



British Columbia
Community
Forest
Association

Conference and AGM | 2013



Contents

Introduction	3
With Appreciation.....	4
Field Trip – Wetzin’kwa Community Forest	6
Welcome Reception and Trade Show	7
2013 BCCFA Conference Session Summary	8
BCCFA – The Year in Review	8
2012-2013 Presidents Report	8
Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations – Update on the Community Forest Program.....	8
Broadening Community Forest Opportunities Management of Additional Resources	9
Meeting the practical, day to day challenges of managing for climate change.....	11
Adapting to Climate Change – Tools in Our Adaptation Tool Kit.....	11
Implementing Climate Change Lessons at the Operational Level.....	15
Adapting to Climate Change	16
Non-timber Forest Resources and the Wells Gray Community Forest	17
Incorporating First Nation’s Perspectives and Cultural Resource Management into Forestry Planning	19
Manager’s Forum A BCCFA 2013 Conference Session Summary.....	21
Community Forest Board of Directors’ Forum.....	24
Maximizing the Value of Community Forest Resources and Building Local Economies	27
Update on the Bridges II Project: Creating More Economic Value from Regional Forests	28
Wetzin’kwa Community Forest Corporation Value-Added Policy Direction.....	29
Smart Phones and Tablets: Tremendous Potential for Field Data Collection	32
Tracking Community Forest Benefits Consideration of the Best Approach.....	35
Partners and Projects.....	37
First Nations Dialogue Session	39
BC Communities: Forest Sector Technical Support Services.....	41
Community Forest Showcase	43

Introduction

Conference delegates were welcomed to the beautiful Bulkley Valley, home of the Wet'suwet'en people, by our hosts the Wetzin'kwa Community Forest Corporation (WCFC). WCFC takes its name from the Wet'suwet'en word Wetzin'kwa, which means "flowing blue green or clear waters" and refers to the river flowing from Morice Lake to Hazelton, or the Morice and Bulkley rivers. The community forest tenure is jointly held by the Town of Smithers and the Village of Telkwa.

Although many had to travel great distances to attend, participants report that the combination of information and insights, networking and fun made it all worthwhile to take part in the 2013 BCCFA Conference and Annual General Meeting (AGM). Over 90 people participated in the event which included representation from 50% of the BCCFA membership, forestry professionals, government representatives, researchers and academics.

The Wetzin'kwa Community Forest hosts were wonderful organizers and put on a great field trip where they demonstrated their community outreach through stories of their meaningful connection with the Wet'suwet'en people and with local user groups.



The Wetzin'kwa Community Forest Corporation is committed to:

- involving the community
- working with the Wet'suwet'en people
- land stewardship
- enhancing outdoor recreation and education
- a healthy community forest economy

"I have attended all of the BCCFA AGMs since McBride in 2007. I have found that by attending the conferences I return home with at least one piece of new information that I can apply the following week which more than pays for my attendance at the conference. Sometimes this new insight is gleaned from the invited speakers and many times it is the informal discussions with other CFA managers and directors. This year's AGM in Smithers was no exception and I am already looking forward to the 2014 BCCFA AGM."

"The event was a very gratifying experience for me – one of the best in my whole career with government."

"Great job organizing the conference. Very professional. I can see why the BCCFA is becoming increasingly visible these days."

"Fun event and learned lots. "

"Thanks again for the opportunity to present our work at your conference. I very much enjoyed the dialogue and the other presentations. I only wish I had booked more time to participate further."

With Appreciation

The BCCFA would like to thank the Wetzin'kwa Community Forest Corporation for hosting the conference. Special appreciation for the keen organizational efforts and wonderful Smithers hospitality goes to the Host Logistical Team: Jill Dunbar, Dean Daly, Lisa Ambus and Bill Golding. The field trip was exceptional.

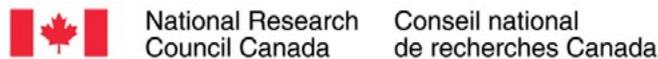
We also want to thank all of the conference presenters and sponsors for their support and participation in the event. Speaker bios can be found at the end of this report.

We are grateful to Samantha Charlton and Jennifer Gunter for taking notes in the sessions which have formed the backbone for this report.

We would like to acknowledge the support received from National Research Canada-Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC-IRAP) through the Digital Technology Adoption Pilot Program (DTAPP). NRC-IRAP provides contributions to eligible organizations that have the capacity to help small and medium enterprises in accelerating their adoption of digital technologies. NRC-IRAP is delivering DTAPP on behalf of Industry Canada.

Thanks also to the Bulkley Valley Credit Union for taking on the massive job of photocopying for our event.

\$795 was raised through the annual Silent Auction. All funds go to 2014 conference sponsorships for students and BCCFA members in need of financial support to attend the conference.



2013 BCCFA Conference Sponsors

Platinum - \$5,000+



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Ministry of
Forests, Lands and
Natural Resource Operations



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Field Trip – Wetzin’kwa Community Forest

The field trip included a trip to the Silvern Gathering Place, the celebration spot for the 1 millionth tree planted on the CF, a mountain biking trail and infrastructure, the local demonstration forest, current harvesting, and skid trails now being managed as cross-country ski trails.

Sybille Haeussler, UNBC adjunct professor, professional forester and researcher gave a presentation on Whitebark Pine Planting Trials. Whitebark pine was designated as endangered by the Government of Canada in 2012.

Bill Golding told the story of their community forest including information on the following:

- Background of the Wetzin’kwa Community Forest governance and key policies
- Management of recreation resources within the Wetzin’kwa area including the development and content of Memorandum of Understanding (Nordic Club, Community Forest Society, Smithers Mountain Bike Society) as it relates to communication, planning and forest development
- Wetzin’kwa’s grant program
- Wetzin’kwa’s plans for adaptive forest management
- Management of cultural heritage features on the Wetzin’kwa Community Forest
- Wetzin’kwa’s various alternate silviculture systems and proposed future treatments

» [Link to field trip agenda](#)



Wetzin’kwa Field trip - Silvern Gathering Place | Photo: Susan Mulkey

Welcome Reception and Trade Show

Marc von der Gonna, BCCFA President opened the evening's ceremonies. Mabel Forsyth, also known as Timberwolf, a member of the Wet'suwet'en people, welcomed the delegates.

The Mayor of Smithers, Taylor Bachrach, welcomed people to Smithers and expressed his support and enthusiasm for community forestry and the benefits it has brought to the town.

Jevan Hanchard, District Manager of the Skeena Stikine Forest District addressed the group. He mentioned that the district is the largest in the province, the size of PEI, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia combined.

- In the light of the mid-term timber supply situation, and climate change, we are challenged to find a way to balance social, economic and ecological values that forests provide
- Community forests can provide a model

We also heard from a few community forest supporting conference sponsors:

- Silver Sponsor - Dunkley Lumber - Jason Fisher
- Silver Sponsor - West Fraser – Chris Dehoog
- Silver Sponsor - Forest Safety Council – Gerard Messier



Saturday conference participants | Photo: Susan Mulkey

2013 BCCFA Conference Session Summary

BCCFA – The Year in Review

Presented by Jennifer Gunter, BCCFA Executive Director

[» Link to presentation](#)

2012-2013 Presidents Report

The report, prepared by Jennifer Gunter, Executive Director and submitted on behalf of the Board of Directors by President, Marc von der Gonna, gives a comprehensive account of the priorities and activities of the BCCFA over the past year.

[» Link to President's Report](#)

Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations – Update on the Community Forest Program

Presented by Peter Graff, Senior Timber Tenures Forester, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Forest Tenures Branch

[» Link to presentation](#)



Group Discussions | Photo: Susan Mulkey

Broadening Community Forest Opportunities Management of Additional Resources



Moderated by Marc von der Gonna

In this session the potential for broadening the scope of resources managed by Community Forests was discussed. We heard from Satnam Manhas, RPF, and Ecotrust's Ecosystem Services Program Manager about the progress of the Cheakamus Community Forest carbon credit project. Kevin Kriese, MFLNRO, Assistant Deputy Minister, Regional Operations, North joined us as a resource person for the session. Kevin also spoke to government's 'Transformation Plan' which expands on the vision for 'One Land Base, One Land Manager'.

Satnam S. Manhas, RPF, Ecosystems Services Manager, Ecotrust Canada
satnam@ecotrust.ca

Ecotrust has been working with Cheakamus Community Forest for 5 years. They are currently working on a 'carbon valuation project'.

Because Cheakamus' timber revenues are not sufficient to meet their CFA objectives, they selected to explore the valuation of non-timber resources such as carbon.

This is a pilot project negotiated directly with (former) MFLNRO Deputy Minister, Doug Konkin. It is a 'one-time' pilot only – and includes a Letter of Understanding signed with MFLNRO.

Ecotrust has partnered with Brinkman and Associates www.brinkmanforest.ca and with Living Carbon www.livingcarbon.ca. Upfront cost for the current project is about \$225,000.

For carbon valuation, a baseline calculation is based on the Soo TSA expected harvest in the area without a CFA = approximately 54,000 m³.

Cheakamus annual harvest is approximately 22,000 m³.

Cheakamus' initial analysis suggests that there will be approximately 10,000 to 12,000 tonnes of carbon per year available for sale.

The additionality of carbon sequestration comes primarily from lower harvest rate and extended rotation ages.

Pacific Carbon Trust and carbon offset purchasers want LOCAL carbon projects—thus there is a desire to encourage local projects.

A key question is: What is an equitable and fair distribution of carbon value between the BC government, First Nations, and CF proponents and their partners?

**Kevin Kriese, Assistant Deputy Minister, Regional Operations, North Area,
Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations**

Kevin.kriese@gov.bc.ca

The BCCFA has stated a goal to increase the total Community Forest Agreement Annual Allowable Cut to 3 million m³, from the current 1.9 million m³. Kevin stated that it will require a political commitment to increase volume allocated to CFA program in the foreseeable future (he especially cautioned the BCCFA to not expect additional volume to come from BCTS).

The One Land Manager Program is a change from the old government 'silo' approach.

The program is internal to government and is not intended for external (non-government) actors (i.e., the government is the One Land Manager, not a licensee).

Other than forestry and mining, all tenures/authorization come from The Land Act—e.g., aggregate tenure, recreation tenures.

Ministry boundaries matter less than before with the new approach. The vision is 'one project, one process' as compared to a requirement to get authorizations from multiple Ministries. The approach is especially relevant for mining projects.

The program is tied to Front Counter BC and the one-stop shopping approach.

Over next 5-10 years, the government will be working on integration of ~400 electronic systems.

Also, integration of legislation will be required due to conflicting acts. Expect a new Act to allow fixes to existing Acts.

For CFAs it should become easier to access information.

"Head lease" is a tool currently available to local governments and First Nations, where they can take over responsibility for administration of multiple tenures/authorizations. It includes the potential to sub-lease to others.

Head lease only makes sense where there is a concentration of tenure holders in a small area. Because there are high overhead costs to administer a head lease critical mass is needed to make it worthwhile.

CFAs can already legally take on other tenures if desired— for example recreation, trapping, guide/outfitting, even gravel.

Kevin suggests looking closely at Land Act for information on non-timber tenure options.

Meeting the practical, day to day challenges of managing for climate change

Moderated by Donald G. Morgan, MSc, RPBio

Don.Morgan@gov.bc.ca

When planning for the conference, organizers heard that there is a need for tools for adaptive responses in the long term management of our community forests, not just projections and modeling of predicted changes. They asked for information on the policy, tools and knowledge that are required to adjust our plans and practices. In this session we heard from community forest managers, forest professionals and ministry staff that have direct experience managing for climate change.

Presenters

Kathy Hopkins, MFLNRO, Competitiveness and Innovation Branch, Technical Advisor, Climate Change

Casey MacCauley, Resource Operations Specialist, Association of BC Forest Professionals

Grant Thompson, Manager, Westbank Community Forest

Bill Golding, Manager, Wetzin'kwa Community Forest and Silvicon Services

Adapting to Climate Change – Tools in Our Adaptation Tool Kit

Kathy Hopkins, MFLNRO, Competitiveness and Innovation Branch, Technical Advisor, Climate Change

kathy.hopkins@gov.bc.ca

» Link to presentation

Kathy joined us by Skype from Victoria. Hers was the first ever BCCFA conference Skype presentation. We are pleased with how effective the technology was to bring Kathy right into the room with conference participants.

The three main risks to forests in a changing climate are:

1. Increased disturbance from insects and disease.
2. Increased disturbance from fire.
3. Risk of mal-adaptation: tree species becoming increasingly stressed in new climatic conditions.

There are two important tools to help with the assessment of current forest health risk. Start with these two tools to look at risks that are likely to increase in a changing climate.

- The insect and disease incidence maps coordinated by Tim Ebata, Regional Forest health specialist can be found online at http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/HFP/external!/publish/Forest_Health/RESULTS%20incidence%20maps/
- The fire risk map based on fuel hazard assessment can be found online at http://bcwildfire.ca/Industry_Stakeholders/industry/hazrisk.htm, coordinated by Heather Chia, Senior Policy and Legislation Analyst, Wildfire Protection Branch. It enables you to identify the location, determine the fuel hazard rating (dispersed or piled slash), and consult the hazard abatement table for fuel hazard thresholds.
- While the maps are science based, it is important to err on the side of caution.

Species diversity and your risk profile - Diversity can help to reduce risk or manage insect or disease damage. It is important to avoid undue simplification of stands and landscapes.

How would you go about assessing diversity-related risk and climate change impacts?

Tree species diversity can be measured in two ways

- Number of species
- Dominance of leading species using the Berger Parker index which talks about the proportion or % of the most common species

Take action to address risks

- Focus on the current no-brainers and where we know there are problems now.
- Then be strategic. Where we want to focus right now and over the next 20 years.
- Take action to address future risks (embrace uncertainty).

The Forest Stewardship Action Plan for Climate Change Adaptation (MFLNRO) – The Provincial goals for climate adaptation address 3 categories:

- biophysical (what is planted)
- socio-economic (reducing risks)
- adaptive capacity (what knowledge we need)

A key Provincial web based resource - Adaptation Knowledge and Tools for Forest Stewardship - can be found at <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/het/climate/knowledge/index.htm>. The site provides links to B.C.'s forest policy, tools and knowledge for adapting to climate change.

Policy tools and guidance highlights on the site include climate-based seed transfer guidance, forest stewardship plans, silviculture, range expansion for western larch and guidance for resilience, a checklist from FORREX, stand level risk analysis. (see PowerPoint presentation for examples). <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/het/climate/knowledge/tools.htm>

Pacific Impacts Consortium's Plan 2Adapt tool has regional and area summaries of expected climate changes. <http://www.pacificclimate.org/tools-and-data/plan2adapt>

Climate BC Map shows how changes in climate envelopes may change species suitability. It predicts future changes of Biogeoclimatic (BEC) zones. Tongli Wang et al 2012 <http://www.genetics.forestry.ubc.ca/cfcg/ClimateBC40/Default.aspx>

Coming soon - Other tools in the pipe for completion this fiscal year :

- What species to promote or demote? Regional Guidance for Species Use Based on Climate Change. Regional ecologists have been working with Resource Practices Branch and Bryce Bancroft to develop correlated guidelines for stocking standards. These will show which species to promote or demote within each variant, based on climate change forecasts. A draft is currently being reviewed, and a final report will be available sometime this year.
- Dave Spittlehouse is working on Regional climate summaries – available in next few months.
- Extension notes will be produced which will include regional climate summary information and management implications.
- New tree species monitoring reports for 2012-2013 will be sent to all forest districts.
- A new timber objectives document will be published.
- Four more TSA-level silviculture strategies will commence.
- The Sayward block of Strathcona TSA will be used to explore climate change impacts on growth and mortality of species on the south-coast along with identification of subsequent management implications.

- Climate change impacts and adaptation strategies in Pine Creek watershed near Smithers will be explored. This is a collaborative project with the Wet'zinkwa Community Forest and BCTS lead by Caren Dymond, Dave Duncan.
- The carbon calculator for wood products will be finalized so forest managers can consider downstream implications of management decisions. The calculator and user guide are 90% done.
- Workshops are coming up where attendees will be walked through the tools mentioned above in more detail.

Casey Macauley, Resource Operations Specialist, Association of BC Forest Professionals
cmacauley@abcfp.ca

» [Link to presentation](#)

Casey Macauley gave a briefing on the work of the ABCFP to survey their members as to their awareness of climate change, adaptation strategies and future need.

Less obvious climate change indicators

- Debate continues on the causes or the magnitude of future change, however, most scientists and forest professionals agree that climate is changing and we need to adapt. ABCFP promotes:
 - Good stewardship = adaptive approach = best practices
- Page 9 of the presentation lists the key agencies and initiatives working on climate change in forests.
- Members put a resolution to ABCFP council in 2012 to create the Climate Change Task Force. Task Force objective is: Forest professionals will be guided in adapting practices in a changing climate.
- The Task Force is empowered by the Principles of Forest Stewardship:
 - Ecological Integrity
 - Information and Understanding
 - Forest Management Goals and Objectives
 - Social Foundation
 - Temporal Options
 - Spatial Strategies
 - Adaptive Practice
- One of the first activities of the Task Force was to conduct a survey their membership, which includes Registered Professional Foresters and Registered Forest Technologists.

Task Force Climate Change Awareness Survey of ABCFP members - Interim Conclusions

- There is room for increased awareness of climate change concepts.
- Professionals are hungry for knowledge.
- Practitioners are already finding techniques to adapt.
- A lack of policy, vision, guidance and standards are currently obstacles.
- Professionals need room to innovate within the policy framework.
- The natural resource sectors need more go-to experts – particularly in linking research to practice.
- More employers could benefit from climate change action plans.
- Adaptation looks different as you move around the province.

- There continues to be some (limited) reluctance about climate science.

In summary the key findings are that there is room for more awareness, there is room for more knowledge and for more training of the membership in this area.

The main barrier to adaptation is the inability to innovate due to policy restrictions.

Next Steps

- Currently reviewing relevant research papers for findings that relate to adaptive practice.
- Share knowledge publicly via web-site.
- Foster innovation and sharing of best practices, with an emphasis on regional variation.
- Examine the need for specific guidance, consistent with past advice.
- Continue to collaborate with agencies and other professional associations.
- Advocate for policy and / or legislation that enables professionals to adapt and be accountable for that work.



Wetzinkwa boardwalk | Photo: Susan Mulkey

Implementing Climate Change Lessons at the Operational Level

Grant Thompson, RPF, Forestry Manager and CEO of Heartland Economics LP
grant.thompson@wfndc.ca

» [Link to presentation](#)

A few things about the Westbank Community Forest

- 50% of the Westbank CF is in watershed.
- Water needs will drive future decisions made in CF.
- 100% of WFN-CF supports range tenures.
- CF may not be able to operate if it is perceived that they are facilitating movement of cattle in the watershed and by doing, putting water at risk. They must manage water carefully or they will lose their social license to operate in the watershed.
- Fire risk is high. 5-7 million dollars to implement fire mitigation.
- Forest health: They have every pest already. Solutions have to do with monitoring programs, etc.
- 2080 projection shows Ponderosa Pine Bunch grass up to 1,000m elevation, an impact on 25% of the current operating area.
- 2080 modeling projections - ponderosa pine will shift. They'll lose about 50% of their CF productive area to bunchgrass.

Question they are asking themselves

- Should we be planting for success in 80 years? For the mid-point of their rotations @ 40 years? For free growing in 15 years?

Adaptation Solutions

Water is King – The Okanagan Priority

- Communicate with and educate water purveyors and municipalities.
- Retain more riparian vegetation and retain more cover in cutblocks?
- Build better roads, deactivation, sediment traps.

Interaction with Range Tenures

- Work with ranchers to keep cattle out of drainages.
- Communicate with and educate Interior Health and water purveyors.
- Implement and test natural range barriers (see slide #7).

Fire risk

- Use harvesting as a tool for fuel reduction.
- “Zone” out portions of WFN-CF for reduced stocking and deciduous.
- Plan for shorter harvesting season.

Species shift

- Resilience through multiple species plantings, even outside the current seed transfer rules.
- Greater “latitude” in seed transfer including seed from south of 49th parallel.
- Prepare to manage for other non timber resources (see slide #12).

Adapting to Climate Change

Bill Golding, RPF, Silvicon Services Inc. and Community Forest Manager of Wetzin’kwa CF
bill.golding@silvicon.com

» Link to presentation

- Risk management is key to adapting to climate change.
- Question is whether we have the appropriate tools and knowledge to respond.
- Different models have different predictions. Therefore, don’t put all your eggs in one basket.
- There is a lot of information, but also gaps.
- Important to incorporate adaptive management which involves learning and monitoring. We don’t know how a species will perform in a different zone or sub zone. So, we have to focus efforts on monitoring and data-sharing. The site Kathy (MFLNRO) shared is a logical place for that.
- All data and tools have to be in one spot and be kept updated in order to be useful.
- Policy change framework and how we share responsibility has to be reformed. Forest practitioners need flexibility and knowledge to make decisions in a longer time frame (80 year+ time frame of climate change). Responsibility does not end with free-to-grow obligations which are only 5-7 years down the line.
- Gap Analysis and Action Plans: Wetzin’kwa has partnered with the College of New Caledonia (CNC) and the Northwest Community College (NWCC). They will be conducting survival and performance trials with larch and fir across the range of 5 Biogeoclimatic subzones and site series that occur within the Wetzin’kwa tenure.



Bill Golding and sign celebrating the millionth tree planted on the community forest | Photo: Susan Mulkey

Non-timber Forest Resources and the Wells Gray Community Forest

Samantha Charlton

r.s.charlton@gmail.com

» [Link to presentation](#)

Samantha, a master's graduate from Simon Fraser University in the Faculty of Resource and Environmental Management, conducted research in collaboration with the Wells Gray Community Forest (WGCF) and the Simpcw First Nation. She presented her research findings on the utilization and commercialization of Non-timber Forest Resources (NTFRs), including an emphasis on the differences and similarities in perspectives of First Nations and non-First Nations communities related to NTFR species. Her presentation included lessons learned in the case study of WGCF and recommendations for other community forests in BC.

Samantha's results describe the local NTFR sector, including what is harvested, harvesting best practices, threatened or less abundant species and barriers to harvest.

Additional information....

- NTFRs are integrally important to the community. People generally just call them plants or native plants, and take it as a given that they are abundant and accessible.
- First Nations and non-First Nations communities enact their right to this common property resource on a frequent basis and would react strongly to any type of formal permitting, tenure or regulation.
- There is a lot of past and ongoing commercial activity around NTFRs.
- It takes a certain type of individual, who is very flexible adaptable and entrepreneurial to run a successful business in the sector.

NTFR data shows that there are a variety of ways in which existing barriers to harvesting NTFRs are overcome informally and are managed through the informed stewardship of individual harvesters based on their local and/or traditional knowledge rather than enacting a formal regulatory management approach.

Samantha concludes that a formal regulation for management of NTFRs is not required for the Wells Gray Community Forest. Rather an informal role for CFAs should focus on:

- Relationship building with First Nations.,
- Raising awareness and educating the public about economically and culturally valuable NTFRs

These two objectives could support an informal NTFR co-management process and also build legitimacy for the Community Forest as a forest manager to the Simpcw community.

Recommendations for Community Forests

- Start the local NTFR conversation - Host a meeting with your local First Nation band pertaining to NTFRs. Host a community dialogue session and collect people's knowledge and perspectives. Distribute a simple survey on where people pick and what they pick to begin to identify where and what the community values most.
- Create recreation trails that also provide access to good NTFR sites.
- Make NTFR sector development a formal part of an annual plan.
- Make NTFR planning a part of a job description.

- Provide maps and information about access to picking spots.
- Keep the community informed about changes to NTFR policy and research.
- Communicate with harvesters about retrieving native plants prior to road building and logging.
- Make best practices picking guidelines available.
- Use revenue to co-ordinate/support a certified community kitchen that can be used for NTFR processing.
- Create a budget line for NTFR, for example \$.10 per m3 harvested. Better as a % of harvest rather than fixed amount annually.



lunch at Buchfinch Family Memorial Ski Lodge | Photo: Susan Mulkey

Incorporating First Nation's Perspectives and Cultural Resource Management into Forestry Planning

This presentation by Rick Budhwa and David deWit brought a valuable insight to the opportunities for building relationships between native and non-native communities and to the benefits of integrating First Nation's perspectives into forest management in a meaningful way.



Rick Budhwa, Crossroads Cultural Resource Management
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David deWit, Manager of Natural Resources with the Office of the Wet'suwet'en
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[» Link to presentation](#)

Cultural Resource Management (CRM) includes a full spectrum of cultural resources, tangible and intangible. CRM are non-renewable resources and go above and beyond archaeology.

There are two very different worldviews between Aboriginal perspectives and legislated policy relating to natural and heritage stewardship and how we look at the same landscape.

- In the First Nation worldview the landscape is not viewed in pieces nor separated between forests, wildlife, rivers, etc. Rather the land base is experienced as a whole.
- First Nation and western groups have a different concept of time and space.
- Beyond tangible resources there is another world of connection to place regardless of resources there. How can this sense of place be measured and damage mitigated?
- These things are very important to First Nations and are a daunting task for forest managers.
- Forest planning processes do not adequately manage cultural heritage. For example, the Heritage Cultural Act (HCA) only governs archaeological resources and only protects those resources before 1846.

Case Study #1- Hagwilget Village and BC Hydro.

- 3 hydro poles had to come to down.
- They began to dig and discovered a burial ground.
- Hagwilet Village took over the site.
- Initially BC hydro wanted to stick to just performing archaeology.
- After dialogue and cross-cultural understanding both sides understood that this is a cultural concern. Timelines and industry approach were reconsidered and poles are still standing 7 years later.

Case Study #2: Wetzin'kwa Community Forest Community Corporation (WCFC)

- The Wet'suwet'en involved in application process. At the beginning of the idea to form a community forest, the hereditary leaders were part of creating something, rather than being approached with a pre-packaged idea.
- There has been a focus on relationships and forest management from the beginning. There is frequent communication between Wet'suwet'en resource managers and the community forest.
- Ongoing planning and implementation meaningfully involves the Wet'suwet'en.

- All archeological work is easily accessible in a GIS database. It is then easy to make decisions quickly and not waste time.
- Solutions have been found that are not implemented by regular licensees. For example, incorporation of traditional trail systems (they are not an archaeological feature and difficult to date these features) and special management/ machine free zones, stubbing of culturally modified trees (so that they stay on the landscape longer and don't blow down as quickly) and appropriate buffer zones around areas of cultural importance.
- After a few culturally modified trees were cut down by accident on the WCFC, the board revised the contracts and contract management. There will be penalties embedded in contracts in the future. This incident has led to steps to improve practice by operators in the area and throughout Wet'suwet'en territory.

Trends in Resource Management

- Cultural heritage stewardship objective in high level provincial land use planning
- Heritage stewardship authority and responsibility shifting to First Nations. First Nations taking more control of their data management systems
- Recent court decisions continue to empower and support First Nations. In a BC Supreme Court decision, a house group vs. Canfor, house group wanted to protect their house territory. The justice recognized traditional decision making powers. David emphasizes that this should not be a threat, but motivation to work together.

Lessons for Licensees

- Go beyond just ticking boxes
- Build relationships
- It takes time
- Meet on the territory

Question about Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) - What happens when there is an FOI request?

- David says there is no formal confidentiality agreement, but there is an MOU.
- In cases where First Nations need to protect their information due to a third part request they can and should enact their right to confidentiality of IPR

Question about the 1846 date used by Heritage Canada.

- This is the date a judge decided was the line between pre-history and modern day. Has to do with when BC became BC.
- In some cases paperwork can still be filed to have cultural heritage destroyed from pre-1846

Question about how to work in areas where there are 5 overlapping claims. Any advice for building relationships in this context?

- There are always challenges with focusing on differences. Yet there are also a lot of common interests, so it's about prioritizing collaborative projects that are in the benefit of everyone. Try to find some common needs or interests that community forests can invest in. Not just for the short term, it could be community infrastructure it could incorporate CRM, it could be a legacy project. We should focus on a common area, not on differences.

“You need to enhance the relationship. You have to make that step. You have to learn about each other. There are points of disagreement, but there has to be that dialogue.” - John Ridsdale, Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chief

Manager's Forum A BCCFA 2013 Conference Session Summary

Don Brown, Moderator



The Manager's Forum is an opportunity for exchange of information, ideas and dialogue about the questions, issues and concerns of interest to managers of community forests (CFA). The outcomes of the session will help to inform the work of BCCFA Executive Director and board of directors in their efforts to improve the success of community forest initiatives.

Don opened the session with the comment that this is an informal session for managers to share their problems and successes.

Topics identified for discussion:

- Single Cutting Permit (1CP) Policy
- Opportunities for expansion for CFAs
- Administrative streamlining
- Non Timber Forest Resources
- Tabular Rates
- Landscape Management
- Wood Sales
- Management Plans and Forest Stewardship Plans

Single Cutting Permit (1CP) Policy

- Esk'etemc has had it for a year and has had some pleasant surprises. They were able to use the 1CP to speed up access for spacing through LBI. Ecosystem restoration funds also came their way, and it was easy because they had their 1CP. It gives access to treatment opportunities that otherwise would have been bogged down in bureaucracy.
- There are two pieces with First Nation information sharing - You still have to complete AOAs, and there then is information sharing.
- Each situation is different for information sharing. Each relationship is different.
- 1CP is very efficient when you are actually logging.
- A concern is raised that with 1CP traceability will be lost. You lose the opportunity to tell the story behind the wood.

Question - How do you manage budgets and sales with only one timber mark?

- We work in subunits of the Community Forest. We track the sub units.
- We track by cut block.

The community forests in Kootenays met with the District Manager to talk about 1CP. They asked if there could be multiple "1CP" over the same tenure area. It would allow them to assign 1CP to 1 logger, and 1CP to another logger.

Question to the group - Could this work?

- When you put it in FTA it would be a conflict – unless they are in different areas.
- Action: Looking into Erik's question. Doug has FTA experts that can check on this.

Question - Do all other permits have to be closed? Apparently there are different ideas on the answer to this.

Expansion

Question – Are there opportunities for expansion at the community level?

- Government is looking at the volume to area based tenure conversion enabling legislation. The BCCFA needs to mobilize our mayors, councillors, and Regional District reps to say that communities want a take-back if there are going to be conversions. This is the opportunity for community forests. It is a win for the majors as well if the communities are taking the most highly constrained areas around communities. The majors will still be able to purchase the logs.
- This is TOP PRIORITY for Expansion efforts this year. Must develop a 1 Pager that BCCFA members can pass on to Mayors.
- Purchasing woodlots is not an option. The Forest Act was amended so that if you have over 10,000 m3 already under tenure, then you are not eligible for a woodlot.
- A concern was voiced that if we raise our profile, then we will have the tab rates removed.

Comment from Doug Stewart - There is a need for short and long term strategies. We need to use the AAC already apportioned to the program before that volume disappears. Second, with the volume to area conversion, it was decided that we would not have a mandatory take back, but it is something we could reconsider. There are not likely to be that many conversions.

Really to expand the program you need another take-back. We need to get all of the politicians on side – and need the documentation of what are the benefits of community forests for the economy & province. If there was to be a take back, government would need to buy that volume from the majors.

Question - What about conversion of any sort of volume-base tenure to any sort of area-based tenure? This is something we might look at in the coming consultation process.

- Rolling in volume from other licensees must be considered on a case by case basis. It is complicated because we don't really have legislation that converts volume to CFAs.

Non-Timber Forest Resources

Question - Does the membership support the idea of getting a regulation in place so that the community forests that want to move forward on NTFRs can do so?

- The Esk'etemc Chief is afraid that without a regulation, outsiders will come and harvest mushrooms, and push out the local First Nations (FN).
- If you make an investment – like inoculated with mushroom spores and grow mushrooms, then you can't exclude people from harvesting without a regulation.
- Harrop Procter was active in the beginning in NTFPs, but made it a lower priority over time. But will it become a higher priority if there is actually a regulatory framework.
- If there is enabling regulation you can then move forward with a plan in place and harvesting can happen under certain circumstances.
- A strong enforcement regime will need to be in place. Government thought once more First Nation Woodland Licenses (FNWLs) were issued and if they wanted to pursue a regulation, then it could be looked at and see if CFAs could be integrated. It will not be an easy thing to put into place.
- Quebec Model Forest was making more on blueberries than on wood.
- Traditional Use trumps any commercial activity.

- When Cortes looked at this issue with the Klahoose FN, they did not want to participate in any way in a regulatory process.

Question - If I enhance mushroom growth, then does that create a different scenario from traditional use?

Question - Is there an opportunity for a parallel licensing model to that of fisheries? FN right & allocation, sport fishing, commercial fishing. Could the same approach be used for NTFRs?

Outcome of the discussion - There seemed to be some general support for a regulation, but it is not a priority.

Stumpage

Question - A concern has been expressed that community forests are getting a lower price for their logs because of the tab rates? Responses from managers were as follows:

- Hard to judge, but I think we are getting good value from the “market”
- We are getting full value, but they play with the trucking side. Have to watch the haul differential
- We are getting full value, but I can’t just say yes because we are constantly price takers because we are small
- Some majors tried but we didn’t sell them the wood. So we get full value.
- Consensus of the group is that they are getting full value

Doug Stewart: As we have expanded the program, there is an issue with the Softwood Lumber Agreement (SLA) and tab rates. The lawyers tell us that there is a threshold to tab rates, but we don’t know where it is exactly. To go from 1.7 to 3 million on tab rates will be difficult. No one has said to revisit tab rates, but it is always in the background. There was something in the Liberal Platform around more revenue sharing with communities. Examples have been cited with oil & gas.

Availability of Contractors

Don asked if availability of contractors was an issue. It is an issue for their community forest because they have no logging contractors based out of Logan Lake.

- Wells Gray and Smithers do stump to dump and this seems to work well.
- Grant from Westbank CFA had advice about how to build up work to support a local logging contractor.
- A suggestion was made to organize logging for quarters when local contracts might not be busy.

Community Forest Board of Directors' Forum

This session targeted issues, questions and challenges of community forest boards with a special focus on the responsibilities and limitations of a director and the guidelines for effective board participation.

Facilitated by Susan Mulkey



Evaluating Municipally-Owned Corporations as Community Forests Governance Structures

The group first heard from Evelyn Pinkerton, School of Resource & Environmental Management, Simon Fraser University on her research into the benefits and challenges of municipally-owned corporations as community forest governance structures.
epinkert@sfu.ca

» Link to presentation

A municipally-owned corporation is the most frequent & most diverse model for organizational structure currently employed by community forests in BC.

Key learnings from cases studies – The Community Forest Corporation (CF) board is most effective when:

- Separation of CF board from municipal council keeps CF board non-political and thus able to recruit best talent (RPFs, woodlot owners, etc); conflict-avoidant RPFs may be unwilling to serve on board unless non-political.
- High level of expertise/experience on CF board contributes to ethic of honourable volunteerism in the community.
- Multiple modes of transparency & communication maintain public support/confidence.

Information people wanted out of the session:

- Structure: Mayor and council as the board?
- Relationship of stakeholders to decision makers.
- Most important policies for a new board
- FN partnership. How best to consult?
- Board succession
- Financing start up

The Session drew upon the Community Forestry Guidebook II – Effective Governance and Forest Management

Question - What makes a good board?

- The Board should reflect the community. For example, it should include people who are passionate about different pieces of community forest management such as NTFRs, community champions, communications experts, and retired forest professionals.
- CFs have a legal responsibility to the community, not just to shareholders. This need for accountability to the community is written into the licence agreement documents.

It is important to differentiate between the role of the board and the manager. The BCCFA promotes the model of a policy Board that sets strategic direction, and a manager who implements. This approach clearly keeps the board “out of the kitchen” of management of the CFA.

- The board sets out intent and principles in their policies, but it is not too constraining or prescriptive.
- Policy enables the manager to do their job.

- When board begins to micromanage, it is the chair's responsibility to support the manager.

Develop a policy for distribution of benefits before you have any profits.

Staggered board terms ensure continuity.

Directors' liability insurance is essential to protect the volunteer board members.

The board is accountable to the legal obligations of the community forest license under the Forest Act.

The very first "to-do" when launching a CFA initiative should be talking to stakeholders while there is still an open book and decisions have not already been made. Ask people to identify the priorities for the community forest. What does profit mean to you? What are your priorities? Priorities can include a range of things - local employment, managing watersheds, viewsapes and recreation lands, and making money for community projects. The outcomes of these discussions should be then incorporated into the next steps.

When consulting with the community, go beyond open houses. People have busy lives. Go to your stakeholders. It's very respectful to ask to get on a group's meeting agenda.

Alberni Valley Community Forest example:

- Conducted a large survey as a part of the application development process.
- After the support they asked for more info about public values.
- Open door office that is publically accessible.
- Board was appointed and is a mix of First Nations, regional and municipal representation.
- They put everything on their website. (Planning docs, financials etc.).
- The public is invited to the AGM.

Consultation and First Nations

- This can be very difficult if the manager has no relationship with the local First Nation band.
- The province is legally responsible to ensure that consultation is done adequately, but there should be information sharing between the community forest and First Nations first.
- One person voiced concern that they have a conflict of interest if they are a board member and also a FN band member leader and the CFA sends a referral to a FN. Also, the attendee feels uncomfortable when asked to represent First Nations interests. One voiced solution of this is that he could step out of the room when referral response comes up.
- In small places it is inevitable that people often wear many hats. CFs can follow the model of local governments and step back from issues where there might be a conflict of interest.
- One person spoke about the balance between confidentiality and conflict of interest. They have good dialogue, which is confidential and people speak freely. They record motions etc. for transparency and accountability.
- Again, local governments are a good model. There can be in-camera meetings when necessary.
- There is a section in the Guidebook on conflict of interest. If a person's potential personal conflict is disclosed formally, then the chair and the rest of the board can help manage this, i.e. help determine sections of meetings that certain board members shouldn't step out.

Financing Start-Up

Within the group of existing CFAs, there are many examples including

- Bella Coola sold shares in the community.
- Many have accessed loans through the municipal financing authority.
- Credit Unions loans or possibly granting programs.
- Community Futures loans.
- Regional Trusts including the Columbia Basin Trust and the Northern Development Trust.
- Some community forest organizations have partnered with industry on limited term. agreements for wood flow or rights of first refusal in exchange for an advance on for start up funding.



Ecora gift draw | Photo: Susan Mulkey

Maximizing the Value of Community Forest Resources and Building Local Economies

Facilitated by Erik Leslie

The community forest model aims to maximize value from the forest. As key economic drivers in their communities and regions, community forests are seeking to enhance their local economies. What are the essential success factors for value added manufacturing and how can community forests effectively maximize the value from their forest resource?

Marc von der Gonna told us about the efforts of the McBride Community Forest. Dean Daly from Wetzin'kwa Community Forest gave a presentation on their activities and on his perspective gained from a career in the forest industry. Dave McRae from FPInnovations shared his expertise on the conditions that will enable successful value added enterprises and on the program they are piloting to assist communities. Marc also gave an update on the Bridges II Project which is aimed at building regional economic clusters.

Erik Leslie, Manager of the Harrop-Procter Community Forest introduced the session by describing how value added is a key aspect of the business plan for the Harrop-Procter Community Forest. They have a small mill as part of their FSC certified operations.

Marc von der Gonna, RPF, General Manager of the McBride Community Forest Corporation
marc@mcbricommunityforest.com

A primary goal for the McBride Community Forest is to create more local employment and economic prosperity. They are working to recruit small to medium value added (VA) businesses to McBride through leverage of the fibre flow from the community forest (CF)

The primary success factors for VA to come and stay in our communities are:

- You have to be able to make wood available. We want to make raw material available in the form they want.
- The price is key. We have to be able to cover our costs. The VA business has to be able to pay the market price for wood. The CF should not have to subsidise a small business operation.
- It is important to understand what the VA business is seeking. For example, is it a short or long term investment? It is important to understand what they want and when.

What has been done in McBride:

- There are different opinions within the community about how to sell logs and support VA (or not).
- We will give our local mills the first right of refusal, but they have to be able to pay the market price for wood. We are trying to market our whole profile.
- We also try to make certain blocks available for an operator's needs (i.e. birch for VA mill).
- We have done a variety of agreements – short term, long term.
- We have sold wood a couple of ways. We have a small market logger program where we give a specific volume and area. The contractor is responsible for harvesting, hauling and marketing. They pay us an admin fee and stumpage – at a set rate (which has fluctuated over the years according to the price of logs).
- This creates a bit of a log yard, without having one on the ground.
- The other thing that has been important for us is blanket cutting permits –now 1CP – this allows us to be responsive to the needs of the small mills.

Question - How do you make sure you are getting fair market value for the log?

- We get automatic feedback. Contractors understand that they need to pay fair market value, and the small market loggers are not subsidizing local mills.

Question - Do you set the price on the stump?

- The value of the log goes to the market logger.

Question - How do you manage road use liability & safe certification?

- They sign an operating guideline that says they must be safe certified or use a certified faller. The McBride CF acts like a general contractor. The individual logger is the prime contractor.

Question - How do you keep track of the volume they are taking out?

- The wood goes to weigh scales. Some things must be scaled in the bush.

Update on the Bridges II Project: Creating More Economic Value from Regional Forests

» [Link to presentation](#)

Marc von der Gonna gave an update on the cluster development project that is partially supported by BCCFA funds. Marc has participated through the Robson and North Thompson regional Bridges II process (includes McBride, Valemount, Clearwater, Dunster CFs and area woodlots). There is a second region, Kootenay Lake and the Slocan / Arrow Lakes corridor (includes H-P, Kaslo, SIFCO, Nakusp, Creston CFs and area woodlots) also involved in the project. Chris Ortner from Kamloops is the coordinator of the project and was unable to join us.

Project Goal

Through collaboration at a sub-regional scale, work with small forest tenure holders, First Nations, communities and value-added manufacturers to identify methods to increase the economic benefits realized from the regional fibre supply.

Observations – Robson and North Thompson

- A waste solution is required for producers in McBride and Clearwater and areas in between.
- Clusters and cooperation exist already to some degree between log producers and consumers, but can be leveraged and improved to achieve economies of scale to secure higher log pricing through targeted marketing.
- A local, affordable supply of logs to small manufacturers is critical to their survival and to continue to embrace economic diversification in the communities.
- Marketing and inventory control is critical to maintain small mill production. Additional options need to be pursued to market lumber and value added products.
- Current operators are second and third generation – we need to support existing business with information, supplies and training.
- In many cases, wood waste is burned either in the forest or at the mill. Small fir logs are wasted. In many cases, birch is logged around, and hemlock is avoided as uneconomic to harvest. This will create a negative future forest condition.

Observations – Kootenay Lake and the Slocan /Arrow Lakes corridor

- Wood waste in the bush is an ongoing issue, and waste accumulation at mills contributed to their closure in 2 cases (Springer Creek and Meadow Creek).
- Value added businesses in the Kaslo area are bringing in logs and materials from great distances, when local materials

may be available.

- Complex log sales arrangements require ongoing effort for individual community forests and woodlots, and there is no way to know if the best price is being quoted.
- Small packages of wood do not enable supply to the highest value buyers. Larger players buying 'bush run' secure the advantage when sorting and trading logs.
- Small mills are carrying finished inventory of unavoidable sizing.

Wetzin'kwa Community Forest Corporation Value-Added Policy Direction

Dean Daly, RPF Co Chair of the Wetzinkwa Community Forest, and Woodlot Licensee

deanrdaly@gmail.com

[» Link to presentation](#)

Every community is different. You need to take this context into consideration.

- My opinion is that in BC, our culture is very much tied to the forest. It makes us wood centric in our thinking. But I encourage you not to be myopic.
- Recreation facilities and infrastructure within the community forest are “non timber resources”. We are managing the timber as a secondary resource to recreation.

Wetzin'kwa Community Forest Corporation (WCFC) Policy Direction:

1. The Business Plan includes core values concerning Value Added (VA)
2. The Strategic Plan (2010) –VA manufacturing was identified as a B – level priority.
3. Board Direction – Ultimately the board will develop a policy for VA, but we are not there yet.

What is the role going to be for the community forest?

- Our direction so far has been: What can we do to support local entrepreneurs?

What can we do to support current business or expansion?

- WCFC does not want to invest capital into VA business. Our economic priority is to sort logs and get the most value as possible. We try within reason to maximize our profits which are then distributed as grants throughout the community.
- We do not want to sell logs under market & subsidize an entrepreneur.
- We need to see a business plan before we provide short term log supply at below market value.
- We would be willing to facilitate workshops as needed, and would also support business plan development.
- There are also NTFP business initiatives we are supporting (Office of the Wetsuwetin)

How about recreation?

- We don't need to be so wood centric.
- There may be new opportunities if we think outside the box.
- Expand your vision beyond value added wood products.

Dave McRae, FP Innovations
dave.mcrae@fpinnovations.ca

» [Link to presentation](#)

Background on FPInnovations

FPInnovations is a not-for-profit forest sector R&D centre that offers full value chain solutions – from forest management through to consumer products.

- More than 500 employees.
- Many partnerships with universities and other institutions in Canada and abroad.

FPInnovations has technical experience in helping to:

- Increase the value derived from the forest resource.
- Increase productivity in harvesting, transportation and manufacturing.
- Improve processes, product attributes and quality.
- Support product and market diversification.
- Foster entrepreneurial investment.

The forest sector represents an area of growing economic development opportunities for communities. We see that communities are taking on greater ownership and management of the forest resource within BC.

FP Innovation's approach is to respect community forest sector values and develop relationships at all levels, national, provincial, community and businesses and to:

- Understand needs & identify business opportunities.
- Identify champions and utilize FPInnovations as a third party provider of technical and strategic business advice.
- Identify needs and scope of work, project by project .
- Work with partners that have complementary expertise.
- Measure and report the impact of the projects.

FPI Work with Community Forests

Last fiscal there was a small amount of funding that connected CFs with FPI. A call for proposals was made to BCCFA members and 2 projects were selected for the FPI/BCCFA pilot initiative. Funding for the next fiscal is still to be determined. Additionally, some CFs have independently worked with FPI on their projects.

- FPI worked with Westbank on ways to improve their productivity (see presentation slides 23-25)
- FPI assisted in analyzing the technical and economic parameters of a biomass District Heating (DH) system for the district of Logan Lake
- FPI visited the site in Likely, Aspenware in Vernon and Silver dew Hardwoods in Clearwater to assess the current operations of veneering and wooden cutlery operation, and to identify issues and opportunities, particularly those pertaining to Likely-Xatsull CF operations. FPI's computer software VYield™ was used to estimate the yield improvement with various log and core diameters and made recommendations to Robin on his birch veneer

operation.

- They worked with Lower North Thompson CF to assist them with furthering their interest in participating in the growing energy sector (charcoal, pellets, cogeneration etc.).



Jill Dunbar, Logistics Coordinator | Photo: Susan Mulkey

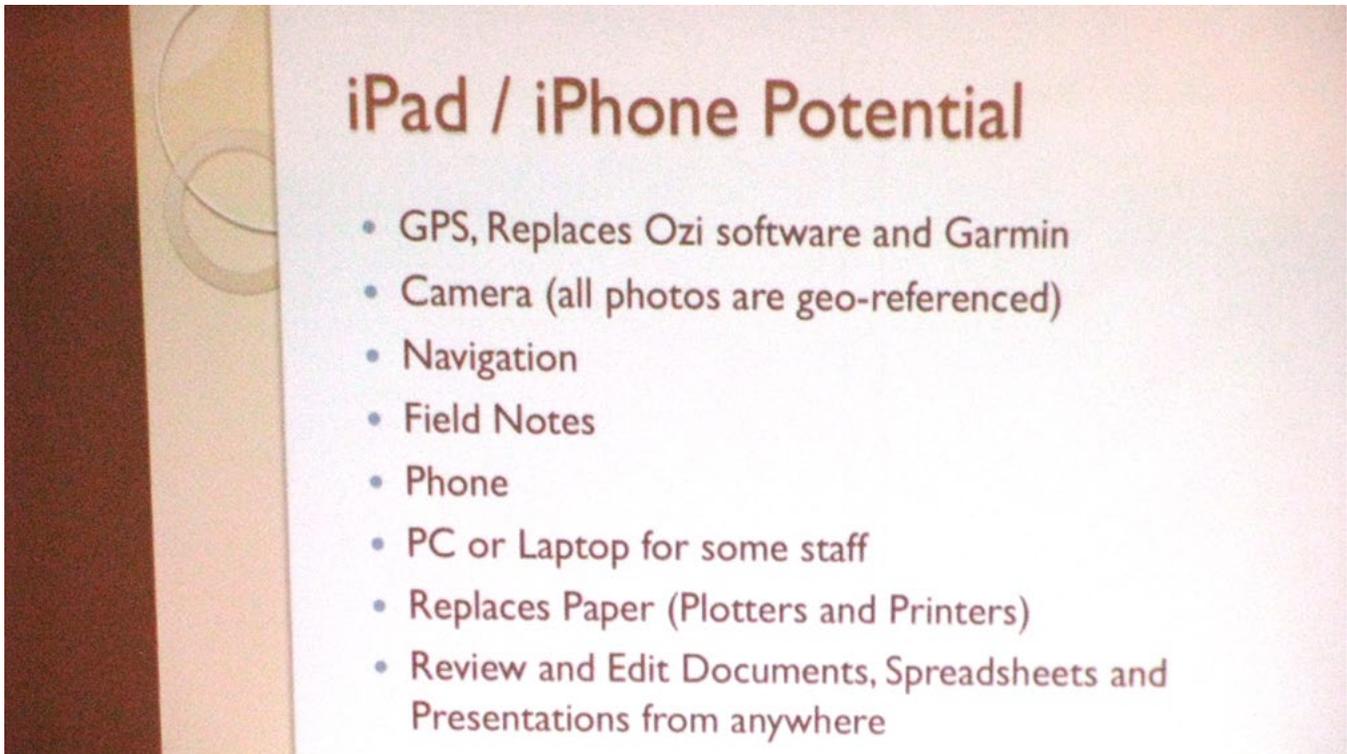
Smart Phones and Tablets: Tremendous Potential for Field Data Collection

Presented by Andy Muma, RTF

Andy.muma@gov.bc.ca

Andy gave, by most reports, one of the most interesting and practical sessions at the conference. Everyone was inspired by his information about mobile devices, smart phones and tablets and their potential for streamlining field work process and digital data management.

» [Link to the presentation](#)



Andy's talk focused on applications and uses for smartphones and tablets.

- These are powerful computers with 20,000-800,000 apps.
- They are portable and mobile, can go anywhere.
- They have GPS - most work off line and are similar to common GPS devices.
- Camera: photos are automatically geo-referenced.
- Video recording and audio recording is very powerful and good quality.
- Gyroscope.
- Magnetic compass.

The devices replace essentially all over tools that were used in the field traditionally.

- Seamless transition from field notes/photos in device to spreadsheets and reports.

- GPS device in phones/tablets use GPS and GLONASS (Russian base positioning system)
- A-GPS assisted GPS
- Hybrid system uses both GPS and A-GPS

The Range division of the Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations adapted Ipad first in government. Many people bought them personally. They've now replaced paper in many situations. They are used for navigating, photos of noxious weeds, and even instructional videos for new hires and students.

They can be used in all weather conditions. With Otter boxes and the demand for use in recreational activities, there are a lot of accessories available to make them very tough in the field.

They are essential time savers for field data collection. All data can be rolled into a spread sheet very simply at end of day. The data collection on the app is uploaded and sent in an e-mail, then the supervisor can see same data on Google earth.

The device's camera can take photos for data collection. The photos are geo referenced and can be put directly on the map.

They are a huge time and cost saver. A helicopter pilot said his \$900 Ipad was paid for in day 1. Everything is pre-loaded, flight time was far less, and they could work with 1 pilot instead of 2.

You can also carry all of your reference material with you! You can upload all of your important docs and take them with you in the field including legislation, plant guide, maps, etc. If you are called out in the field you can continue your regular work.

Forms etc. can be uploaded to your device and you can enter data in the field, rather than fill out a form in the rain and have to type it in later. You can also sign Ipad, so it is possible to complete forms that need a signature.

Safety. There is a free app (similar app "spot" costs \$250, and there is no return communication). With the free app there is two-way communication. It is called Earthmate GPS and is paired with the DeLorme in Reach satellite communicator. 98% coverage around the globe.

A lot of the data can be dumped right into Google earth. People are adjusting to this, they are getting used to looking at data/reports in .kml Google earth instead of an .xls.

Compliance and Enforcement investigators are rolling out use of devices in their work. RCMP is also looking into rolling this out.

Some Useful Applications or Aps

There are MANY data collection apps. All apps can run simultaneously. You could track a polygon, record a conversation and take photos all at once.

Three types of Apps

- Native apps are the ones installed on the device. They are very specific to the device
- Web apps are designed to interact with a device's browser.
- Hybrid apps run on the web, so any device can use it.

Free PDF maps

- All of the pdf maps are geo-referenced and automatically tell you where you are.
- Veg maps have vegetation cover, soon TRIM maps will be downloadable off of the web too.
- Harvest plan map- saves time with work flow in the field during harvest
- You can also plot your photos on the map. Export them to a .kml file and then people can open it and view it in Google

earth.

GIS Kit - \$100 (replaces \$4000-\$6000 software)

- The app streams imagery from Google, Bing and others.
- In the north they are getting better imagery than what the government collects
- This is only within Google range, but there is an offline feature, you can cache imagery ahead of time and use offline.
- You can create your own template for data collection and adding points.

Questions about what is acceptable? Is this type of data accurate enough?

- Andy said it is equal to a Garmin, but it isn't as accurate as other professional survey tools.

Theodolite

- you can take tree heights
- calculate slope etc.
- costs \$3

Form Connect

- you can create custom forms
- auto complete forms
- take photos
- positional data
- you can export form data automatically to a spreadsheet

FieldNotes LT - Free

- Provides GPS location with three different types of maps
- It can handle unlimited numbers of notes, and can email many notes at a time as KMZ files.
- It automatically geo-references all images taken from within the note, and can easily send a zipped folder of these images via email.

Fieldnotes Pro - \$9.99

- Has many features that are not included in the FieldNotesLT application. Voice Notes and HD Video (on capable devices) are provided. Images can be annotated using a finger or a stylus, making circling problems in photos a cinch. It builds well-formatted .PDF files that can be viewed or edited on any computer.

Report-a-Weed: developed by BC Range.

- A crowd sourcing (which means reaching out to the public for info) app.
- Report a weed is free. Anyone can download it.
- You record your weed sighting with name, photo etc.
- App development cost \$12,000. It paid for itself in first week.
- They are looking into similar apps for other citizen data collection.

Tracking Community Forest Benefits Consideration of the Best Approach

There is broad agreement that finding a way to measure and track the benefits of community forests will be of great value to the BCCFA, to individual community forests, to the Province of British Columbia, and to the public. What aspects of community forestry should be tracked and how? In this workshop participants discussed and began to identify meaningful, cost effective, and time efficient indicators. Jennifer Gunter BCCFA Executive Director presented a concept paper. Gary Bull, University of British Columbia, Faculty of Forestry was a resource person for the discussion.

Jennifer Gunter, BCCFA Executive Director

» [Link to presentation](#)

The BCCFA has long held the idea that we need to provide evidence of the benefits of community forests. Over the years, we have surveyed our members and kept a record of examples of the wide array of benefits provided by community forest operations. Because no community forest is alike and each one has a unique definition of “benefits”, it was difficult to standardize and quantify the information.

We have, however, reached agreement that finding a way to measure and track the benefits of community forests will be of great value to the BCCFA, to individual community forests, to the Province of British Columbia, and to the public.

But there are many questions to be answered: What should be measured? How should it be measured, and how often? How can we develop a system that is credible and meaningful, while being simple and affordable?

We propose to undertake a project which will result in the creation of a set of indicators to measure the benefits of community forest management.

This workshop will help to inform that work and provide input into the project. The session will be an initial brainstorming of how we might go about creating a set of indicators that will give us the information we want.

We need data and facts that we can share with decision makers and public so that we will have more influence when we are advocating for community forests.

Examples of indicators from all over the world

There are many good resources but we have a unique context. Although there are existing systems of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, these systems are not tailored to the unique characteristics of Community Forest Agreements.

The Monitoring Plan developed for the Community Forest Pilot Program was designed specifically for community forests; however its scope and complexity rendered it too costly and difficult for the provincial government and communities to implement.

To be practical and durable, we are looking to develop an indicator system that is:

- simple
- affordable
- credible with stakeholders
- engaging
- compatible with government objectives

To get an idea of the scope of what we are talking about, it's helpful to have a look at the provincial objectives for the program, and also the principles that the BCCFA promotes.

For simplicity, we can group the proposed benefits to be measured into 4 categories: social, economic, environmental, and cultural.

Over the years, we have collected examples of the wide array of benefits provided by community forest operations. This list of benefits, in narrative form, is available on our website.

Because no community forest is alike and each one has a unique definition of "benefits", it was difficult to standardize and quantify the information.

Attributes of a good indicator:

- relevant
- measurable
- understandable
- predictable
- process is participatory- grounded in local context

A cautionary note from Gary Bull suggests that "Best" indicators need to be balanced with the practical indicators which are at hand.

"The Best" indicators are relevant, measurable, understandable, and predictable. Yet they often have incomplete datasets to support them, so a selection process needs to be developed to balance them with the "practical" indicators, which may not fully address the issue at hand. - Gary Bull 2007

Gary Bull, University of BC , Faculty of Forestry
gary.bull@ubc.ca

- Gary has been working in the field of indicators for 25 years.
- We have to keep it simple, this group is under-resourced.
- It will likely need to be a web-based reporting system, and take "7 minutes per year" to complete.

Break Out Groups

At this point in the session, participants broke into four groups. Facilitated discussion helped the groups to identify draft indicators. The input will be synthesised and presented as a draft to the membership later in the year.

General Feedback

- Think about indicators that we actually have some control over.
- We want to be able to say, this is where we were at, this is where we should be going.
- Pick ones we can manage for, this will be more meaningful.
- It is easy to have hundreds of indicators, but this doesn't happen in real world. We need to focus, focus, focus. What are really trying to do?
- Be clear on objectives: Do we want community members to understand and appreciate or do we want to prove ourselves to government?

- We might have a core set of indicators for the Association as a whole, and others that are particular to an individual community forest.
- CFs often operate in areas that would have no other development if it weren't for CFs. An indicator that says how many additional hectares are accessed through CF license that would not have otherwise been accessed is a very clear economic indicator.
- Gained from FSC certification and auditing experience, a comment was made that we will be developing indicators that won't require an auditor's judgement. CFs will be self-reporting, but not self-auditing in this process. Indicators need to be very transparent and appropriate. We have to think about what is achievable and simple. The methodology has to be really spelled out.

Partners and Projects

The BCCFA works on a number of projects in partnership with other organizations. The relationship with UBC has leveraged a number of opportunities for CFAs over the last few years and continues to do so. In this session, we heard about a few of them.

Gary Bull, UBC, Faculty of Forestry - Community Forest Management Planning, Marketing and Product Design Opportunity

CFAs can benefit from working with the F424 (4th year undergrads) in the Faculty of Forestry on the development of management plans. Cheakamus recently participated.

Another opportunity will be made available in Marketing and Product Design beginning in January.

Notices on all opportunities will be posted in the BCCFA newsletter.

Frances Swan, Nakusp and Area Community Forest Corporation (NACFOR) and UBC Summer Interns

NACFOR has 2 UBC Forestry Co-op students that are paid employees of UBC funded through an anonymous donor.

There is a requirement to provide training and daily supervision, a safe work environment, and a solid, 4-month work plan.

Students will be collecting field data that will contribute to a 20 year plan. Are collaborating with BCCFA to provide extension about effective, long-term forest management based on experience.

If interested in applying, contact Geoff Anderson, the Co-op Co-ordinator at UBC Forestry: geoff.anderson@ubc.ca.

Cathy Koot, UBC Alex Fraser Research Forest (ARF)

BCCFA Extension Program – Community Forestry Guidebook II and Effective Forest Management

» Link to presentation

- ARF is collaborating with the BCCFA to provide extension about effective, long-term forest management based on experience.
- The BCCFA and AFR jointly developed the Community Forestry Guidebook II
- The Forest Management component of the Community Forestry Guidebook II (which can be found at <http://www.bccfa.ca/pdf/Final%20Guidebook.pdf>) includes the following chapters:
 - Spatial Data and Mapping Tools

- Understanding Goals, Values, and Objectives
- Get It Down on Paper: Planning for Management of Your Community Forest
- Knowing the Nature of Your Forest: Area-based Planning for Ecological
- Goods and Services
- What and Where: Dividing Up Your Community Forest to Manage for Values
- Adapting to Climate Change: Are British Columbia's Community Forests Meeting the Challenge
- The Area-Volume Check: A Simple Way to Tell if Your AAC Fits



David De Witt and Alec George (Babine CFA) | Photo: Susan Mulkey

First Nations Dialogue Session

This informal session explored ways that community forests and First Nations (FN) communities can work together on issues of shared interest.

There was a comment raised about the complication for CFAs when their area includes many overlapping FN claims>

We first heard from the Babine Nation members regarding the notion of overlapping claims in their territory:

Babine Nation, their leader asserts that there is no overlapping territory, but others drew a line over their boundaries. They have to by law consult with the other territories.

In traditional times there was no overlap, there might be a family in and around Babine Lake that had authority to use parts of land, and had to vacate at other times. Governments created overlap when they said that lines had to be drawn in a fixed, permanent fashion, which goes against traditional ways of organizing access/ use of land (which were more fluctuating and relationship-based).

The establishment of these boundaries lead to conflicts amongst the FN. The CF steps into this context.

Babine Lake CF has already consulted with a number of nations to get their permission to go ahead with development. Now that they know when they need to consult and when they don't need to consult they can move ahead more quickly on development.

The factors in this were that:

1. Elders and hereditary chiefs had knowledge and were able to define more clearly the rules of “overlapping” areas.
2. This only came after there was almost a large conflict and warring to resolve the issue customarily.

In a CF to FN context managers often try to group native people into one large group, and ignore the conflict and issues between bands.

The Stolo FN have created a website portal for consultation on overlapping territories.

Esk'etemc are in treaty and have been negotiating treaty for 15 years. Typically foresters go to a FN band and are looking for a cutting permit. They may talk, but there is no back and forth and no conversation. If community forests can't build a relationship with the FN, they are no different than the majors. It cannot just be a letter etc. It must be a relationship.

There followed a discussion about the difficulties of a traditional management system trying to work with the British imposed system and vice-versa.

The Babine CF decided to overcome those barriers they included two hereditary chiefs that belong to the CF area. So, as directors, they know exactly what is going on, they know what the plans are, they take the info home to their families and deliberate and that is how they move forward. It's been a long haul, 2 year, going into production in 3rd year. They share revenue equally with Granisle and have equal directors from both nations.

There are 200 bands in BC, 1/3 of all in Canada (600 in total). Treaty 8 country, 8 bands, each project in the area has to consult with 8 bands.

Wells Gray Community Forest

- Reserves a position on board of directors for adjacent bands.
- There are 5 bands that are interested, but have decided together to use 1 band as a delegate.
- Question was about how 5 bands decided on 1? It was the closest band that took the position. There is nobody in

place for 6 months because they are overwhelmed and busy.

- Question: would you revenue share with FN? That's a board decision. But there is a project in place asking them to do one big AOA for the whole land base. There is a lot of money attached to that which provides work for the community.

It goes a long way to include FN communities in activities and benefits that a CF offers to the non-native community. For example, if the CFA is hiring youth, they should work to include the hiring of FN youth.

Within CF's, some managers are more interested in FN cultures, more curious and engaged and some are not.

FN will only want to be involved if they "have a horse in the race" and have a way of influencing the tenure. Even if it was just for selfish means, it is still beneficial to have this relationship

Relationships are built on the people, and this is the focus for the office of the Wet'suwet'en and Wetzin'kwa. However, in other cases it is not about the person, because the person moves on and the company remains.

First Nations and time - Challenges for Westerners

- The FN concept of time is very different. A person described when a First Nations friend says they'll meet at a certain time, they do not. It is frustrating.
- Sometimes to hire FN people and have them at work by a certain time is close to impossible because there is no transit, often no vehicle ownership and at times a really poor road system.
- A non-native person mentioned that they had expected elders etc. to confirm to her schedule and that was wrong, she had to make herself available when they were able to talk.

Insights on time from the FN Perspective

- FN culture and family will largely take precedence over western plans and schedules.
- In hunting and gathering time those activities take priority over everything else.
- One FN attendee responded about time and said she was taught that if you can't make a meeting you might send somebody else in your place.

BC Communities: Forest Sector Technical Support Services

Dave McRae FP Innovations (FPI), Industry Advisor, Lumber Drying Specialist and First Nations Liaison introduced this new initiative, reported on the recent pilots in Likely and Lower North Thompson Community Forests and gave information on the future of the project.

dave.mcrae@fpinnovations.ca

» [Link to presentation](#)

Communities have a lot of resources, opportunities & ideas. Outside groups like FPI, UBC, Ecotrust can help.

Commodity markets are up and down.

Any time you think a cookie cutter is going to work, it is a recipe for failure.

To get federal or provincial funding, you have to provide measurable success.

Self sufficiency of a community is based on community involvement and ownership (not a big mill that closes and creates a ghost town). To create value added opportunities you need:

- A local champion, heart and passion.
- To understand the characteristics of the species.
- To conduct market research.
- To develop a Business Plan (absolutely essential),
- To consider integrated value chain opportunities (Harvesting, processing, bio-fuel...),

Last January the Province invested some funds towards community projects through FPI. Dave & FPI contacted the BCCFA and set up a call for proposals to CFAs. 2 projects were implemented this year.

- FPI also has a program that can work with communities on a 50/50 basis.
- Dave says FPI wants to work with CFAs and welcomes questions.

WoodSourceBC – Official launch of the enhanced website

WoodSourceBC.com is the new online marketplace. In collaboration with the provincial government, the site has been significantly upgraded to best meet the needs of buyers and sellers. Rhoni Whyard, Lead Consultant, RW Business Solutions and Tom Niemann, Manager of Log Export and Economic Analysis, Competitiveness and Innovation Branch, MFLNRO gave an overview of the new features.

Tom Niemann, Manager of Log Export and Economic Analysis, Competitiveness and Innovation Branch, MFLNRO

Government wanted to promote the linkage of buyers and sellers and also provide connections for investors locally and overseas. They created a website, called Fibre Connections, and they tried to set up Fibre Officers to help facilitate the exchange of information.

However, they are limited in what they can do to promote private sector activity. They can't interfere in the marketplace or be seen to favour one company over another

They came to the conclusion that if a NGO could take it on, then the government can assist in a more efficient and complete

way.

We want to see if widely used by many players in the sector.

WoodSourceBC is geared to the small operator in the forest sector, but it can also be used by large players.

There is a learning curve but this is great stuff and you will get to where you can't remember when you didn't use it.



Rhoni Whyard, Business Solutions

Link to presentation

Rhoni gave the history on development of WoodSourceBC.com which was launched in 2011.

She gave an orientation to the website, how to set up a profile and use the site.

- Fill in your profile as much as possible.
- An e-commerce section has been added to the website. You can use PayPal or a broker if you are interested
- Every Saturday there is a weekly digest when there is a new listing. Please “forward to your friend”.
- 120 Resource Links have been added to the site. Rhoni asks for input on this if more ideas come forward for resources.
- Regional Summaries are a major focus of the new enhancements.
- For each region, we have AAC, Harvest Volumes, Stumpage Value by TSA and by Licencee.
- There are now lots of new information at your fingertips.
- Rhoni is available to help create profiles and post listings.
- Congratulations to Rhoni for the site.

The more sellers use it, the more buyers will search the website.

Community Forest Showcase

In this session we heard the story of two community forests, how they are structured, their activities, benefits, & challenges.

Esk'etemc First Nation's Alkali Resource Management - Presented by Gord Chipman, Manager

» [Link to presentation](#)

Likely Xatsu'll Community Forest – Presented by Robin Hood, Manager and Thomas Phillips, Director

» [Link to presentation](#)



Marc von der Gonna and Robin Hood | Photo: Lisa Ambus