forest

Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative

Sunshine Coast Community Forest

Tanizul Community Forest

Tano T'enneh Community Forest

Terrace Community Forest

Tla'amin Community Forest

Tumbler Ridge Community Forest

Valemount Community Forest

Vanderhoof Community Forest

Vermillion Forks Community Forest

Wells Gray Community Forest

Wells-Barkerville Community Forest

West Boundary Community Forest

Westbank Community Forest

Wetzin'kwa Community Forest

Williams Lake Community Forest

Xaxli'p Community Forest

BCCA 2018 CONFERENCE & AGM FIELD TOUR IN THE BURNS LAKE COMMUNITY FOREST, SUSAN MULKEY PHOTO



Context

Community Forestry in British Columbia: Setting the Context

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S COMMUNITY FOREST PROGRAM began 20 years ago as a pilot and has since become an important part of many rural economies, growing to include 58 community forests distributed widely around the province.

The community forest agreement (CFA) is an area-based licence that provides the exclusive right to harvest timber within the CFA area, and the right to manage botanical forest products. Licences are long-term, 25 years, replaceable every 10. These licences are held by a variety of community-based legal entities, including limited partnerships, societies, co-ops, First Nations, and local governments. Collectively, over 90 Indigenous and rural communities are involved in community forestry in BC.

An important goal of the community forest program is to promote communication and strengthen relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities and persons. Almost half — 47 per cent — of the province's CFAs are held by a First Nation or by a partnership with one or more First Nations.

The CFA tenure was developed to give local communities the opportunity to manage local forests for the benefit of those communities, in a manner consistent with locally defined objectives and values. CFAs are governed by the Forest Act and the Forest and Range Practices Act, and all other applicable statutes and regulations.

As described on the Ministry of Forests (MFLNRORD) website:

Harvesting operations provide a source of revenue for supporting local priorities and community initiatives... Community forests support opportunities in areas such as recreation, wildlife and watershed management for communities and contribute to a more diversified forest economy.¹

¹ BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development, <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/forest-tenures/timber-harvesting-rights/community-forest-agreements>

The CFA tenure is unique in the province for several reasons:

- The ownership of the tenure is exclusively local, and the organization that holds the licence must represent the local community. Profits do not leave the community to benefit distant shareholders.
- There is a comprehensive application process that includes the requirement to demonstrate local community engagement and support.
- The Licence Document and Management Plan must:
 - Contain the broad social, economic and resource management goals proposed for the CFA;
 - Identify the linkage between the CFA goals and the provincial CFA Program goals (below); and
 - Include a plan for annual reporting out to the community.

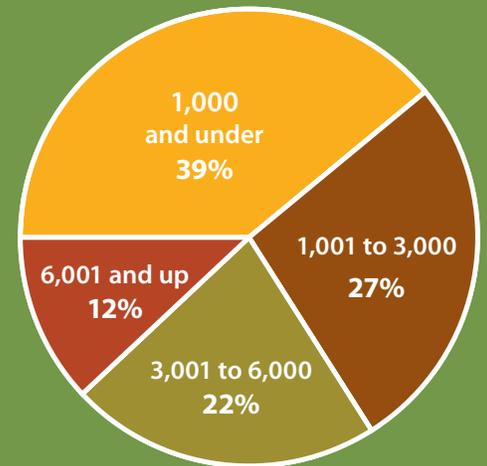
The provincial government's goals for the community forest program further set the tenure apart. The goals are to:

1. Provide long-term opportunities for achieving a range of community objectives, values and priorities;
2. Diversify the use of and benefits derived from the community forest agreement area;
3. Provide social and economic benefits to British Columbia;
4. Undertake community forestry consistent with sound principles of environmental stewardship that reflect a broad spectrum of values;
5. Promote community involvement and participation;
6. Promote communication and strengthen relationships between aboriginal and non-aboriginal communities and persons;
7. Foster innovation; and
8. Advocate forest worker safety.

Community forests in BC reflect the ecological and cultural diversity of our province. They exist in many types of forests and terrain. They range in size from 361 to 160,122 hectares, with a current annual harvest from 860 m³ to 154,122 m³.

Population of Reporting Communities

What is the population directly served by your community forest?



Minimum population: 220
Maximum population: 20,070
Average population: 3,3623

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS REPORT

AAC = Allowable Annual Cut
CF = Community forest*
CFA = Community forest agreement
FTE = Full Time Equivalent (1,820 hours of work = 1 full time job)
M³ = cubic metres of wood

*Note: This report often uses the term "community forest" to refer to the organization that holds a community forest agreement.

Indicator 1

Number of Jobs

Employment in rural communities is one of the primary benefits of community forests. This indicator measures the total direct employment and contract labour generated by community forests.



NAKUSP AND AREA COMMUNITY FOREST (NACFOR)

Over 90 per cent of NACFOR's expenditures are local and tied directly to forest industry jobs, local suppliers and other contracts.

NACFOR SEEDLINGS SIMIKIN NURSERY, FRANCES SWAN PHOTO

Employment in rural communities is one of the primary benefits of community forests. This indicator measures the total direct employment and contract labour generated by community forests. By determining the number of full-time equivalent jobs per 1,000 m³ of timber harvested we can see the value, in terms of employment, of the harvest volume allocated to community forests. Full time equivalent (FTE) is a commonly used metric, but since not all jobs associated with community forest operations are full time, respondents also reported the total number of workers that derived all or part of their income from the community forest.

FOREST INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT COEFFICIENTS A common way to express the rate of employment creation from the forest industry is in terms of the employment coefficient (jobs per 1,000 m³ of timber harvested). To determine the coefficient for community forests, survey respondents were asked to report the number of hours of direct employment and contracts during the reporting year. Numbers were requested by employment category: logging; hauling, road building, silviculture, forest management and administration, as well as trail building and research. The responses gave us the jobs, reported as full-time equivalents (FTE) for forestry, logging and support services. To determine the jobs on the manufacturing (a.k.a. milling) side of the equation created by the community forest harvest, respondents were asked in Indicator 6 (Distributing of Log Sales) to report the type and size of mill that bought their logs and the volume sold to each. This data allowed us to calculate the milling coefficient or jobs per 1,000 m³.

Results

Table 1: Cubic metres of wood harvested

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Number of survey responses | 37 |
| Harvest | m ³ (cubic metres of wood) |
| Total harvest (m ³) | 1,438,071 |
| Average harvest (m ³) | 38,867 |



CRESTON COMMUNITY FOREST HARVESTING, DANIEL GRATTON PHOTO

Table 2: Jobs based on actual harvest of 1,438,071 cubic metres of wood

| Jobs ^a | Forestry, logging and support ^b | Trail building, firefighting, research etc. | Milling | All activities ^c |
|-------------------------------|--|---|---------|-----------------------------|
| Total FTE/1000 m ³ | 0.39 | 0.026 | 0.64 | 1.056 |
| Average FTE | 15.27 | .86 | 23.90 | 40.03 |
| Total FTE | 565.14 | 32 | 884.14 | 1,481.28 |

Notes: ^aOne FTE = 1,820 hours per year. ^bIncludes forest management, logging, hauling, road building, silviculture (planting, spacing, pruning etc.), administration, and accounting. ^cSum of FTE for forestry, logging, support services, and milling.

A total of 2,088 people derived all or part of the income from “forestry, logging and support”, averaging 56 people per community forest.

According to Natural Resources Canada², the BC forest sector employment coefficient from 2014 is in the range of 0.68 to 0.84 jobs/1,000 m³. These figures, confirmed by Barnes (2014)³, are based on Survey of Employment, Payroll and Hours (SEPH) and Labour Force Survey (LFS) respectively, and are not exactly comparable to Full Time Equivalents (FTEs). They count the number of jobs, but not necessarily full-time jobs. Since our methodology provides FTEs, we expect that the number of jobs/1,000m³ for community forests is even higher than the reported industry average.

2 Natural Resources Canada. 2016. Statistical Data. Available at: <http://cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/statsprofile/>. Accessed February 3, 2016. Derived from employment and harvest data on British Columbia.

3 Barnes, Alex. 2014. 2013 Economic State of the B.C. Forest Sector. Competitiveness and Innovation Branch, Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Victoria, British Columbia.

ESK'ETEMC COMMUNITY FOREST

A new building for growing employment

"In May 2017, Esk'etemc First Nation's Alkali Resource Management Ltd. (ARM), moved into a new building that was built to accommodate our growing number of employees, which include forest technicians, tree spacers and firefighting crews. In the early 2017 season, we had 20 tree spacers and five training spacers, a logging contractor and a road crew working within our community forest. We look forward to welcoming back former students in their new capacity as an RPF and three RFTs to help manage the Esk'etemc Community Forest."

ESKETEMC.CA PHOTO



POWELL RIVER COMMUNITY FOREST, ANJI SMITH PHOTO

The higher number of jobs created by community forests is evident when forestry, logging and support services are considered. The BC industry average in these activities is 0.24 jobs/1000 m³ of industrial round wood generated. This industry data is based on 2012 harvesting information from the BC Harvest Billing System database and employment data from Natural Resources Canada⁴, and supported by MNP LLP (2015).⁵

This year's survey of community forests results in a coefficient of 0.39 FTE/1,000 m³ for the core activities included in forestry, logging and support services. This shows that community forests are on average employing 63% more people per m³ than the major industry in forest management. This is even higher than the survey results of 2014, 2015 and 2017, which showed 50% more jobs. When the FTEs in trail building, firefighting, botanicals collection, research & scientific study are included, the coefficient for all land-based activities goes up to 0.42.

Higher than average job figures may be explained by the results in subsequent survey questions, where we find that community forests are operating in sensitive terrain, actively engaging community members in management decisions and investing in intensive silviculture and other land-based activities; all of which can demand higher levels of human resources.

Of Note: 50,208 m³ was sold to value added manufacturers. These mills have an employment coefficient of 1.258. The relatively small volume sold by community forests to those companies resulted in 63.2 FTEs.

⁴ Natural Resources Canada. 2016. Supra note 2.

⁵ MNP LLP. 2015. *BC Forest Industry Economic Impact Study*. cofi.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/bc_industry_impact_01-2015.pdf

Indicator 2

Total Economic Activity

COMMUNITY FORESTS are community economic development initiatives that help to build a rural community's self-reliance. The total annual cost of sales and expenditures is an indicator of the total economic activity generated by the community forests in the reporting year.

Table 3: Summary of total dollar value of sales

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Number of responses | 39 |
| Total \$ value of sales | \$ |
| Average | \$1,856,542 |
| Minimum | \$0 |
| Maximum | \$8,679,566 |

Table 4: Summary of total dollar value of expenditures

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Number of responses | 39 |
| Total \$ value of expenditures | \$ |
| Average | \$1,323,619 |
| Minimum | \$7,146 |
| Maximum | \$7,581,674 |

Lower North Thompson Community Forest (LNTCF): "We had a strong year driven largely by increased timber pricing. We invested \$530,000 into land & equipment purchases as a means to drive local economic development and diversify our revenue stream."

With average expenditures of \$1.3 million and the average total value of sales at \$1.9 million, community forests give a substantial boost to their local economies.

CRESTON COMMUNITY FOREST
SUSAN MULKEY PHOTO



CORTES COMMUNITY FOREST

Focus on planning and community consultation

“2017 focused extensively on planning and community consultation in support of future operations. We have prepared a five-year development plan that outlines where and when work is projected to take place in the next five years. This investment in time and planning was a necessary next step in continuing to build the trust and social licence needed to ensure the success of the CFA going forward.”



CHAINSAW COURSE SUPPORTED BY THE CORTES COMMUNITY FOREST, A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE KLAHOOSE FIRST NATION AND THE CORTES ISLAND COMMUNITY, MARK LOMBARD PHOTO



POWELL RIVER COMMUNITY FOREST, ANJI SMITH PHOTO

With average expenditures of \$1.3 million and the average total value of sales at \$1.9 million, community forests give a substantial boost to their local economies. This economic activity was generated by an average harvest of only 38,867 m³. The responses show that in the reporting year some CFs posted a loss and others a profit. Losses were reported for a variety of reasons, including the fact that the reporting year was a planning year for some, with little to no volume harvested.

With an average population of 3,363, the pivotal role that a community forest can play in a rural community must not be understated. In fact, 39% of the respondents are in communities of less than 1,000 people.



WELLS GRAY COMMUNITY FOREST

“Timber harvested from our tenure is in high demand locally and we expect this trend to continue over the next couple of years. This demand is reflected in the price provided to our community forest.”

Indicator
3

Community Contributions

THE CASH AND IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS made by the community forest are an important indicator of the distribution of economic benefits locally. In many cases, these donations serve social, cultural and environmental objectives, in addition to economic ones.

Results

Table 5: Summary of total cash contributed to the community through grants

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Number of responses | 38 |
| Number of CFs that made contributions | 36 |
| Cash contributed to the community | \$ |
| Total | \$12,042,822 |
| Average of all respondents | \$316,916 |
| Average of those that made contributions | \$334,522 |
| Minimum | \$100 |
| Maximum | \$2,134,093 |

Ninety-five per cent of respondents made cash contributions in their communities. On average, they contributed \$334,523 in the reporting year, with an additional \$24,469 in in-kind contributions.

Westbank Community Forest: “Our crew, including summer students, spent the better part of a day last summer cleaning up garbage illegally dumped along one of the more well used roads within our community forest. We collected 500 kgs of garbage along a public road in the community forest. We do this annually.”

Average cash and in-kind contributions: \$358,992.

BURNS LAKE
COMMUNITY FOREST

Redistributing profits back into the community

“Burns Lake Community Forest is the economic driver for the non-for-profit volunteer organizations that make our community a better place to live.

Our policies ensure that more than 70–75 per cent of profits are re-distributed back into the community. Our donation policy budget is based on a 10% of gross profits calculation.

Additionally, in fiscal 2016-2017 BLCF distributed \$1,236,165 split equally between the Village of Burns Lake, Wet’suwet’en First Nation and Ts’il Kaz Koh First Nation.”



MCLEOD LAKE MACKENZIE
COMMUNITY FOREST

Mackenzie Recreation Centre upgrade

“The District of Mackenzie, one of our two shareholders, has put the revenue shared with them over the past three years (\$500,000 in each of 2015, 2016 and 2017 for a total of \$1.5 million) into ongoing upgrades to our recreation centre, which is the primary hub of activity for our small town. The project involves the construction of a community hall along with much needed upgrades to the other recreation centre offerings. Additional revenues were allocated towards the establishment of a self-sustaining project funding account.

2017 marked the first year of the McLeod Lake Mackenzie Community Forest (MLMCF) project funding program with the first intake of applications in January 2017 and awards of roughly \$98,000 to various proponents. An additional \$10,600 was contributed to various community groups and events. In-kind contributions were made to the Williston School Ecology Program and the Mackenzie Community Wildfire Protection Plan update project.” DAN BOULAINNE PHOTO



POWELL RIVER COMMUNITY FOREST: On May 16, 2017 Powell River Community Forest deposited their 2016 dividend into the Community Forest Reserve Fund.

ANJI SMITH PHOTO

Each community has their own priorities for investment of profits earned through timber revenues. Through community forestry, communities create their own definition of “benefits” and their own disbursement policies and priorities. Some community forests pay dividends directly to their First Nation or local government shareholder. A number of communities have decided that their priority is to make investments back into the land base with a focus on long term stewardship. Many communities support community groups and projects through cash contributions. It is up to each community forest organization to determine how surplus funds are directed to achieve the greatest community benefit.



WELLS GRAY COMMUNITY FOREST

Contributions to Clearwater, BC

The Wells Gray Community Forest made contributions to many local organizations and non-profit groups in the reporting year. These contributions have allowed the District of

Clearwater to complete several projects which have directly benefited its citizens. The senior center has been renovated, mountain bike trails have been constructed, kids have received new uniforms for sporting events, high school programs have improved with additional equipment, a local walking trail network has been completed, the ski hill groomer has received much need maintenance and upgrades and the list goes on. Large grants of \$150,000 to \$300,000 were provided to four different organizations. CLEARWATER GROOMER, GEORGE BRCKO PHOTO

Indicator
4

Funds Leveraged by the Community Forest

THE PROFITS GENERATED and contributions made by community forests are often used as seed money to grow larger projects and create even more local benefits. This indicator shows how CF funds are used to leverage additional funds for community priorities. As with Indicator 3, often these projects serve social and environmental objectives, in addition to economic ones.

Results

Table 6: Summary of total dollars generated from outside sources for local projects

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Number of responses | 37 |
| Number of CFs that leveraged | 16 |
| Funds raised for projects from outside sources | \$ |
| Total | \$2,716,361 |
| Average | \$73,416 |
| Average of those that leveraged | \$169,773 |
| Minimum | \$2,386 |
| Maximum | \$500,000 |

Community forests can use their profits to attract even greater benefits to their communities. Forty three per cent of respondents said they leveraged the community forest's funds to bring in additional dollars. This is up from 39 per cent the previous year. We expect the response rate to rise with time, as this indicator requires systems in place to collect data locally.



MCLEOD LAKE MACKENZIE COMMUNITY FOREST (MLMCF)

Improving Accessibility

The Mackenzie Autumn Lodge Seniors Society has been piecing together funding from multiple sources for the development of the Mackenzie Legacy Garden and the operation of a great program called the Learning Together, Growing Together Project that enables and encourages the interaction of community youth and seniors.

In 2017 the MLMCF funded a project to make the garden and gazebo wheelchair accessible (earth works and concrete). A total of \$18,000 of outside funding was leveraged by MLMCF project funding. DAN BOULAINNE PHOTO

LOWER NORTH THOMPSON
COMMUNITY FOREST (LNTCF)

Leveraging not-for-profit status for the community

“As a not-for-profit society, we have the ability to access outside funding for our communities and take on additional projects/roles beyond the management of the CFA. These roles/projects continue to evolve and would not be possible without the existence and financial support of the CFA tenure. Examples include our Job Creation Programs, participation in the Canada Summer Jobs Program, and involvement in provincial government funding programs and Forest Enhancement Society of BC. We are also using the CFA profits and tenure to leverage and create economic development in the valley through our recent land purchase and establishment of a small milling and value-added operation.”



LOWER NORTH THOMPSON COMMUNITY FOREST: OUTHOUSE CONSTRUCTION, MIKE FRANCIS PHOTO



POWELL RIVER COMMUNITY FOREST supports the 37th annual Sunshine Music Festival set to take place during Labour Day Weekend. ANJI SMITH PHOTO

Survey Responses: Funds Leveraged

- **LOWER NORTH THOMPSON COMMUNITY FOREST SOCIETY (LNTCFS)** provided a \$50,000 grant to the Barriere Lions Club to support purchase of new playground equipment at the Barriere Ridge Building. The new playground was installed in the spring of 2017 by members of the Barriere Lions Club, with Barriere Timbermart donating use of their excavator and some materials, and Quality Contractors donating gravel, machine time and additional labor. Food and drinks were also donated by Sam's Pizza and Barriere A&W.
- **NAKUSP AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY FOREST (NACFOR)**: The Nakusp Ski Club has been working on a project to replace the old day lodge at Summit Lake Ski Hill. Their goal is to build a multi-use facility that will be used year-round by recreational groups and other organizations in the Arrow and Slokan Lakes area. In 2016 NACFOR donated three loads of Douglas-fir building logs and two loads of cedar sawlogs, valued at \$11,000, to be used in the construction of the new lodge. To date, the ski club has confirmed funding for \$85,000 from the Columbia Basin Trust, and WorkBC is supporting the project through a Job Creation Program that would employ six people once construction starts. This project is truly a community effort and once completed will be a huge asset for the Arrow and Slokan Lakes area.
- **SUNSHINE COAST COMMUNITY FOREST (SCCF)**: The Sunshine Coast Trails Society received a \$13,000 Canada 150 grant and a Rotary Club of Sechelt grant of \$4,000 to build a trail around Wormy Lake. SCCF donated \$16,000 to get the project completed.
- **LOGAN LAKE COMMUNITY FOREST (LLCF)**: “In partnership with the District of Logan Lake we were successful in securing BC Rural Dividend Funds. LLCF put up \$20,000 seed money and the partnership received \$100,000. The proposed project will establish, upgrade or enhance a series of Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) use (motorcycles, quads, side by sides, snowmobiles) trail routes near the town of Logan Lake.”

Indicator 5

Cut Control

COMMUNITY FORESTS PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE in the forest sector through harvesting. This indicator measures their success at meeting cut control requirements, keeping the supply of logs flowing into the market.

Results

Table 7: Summary of CFs reporting whether they are on track to meet cut control in the current period

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Number of responses | 40 |
| On track to meet cut control | |
| Total "yes" | 30 |
| Percent on track | 75% |

Seventy-five per cent of community forests reported being on track to meet their cut control. This means that the majority are successfully harvesting the volume of timber allocated, and they are contributing logs to the market. The two main challenges faced by those that are not on track are severe weather, including wildfire, that prevented harvest, and that the AAC is not achievable in the tenure area.

- **Alberni Valley Community Forest:** "Our AAC was originally set at 18,800 m³, but our own analysis sets it closer to 15,000 m³. We are currently updating our forest inventory by doing a Lidar analysis to get a clearer picture of the long term sustainable harvest level."
- **Bella Coola Community Forest:** "Much of the community forest inventory is currently uneconomic due to prevalence of low value hemlock stands. Our economic AAC is lower than the biological AAC attached to our licence."

Seventy-five percent of community forests surveyed reported that they are on track to meet cut control in the current period.

CLINTON COMMUNITY FOREST:
"Volume that was scheduled to be harvested in 2017 will be harvested in 2018 due to the 2017 wildfires."



**WEST BOUNDARY
COMMUNITY FOREST**

Meeting the 5-Year Mark on Cut Control

"Our cut control period ends this December. We are on track to meet the 5-year mark, as long as the weather cooperates. The wet spring and dry summer were challenging last year. We had to shut down many times. The snow pack is very high right now (March) so we're hoping we can get through this melt and get some logging underway to take us to the new year."

WEST BOUNDARY BOARD AND SHAREHOLDERS, SUSAN MULKEY PHOTO

Indicator 6

Distribution of Log Sales

COMMUNITY FORESTS SUPPLY LOGS on the open market to major industry and to small and medium sized mills and value-added manufacturers. In so doing, they strive to support the full spectrum of milling and manufacturing facilities.

Results

Table 8: Summary of the distribution of log sales

| Number of responses | 37 |
|--|---------|
| Distribution of log sales | Percent |
| Sales to large mills $\geq 295,000 \text{ m}^3/\text{year}$ | 80% |
| Sales to medium mills $95,000 \text{ m}^3 - 295,000 \text{ m}^3/\text{year}$ | 9% |
| Sales to small mills $< 95,000 \text{ m}^3/\text{year}$ | 3% |
| Sales to value added mills | 1% |
| Sales to pole, veneer, plywood & OSB | 2% |
| Sales to facilities that use low quality fibre (chip, pellet, pulp & paper) | 2% |
| Sales to firewood | 1% |
| Logs exported | 1% |
| Broker | 1% |

Consistent with previous surveys, this year's results show that 80% of the volume sold by community forests went to large sawmills.



CORTES COMMUNITY FOREST

Small Harvest Success

"Although the harvest in 2017 was relatively small, it was a success for the wider island community as it demonstrated the economic viability of a small, single tree selection project, where all the logs went to mills on the island." MARK LOMBARD PHOTO

Consistent with previous surveys, this year's results show that 80% of the volume sold by community forests went to large sawmills, while about 20% went to small and medium-sized facilities, value added manufacturers, mills that use low quality fibre and other uses. Where markets are diverse, community forests are able to sell to numerous buyers. The average number of bidders invited was 5.8, and on average, community forests sold logs to four different buyers. These figures vary greatly around the province, with one respondent selling to 17 different buyers in the reporting year.

As independent log sellers, community forests can be flexible and respond to local and regional demand for logs. As a long-term tenure, they also have the

potential to provide a secure source of fibre to manufacturers and value-added businesses that are already established or are seeking the right conditions, like fibre flow, to invest in a BC community.

Survey respondents were also asked to report on whether they had markets for waste and residue, and if those markets were being actively sought. Forty one per cent reported having markets for waste and residue, and an additional 68% are actively seeking markets.

Survey Responses: Distribution of Log Sales

- **Logan Lake Community Forest:** “The LLCF, in collaboration and with the support of the District of Logan Lake, is actively seeking a better way to utilize waste and residue. We are also interested supporting the construction of a bioenergy plant to diversify the economy of Logan Lake. Ongoing conversations involving local First Nations are also looking positive.”
- **McBride Community Forest:** “We are in negotiations with a pellet plant in Prince George, for 10,000 bone dry units (20,000 m³ of waste wood) for fall 2018.”
- **Vanderhoof Community Forest:** “Our local sawmill utilizes down to 3.5” top, maximizing sawlog production. We are then selling logs for pulp and grinding waste piles for hog for biomass fuel. This reduces the amount of slash left to burn.”
- **Nakusp and Area Community Forest (NACFOR):** “NACFOR’s Waste Committee has identified a number of strategies to improve utilization and reduce waste on the block. Short-term strategies include: contractor/operator training to optimize cutting standards, addressing quality control and utilization standards during inspections to identify issues early in operational phases and increasing availability of “opportunity wood” for manufacturing local specialty wood products and firewood. Some longer-term strategies include investigating portable manufacturing equipment and whole-tree harvesting where the full log is sold to a buyer.”



Mill on wheels: Lower North Thompson Community Forest. MIKE FRANCIS PHOTO



POWELL RIVER COMMUNITY FOREST

TIMBER MILLED LOCALLY PROVIDES EMPLOYMENT

“Powell River Community Forest gives preference to local manufacturers, then most other logs are sold through our broker into the broader domestic log market. We don’t rule out export if it helps ensure utilization of our low value timber. Historically that has involved very minor volumes. Most of our local demand is for Red Cedar to help supply our largest sawmill, Lois Lumber. We are pleased to have some of our timber milled locally, providing employment and creating natural, long lasting building products. Our logs are distributed to many different buyers, our largest single customer buys our peeler grade Fir (and currently our Western Hemlock). The current log market for all species is strong so we plan to use this opportunity to shift our harvesting into stands with a higher component of Hemlock which normally drag down profitability.”

LOIS LUMBER CEDAR MILL, ANJI SMITH PHOTO

Indicator 7

Investments in Intensive Silviculture

By measuring the investments in intensive silviculture that are above and beyond legal requirements, we see the efforts being made to increase the growing capacity in a community forest, with the intent of increasing the AAC over time.



POWELL RIVER COMMUNITY FOREST: tree planter with fertilizer packets. ANJI SMITH PHOTO

COMMUNITY FORESTS ARE LONG-TERM, area-based forest tenures. These conditions create strong incentives for investment in the future productivity of the forest. By measuring the investments in intensive silviculture that are above and beyond legal requirements, we see the efforts being made to increase the growing capacity in a community forest, with the intent of increasing the AAC over time.

Survey respondents were asked to report the total value, in dollars, of the community forest's investment of their own money as well as money from outside sources in intensive silviculture, incremental to legal requirements. Activities include spacing, brushing, and enhanced genetic stock. Respondents reported the total treatment cost, including planning, development, and administration of these projects.

Results

Table 9: Summary of total value of CF's own investment in intensive silviculture

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Number of responses | 38 |
| Number of CFs that invested in intensive silviculture | 14 |
| Total of CF's own \$ invested | \$ |
| Total | \$1,112,099 |
| Average | \$29,266 |
| Average of those that invested | \$79,436 |
| Minimum | \$4,000 |
| Maximum | \$678,041 |

Thirty-nine per cent of respondents made investments in incremental silviculture.

Figure 2: Value and source of investment in intensive silviculture

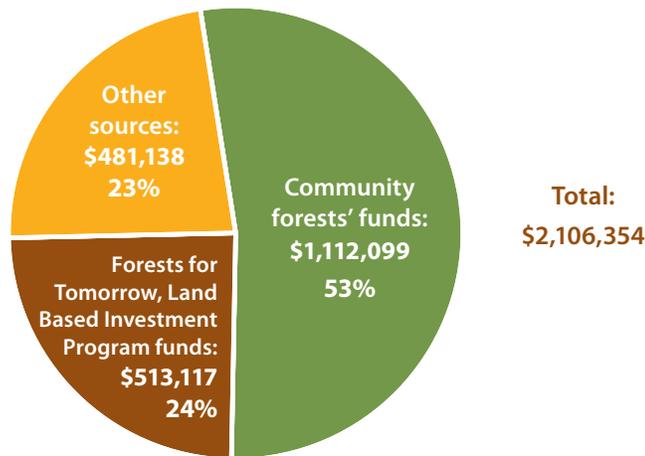


Table 10: Summary of number of hectares treated in the reporting year

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Number of responses | 38 |
| Hectares treated | ha |
| Total | 2,567 |
| Average # ha of those that invested in intensive silviculture | 214 |
| Minimum | 8 |
| Maximum | 743 |

The combination of investments in the reporting year resulted in \$2.1 million going into intensive silviculture. Fifty-three per cent of that investment came from the CFA's own funds, an increase from previous years. We also note a decrease in funding from outside sources.

Community forests are supporting the development of healthy and vibrant rural communities and economies through long-range thinking and sound investments in the land base.

SUNSHINE COAST COMMUNITY FOREST: Silviculture Program

"We have had a very active intensive silviculture program over the last 11 years. We have now caught up on our spacing programs whereby we will now only be spacing stands we have harvested, planted and declared free to grow. We are also focusing on hand fertilization projects with Forests for Tomorrow funding for late rotation, fir leading, higher site index stands."

CHESLATTA COMMUNITY FOREST

Highest Gain Plantations

"Since spring 2016 Cheslatta has possibly established the highest gain plantations on community forests in BC. We source seed directly from the Kalamalka Seed Orchard from the highest gain interior spruce seed in the province, building a seed bank for current and anticipated use. Gains over natural stand seed are between 35 and 37%. Cheslatta purchased this seed even though we have an existing bank of seed we could have used and conformed with the Chief Forester's Standards for Seed Use."



WESTBANK FIRST NATION COMMUNITY FOREST

Spacing for the Future

"We invest in spacing and pruning to enhance future timber values and wildlife habitat. Intensive Silviculture, habitat enhancement, and wildfire mitigation are all objectives with our spacing program."

WESTBANK FIRST NATION SPACING CREW, PHOTO GORD CHIPMAN

Indicator 8

Economic Diversification

This indicator shows the degree to which community forests are generating revenue from sources other than timber.



LOWER NORTH THOMPSON
COMMUNITY FOREST

“We are not diversifying through any NTFPs, yet we are in other ways: \$10,957 in lumber sales through milling operation; 480m³ of firewood sold that was marketed by our logger; 450m³ delivered/milled by LNTCFS into tables/benches/ firewood through our milling and carpentry Job Creation Program, with all products donated for local recreation sites and trails.” MIKE FRANCIS PHOTO

AN IMPORTANT PROVINCIAL GOAL for the community forest program is to diversify the use of and benefits derived from the community forest agreement area. This indicator shows the degree to which community forests are generating revenue from sources other than timber.

In general, many Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) are harvested on community forest lands but no fees are charged. Primarily the role of community forests is to facilitate access for the community and adapt the timber harvesting approach to protect the non-timber resources.

However, a different form of diversification is being pursued. Increasingly community forests are using the expertise they have gained to offer services to other forest-based initiatives in their area. For example, one community forest is expanding their wildfire management skills to other communities in their valley. This information regarding services provided outside the community forest boundary is included in the results reported.

Survey respondents reported the total value in dollars of revenue from diversified sales for the reporting period including service contracts as well as all forest products for which the CFA holder has the authority to manage according to Schedule C of the Community Forest Licence Agreement.

Results

Table 11: Summary of value of sales from sources other than timber

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Number of respondents | 39 |
| Number that had revenue from diversified sales | 7 |
| Economic diversification | \$ |
| Total \$ value of diversified sales | \$441,069 |
| Average of those that had revenue from diversified sales | \$63,010 |
| Minimum | \$861 |
| Maximum | \$207,000 |

Survey Responses: Economic Diversification

- **Cheakamus Community Forest:** “In 2015, the Cheakamus Community Forest (CCF) Carbon Project verified and issued its first carbon offsets. In the reporting year, \$66,631 in diversified sales figures are a result of the annual carbon sales within the CCF.”
- **100 Mile Community Forest:** “We don’t sell firewood per se, but we grant free firewood cutting permits to area residents for personal use. We also have people that collect mushrooms, but this is an unregulated industry for which we do not intend to charge a fee.”
- **Powell River Community Forest:** “Loggers are paid hourly to place firewood quality waste wood along road edges.”

Increasingly community forests are using the expertise they have gained to offer services to other forest-based initiatives in their area.

XAXLI’P COMMUNITY FOREST

Restoring a traditional xusum picking area

“We have conducted ecosystem restoration work to improve an important NTFP here, xusum (pronounced “hoshum” aka Soopolallie (*Shepherdia canadensis*). In 2010, we did a tree spacing project in a traditional xusum picking area that was becoming overgrown by timber due to a lack of cultural burning. After spacing the trees, there was increased sunlight to the xusum bushes, and we saw a huge increase in the abundance and productivity of xusum.

In 2017, we conducted a prescribed burn in part of the restoration area to see how the xusum responds to prescribed fire.”



BEFORE RESTORATION, the xusum was slowly getting overtaken by the trees.

PHOTOS: XAXLI’P COMMUNITY FOREST, “THE PLANTATION”



AFTER RESTORATION, the forest was opened up around the xusum to give them more sunlight, water, and nutrients.

Indicator 9

Community Accountability



BURNS LAKE COMMUNITY FOREST

Enhanced Engagement

“This year we became Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified. The FSC system emphasizes key objectives for community engagement that are audited annually. Our enhanced efforts and community engagement meetings have helped create open and transparent communication between community members and the community forest. Annually we use survey monkey to gauge public opinion on our work and we have received lots of positive feedback about our engagement efforts and process.”

BURNS LAKE COMMUNITY FOREST
FIELD TRIP, SUSAN MULKEY PHOTO

THE CFA TENURE IS UNIQUE in its requirements concerning community accountability. This indicator measures whether the community forest reports out annually to its community on its progress towards objectives as identified in the Community Forest Agreement Management Plan. It also describes the methods used to report.

Results

Annual reporting by CFs:

- Number of responses: 39
- Percentage that report annually: 95%

With a goal of 100% of community forests reporting annually to their communities, our data shows two CFAs still not reporting out annually on the commitments in the management plan. However, the data continues to demonstrate a solid practice of transparency and accountability within community forest organizations. Today, many CFs use various tools such as newsletters, local print newspapers and field trips to connect with their communities. Linked to Indicator 10 (Public Engagement), the breadth and depth of efforts to communicate and engage with the community and stakeholders is shown to be significant.

When local citizens are responsible for the land use decisions surrounding their communities, they're more likely to be innovative and implement multiple values in these decisions. The support for the management decisions of the community forest is a gauge of social licence to operate locally.

While just short of the goal of 100% of community forests reporting annually to their communities, the data continues to demonstrate a solid practice of transparency and accountability within community forest organisations.



Logan Lake Community Forest: Board and staff gather to develop a strategic plan.

PHOTO LOGAN LAKE COMMUNITY FOREST

Survey Responses: Community Accountability

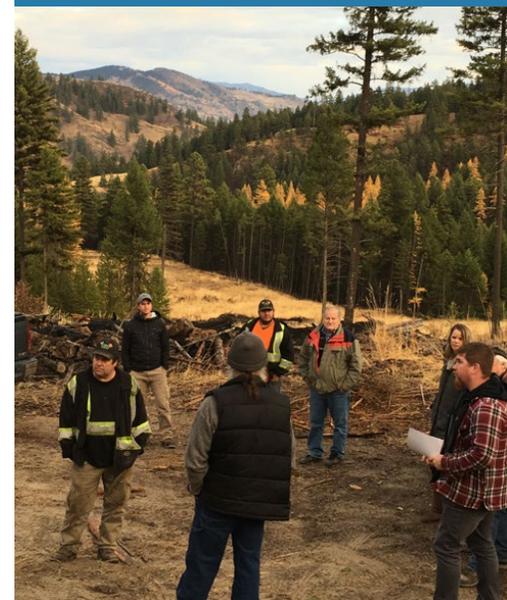
- Creston Community Forest:** “We recently launched a fuel mitigation project. We delivered maps and letters, in person, to affected residents to let them know about our plans and to give a face to the project. This approach allowed us to be available to answer any immediate questions or concerns.”
- Esk’etemc Community Forest:** “We hold a community meeting every three months to keep the community up to date on the community forest. We use Facebook to post job opportunities and invitations to luncheons that are open to the community. We do field tours to show the progress made with the Douglas Fir Beetle. We share any information in regard to finding archaeology sensitive areas with the community and work to protect these areas.”
- Alberni Valley Community Forest:** “We hold open houses when harvest plans are being developed that allows the public to have input in the early planning stages. Having a special meeting for recreation user groups lets the people who use the resource the most have input into harvesting plans. If we are harvesting near residential areas, we hand deliver notifications to the residents to ask for input into planning.”

WEST BOUNDARY
COMMUNITY FOREST

Community Support for Ecosystem Restoration Project

“One of the parcels of the West Boundary Community Forest is in the Rock Creek corridor – well known for the 2015 wildfires that destroyed most of the houses and forests in that valley. This parcel was not affected by the fires, and the public was very concerned about any logging occurring in the last remaining forested area. We developed an Ecosystem Restoration project in the area that essentially fireproofed the stand by taking out the ladder fuels and removing the downed fuels. The community was very pleased with how it turned out and is now very supportive of future thinning projects in visual and high value recreational areas.”

WEST BOUNDARY COMMUNITY
FOREST FIELD TOUR, SUSAN MULKEY
PHOTO SUSAN MULKEY PHOTO



Indicator 10

Public Engagement

WHILE INDICATOR 9 FOCUSES on reporting out to the community, this indicator measures the efforts of the community forest to engage with the diversity of community members and stakeholder groups. Outreach to the full array of forest users and community organizations leads to an improved awareness of forest management among the public and increases potential to resolve conflicts over timber harvesting in watersheds and other sensitive areas. Here, the level of public engagement is shown in the number of different sectors involved in the community forest, and the number of formal agreements with community organizations.



LOGAN LAKE COMMUNITY FOREST (LLCF)

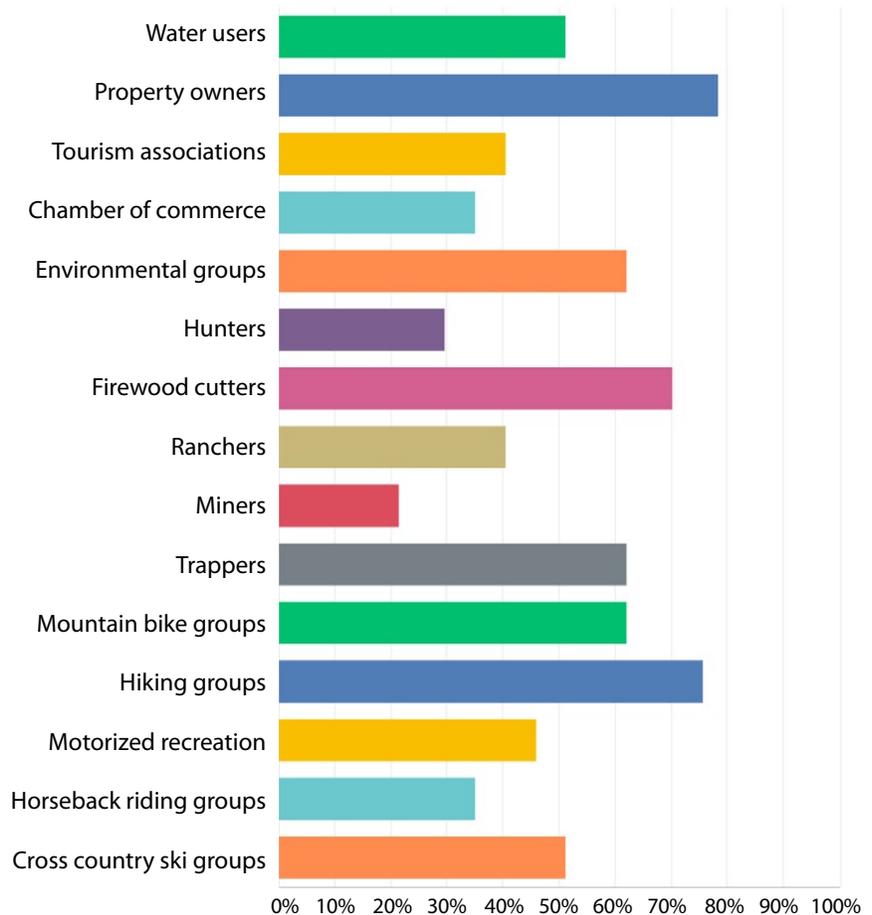
Sharing Ideas

“The LLCF is working with the Highland Valley Outdoor Association (HVOA) to manage for development in an area designated for non-motorized vehicles. We held in-field visits in 2017 and we are working closely to develop a solution for road building and harvesting in this managed area. We do not have a ‘formal agreement’ with the HVOA; however, we are deeply engaged with the group and sharing ideas.”

HIGHLAND VALLEY OUTDOOR ASSOCIATION, GARNET MIREAU PHOTO

Results

Figure 3: Engagement with Community Sectors



In addition to the groups in Figure 3, respondents reported that they also consulted the following groups:

- Watershed restoration group;
- Mushroom harvesters;
- Commercial recreation tenure holders;
- Disc golf group; and
- Youth groups.

Out of 39 respondents, 17 reported having formal agreements with community organizations.

The data shows that community forest organizations are engaging with a range of stakeholders. When involved, this broad range of stakeholders provides the community forest with a wealth of information on diverse perspectives. Community forests organizations are also participating in local and regional multi-party planning tables. Regarding formal agreements, survey responses show that while these agreements are being made, formal agreements are not necessarily the best for every situation. Some stakeholders are reluctant to commit to a formal agreement and prefer an informal approach.

Survey Responses: Public Engagement

- **Cascade Lower Canyon Community Forest:** “In the reporting year, the CLCCF adopted two specific policies related to social licence and conflict: Community Engagement and the Complaints policies. Additionally, we developed a comprehensive, transparent Corporate Governance Policy. We are also actively progressing on a new corporate structure, with one of the main objectives to be more accessible to the local public. We are looking at new ways to engage with the community members, including redoing our current FSP and Management plan to help with our engagement.”
- **Cheakamus Community Forest:** “The CCF has embarked on a project to coordinate road access in absence of provincial policy. A specific road use plan and agreement will be a part of this project.”



WELLS GRAY COMMUNITY FOREST

Working with the Outdoor Club

“The WGCFC harvested four cut blocks within the Wells Gray Outdoor Club ski trail and mountain bike tenure area. We engaged them at the start of the planning and layout process. We attended multiple meetings to discuss road and cut block location. This engagement helped design cut blocks and finalize the road location so that they could be integrated into the ski trail network. Safety was managed to the highest degree; advertisements ran in the local paper as well as we posted multiple signs to warn the public of our operations. Road construction phases were completed to a high standard, we surfaced poor sections of the trails, added more pipes for better drainage, and graded and packed major portions of the trails network. This project was extremely positive for the WGCFC and the Outdoor club.”

GEORGE BRCKO PHOTO

Indicator 11

Investments in Community Education



CRESTON COMMUNITY FOREST

Student Field Trips

“Creston Community Forest hosts an annual field trip during National Forest Week. All Grade 5 students from the Creston Valley are invited to attend. The children spend the day learning about the local ecosystems and forests. We also host field trips in the spring for elementary and high school students to come out and plant trees and learn about forestry.”

CRESTON COMMUNITY FOREST PHOTOS

COMMUNITY FORESTS OFFER an opportunity to link community members to the forest and to increase their understanding of forest ecosystems and management. This indicator measures the investments the community forest is making in education and capacity building. Respondents included the time spent and total value, in dollars, of all investments in education. This includes school presentations, field trips, public events, as well as training supported by the community forest (such as first aid, faller certification, etc.) by community forest staff, contractors, employees, and volunteers.

Results

Table 12: Summary of investments in education by CFs

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Number of responses | 38 |
| Number of CFS that made investments | 25 |
| Total \$ invested in education | \$ |
| Total | \$176,295 |
| Average | \$4,639 |
| Average of those that invested | \$7,052 |
| Minimum | \$500 |
| Maximum | \$52,180 |

Table 13: Summary of time invested in education by CFs

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Number of responses | 38 |
| Time spent on education | Hours |
| Total hours | 1,770 |
| Average hours of those who invested time | 71 |
| Minimum | 6 |
| Maximum | 308 |

Education is very important to many community forests, and the amount of investment is not tied to the size of the community forest. For many First Nation Community Forests, training young people for work on the tenure is a major focus of their operations. Additionally, eleven organizations had programs targeting their local K–12 schools and getting kids out into the forest. This is a 45% increase from last year.

Survey Responses: Community Education

- **Logan Lake Community Forest:** “In 2017 the LLCF management team worked with the local WHY (Wellness Health and Youth) society and the District of Logan Lake to implement and supervise a fuel management program implemented by the local high school youth. This program provides employment opportunities to implement the FireSmart program within the urban-wildland interface area. It was also an opportunity for the youth to learn more about forestry. On a weekly basis, they were given lessons on tree and plant identification, forest ecology, job search skills, and career and post-secondary education options.”
- **Nakusp and Area Community Forest (NACFOR):** “The NACFOR and School District 10 educational partnership continues to provide a framework for collaboration and communication with local schools and teachers. NACFOR partnered with the Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society to integrate invasive plant education and activities with the annual tree planting day. One hundred and twenty students from Nakusp Elementary School got their hands dirty planting trees, learning about forest succession, and had the opportunity to learn about invasive species, the impacts they have and what can be done to keep such invaders from disturbing the ecology. In September students and teachers from Edgewood Elementary School hiked NACFOR’s newly constructed Arrow Park Trail to celebrate National Forest Week.”
- **Xaxli’p Community Forest:** “We host a three-day youth and Elders camp each year. Our staff spend several weeks planning and hosting the camp. The youth hike into a cabin and spend three days in the alpine, hiking on traditional trails and learning about Xaxli’p culture and ecosystems. We fly Elders into the alpine by helicopter to meet with the youth and tell stories.”



NAKUSP AND AREA
COMMUNITY FOREST

Firewood Project

“NACFOR worked with Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services (ASLCS) to deliver a program to support ASLCS diversity clients. Goals of the firewood project were to provide paid work experience for two people to work with a coach and supervisor for six weeks – in a “real work for real pay” environment. The clients developed skills including how to work as a team, communication, development and implementation of a plan, along with work efficiencies and how to provide customer service. The clients also learned how to operate equipment safely - including chainsaws, hand tools and the wood splitter – and how to stack a cord of wood so it doesn’t fall over! Another goal of the project was to provide affordable firewood to people in the community.

FRANCES SWAN PHOTO

POWELL RIVER COMMUNITY FOREST awards up to three \$3,000 scholarships to Powell River residents annually who plan to study in a post-secondary forestry related trades program or academic program at a recognized Canadian post-secondary institution. ANJI SMITH PHOTOS



Indicator 12

Investments in Recreation



KASLO AND DISTRICT
COMMUNITY FOREST

Winter in the Forest

The annual Winter in the Forest Festival celebration gathers the community outside every snowy February for nature walks, woodsman competition, human dogsled races, ice sculpture demo, piping hot food by the bonfire, live music and more. It has gained steam over the years and has turned into a much supported and loved family event for Kaslo and area.

SUSAN MULKEY PHOTO

ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT BENEFITS for many communities that hold CFAs is the investment the organization makes in creating, improving and maintaining local recreational infrastructure and opportunities. This indicator measures the value of the cash and in-kind investments in recreation made by the community forest organizations, and the kilometres of trail built or maintained. Respondents also included investment in recreation features and trails outside the boundaries of the community forest.

Results

Table 14: Summary of total value of investments in recreation

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Number of responses | 37 |
| Number that made investments in recreation | 22 |
| Total \$ invested in recreation | \$ |
| Total | \$586,221 |
| Average | \$15,844 |
| Average of those that invested | \$26,646 |
| Minimum | \$2,500 |
| Maximum | \$149,423 |

Our data shows a significant increase in recreation expenditures by community forests. While community forests are using their own funds to enhance recreational activities and features, they collectively invested \$953,443 from outside sources. To date they have invested \$ 2.9 million of their own funds, plus \$2.7 million from outside funds. Additionally, as a result of their mountain pine beetle uplift, the Vanderhoof Community Forest invested \$1 million in the Vanderhoof Aquatic Centre (data included in Indicator 3, Community Contributions).

Table 15: Summary of kilometres of trail in the reporting period

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Number of responses | 37 |
| Number of CFs that built and maintained trails | 16 |
| Number of kilometres of trail | km |
| Total | 282 |
| Average | 7.6 |
| Average kms of those that built & maintained trails | 18 |
| Minimum | 2 |
| Maximum | 82 |

Many community forests put a high priority on community access to a range of recreational activities on the community forest land base. As community forests often surround communities, they provide for prime recreation areas and features such as cross-country skiing, mountain biking and walking trails. Ultimately, investment in this recreational infrastructure supports the health and well-being of the community while also contributing to local economic development. A great example of this priority is the fact that our data shows community forests have collectively developed and maintained a total of 1,616 km of trails to date.

Survey Responses: Investments in Recreation

- **Bella Coola Community Forest:** “The community forest initiated the formation of the Bella Coola Trails Alliance; a volunteer group created to construct and maintain recreation facilities and trails.”
- **Kaslo and District Community Forest:** “For the past five years, our local high school students have had an opportunity to participate in a summer youth education and workplace training project provided by a community forest / BC Parks partnership. The crew received safety and equipment training after which they spent long, and hard-working days engaged in a combination of forestry field jobs and maintenance of our popular hiking trails and recreation areas. Our 2016 and 2017 summer projects were solely dedicated to the Canada 150 celebrations in partnership with BC Parks and focused on the much-needed rehabilitation of the historic Earl Grey Trail, a 61 km rugged backcountry trail through the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy connecting the small settlement of Argenta in the West Kootenays with Invermere in the East Kootenays.”



LOWER NORTH THOMPSON
COMMUNITY FOREST (LNTCF)

Bike Trail Network

“As part of our 2017 Job Creation Program (JCP), LNTCF partnered with Simpcw First Nation to develop and expand their mountain bike trail network as part of the Simpcw First Nation McBride to Barriere Mountain Bike Recreation & Tourism Initiative. The JCP provided equipment, labor and wages for a 4-person trail building crew while Simpcw First Nation provided a two-person crew and training through a professional mountain bike trail building workshop for all participants. LNTCF also donated lumber and a kiosk built through our previous milling and carpentry JCP. The Simpcw Nation Trails have since been added to the Trail Forks app which provides a georeferenced guide through the trails. Simpcw now has a total of 9.2 km of completed trails with a diverse range of skill levels and more to come soon.”

ROBIN MUNSHAW, MOUNTAIN
BIKE BC PHOTOS

Indicator 13

Proactive Management of Wildfire Hazard

SLOCAN INTEGRAL FORESTRY CO-OP COMMUNITY FOREST (SIFCO)

Focus on Fire

“A 2007 spring fire was a wake-up call for us in the valley and we created a CF fuel management plan. This led to a number of actions including fire behavior modeling, and prescribed burning. We are actively engaging the community on fire smart, and the need to re-introduce fires in the region. We map fire and proximity to individual homes to raise awareness that action needs to be taken at the landscape level. Our activities have resulted in calls from private land holders that would like to have prescribed burning. Scaling prescribed fire is key. At least 25 plus ha is needed to make a difference.” SUSAN MULKEY PHOTO



COMMUNITY FORESTS ARE SITUATED in the interface between communities and wild forest lands (the wildland urban interface, or WUI). They are uniquely positioned to serve as leaders in the coordination and management of these areas to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire. Efforts to manage the wildfire hazard are primarily driven by social objectives, however depending on the ecosystem type, history and outcome of the treatments, they may also bring economic and environmental benefits. Survey respondents reported on the value of investments, cash and in-kind made by the community forest to reduce wildfire hazard and the number of hectares treated. They also reported on collaboration with their local governments on the provincial Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative.

Results

Table 16: Summary of investments to reduce wildfire hazard

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Number of responses | 40 |
| CFs that made investments to reduce wildfire hazard | 20 |
| Total \$ invested to reduce wildfire | \$ |
| Total | \$333,509 |
| Average | \$8,338 |
| Average of those that invested | \$16,675 |
| Minimum | \$500 |
| Maximum | \$80,000 |

To date, the reporting community forests have collectively treated 3,522 hectares and invested over \$1.8 million for wildfire mitigation. They managed an additional \$6.5 million from outside sources.



Table 17: Summary of hectares treated in the reporting period

| | |
|--|-----|
| Number of responses | 39 |
| CFs that treated forest land to reduce wildfire hazard | 11 |
| Number of hectares treated | |
| Total | 781 |
| Average | 20 |
| Average of those who conducted treatments | 71 |
| Minimum | 2 |
| Maximum | 250 |

Last year, 70% of respondents collaborated with their local government on Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative projects. This year it was 58%. Funding from external sources is crucial given the urgency to reduce fire risk to rural communities. Community forests are taking on a leadership role in the planning and implementation of these efforts. The BCCFA’s proposal for an expansion of the community forest program into the wildland urban interface areas around rural communities is worthy of serious consideration.

Survey Responses: Management of Wildfire Hazard

- **Wells Gray Community Forest:** “We are part of a fire mitigation working group with the District of Clearwater. High hazard areas have been treated. We continue to harvest close to town and complete fire abatement prescriptions in a timely manner. The biggest fire hazards for Clearwater and area are on private land.”
- **Likely Xats’ull Community Forest:** “We are actively engaged with the government to keep the backroad to Barkerville open. This is a secondary escape out of Likely in the event of a wildfire — which we had to use during the summer of 2017.”
- **Powell River Community Forest:** “Hogging (machine shredding or chipping) of waste and residue is practiced wherever possible to reduce fire hazard in our logged blocks and to minimize pile burning.”

Lower North Thompson Community Forest fuel reduction treatment completed as part of the 2017 Job Creation Program working with Simpcw First Nation in and around the community of Chu Chua.



CRESTON COMMUNITY FOREST

Fuel Reduction Project

Creston Community Forest recently began treatment of a Wildland Urban Interface fuel reduction project within its tenure. The area being treated is 20 hectares in size and abuts the private land of over 20 residents. It has a very dense understory and is heavily timbered and is also characterized by a network of hiking/horseback trails used by residents. CCF is removing the dense understory and thinning the over story, ensuring the trails stay intact during the process, and in some instances opening trails that have been blocked by blowdown. The entire area is being hand felled. The machine loading logs is a F-4 Dion



Forwarder which is manufactured in Quebec that was recently purchased by a local contractor. It has very low

ground pressure, a narrow design and can easily maneuver around leave trees, which is perfect for the style of forestry we envisioned for this project. We are also chipping most of the slash leaving the larger diameter logs behind. Some piling is also being done and burning will occur later in the fall. This project is being funded solely by CCF. CCF has identified many other areas in our tenure needing treatment and is creating a plan for prioritizing and treating these areas.

CRESTON COMMUNITY FOREST PHOTO

Indicator 14

Forest Worker Safety



NAKUSP AND AREA
COMMUNITY FOREST

Safety Plans Required

Nakusp and Area Community Forest (NACFOR) requires major logging and road construction contractors to be Safe Certified and small one or two-person contractors to be registered with the BC Forest Safety Council and have a current safety plan. All contractors and consultants working for NACFOR must have a safety plan approved by NACFOR management.

FRANCES SWAN PHOTO

ONE OF THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT'S GOALS for the community forest program is to advocate for forest worker safety. Survey respondents reported on whether the CFA holder requires its employees and/or contractors to be Safe Certified with the BC Forest Safety Council or an equivalent program. Information on the number of and severity of incidents further demonstrates how community forests are meeting safety objectives in their operations.

Results

Table 18: Summary of organizations requiring employees/contractors to be Safe Certified

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Number of responses | 40 |
| Percent requiring Safe Certification | % |
| Percent yes | 78% |
| Percent no | 22% |

Table 19: Summary of number of recordable incidents in the reporting year

| Number and severity of incidents | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| Minor | 18 |
| Serious (requiring attention) | 3 |
| Fatality | 0 |
| Total | 21 |



SUNSHINE COAST COMMUNITY FOREST, DAVE LASSER PHOTO

Seventy eight per cent of respondents require their employees and contractors to be Safe Certified. This is an increase from 67% in 2015, but down from 81% in 2016. In the reporting year, there were 76 recordable incidents, three of which required attention.

Community forest organizations believe in safety and most of them require their employees and/or contractors to be Safe Certified with the BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC). A few community forests require their logging and trucking contractors to be safe certified, but have allowed for flexibility in the implementation of their policy for certified workers to allow for short term employment of small local operators.

The Woodlot-Community Forest Agreement Safety Committee, working with the BC Forest Safety Council, is developing materials to encourage woodlot and CFA holders to develop more robust safety programs, and to inform them of their responsibilities with respect to maintaining a safe work environment.⁶

The Woodlot-Community Forest Agreement Safety Committee, working with the BC Forest Safety Council, is developing materials to encourage woodlot and CFA holders to develop more robust safety programs

⁶ See <http://bccfa.ca/category/safety/> for details.

SUNSHINE COAST COMMUNITY FOREST

Post Wildfire Hazards

“There were significant safety hazards associated with the fire damaged forest area. Approximately 75-80% of the forest in the burned CF area was dead either from root structure damage (hot ground fire which destroyed most of root strength/structure) or from the heat of the fire. There was a very significant hazard related to trees simply falling over due to gravity. Extra safety precautions were emphasized to the crews regarding bumping trees with equipment and either having brittle tops snap off or knocking trees over. No hand falling was allowed unless deemed absolutely necessary. On windy days, we shut down snipping and falling and focused on processing and loading or we shut down completely and went home. We had no safety incidents on the project despite winter logging through some very stormy days and higher snowfall than normal.”

Indicator 15

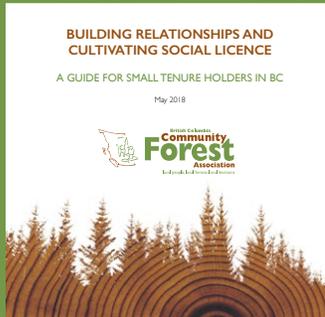
First Nations Involvement



CHESLATA DUGOUT CANOE,
MIKE ROBERTSON PHOTO

Tools for Working with First Nations

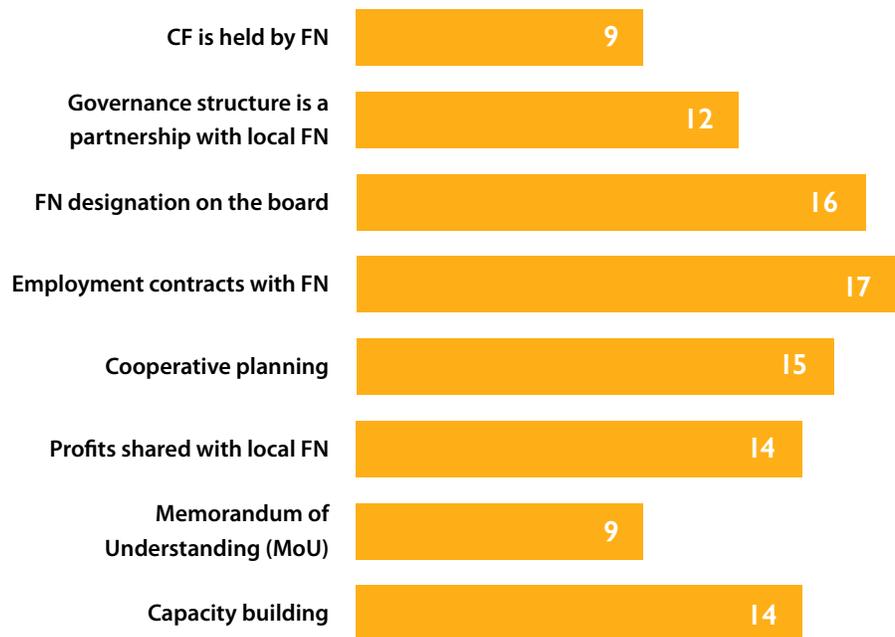
In May 2018, BCCFA released *Building Relationships and Cultivating Social License: A Guide for Small Tenure Holders in BC*. It offers examples of lessons learned and a framework for developing relationship-based approaches that go beyond the legal requirements for small tenures. Download the report at bccfa.ca



THE BC COMMUNITY FOREST ASSOCIATION promotes forest management which respects First Nation rights and cultural values, and which fosters understanding and cooperation between rural communities and First Nations. Nearly half of the operating community forests in BC are held by First Nations or are partnerships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. This indicator measures the breadth and depth of First Nations' involvement in community forests. By measuring the types of involvement, a community forest has with First Nations, beyond legal requirements, this indicator serves to demonstrate how effective community forest organizations are at working with the First Nations within whose traditional territory the community forest is located.

Results

Respondents were given a list of types of involvement with First Nations. These include:



Twenty three per cent of survey respondents are CFs that are held by First Nations, and an additional 30% are partnerships. Forty per cent have First Nations representation on their board of directors.

The data collected through this question demonstrates that many types of agreements and relationships have been created to improve communication and build relationships for the long term. While each Indigenous and non-Indigenous community is unique, community forests are demonstrating that there are many ways to work together and that the benefits of even the smallest collaborative project has great mutual benefit.

Survey Responses: First Nations Involvement

- **Logan Lake Community Forest:** “The LLCF refers all development activities to 23 First Nation groups. Under new management in 2015, the LLCF took a new approach and invited First Nations to go in the field on 100% of the proposed cut blocks and FireSmart treatment areas requiring mechanical treatment. Through this intensive level of engagement, deeper relationships have been formed and a better understanding of each other’s values and interests achieved. The LLCF has paid for all the First Nation activities that support cutting permit development and include activities such as: archaeological impact assessments, cultural heritage resource assessment, and report writing.”
- **Cheakamus Community Forest:** “The CCF, a partnership between the Resort Municipality of Whistler, the Squamish Nation and the Lil’wat Nation, provides a small but important component of a much larger First Nation forest management opportunity for both Squamish and Lil’wat Nations. All forest management activities are shared equitably between the two First Nations, under a fee for service arrangement.”
- **Powell River Community Forest:** “The First Nations joint venture company bids successfully on some of our local logging packages. The Klahoose First Nation has a large community forest chart beyond ours. As a result, we have a joint use agreement and have had several large road maintenance projects to improve shared roads. We also direct awarded a contract to the new First Nation silviculture company.”
- **Sunshine Coast Community Forest:** “All blocks are vetted through the Sechelt Indian Band. They conduct an archaeology assessment on every block and all cutting permits and road permits are vetted through the Band before submission to the MFLNRORD with the band’s consent. We also have criteria in our bid packages which provides bonus points for employing First Nations members, sub-contractors or contractors.”



WESTBANK COMMUNITY FOREST

Culturally Modified Trees

“There are over 100 culturally modified trees (CTMs) in a very concentrated area on the community forest. The trees are about 140 years old and the bark stripping occurred between 60 – 80 years ago. The pine was stripped and the cambium harvested in the spring and was chewed, like a gum. The cambium of the balsam was used for medicine in the form of teas, often mixed with Trappers Tea.”

WESTBANK FIRST NATION, DAVE GILL PHOTOS



Indicator 16

Management of Sensitive Areas

The CFA's unique model of forest management can give community forest managers the social licence to operate in highly constrained areas that have not been previously accessible for timber harvesting due to local opposition.



KASLO WATERSHED, SUSAN MULKEY PHOTO

THE CFA's UNIQUE MODEL OF FOREST MANAGEMENT can give community forest managers the social licence to operate in highly constrained areas that have not been previously accessible for timber harvesting due to local opposition.

Survey respondents were asked to document the area within their land base that is sensitive. Sensitive areas are defined as:

- Domestic and community watersheds;
- Riparian areas;
- Visually sensitive areas;
- Potentially unstable and unstable terrain;
- Areas with archaeological values or cultural heritage;
- Identified and critical wildlife habitat;
- Fisheries sensitive watersheds;
- Recreation trails and sites; and
- Areas identified as sensitive by the community.

Results

Table 20: Summary of the area in community forests that is sensitive

| | |
|---|----------|
| Number of responses | 38 |
| Sensitive areas | % |
| Percentage of total area that is sensitive | 29% |
| Percentage of sensitive area that is operable | 60% |
| Percentage of total area that is sensitive & operable | 18% |

Thirty two per cent of respondents reported that over half of their land base is considered sensitive, and three of them reported that their entire land base is sensitive ground.



GOSHAWK ADULT AND CHICK ON THE BELLA COOLA COMMUNITY FOREST, HARVEY THOMMASEN PHOTO

Most community forests are located in the land surrounding communities, in highly visible areas, and with many overlapping values. Community forests often contain a greater percentage of sensitive areas than the average in the Timber Supply Area. When combined with many of the economic indicators, the real potential of community forest management emerges. They can operate in challenging areas, while still meeting cut control, supplying logs to a wide range of users, and creating jobs and other benefits for their communities.

Survey Responses: Management of Sensitive Areas

- **Nakusp and Area Community Forest:** "Treatment on the community forest includes a number of strategies to protect important values including single tree and group retention for visual quality, strip or small patch cuts and partial cut harvest systems to protect mushroom habitat, implementation of geotechnical recommendations in potentially unstable terrain, timber harvesting development using small openings and temporary road construction to protect wildlife and water values."
- **Powell River Community Forest:** "88% of our area is in a community watershed. The majority of the area outside of the watershed is also considered sensitive as per definition above, therefore all activities are in sensitive areas."
- **Cheakamus Community Forest:** "On what was initially interpreted as a contentious project, but resolved through community outreach, 15 ha of old forest was harvested under a moderate retention objective within 3 km of a new subdivision without any negative response or complaint. The project required 96 loads of logs to be transported along a high use recreation forest service road without incident."

"Eighty-eight per cent of our area is in a community watershed. The majority of the area outside of the watershed is also considered sensitive as per definition above, therefore all activities are in sensitive areas."

— Powell River Community Forest

Indicator 17

Investments in Forest Stewardship

This indicator demonstrates the investments the community forests are making in enhanced forest stewardship, incremental to legal requirements.



ESKETEMC ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION,
GORD CHIPMAN PHOTO

THIS INDICATOR DEMONSTRATES the investments the community forests are making in enhanced forest stewardship, incremental to legal requirements. The activities include the enhanced management of sensitive areas (as listed in Indicator 16), information gathering and planning, and monitoring and research, including inventory and extra surveys that are above and beyond legal requirements.

Results

Table 21: Summary of value of investments in enhanced or modified management for ecological or social reasons

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Number of responses | 36 |
| CFs that invested in enhanced management | 13 |
| Total \$ investment in enhanced management | \$ |
| Total \$ | \$1,607,860 |
| Average of those who invested | \$123,682 |
| Minimum | \$1,925 |
| Maximum | \$191,316 |

Table 22: Summary of number of hectares (ha) treated within the CF and outside the boundaries

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Number of responses | 36 |
| CFs that treated forest land | 12 |
| Hectares treated within and outside CF | hectares |
| Total ha | 7,502 |
| Average of those who conducted treatments | 625 |
| Minimum | 1 |
| Maximum | 6,190 |



LOWER NORTH THOMPSON COMMUNITY FOREST AERIAL FERTILIZATION OF YOUNG STANDS, PHOTO LNTCFS

With the understanding that healthy forest ecosystems are the basis of healthy local economies, community forest organizations are making significant investments in the ecological integrity of the forests they manage. In cases where the community forest organization has made forest stewardship a high priority, it means higher costs for forest management.

Examples of stewardship activities cited in the survey include:

- Inventory plots and spatializing Mule Deer Winter Range Snow Interception Cover areas;
- Wildlife monitoring study on coarse woody debris corridors to determine levels of small furbearer activity;
- Partial cutting to address environmental and social values;
- Monitoring of goat habitat and modified operations to meet goat habitat objectives;
- Grassland restoration; and
- Strategies to manage for wildlife, water quality and visuals.

Survey Responses: Forest Stewardship

- **Cheakamus Community Forest:** “The CCF estimates a 30% increase in operational costs are incurred to carry out its small opening, retention harvest program which is primarily intended to achieve a high degree of visual, social and environmental management consideration regardless of scale with viewpoints throughout the forest.”
- **McLeod Lake Mackenzie Community Forest:** “In the reporting year, the MLMCF conducted a wildlife monitoring study on coarse woody debris corridors (windrows) established in 2016 to determine levels of small furbearer activity. These corridors were established to provide habitat connectivity through harvested openings. An additional 2.5 km of similar corridors were constructed within the MLMCF tenure area in the reporting period.”

NAKUSP AND AREA COMMUNITY FOREST (NACFOR)

Toad Project

NACFOR is supporting the Summit Lake toad research project to learn more about western toad requirements for upland habitat. The project will help identify forest management strategies and activities that will mitigate impacts to the western toad population and its terrestrial habitat in the Summit Lake area. An important measure for minimizing direct impact to toads will be timing of operations. NACFOR will carry out harvesting from November to March during periods when toads are not migrating. By minimizing ground disturbance, winter harvesting will also mitigate impacts to toads during foraging and overwintering periods.

WALTER SIEGMUND PHOTO





Indicator
18

Compliance with Environmental Standards

LOGAN LAKE
COMMUNITY FOREST

Voluntary Audit

“We hired an independent, third party auditor to review our forest management operations. This was a voluntary request made by the Board of Directors as a check to ensure we were not missing anything critical and to prepare us in the event of a Forest Practices Board audit. Opportunities for improvement were found and the management team is responding accordingly.”

POWELL RIVER
COMMUNITY FOREST

Ministry Inspections

“The FLNRO did many inspections at the beginning of the licence. Since we operate at a very high standard they now only spot check. They continually drive through our operating area on route to others and keep an eye on things that way.”

THIS INDICATOR SHOWS whether the management of the community forest is in compliance with statutory requirements for resource management. To measure the significance to environmental values, respondents were asked to report the number of inspections conducted and the number of determinations issued against the community forest organization/contractors/employees that related to the potential for environmental damage. We also asked about the results of any applicable Forest Practices Board audits or investigations by other provincial or federal agencies.

Results

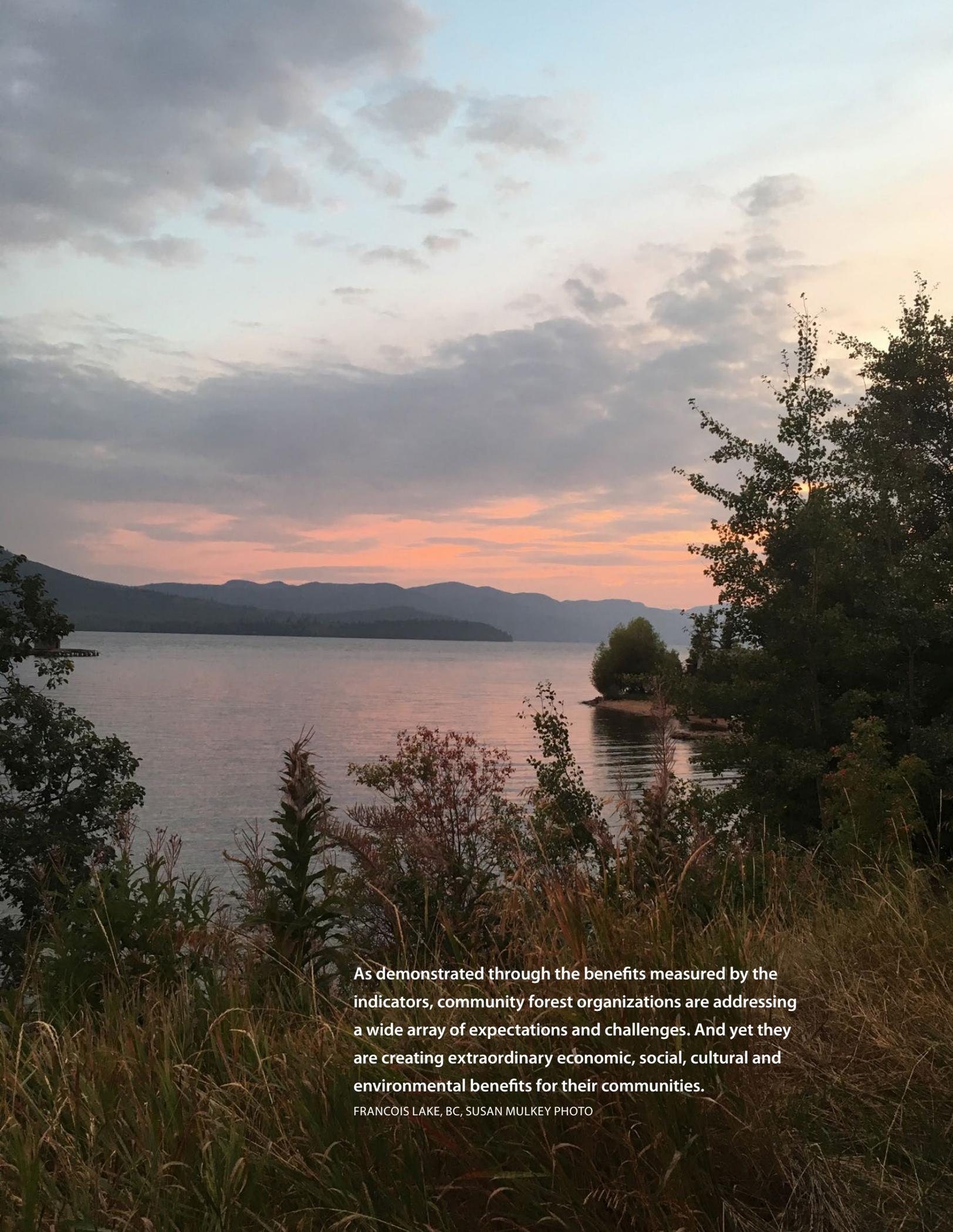
Table 23: FLNRO Compliance and Enforcement inspections

| | |
|---|----|
| Number of responses | 40 |
| Number of inspections and determinations | |
| Total inspections | 27 |
| Determinations issued against the CF | 3 |

Issues cited in the reporting year included:

- A landslide deemed act of nature;
- Non-compliance on road maintenance; and
- A Forest Practices Board investigation was launched in 2016 in response to a complaint by the Valhalla Wilderness Society about NACFOR's harvesting in western toad habitat near Summit Lake. The investigation concluded that NACFOR took reasonable steps to protect the habitat.

LITTLE PRAIRIE COMMUNITY FOREST: “We were the focus of a random, full Forest Practices Board Audit. We came out with a clean audit and had no non-compliances and no area that needed improvement.”



As demonstrated through the benefits measured by the indicators, community forest organizations are addressing a wide array of expectations and challenges. And yet they are creating extraordinary economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits for their communities.

FRANCOIS LAKE, BC, SUSAN MULKEY PHOTO



Student treeplanting on the Nakusp and Area Community Forest, FRANCES SWAN PHOTO



GEORGE BRCKO PHOTO



GEORGE BRCKO PHOTO



SUSAN MULKEY PHOTO



Dave Lasser, BCCFA Board Member & Manager of Sunshine Coast Community Forest, Susan Mulkey, BCCFA Manager of Communications and Extension, and Jennifer Gunter, BCCFA Executive Director, BCCFA PHOTO

The BC Community Forest Association is a network of rural community-based organizations engaged in community forest management, and those seeking to establish new community forests. We represent over 90 rural and Indigenous communities across our province. We share a vision of a network of diverse community forest initiatives, where local people practice ecologically responsible forest management in perpetuity, fostering and supporting healthy and vibrant rural communities and economies.



British Columbia
Community Forest Association

local people, local forests, local decisions