



British Columbia
**Community
Forest
Association**

local people, local forests, local decisions

BCCFA Conference 2011

**2011 BC Community Forest Association Conference and
Annual General Meeting**

June 9th, 10th and 11th - 100 Mile House Community Centre

Acknowledgements

To our presenters and trade show participants, we are grateful for your willingness to share your expertise with us and for the support of your agencies in sending you to our conference.

Special thanks and huge appreciation go to the *District of 100 Mile House* team; Bill Hadden, Donna Bellingham, Roy Scott, Flori Vincenzi, Joanne Doddridge, Tammy McDermid, and Jenette Wallace for their help in organizing and making sure the event ran smoothly.

Thank you to Danielle Johnson, *Cariboo Regional District Forest Capital Project* Coordinator, who helped organize the sponsors and trade show from Texas.

To Jennifer Gunter, Executive Director of the *BC Community Forest Association* (BCCFA), your brilliant perspective and insight is woven throughout all that we do. Thank you for your deep commitment to this organization and to community forestry.

Last, but surely not least, thank you to the BCCFA Board of Directors. You stepped up this year with a vision and were greatly influential in shaping the conference program and sessions. Your knowledge and experience combined with your time-consuming care thoroughly enhanced the relevancy of the conference.

Respectfully,

Susan Mulkey
Manager, Communication and Extension
BC Community Forest Association



SUSAN MULKEY, MINISTER THOMSON AND JENNIFER GUNTER
KEVIN DAVIE PHOTO

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About the Conference

Over 100 people gathered in the traditional territory of the Canim Lake people and the 2011 Forest Capital of Canada for the annual BCCFA Conference and AGM. Our excellent host was the *District of 100 Mile House* with support from the *Cariboo Regional District*. The Community Forests of 100 Mile House, Likely/Xatsull, Williams Lake, Wells and Esketem'c First Nation call the Cariboo home.

As usual, the BCCFA conference was a time for networking, sharing experiences, lessons learned, best practices, and ideas for the future.

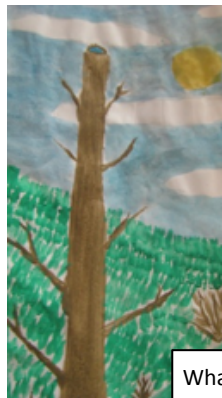


Participant Feedback

I came away with a lot of insight to community forests and look forward with working on getting ours up and running. The networking and speakers were fantastic and supplied a wealth of information and I will recommend further conference attendance. My thanks to you and the rest of the team for a job well done.



**Trade Show
Participants**



**What does the forest mean to you?
Artwork from Mile 108 Elementary School**



2011 Conference Sponsors

We would like to express our gratitude to our sponsors. Their support helps us keep the conference accessible and sustainable.



2011 Field Trips

Field Trip 1 - Forest Management at the Alex Fraser Research Forest: Understanding and Achieving Objectives

The Alex Fraser Research Forest is 10,000 ha of crown land managed since 1987 by the UBC Faculty of Forestry for teaching, research and extension. The Knife Creek Block is in the Interior Douglas-fir



IAN STONE PHOTO

biogeoclimatic zone, and situated in the wildland-urban interface. The general focus of the tour was on how to achieve multiple (often conflicting) objectives through thoughtful forest management planning. The tour looked at mule deer ecology, grassland restoration, and interface fuel treatment. They visited a variety of silvicultural treatments to generate revenues, improve the quality of the forest and achieve land management objectives. The new *Community Forest Extension Note* was available to help explain the concepts and how they apply to individual Community Forests.

Field Trip 2 – Ainsworth Engineered OSB Plant & 100 Mile Wood Products

Ainsworth is a highly technical plant that is converting MPB wood and Aspen into OSB. 100 Mile Wood Products is a small sawmill reman plant that employs 5-10 people. 100 Mile Wood makes a specialty line of V-joint paneling and wood flooring.



HANS GRANANDER PHOTO

Field Trip 3 - West Fraser 100 Mile Lumber Plant & Sitka Log Homes



HANS GRANANDER PHOTO

The West Fraser plant is a lumber mill that has a diet of MPB killed Pine, a Spruce component, and some Douglas fir. Sitka Log Homes is located 8 km north of 100 Mile and is a full phase hand crafted log home plant.

Welcome from the Canim Lake Band

Don Dixon, Canim Lake Band Councillor and Canim Lake Band Natural Resources Department

The following notes are a summary of Don's speech.



KEVIN DAVIE PHOTO

Good evening I would like to welcome you to our Traditional Territory. The People of the Canim Lake Band, or the Tsq'escenemc as we are known in our native language, Secwepemcstin or Shuswap language, are members of the Shuswap Nation.

British Columbia is a big place. We believe that there is room for all forest tenure holders; the crown, major licensees, woodlot owners, community forests and First Nations tenures.

We believe that a healthy forest industry is diverse and that diversity will create opportunities such as:

- The potential for more value added manufacturing more open and competitive log market
- New and innovative forest practices based on a range of different values, including ours.

The Canim Lake Band supports the Community Forest initiative, and would like to see more and expanded opportunities for local forest management within our traditional territory.

However, it is critical that we move forward together, with full inclusion for FN communities. There has been steady progress, but more collaborative efforts are required.

But collaboration alone will not be enough to create FN inclusion and increase local forest management opportunities. More area must be made available to both existing and new communities. We believe that this is one of the key issues that must be addressed is the local forest management is to grow and prosper.

Finally we would like to end with an announcement: The Canim Lake Band has signed a Forest Tenure Opportunity Agreement that provides 20,000 m³ per year AAC replaceable forest licence that will transition into a First Nations Woodlands Licence. An area around Canim Lake has been finalized. The Canim Lake Band hopes to become the province's first First Nations Woodlands Licence.

We would like to thank and acknowledge the efforts of our local forest district in making this deal happen. Thank you and we hope you have a good conference and AGM.

BCCFA Annual Update



KEVIN DAVIE PHOTO

BCCFA Directors and staff gave an update on their efforts to move forward on the priorities identified last year, including expansion of the Community Forest Program and forest policy.

[view presentation](#)

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations Presentations

Ron Greschner, Senior Timber Tenures Forester, Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations

ron.greschner@gov.bc.ca

[view presentation](#)

The following notes are adapted from Ron's presentation.

Reorganization of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (MFLNRO):

- There are now 8 forest regions, a new minister and senior staff.
- Operational and district staff stays the same.

Program Expansion

In 2004 government committed to doubling the program when there was less than 600 000 m3. Now there is 1.6 million m3 and 57 communities in the Community Forest Agreement (CFA) Program.

Regulation Amendment

Historically no ability to transfer CFAs, now amended the regulation to allow for transfer under certain conditions The change allows for a community forest to be transferred if minister is satisfied it is in the best interest of the community to which the CFA relates and entity meets requirements of holding a CFA.

- Examples include: Adding or removing a partner, and a change to organizational structure such as from a corporation to a society. (2).
- Transfer for FN that was tied to Interim Measures Agreement is slightly different.

In summary

- Program continues to expand
- Recent changes to ministry
- Recent changes to legislation
- Continue to work with BCCFA via monthly conference calls

Additional information

MFLNRO Contact info:

www.for.gov.bc.ca/hth/timber-tenures/community/contacts.htm

Doug Stewart, Director, Forest Tenures Branch, Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations

doug.stewart@gov.bc.ca

Doug has been in his position as Director for only 4 months. He said his team is a professional, fun group and they can be very productive. He and his team have worked with the BCCFA Directors and staff through the Joint Working Group to create short, mid and long term goals and it is now time to get down to work.

Doug asked participating CFAs if they were selling wood.

- Wells Gray – very successful year, TEM VRI re-gigged our inventory – we are well positioned
- Enyuid – ready to log, no market
- Cheakamus – operating under our second permit, slow process of gaining cutting authorities.
- McBride – waiting for permits
- 100 Mile House – received our license last year. Dealing with Mountain Pine Beetle. Challenge to sell wood but making some money.

Both Doug and his predecessor, Jim Langridge, now retired, participated in the entire conference.

Dave Peterson - ADM of Tenures, Competitiveness and Innovation, Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations

dave.peterson@gov.bc.ca



KEVIN DAVIE PHOTO

Dave welcomed everyone to the Cariboo. It has been his home for over 30 years. He spoke to his appreciation for rural communities, and the connection between communities and forest management. He personally has been on the log buying side, the log selling side, and now on the policy side. He acknowledged the constraints of international trade and all of the pressures on the land base. Yet he recognized that there are opportunities as well.

Hon. Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations

The following notes represent a summary of the Minister's address.

- The Minister comes from a farming and woodlot background. Formerly he was the Minister of Natural Resource Operations.
- He acknowledged the Canim Lake First Nation for welcoming us to their territory. Brings greetings on behalf of Premier Clark, acknowledged the support of Donna Barnett, local MLA and he acknowledged the local government representatives attending the conference as well.
- Excited early on in his position to get out and meet with organizations that work in this great sector. Hopes to make visiting an active part of his program.

- It is a great Ministry to be involved in. Forestry brings important revenues for the province. He has close connections to the resource industries. Worked in agriculture and was the Executive Director of the Agriculture Council.
- Understands the important role of community forestry. Community Forests (CFs) are a very important initiative in the province – he is very pleased to see it continue to build and grow and contribute to the province and local communities and believes it is a very important part of sustainability.
- He is very pleased that just in recent days invitations have been extended to Cortez, Clinton, Williams Lake and Midway and that the North Island CF has been finalized.
- The Association has shown great innovation and leadership. The Bridges Value Added Project will help facilitate market activity. He said government needs to work with the association to continue to build and support those sorts of initiatives.
- He understands that there have been growing pains and adjustments in the CF program and that government needs to respond to build efficiencies.
- It is important that the program stays adaptive, flexible and continues to expand. We need to work together to explore ways to expand the program including partnerships with other tenure holders.
- We are working on streamlining the regulatory approach to CFAs. We have agreed that we need to continue to advance the 1 CP concept. We need that 1 CP. If we can find the way to streamline approval processes, then we need to do. I'm very pleased to say that we are moving to make this happen. Proposes 3 Pilot Projects to test to make sure it works. Will work with Association to test and make sure it works.
- The CF Program has come a long way since it was launched 13 years ago. He acknowledged his staff that are here and that support the BCCFA.
- Carbon Offset Protocol – we are working through final stages and hope to have it out in the very near future.
- Wildfire Funding – acknowledged for reinstitution.



THE BCCFA BOARD WITH MINISTER THOMSON AND DONNA BARNETT, LOCAL MLA
BILL HADDEN PHOTO

Making Sense of the Next Steps in Bioenergy Panel



KEVIN DAVIE PHOTO

Don Brown, Logan Lake Community Forest and lead Director on the BCCFA Bioenergy file, introduced and facilitated the panel.

Common Definitions in Bioenergy and How They Relate to My Forest, David Dubois, Project Coordinator of the Green Heat Initiative

www.greenheatinitiative.com David@CFQuesnel.com
[view presentation](#)

David explained the terms and definitions of the fibre business. He compared the different types of energy including the variables of: fuel types, unit sale size, energy content of the unit, units required for one gigajoule, retail price and typical costs in BC. He concludes:

1. There are some large projects but most commercial biomass heating projects in BC will be 100 kW – 1500 kW
2. These projects will consume 50 – 1000 bone dry tonnes
3. Approximately 70% of total energy usage in residential and commercial sector in BC is for space heating and domestic hot water
4. Currently 5% of this energy is biomass
5. Increasing to 15% would require 1,000,000 Bone Dry Tonnes of biomass
6. This 10% increase currently costs consumers \$340,000,000/year
7. This \$340,000,000 is spread out across BC and is in your local area
8. **BC needs to develop the fuel supply infrastructure**

Energy by the Numbers

- *Absolute measures of Energy*
- 1 gigajoule (GJ) = 278 kilowatt hours (kWh) = 948,000 British Thermal Units (BTU)
- *Heating System Outputs are expressed as a measure of energy over time i.e. BTU's/hr, kW or Horse Power (typically industrial steam applications)*
- *Energy is sold in various forms i.e. GJ (natural gas), l (Propane, fuel oil), kWh (electricity), m³ (natural gas), kg (pellets), cords (firewood)*

Additional information

Province of BC, website <http://www.naturallywood.com/resources>
Biomass Energy Data Book 2010 <http://cta.ornl.gov/bedb>

**Fiber Management for Efficient Planning, Processing and Transportation,
Toby Jeffreys, RPF - Business Development Manager, All-Wood Fibre Ltd.**

www.all-woodfibre.com tjeffreys@all-woodfibre.com

[view presentation](#)

Toby Jeffreys of All-Wood Fibre in Prince George spoke about his practical experience in setting up successful forest operations for supply and delivery of biomass including understanding the customer and the end use for biomass, planning, processing equipment, transportation options, considerations and limiting factors.

Additional information

<http://bioenergy.ornl.gov/faqs/glossary.html>

**Community Energy Systems in Austria,
Felix Montecuccoli, President of Land & Forst Betriebe Österreich**

felix@montecuccoli.at

[view presentation](#)

Felix is an experienced forester and a shareholder in 4 district heating plants. He is the president of the Land & Forst Betriebe Österreich the private forest owners and farmers association in Austria. He spoke on the philosophy of biomass energy and heating with wood, economics of different heating systems, and harvesting-systems and specialties on biomass-harvesting.

Issues of Governance – The Community and the CFA Manager

**Facilitated by Ken Day and Susan Mulkey with
Case Studies presented by Jesper Nielsen and Marc von der Gonna**

Community Forest managers work under unique conditions, which include the scrutiny of an entire rural community. When a community holds “a sense of stewardship” over an area, there are pressures put on the CF Manager that require a myriad of skills and approaches. In this session we heard from two case studies, one from Nakusp and the other from McBride.

Marc von der Gonna, Manager of the McBride Community Forest, spoke about his experiences and lessons learned as he navigated conflict, confidentiality leaks and community power struggles, dealt with lawyers, accountants and community opinion, and found a strategy that paid off.

- The situation impacted negatively on him and his family. Kids impacted. Uncertainty around the future.
- Decided to take the opportunity to educate the board, used Burns Lake policy as a guideline and created policies: code of conduct, conflict of interest, fiduciary responsibility, etc. Directors must now abide by the policies.

- Learned: Don't engage, especially with media; put out the facts; stay professional; work with people in the community who want to work with you.
- Positives: new policy, better information & public education.
- Negatives: Legal fees, time and resources

Jesper Neilsen, Manager of the Nakusp Community Forest, told the story of a harvesting operation and new road building that put him in the middle of a conflict with local pine mushroom harvesters. The plans for the area had been public for a couple of years, receiving no comments or protest. But it was in September, right in the middle of mushroom picking season, when the contractor showed up, ready to build 5 km of road that Jesper learned about meaningful community consultation.

The following notes are a summary of his candid story and observations.

- I was surprised how many people were out there. By the time I got home there were 6 messages on my home phone. There were 2 local petitions, media was all over it.
- We were blind-sided by the response; we thought that we had done our due diligence. We took a very practical approach.
- What did I do wrong as a manager, what did I overlook?
- These issues in CF become so emotional. It is easy to become too reactionary or to dig in.
- There had been 2 mushroom studies done in the area, but I had not spoken to the consultant.
- Should have found some way to use local expertise. It is hard because pickers are not organized and do not come forward to identify where their interests are on the land.
- We said: You have to form a group, and we will sit down with you and hash this out. We are not going to a public meeting with 100 screaming people.
- 3 compromises were reached: reduced area harvested by 10%, increased buffer strips and shifted some of the areas. People were not perfectly happy, but they were glad to be acknowledged.
- Lessons learned: the dialogue is always ongoing. Maintain your cool, and learn not to take things personally. Understand that people are passionate about their stuff.
- Be prepared to be innovative – we live in a world where we are all rigid – take a chance to try new things.



KEVIN DAVIE PHOTO

"The presentations by Jesper and Marc and the ensuing conversation were perhaps the most sincere, productive, engaging, practical exchanges I have ever heard at a conference! It suggests a collaborative spirit that many other groups would envy, and it bodes well for the success of the organization, and the communities."
Conference Participant

Discussion Summary

The CFA Manager and the Board

- Clearly defined roles and responsibilities between boards and manager are imperative. Often CFs start as grassroots initiatives. It is hard to emerge from a grassroots org from a board role into a manager's role. Get the work done early.
- There must be clearly defined board roles and responsibilities. The board needs to give the manager consistent direction
- Don't expose the manager to controversy – the board's job is to back him up. The board are the ones making the decisions.

- Who mediates the Board? The manager? Or should there be other mechanisms such as conflict resolution or mediation in place?
- The organization needs a structured environment with defined tasks and board roles (Carver model provides good advice on this). Otherwise the board can take management off track. Get the board policies down early. The role of the chair is critical. Chair is the one who should facilitate between the board and the manager, supporting everyone.
- There are a lot of values on the land base that aren't mapped. Interface fire, pet graves, view - points... these aren't on maps.

Board Development

- You have to get your board policies in place.
- Volunteers are often passionate people, but sometimes they don't understand how a board works. I find often my role as chair is facilitating problem solving. If you don't take on that role, then the board goes in many different directions. There has to be a framework and a strong role of facilitating. The role of the chairperson is being a facilitator and an educator.
- "Come from Aways" – The new people in town who volunteer for the board: they haven't breathed your community's reason for having the CFA, so they question every basic philosophy. Yes we need new blood, but should they become chair in the first year?
- Get outside facilitators when there is a serious problem.
- It is very important to have your board members on the same page with the organization's vision.
- Unless they have skills, knowledge and expertise, directors getting involved in day to day management is a mistake.
- Good to adopt the "farm team" (new board members that are learning the ropes) approach. Develop board members by getting them involved in projects. Mid-term vacancies can be filled temporarily by "farm team" members.

Community Engagement

- Find a common thread that links stakeholders such as roads.
- Could help to get interested individuals involved at the landscape level. It is not enough to just get through a stand level issue. It is important to work at the landscape level.
- CFs are under more of a microscope than other licensees.
- Cheakamus has developed memorandums of understanding with groups like mountain bikers – so they know what the process is upfront.
- Bruce Fraser set up public consultation process in early 90s. Taught us to face problems early on. And get facilitation when needed.
- The squeaky wheel gets the most attention, but there are others that have to be listened to as well. Don't lose sight of the silent supporters.
- HP has an ecosystem-based plan, and that meant getting every group in the community to come and draw their areas/interests on the map. We also went to their meetings – we realized that you have to meet people where they are, not count on them to come to you.
- It gets frustrating for managers to not get any meaningful input.
- Recreational stakeholders rely on free access to recreation roads. To get to trails you have to use roads. We are not using the "get in get out" road mentality, but looking at a permanent road

system on a community forest. This creates a new road/public relationship for a CFA than other licensees.

Media

- Be proactive and get them to report on the good work you are doing.
- We developed a very strong community e-mail list. The media is on the list, so they are always getting information – and they get the good news about the CFA.
- Consider options beyond traditional media - social media is so powerful, and at the community level too. You have more control – because you are making your own posts, instead of writing a response to a letter to the editor.
- On media – Marc would advise not to engage – hard to have a fight if you don't enter the ring.
- Build a network of peers – people you trust – use them as a sounding board. This group is a good place the start.

Coping Strategies

- It takes a special kind of person to do the job of the manager. You have to be comfortable seeing your name out there a lot, good and bad. It's not the criticism, it's the exposure. (Jesper)
- At the end of the day, you have to have the courage of your convictions – don't second guess yourself. You are doing the best you can every day. Give yourself the chance to do it better tomorrow than you did today. (Marc)
- Remember that personal agendas and conflict are not unique to community forestry! There is an element of human nature in all community processes.
- Take the positive feedback.
- Something BCCFA can do for a manager is bring skills that managers might not have: Conflict management; dealing with the media etc... BCCFA needs to provide training for managers in conflict resolution.

Community Forest Showcases

Burns Lake Community Forest: From a Dream to Reality

Dawn Stronstad, Manager

dawn.stronstad@blcomfor.com

[view presentation](#)



KEVIN DAVIE PHOTO

In September 1998, the Ministry of Forests issued a Request for Proposals inviting communities throughout the province to apply for a 5-year “pilot” community forest agreement. The Village of Burns Lake was one of four communities selected to ‘test drive’ the new tenure, and promised to employ innovative management strategies to achieve a variety of goals. A new community-owned corporation, Burns Lake Community Forest Ltd. (BLCF), was chosen to manage the Lakes District’s fledgling community forest, with an emphasis on innovative harvesting techniques, increased public consultation, and the development of backcountry recreation infrastructure.

The outbreak of BC’s mountain pine beetle infestation created new and unexpected challenges for the community of Burns Lake. In this presentation, BLCF General Manager Dawn Stronstad shared the company’s story and the insights gained over the past decade, including how to survive as a CF manager (tip – chocolate and hot tubs).

Cheakamus Community Forest Partnership

Heather Beresford

hberesford@whistler.ca

[view presentation](#)



KEVIN DAVIE PHOTO

Cheakamus Community Forest – A partnership between the communities of the Resort Municipality of Whistler, the Lilwat Nation and the Squamish Nation

This is a story of an ambitious partnership with a unique governance structure, operating in a high profile area where tourism is the economic engine. The Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW), the Lil’wat Nation and Squamish Nation are partners in the 30,000 hectare Cheakamus Community Forest (CCF) tenure encircling Whistler. The forests surrounding Whistler are located in an overlap area of the Squamish and Lil’wat territories and are important to the long-term economic, social and ecological viability of the communities and the regional economy. The CCF sets standards for harvesting in line with community sustainability and cultural goals such as recreation, view sheds, watersheds, cultural needs, and old growth management. Adding these community values to the mix presents a challenge to finding suitable places to harvest but the CCF is determined to make it work by implementing its ecosystem based management plan and developing positive working relationships with agencies and local stakeholders.

Recreation Sites and Trails in BC - Trail Liability and Risk Management

Many applicants, in their initial management plans, include a vision to “foster a positive working relationship with recreation user groups and tourism operators” and to “enhance existing and new recreational/tourism opportunities” within their Community Forest land base. The benefits are obvious, but what risk does a CFA take on when they encourage trail development and activities such as steep slope mountain biking within their operating area? In this session we heard from seasoned CFA about how they are managing the liabilities and opportunities of recreational activities on their Community Forests and from Recreation Sites and Trails, of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations.

Jennifer Eastwood RFT, Regional Manager, Southern Interior Region – West, Recreation Sites and Trails, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

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[view presentation](#)

Occupier's Liability Act

- Liability associated with trails in British Columbia (and most Canadian jurisdictions) is determined by the *Occupier's Liability Act* (OLA).
- The Act was amended in 1998. A primary objective was to grant protection from liability to occupiers providing access to land for recreation trails, particularly the Trans Canada Trail.
- The 1998 amendment established a lower duty of care by occupiers for recreational activities on certain categories of premises.
- The lower duty of care is only a duty to not:
 1. create a danger with intent to do harm to the user or damage to the person's property, or
 2. act with reckless disregard to the safety of the user or the integrity of the person's property
- Liability and risk are concerns, but shouldn't be a barrier to managing trails. The Ministry is available to work with CFAs.
- Your tenure may not mean that you are the occupier of the land, but you can still be named in a suit. However, there have been very few actions that have gone through to court and have been successful, so your biggest cost is going to be defending yourself.

Risk Management

- Policy Development (E.g. Mountain Bike Trail Policy which provides operators with guidelines)
- Apply 'standard duty' - manage what is reasonable
- Develop Trail standards and guidelines (Whistler Trail Standards and International Mountain Biking Assn. Guidelines)
- Signage
- Inspection and Evaluation program

Insurance

- Trails do not need to be insured: governments, organizations, or individuals do
- Each party involved with a particular trail should be aware of and comfortable with their exposure and level of insurance
- Look into the Province's Master Insurance Program
- Local governments - Municipal Insurance Association (MIA)
- Third Party General Liability Insurance Policies
- Private landowners added to policies as 'additional insured'
- Where is liability when you don't even know about the activity? You can go to compliance & enforcement and they can make a charge of unauthorized trail building.
- Q: If there is an agreement holder other than the community forest managing the trails how is the community forest protected? A: The Community Forest is not protected however the risk to exposure is low. Often Community Forests are associated with Municipalities as well that does have insurance. The CF does not have control over the use of the land on their tenure so the level of risk is lower.
- One of the purposes of the OLA is to reduce the burden so that there is some reasonableness as we cannot micro manage everywhere. Bottom line is the CF should have some type of insurance.

In Summary

- Risk CAN be managed; however, you are NOT immune from liability
- Your tenure may not mean that you are 'the' occupier – the Crown may be; however,
- You could be named in a suit and you need to protect yourself through insurance

More information

BC Recreation Sites and Trails <http://www.sitesandtrailsbc.ca/> <http://www.facebook.com/BCRecSitesandTrails?v=wall>

Burns Lake Community Forest and Recreation

Dawn Stronstad, Manager

dawn.stronstad@blcomfor.com

[view presentation](#)

Burns Lake CF (BLCF) supports

1. Recreation Sites and Trails
2. Recreation Events
3. Cross-country skiing
4. Snowmobiling
5. Mountain Biking - Purchased 160 acres of private land for Bike Park development. Purchased mini-excavator for trail construction (provided free of charge). Donated \$100,000 seed money to mountain bike club

BLCF initiated the establishment of the Lakes Outdoor Recreation Society (LORS)

- LORS is a not-for-profit society. LORS's mandate is to keep local recreation sites and trails open and maintained
- BLCF donated \$25,000+ annually to this end
- LORS holds Directors and Officers Liability insurance
- Recreation sites and trails liability covered under government policy (registered trails and recreation sites)
- LORS is a partner with Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Challenges

- Funding, funding, funding
- Government stopped funding recreation program in 2001 (provides some support – project-based, infrastructure)
- Funding, funding, funding

Why successful?

- Dollars from BLCF to get “product” on the ground (maintenance, new trails, etc.) – \$1.1 million+ to date to recreation
- Dedicated group of volunteers (LORS, BL MBA, BLSC, OSC)
- All trails registered/approved and built to *Whistler Trail Standards* according to the agreement with the government
- Awesome support from Recreation Sites and Trails Branch (Kevin Eskelin)

Rewards

- “Tangible” benefits from the community forest
- Social benefit
- Economic benefit
- Fulfills mandate and follows policy!

Cheakamus Community Forest Recreation

Heather Beresford

hberesford@whistler.ca

[view Presentation](#)

- Recreation is Whistler's raison d'être - Consistently ranked #1 resort in North America with over 2 million visitors per year.
- CFA inherited area that was full of trails.
- Developed MOUs with mountain bike trails user groups– how are we going to communicate and include you, and make sure that after logging the trail is brought back to an acceptable standard. Have had success with this.
- FSP includes “defined recreation elements”. Our goal is protection of recreational elements.
- There are overlapping commercial recreation tenures in the operating area.
- One operator freaked out and bought full page ads. We had only ever had 3 people at open houses. Then things really got stirred up with lots of media attention. Important to not take it personally. Learned that we needed to do more outreach. We are working with them to find a way to make both sides as happy as possible.

- How do you reconcile these demands with government's AAC target? Tom Cole, CFA manager said: Our job is about figuring out what the timber harvesting land base is currently, not what it was. There may be net downs.

Community Forest Research

This breakfast session was the first of a new feature of BCCFA annual conferences, where students involved in academic research on Community Forests present a summary of their recent or proposed work and engage directly with community forest practitioners. The session included a very valuable discussion on how to improve the relationship between researchers and community forests.

Small Mills Keep Trucking When the Majors Close: the Moral Economy of Timber Access Allocation in BC

Evelyn Pinkerton and Jordan Benner, School of Resource & Environmental Management, Simon Fraser University

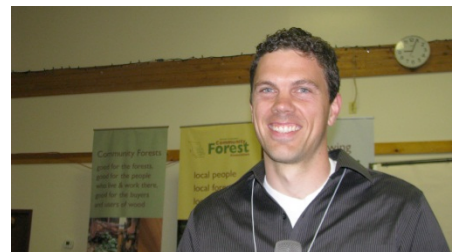
Contact epinkert@sfu.ca for more information

How Can we Design Policies and Tenure Arrangements to Promote Local Benefits in the Forest Sector?

Jordan Benner, School of Resource and Environmental Management Simon Fraser University

jp7@sfu.ca

[view presentation](#)



- Compares before and after appurtenancy – 2003 Revitalization Plan removed appurtenancy which served as a social contract to mill wood harvested locally. SUSAN MULKEY PHOTO
- Community Forest Agreement program was expanded, partly as compensation. Needless to say, there were huge expectations about these new tenures ability to restore and even increase the local benefits that previously existed.
- Similar to the effects of the removal of appurtenancy, not of lot of empirical evidence exists which looks at these differences.
- Jordan's research attempts to look at some of these comparisons: looking at how tenures differ in terms of their provision of local benefits, and how have some of these indicators changed since the policy change in 2003?
- CFAs over the study period had the most localized fibre flow.
- CFAs have the most fibre flow diversity.
- CFAs are in black and over the past several years, when the statistics make the most sense, they do provide the most mills with wood.
- The data shows that wood is being shipped to a few less mills on average after the change, but maybe not as much as some people might have expected.
- There is a lot of variability among CFAs.
- How can we promote local benefits? There is no panacea. It is context dependent, there are tradeoffs among different objectives, finding appropriate balance is key.

Ella Furness, MSc Candidate, University of BC, Faculty of Forestry
ellafurness@gmail.com

Ella is currently at the proposal stage. Idea in biology is adaptive capacity meaning that ecosystems can take shocks and, depending on their resiliency, they bounce back. This idea is being considered for people, organizations, and communities around climate change. Ella's research will explore:

- Why some organizations will collapse when they are faced by a shock, and others are not.
- How much adaptive capacity to take shocks do CFAs have? If they don't, how can they be supported and what government policy changes can be made to help them be more resilient.
- Do people have the skills, expertise, resources to manage CFAs for climate change?

Session Discussion Summary

How do CFAs encourage and participate in research that we need? How do we work with academic institutions and individuals for mutual benefit?

- Data can help build the case for community forests. (example: funding, program expansion and value added manufacturing development)
- It takes time to work with grad students. They
- If you want to engage in research, it takes time. Students are also exploring. Make time, be available – not a huge amount of time, but they do need care.
- Need to keep track of who's doing what. This is what the Research Forest (AFRF) does for UBC.
- Institutionally, BCCFA could help individual CFAs with research coordination and tracking.
- Suggested that BCCFA could join in on the AFRF database.
- Develop list of questions that the BCCFA/CFAs want answered.
- Have a list of ideas that are wide ranging. Then you develop relationships with professors
- Research is good and important – but there are problems. It's very important to make time to review the material, but don't always have time.
- Marc: We've had a lot of research done on our CFA. Now we want to be more selective, and more involved in the review – and possibly be on the supervisory committee.

Next Steps

- We need MOU/agreements that lay out clear responsibilities for both researchers and communities.
- Continue to develop relationships with professors
- Develop a wish list for research. Examples: safe harbour clauses in SLA. Value added research on good economic practices.

Partners and Projects Presentations

Ken Day, MF, RPF UBC-Alex Fraser Research Forest BCCFA Extension Project

kday@forestry.ubc.ca

[view presentation](#)



KEVIN DAVIE PHOTO

Ken gave an update on the 3 year project and the newly developed extension materials. Materials include tools for managing map data and how to work with long term goals and objectives in Community Forest management. He explained the deliverables for the next two years that include:

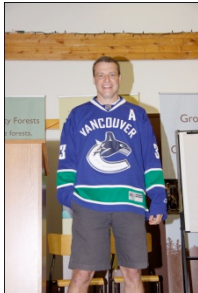
- Spatial forest management planning
- Tenure administration tools
- Governance resources and templates
- Extension to communities (Road show)
- Continuing interaction with UBC Forestry and others

Ken is also recruiting volunteers for involvement in new UBC Faculty of Forestry research projects.

Complete Data Management System for Community Forests

Kelly Sherman, Ecora Resource Group

kelly.sherman@ecora.ca or david.meyers@ecora.ca



KEVIN DAVIE PHOTO

Ecora Resource Management Group has been working with CFA holders to create a Data Management System (DMS) specifically designed to meet the needs of CFAs at an affordable price.

- Understand the gaps and needs of the BCCFA members
- Grant Thompson has been working with them and says: it has brought us from the paper world to the digital world in a matter of 6 months. Information is power, and I feel like I am on steroids. It works well with local GIS people
- George Brcko: Our experience is that it has become a phenomenal tool for our data management and for public meetings and board reports.
- Ecora will be offering a webinar soon. Interested CFAs can sign up with Ecora.

Bridges Value Added Project

Rhoni Whyard, RW Business Solutions Marketing Consulting

rhoni@rwbusinesssolutions.com

[view presentation](#)

This initiative is supported by a consortium of partners working to create an interactive website that will connect buyers and sellers of forest products. Rhoni gave a summary of information gathered from the series of community discussion meetings and



KEVIN DAVIE PHOTO

updated us on the next steps of the project and the ideas for an interactive website

- Completed all 10 meetings across BC
- Developed the website prototype based on feed back
- Created a maintenance plan
- Developed a long term marketing plan.

What was heard about building an interactive website

- Keep it current
- Slow versus high speed – allow for dial up users
- Tech support required
- Profile listings which include: Transporters, consultants, local service providers, contractors, consultants, suppliers, etc...
- Post current items to buy or sell
- Post annual capacity for future planning
- Robust search and sort capabilities
- Be able to group sellers together
- Email updates and notifications

Still to Come

- Test market the website prototype – June 2011
- Website launch at UBCM – September 2011
- Ongoing marketing and promotion of the website
- Final reports

Thisfish Pilot Project

Daniel Arbour, Ecotrust Canada and the Chair of the Canadian Model Forest Network

Daniel@ecotrust.ca

[view presentation](#)

Daniel introduced this multi-partner project which includes piloting of a traceability and social marketing website to promote sustainable small scale forestry.



KEVIN DAVIE PHOTO

Ecotrust works in forest, fisheries and energy sectors.

- Thisforest pilot project is all about telling the stories of the forest of origin.
- Quebec has invested 4 million into traceability as a marketing tool.
- Ecotrust started thisfish – a fisheries traceability website. Commercial fishermen wanted to tell their stories of where the catch came from and of who they are. It has been very successful.
- Thisforest is taking thisfish as a model into small scale forestry.
- The goal of the pilot is to assess consumer response to the concept.
- Looking for 1 or 2 pilot sites

Forest Carbon Solutions in BC

James Sandland, Manager of Carbon Solutions, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources

James.Sandland@gov.bc.ca

[view presentation](#)



KEVIN DAVIE PHOTO

In BC, ownership of carbon is held by the landowner – the Crown. However, Government is developing policy to enable project proponents to claim ownership of carbon offset credits resulting from forest carbon project activities. James gave an overview of the soon to be released Forest Carbon Offset Protocol (FCOP) and how Community Forests can get involved in project development.

•The goal of Carbon Solutions is to foster a sustainable low-carbon

economy: to reduce emissions and capitalize on carbon reductions.

- Offsets started with the Kyoto Protocol which limited forest carbon credits that Canada can have.
- Now there are several: International voluntary market; local Pacific Carbon Trust; Western Carbon Initiative.
- There are international criteria for offsets: real; additional; permanent; verifiable and clear ownership
- Protocol is a guide to help you quantify carbon.
- The forests of BC store enormous quantities of carbon
- The amount of carbon can increase, remain relatively constant or decrease over time.
- Internationally, forestry protocols are for “voluntary” offsets and are not specific to BC’s forestry management practices.
- The quantification of the offset is complex and requires quantification of various carbon pools including harvested wood products and leakage.
- Land use choices and forest management choices influence the amount of carbon removed from the atmosphere and stored in the forest and harvested wood products.
- They have identified opportunities by forest region in BC with a significant differential between the interior and the coast
- FLNRO Carbon Solutions can help identify and develop potential forest carbon offset opportunities for CFAs
- Is there an opportunity to form a Community Forest Carbon Working Group?

Q&A

- Q: How does carbon offset program deal with conflicting objectives: restoration of fire ecosystems, fuel management? A: Some sites are not suitable for all management objectives. My team can help you identify opportunities.
- Q: Will CFAs get the \$ from the offsets? A: Depends on the project, but the CFA will in most cases get the \$\$\$. Whoever does the project gets the carbon offset – we would need to develop a carbon offset ownership agreement.
- Q: Project costs are high, can gov help? A: We don’t have cash to put in right now, but we do have human resources to help. You can also aggregate smaller projects together.

Concurrent Workshop Sessions

First Nations Dialogue Session

The BCCFA has held an ongoing goal to widen the circle of understanding, respect and mutually beneficial connections between First Nations and all Community Forest organizations. Participants in this workshop session were asked to share their experiences and insights into the issue. The Board will use the workshop outcomes to help set the course for the next year of activities regarding First Nations Dialogue.

Don Brown gave an overview of the last year of BCCFA work on the file. He opened the discussion with the following questions: Should the board be building relations with First Nation (FN) organizations and communities? Is it better done community to community? What is the right level?

The 15 participants gave an overview of their experiences with FN engagement. The majority reported they have satisfactory working relationships with local FN, many with overlapping territories on the CFA.

Building Connections with First Nations

- Suggestion that the BCCFA should visit FN communities with the message about what community forests and the BCCFA are about - get on the agenda for Band Council or Tribal Council meetings.
- Strong sentiment was expressed that individual CFAs are creating good working relationships with local FNs. It was said that CFAs cannot build a relationship with their local FN through a political organization like BCCFA. "BCCFA would be irrelevant to my local First Nations."
- Until we build trust, can't talk about FN referrals and consultation at the local level.
- If you want the BCCFA to build relationships, work with Tribal Councils and Provincial organizations.
- There is a role for BCCFA, but communities must work with local FNs.
- Important to remember that FNs have unique interests. What is the interest of the FN that is ongoing? It is treaty. But we can work together on specific issues.
- We can offer them assistance in developing FN Woodlands Tenures
- No we need to ask first if they want our help, and what their needs are.
- Wells Gray CF wants to hold an NTFP workshop at the FN community

Referrals and Single CP

- Each District handles things very differently when it comes to referral.
- CFAs are finding no value in the 60 day consultation period. Experience says, if a FN doesn't respond, you just go ahead.
- CPs are low priority – FN are working on addressing their needs: treaty, education, health...
- Single Cutting Permit Concept – this is where relationships at the local level will facilitate or impede progress.
- We consult annually on our harvest plan – there needs to be an ongoing relationship.

Is there a higher level that BCCFA should be looking at?

- How are FN Woodlands tenures being represented? Should the FBCWA, the BCCFA and the FN Woodland tenures work together and form a parent organization?
- It was said that there is a sense that that a parent organization might not fly, in fact, a comment was made that the BCCFA must be “cautious about selling the BCCFA to FN and trying to get their membership”.
- There could be some key messages coming from the BCCFA that member communities could use.
- We want to move forward with expansion, and government sees us as a competing interest with FNs. But we would like to work with FN.
- FNs don’t have a unified voice across BC. The First Nations Forestry Council (FNFC) doesn’t represent everyone.
- FNFC was invited to Williams Lake this spring. Xatsull are in stage 4 of treaty negotiations. The topic was BCTS and treaty settlement lands. FNFC came and did not know the local concerns. FNFC is more coastal and south (Kelowna). They do not have representation from Cariboo Chilcotin and the North.

What are action items for the board for the next year?

- Focus could be single cutting permit – this is an opening for discussions with provincial/tribal groups.
- Local FN should have a part in the agenda of the AGMs – need speakers on the agenda that speak specifically to FN interests.
- Is there interest to establish a formal organization that represents FNs, CFAs, WLs?
- Ask FNFC what their concerns are with CFAs and then resolve the problems.
- Reach out to BCCFA FN members and ask them to help the board decide what should be done.
- Explore the barriers and opportunities for FN involvement—include NTFPs.
- Does the BCCFA express support for Woodlands tenures? Clarify this.
- Emails and phone calls are not the right strategy – need face to face contact.
- Explore the business opportunities.
- Aboriginal Day is June 21st
- Committee volunteers: Harleywright@telus.net; George B & Robin Strong.

Community Forest Agreement Administrative Streamlining Priorities

One of the BCCFA’s top priorities is to improve the administrative efficiency of the tenure. The greatest obstacle for many CFA holders is the amount of time it takes for cutting authority approval. This hinders our ability to respond to markets and to take advantage of opportunities to promote the economic vitality of our communities. Other problems are created by policies designed for volume-based tenures. With small, area-based, long-term tenures, communities have assumed the stewardship role. Regulations and policies that recognize this will streamline administration and create efficiencies. This workshop was a chance for CFA Managers to come together to share their experience, learn from each other and to help the BCCFA board and staff refine their work on the policy front. The goal was to

hear about cases where CFA administration is working well, and where it isn't; best practices; and to find out if there are problems that have yet to be acknowledged by the Association.

1 Cutting Permit (CP) Concept

Brian McNaughton, General Manager of the Federation of Wood Lot Associations talked about the wood lot experience with the one or single cutting permit pilot project recently completed.

- We used to appraise timber by block – when the woodlots got on the tab rates, the way was cleared administratively for doing 1 CP.
- But with FN consultation, cut control etc... , there are a lot of variables. So we worked on a subcommittee. And then piloted the idea in 3 districts.
- Take or pay still applies to Woodlots, but we can manage your risk.
- 1CP allows the licensee to be more responsive to markets
- Principle around 1 CP isn't your size, it is how well you know your landbase.
- Issues with 1 CP - FN Consultation – District Manager has to be comfortable; Existing cut blocks with old stumpage; Reporting requirements are done in a responsible way.

Comments

- We are trying to go to 1 CP because we can't get 10 through the district.
- We are looking at admin streamlining because of inconsistencies from district to district. Some take 20 days to approve, some take months.
- It is not going to workable for all CFAs.

FN Consultation

- 1CP sets the stage for a different form of FN consultation. It bundles up a huge amount of work load that they don't have time to address separately.
- George Brcko described the Lower North Thompson CF approach to the FN consultation process, approved by the Ministry.
- There is a big difference between FN consultation over rights (cultural heritage, traditional use, strength of claim), and then someone who would like to have use of the land.
- Brian said that woodlots are looking at a new model of more ongoing FN consultation – more focused on a relationship level. But the question is does it satisfy the district's requirement to consult? Different DMs have different levels of comfort with risk.
- Doug Stewart – a single approach doesn't work for everyone. 1 CP doesn't solve FN consultation.

Waste Assessment

- Even ocular can be burdensome.
- Could CFAs get together and do regional surveys?
- Waste assessment will be pushed as soon as the receiving licences come into effect.

Additional Streamlining Comments

- Minor harvesting idea is something we should look at.
- There is not provision for blanket salvage permits for CFAs anymore.
- If you go around minor harvesting, then you eventually will be high grading. It's too risky from my point of view.
- Much depends on the individual community forest's philosophy.

- Government's notion that professional reliance is streamlining. Brian – in some contexts it works, but it often creates more admin – you need so many different types of professionals
- Approvals for area-based tenure should be handled differently than volume based tenures.
- Somehow we need a way to share best practices, Associations like this are good. There is a FN consultation pilot in the south – consistency is being looked at.

Why Does the BCCFA need a Strategic Marketing Plan?

Rhoni Whyard, Marketing Consultant

rhoni@rwbusinesssolutions.com

[view presentation](#)

We are told we need to market our wood better or that we need to create a marketing plan to grow our business. But WHY do we need marketing? Rhoni Whyard, Business & Marketing Consultant facilitated this session on why marketing is important for individual CFAs and the BCCFA.



SUSAN MULKEY PHOTO

Rhoni will reviewed the strengths and weaknesses of the BCCFA's brand and marketing activities to date, and made recommendations for an approach to create an effective marketing plan that will benefit the BCCFA and its members.

She stressed that the organization's brand must be consistent and on everything. The BCCFA brand can also support individual CFA's brands. There was strong support expressed by the group for a development of comprehensive BCCFA marketing plan.

Please note: Many of the slides in Rhoni's presentation are not fact based. Rather they are examples of what may come from a BCCFA strategic marketing planning session. (slides 6-8, 11-14 and 17)

New Community Forests, Applicants and Wannabes Workshop

This annual session proved its value once again as evidenced by the lively discussion and pointed questions put forward by the participants. BCCFA members, staff and Ministry staff served as resource people.

Extension materials that address Community forest governance issues are under development. It will include the topics discussed in the session which include;

- Taxation obligations and options in organizational design
- Ramifications of the Trade Investment Labour Mobility Agreement must be well understood
- Advisory group Terms of Reference
- Manager skill sets

Good advice was given to wannabe communities (communities without an invitation to apply for a CFA). Find the available AAC first, and the land base second. Get the focus off the potential administration and get it on to the land base.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Yes there were also fun and games. BCCFA President Robin Hood came up with the idea of a carbon credit game. All conference registrants were given a wooden “carbon credit” with instructions that the person at the end with the most wins. One participant observed, “It was an interesting sociological experiment...the men were stealing from each other and the women pooled their resources??!!



DONNA BELLINGHAM AND JOANNE
DODDRIDGE GUARDIANS OF THE
CARBON CREDITS



SAMANTHA CHARLTON
CARBON CREDIT COLLECTOR



CARBON QUEENS

KEVIN DAVIE PHOTOS

The conference date was set months ago. We could hardly have known that the date would converge with the Vancouver Canucks and the Boston Bruins battling for Stanley Cup playoffs. An enthusiastic crew of Canuck fans watched game #5 at a local establishment. Ron Greschner however, wore his Bruins jersey proudly, and was, in the end, the victor.

