

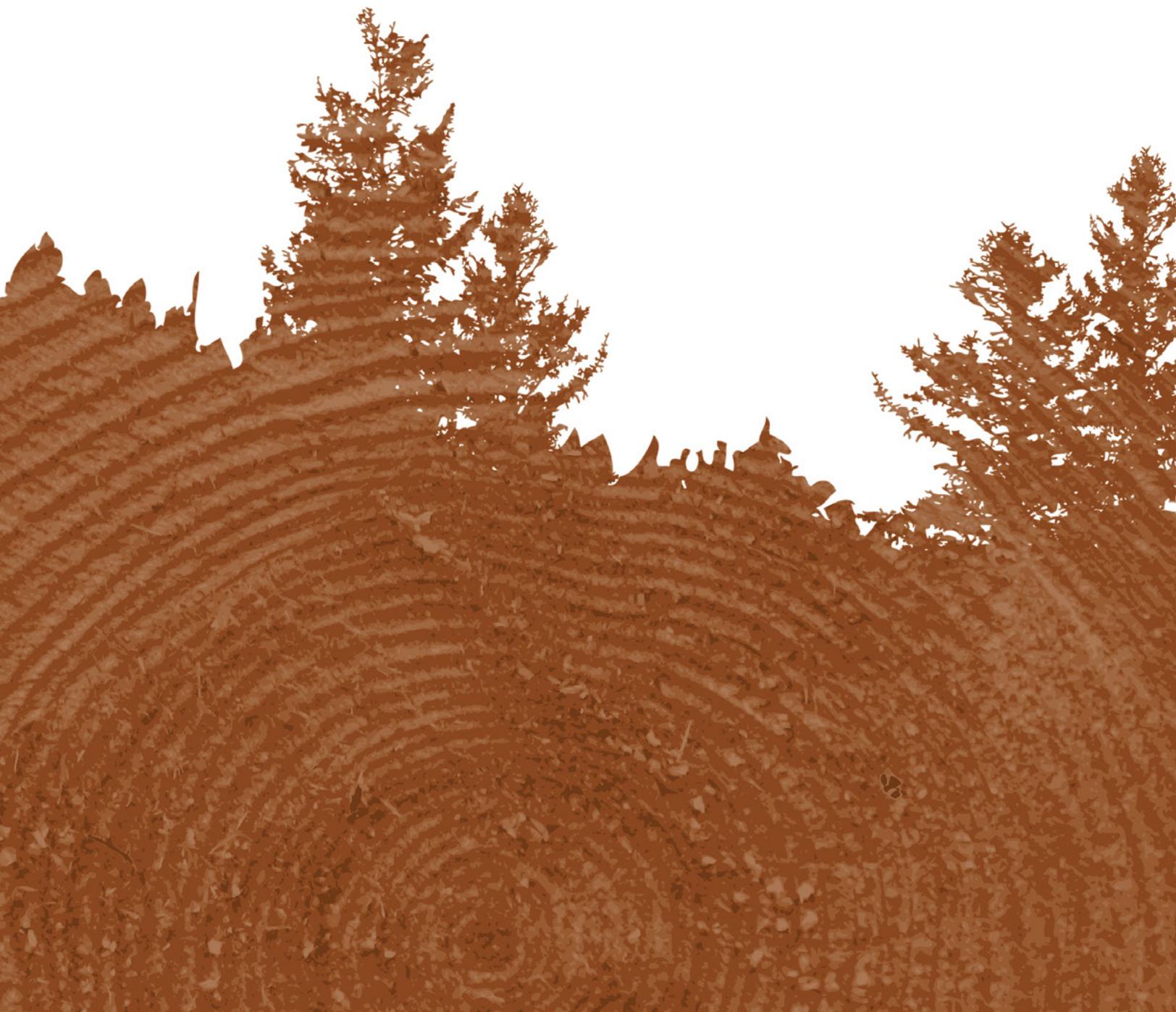


British Columbia
Community
Forest
Association

Community Forest Indicators 2014

Measuring the Benefits of Community Forestry

January 2015



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Community forestry is an innovative form of forest management, whereby local communities gain the right to manage local forests for local benefit. Every community forest is unique and each one strives to return benefits as defined by the local community. To better understand these benefits, the British Columbia Community Forest Association (BCCFA) has developed a system to measure and track the benefits of community forests.

Together with community forest practitioners and in collaboration the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and a number of independent advisors, we have identified the most compelling indicators that demonstrate the tangible social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that community forests bring to their communities and to the province. We sought out the most common, universal and easy to measure indicators that can be applied regardless of the organizational structure of a community forest or the location and ecosystem of the land base.

The following report summarizes the results of the first annual survey of community forests in the province. Sixteen community forest managers participated in the survey, providing data from the last reporting year, specific to their operations.¹ This sample represents half of the operating community forests in the BCCFA. For the most part, these are small rural communities with an average population of 4,600. 37% of respondents are communities of under 1,000 people. The community forest organizations operate relatively small forest tenures, with an average AAC of 34,000. Despite their small size, the compiled results and the interplay of the indicators tell the story of how important community forests are to their communities. We believe the results of the annual survey will be of great value to the BCCFA, to individual community forests, to the Province of British Columbia, and to the public.

While community forests have a range of priorities and motivations, collectively their efforts support the Provincial Government's objectives².

Eighteen indicators measure progress towards the following four key objectives:

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

1 The results are based on the last fiscal year of 16 community forests that have been operating for one year or more.

2 <https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hth/timber-tenures/community/objectives.htm>

COMMUNITY FOREST INDICATORS RESULTS HIGHLIGHTS

Economic Benefits

- » Community forests create local jobs. On average, community forests created 0.3 full time jobs/1000 m³, which is 50% higher than the industry average.
- » Community forests boost local economic activity. They contributed an average of \$1.6 million to their local economies, most of which have populations of 3,000 people or less.
- » Community forests support local priorities by sharing their profits. They contributed an average of \$100,000 cash and in-kind to local projects.
- » Community forests were able to leverage an additional \$140,000 for local projects from outside sources.
- » Community forests play an active role in the forest sector through harvesting and supplying logs for the market. 87% are on track to meet their cut control.
- » Community forests support the full spectrum of milling and manufacturing facilities. 76% of logs were sold to large mills, with 24% going to small, medium and value added manufacturers.
- » Community forests are investing in the future economic return of the forest. On average, they spent \$34,000 of their own funds on intensive silviculture and treated over 70 hectares.
- » Community forests are supporting efforts to diversify the economic benefits of the forest. While the community forest organizations themselves did not generate revenue through sources other than timber, they facilitated the harvest of non-timber forest resources for traditional use and local businesses.

Social Benefits

- » Accountability is the cornerstone of community forestry. 93% reported annually to their community.
- » Community forests foster participation in forest management. 20 different types of forest users and community sectors were engaged in community forests.
- » Community forests support education. On average they invested \$7,000 and 115 hours in educational activities.
- » Recreation is a key benefit. Community Forests invested an average of \$20,000 in recreation and built or maintained 19 km of trail. In total, respondents built or maintained 260 km of trail in the reporting period.
- » Community forests are working to reduce the threat of wildfire. On average they treated 33 ha and spent over \$5,000 of their own funds to reduce wildfire risk. To date, the reporting community forests collectively brought in over \$1.1 million for wildfire mitigation and

treated over 1600 ha.

- » Forest worker safety is a priority. 86% of community forests require Safe Certification, and in the reporting year there were no accidents that prevented a worker from returning to work.

Cultural Benefits

- » In BC, over half of the operating CFs are held by First Nations or a partnership between an Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community. 14% of survey respondents are CFs that are held by First Nations, and 36% are partnerships. 43% have a First Nations representation on their board of directors

Environmental Benefits

- » Community forests operate in challenging areas around communities. 65% of the land base of the reporting community forests is deemed sensitive.
- » 62% of community forests made investments in forest stewardship - incremental to legal requirements, averaging a \$36,000 investment and treating 50 ha each.
- » Community forests are in compliance with environmental standards. In the reporting year there were 23 inspections conducted, and 0 determinations against community forests.

On average, community forests are creating 50% more jobs/m³ than the industry average. They operate largely in sensitive areas, and are meeting their cut control while reliably supplying logs to both major processing facilities and small manufacturers. On average they are contributing over \$ 1.6 million a year each to the economy and are making donations of over \$100,000 annually to support local priorities.

The data collected through the survey is just one way to demonstrate the tangible benefits of community forests. Equally important are the stories of individual community forests and the unique contributions they make. Actual examples help us truly understand the innovation being applied by community forests and their significance. The BCCFA will continue to use our website, newsletters and future publications to ensure these stories are collected and shared.

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

Acknowledgements

Many people contributed to the development of the Community Forest Indicators. Thank you to all members of the Community Forest Indicators Project Advisory Group, the BCCFA Board of Directors, and to Susan Mulkey for helping to bring this important project to fruition.

Jennifer Gunter, BCCFA Executive Director

COMMUNITY FORESTRY IN BRITISH COLUMBIA: SETTING THE CONTEXT

The forests of British Columbia are richly diverse, and have been classified into sixteen distinct biogeoclimatic zones. Ninety-five percent of the land in the province is publicly owned (B.C. Ministry of Forests, Mines and Lands. 2010). This public ownership has made space for the creation of the community forest agreement tenure on Crown land. The community forest agreement, or CFA, was introduced to the forest tenure system in 1998. Today, there are 51 CFAs spread widely across the province, and an additional 4 in the application process.

The CFA is an area-based, long-term tenure that grants the right to harvest timber to legal entities representing local communities. These may be a local government, an Indian Band (as defined under the Canadian Indian Act), or a society, cooperative, or corporation that is community controlled and representative of community interests.

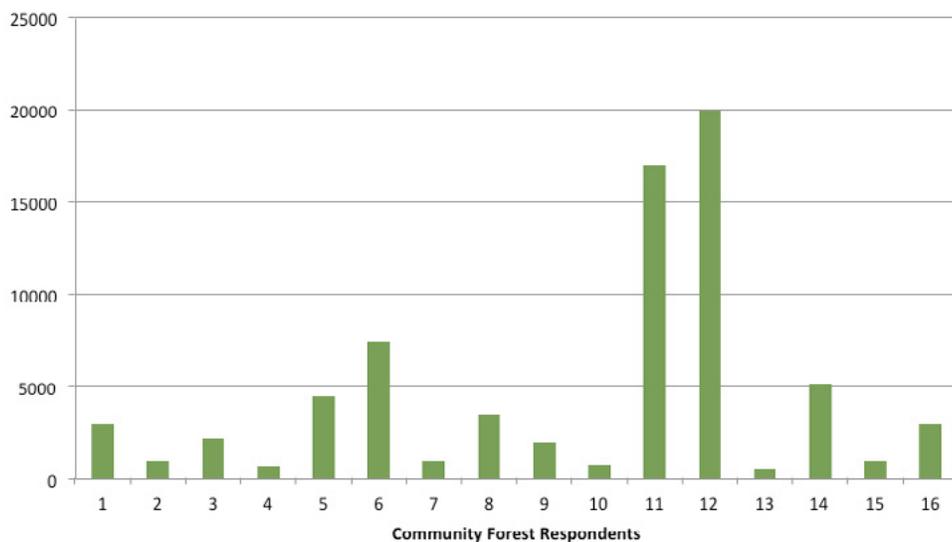
The CFA gives the holder exclusive rights to harvest Crown timber on a specific land base and may grant the right to manage and charge fees for non-timber botanical products and any other prescribed forest products. Agreements are granted for a period of 25 years, replaceable every 10 years.

Community forests in BC reflect the ecological and cultural diversity of our province. They exist in many types of forests and terrain. They range in size from 418 to 160,000 hectares, with annual harvest from 1,000 m³ to 153,000 m³.

The organizational structures are varied as well. However by and large, community forests are managed by small, rural communities, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal.



Photo: Craig Pryor



Population of Reporting Communities

1000 and under	6 communities
1001 - 3000	4 communities
3001 - 6000	3 communities
6001 and up	3 communities
Minimum Population	719
Maximum Population	20,000
Average Population	4,592

Abbreviations Used in this Report

AAC = Allowable Annual Cut

CF = Community forest

CFA = Community forest agreement

FTE = Full Time Equivalent (1820 hours of work = 1 full time job)

M³ = cubic metres of wood

N = number of survey responses

COMMUNITY FOREST OBJECTIVES AND INDICATORS

Economic Objective: Community forests provide economic benefits to their communities and to the province of British Columbia.

This is measured by:

1. The number of jobs the community forest creates
2. The total economic activity generated by the community forest
3. The cash and in-kind contributions made by the community forest
4. The additional funds leveraged by those contributions
5. The active role the community forests play in the forest sector through harvesting
6. The support for the full spectrum of milling and manufacturing facilities
7. Investments in the future economic return of the forest through intensive silviculture
8. Efforts to diversify the economic activities of the community forest

Social Objective: Community forests provide social benefits to their communities and to the province; they promote community involvement and participation, and forest worker safety.

This is measured by:

9. The accountability of the community forest agreement holder to the local community
10. The range and depth of engagement with different sectors of the community
11. Investments in education
12. Investments in recreation
13. Proactive efforts to reduce the wildfire hazard to communities
14. Forest worker safety

Cultural Objective: Community forestry promotes communication and strengthens relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities and persons.

This is measured by:

15. The breadth and depth of First Nation involvement in community forests

Environmental Objective: Community forestry is consistent with sound principles of environmental stewardship that reflect a broad spectrum of values.

This is measured by:

16. The management of sensitive areas
17. Investments in forest stewardship incremental to legal requirements
18. Compliance with environmental standards

INDICATOR #1: NUMBER OF JOBS

Addresses the Economic Objective

Employment in rural communities is one of the main benefits of community forests. This indicator measures the total direct employment & contract labour generated by community forests. By determining the number of jobs per m³ harvested, we can see the value, in terms of employment, of the harvest volume allocated to community forests. Respondents also reported on the approximate number of people who came in *direct* contact with community forest wood or the tenure and derive some or all of their annual income as a direct result of the community forest harvest.

RESULTS

Table #1: Number of Full Time Equivalent Jobs per 1000 m³ harvested

Average FTE*/1000m ³	
n	13
Average # FTE	9.89
Minimum FTE	.47
Maximum FTE	20.7
Average Harvest (m ³)	37,075
Minimum Harvest (m ³)	468
Maximum Harvest (m ³)	91,413
FTE/1000m ³	0.3
Average # of people directly in contact	45

* One “Full Time Equivalent” (FTE) is equal to 1820 hours per year. Jobs in the forest industry are commonly reported as FTE/1000m³.

On average, community forests created 0.3 FTE/m³.

The community forest with the smallest harvest in the reporting year had 1.0 FTE/1000m³, and the community forest with the largest created 0.23 FTE/m³.

On average, 45 people directly relied on the community forest for all or some of their annual income, with 125 being the highest, and 12 being the lowest number of people.

IMPLICATIONS

According to the up-coming report by Natural Resources Canada, the industry average of jobs per m³ is 0.2 jobs for 1000 m³ of industrial round wood generated. These jobs are exclusively in forestry, logging and support services, making the jobs/m³ figure comparable to the activities of community forests. This industry data is based on 2012 harvesting information from the BC Harvest Billing System database and employment data from Statistics Canada. (Bogdanski, B.E.C and A. McBeath. 2015. Secondary Manufacturing of solid wood products in British Columbia 2012: structure, economic contribution and changes since 1990. Natural Resources Canada, Information Report BC-X-XXX Final Draft, Victoria.)

The survey results show that the community forests, on average, employ 50% more people per m³ than the major industry for the activities captured by the survey.



Westbank Community Forest has prioritized local employment. Photo: Grant Thompson

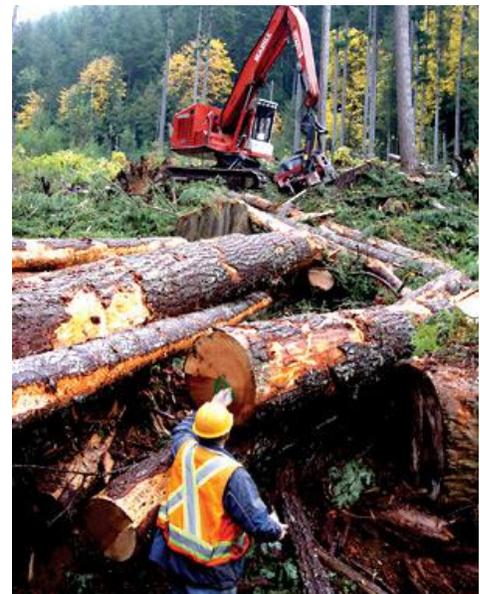


Sunshine Community Forest Faller. Photo: Susan Mulkey

INDICATOR #2: TOTAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

Addresses the Economic Objective

As long-term area-based tenures, community forests support lasting community economic development resulting in more self-reliant rural communities. The total annual cost of sales and expenditures is an indicator of the total economic activity generated by the community forest in the reporting year.



Powell River Community Forest Operations. Photo: Chris Laing

RESULTS

- » Small CF (1m³ – 20,000m³)
- » Medium CF (20,001m³ – 40,000m³)
- » Large CF (40,001m³ – 60,000m³)

Table #2: Summary of total dollar value of expenditures (actual values, rounded to the nearest dollar)

Total \$ value expenditures	All CFs	Small CF	Medium CF	Large CF
n	14	8	4	2
Average	1,575,348	1,107,849	1,811,043	2,975,383
Minimum	64,052	64,052	997,989	1,338,056
Maximum	4,612,709	2,692,372	2,470,000	4,612,709

Table #3: Summary of total dollar value of sales (actual values rounded to the nearest dollar)

Total \$ value of sales	All CFs	Low AAC	Medium AAC	High AAC
n	14	8	4	2
Average	1,865,263	1,320,018	2,116,028	3,544,715
Minimum	42,683	42,683	1,224,711	1,433,935
Maximum	5,655,496	4,356,435	2,980,399	5,655,495

IMPLICATIONS

With average expenditures of \$1.6 million and the total value of sales for the majority of CFs between \$1.1 million and \$2.0 million, community forest agreements are a significant boost to these local economies. This economic activity was generated by an average harvest of only 37,000 m³ in the reporting year. The results showed that in the reporting year some CFAs posted a loss, and others a profit. The average rate of return was \$7.80/m³. With an average population of 4600 people, the pivotal role that a community forest can play in a rural community must not be understated. In fact over 60% of the respondents are in communities of less than 3000 people with 37% in communities of less than 1000 people.

INDICATOR #3: COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

Addresses the Economic, Social and Environmental Objectives

The cash and in-kind contributions made by the community forest are an important indicator of the distribution of economic benefits locally. In many cases, these donations serve social and environmental objectives, in addition to economic ones.

RESULTS

Table #4: Summary of total cash contributed to the community through grants (actual values, rounded to the nearest dollar).

Cash (\$) contributed via grants	
n	14
Total	1,149,072
Average of all respondents	82,077
Average of contributors	95,756
Minimum	1,000
Maximum	335,900

Eighty six percent of respondents were in a position to make cash contributions in their communities. On average they contributed \$96,000 in the reporting year, with an additional \$7500 in in-kind contributions. In this first year of the survey, it is probable that the in-kind contributions were underreported.

IMPLICATIONS

The donations of cash and volunteer time that community forests make in their communities is one of the most important sources of local benefit. The community priorities that these investments support are extremely varied, as each community forest organizations sets its own disbursement policy.



One of the oldest 9 hole golf courses in the province, the Kaslo Golf Club received significant support from the CF to build a new clubhouse and restaurant.

Photo: Kaslo Chamber of Commerce

INDICATOR #4: FUNDS LEVERAGED BY THE COMMUNITY FOREST

Addresses the Economic, Social and Environmental Objectives

In many cases, the profits generated and contributions made by community forests are used as seed money to grow larger projects and generate even more local benefits. This indicator shows how CFA funds are used to leverage additional funds for community priorities. As with Indicator #3, often these projects serve social and environmental objectives, in addition to economic ones.

RESULTS

Table #5: Summary of total dollars raised from outside sources for local projects (actual values, rounded to the nearest dollar).

Total outside \$ raised for projects	All CFs
n	6
Total	860,226
Average	143,371
Minimum	5,000
Maximum	300,000

*Average in-kind contributions
\$7,514.18*

*Average cash and in kind
of those who contributed
\$102,644.00*

IMPLICATIONS

Community forest can use their profits to attract even greater benefits to their communities. We see good results in this first survey year, however the results are likely under-reported. Only 43% of respondents answered this question, in large part because this indicator requires systems in place to collect data locally.



Photo: Susan Mulkey

made a huge difference in being successful on grant applications, as real cash investment speaks much louder than in kind.” The funding world is a little tougher right now as they are asking for \$66,000.00 with our investment of \$153,000.00. They estimate that over a million dollars have been brought into the community through leveraging of their community forest funds.

Example of a Community Forest leveraging funds for greater community Benefit

A Likely Story

Seed money from the Likely Xatsu’ll Community Forest operations has been used to acquire funding from many sources, in many different formulas, and many different amounts. Small projects with \$1,000.00 matching funds, to a \$250,000.00 project for a \$20,000.00 dollar investment have put local people to work, largely improving the local tourism features and infrastructure. The cash on hand is critical “Having the funds from the community forest has

INDICATOR #5: CUT CONTROL

Addresses the Economic Objective

Community forests play an active role in the forest sector through harvesting. This indicator measures their success at meeting cut control requirements, keeping the supply of logs flowing into the market.

RESULTS

Table #6: Summary of CFs reporting if they will be on track to meet cut control in the current period.

On track: yes or no	
n	15
Total "yes"	13
% on track	87%

IMPLICATIONS

The survey results demonstrate that 87% of community forests are on track to meet their cut control. This means they are successfully harvesting the volume of timber allocated to them, and contributing logs to the market. The two CFAs that are not on target to meet cut control cite the following reasons: Unavailability of economically viable timber and a lack of local capacity for one CFA, and because of terms associated with uplift volume on another.



Photo: George Brcko

INDICATOR #6: DISTRIBUTION OF LOG SALES

Addresses the Economic Objective

Community forests supply wood on the open market to major industry, and also to small and medium sized mills and value added manufacturers. In so doing, they strive to support the full spectrum of milling and manufacturing facilities.

RESULTS

Table #7: Summary of the distribution of log sales in the reporting period.

Distribution of Log Sales	
Number of responses:	14
Percentage of sales Large > 200,000 m ³ /yr. mill/	76.22
Percentage of sales Medium 50,000 to 200,000 m ³ /yr. mill	13.21
Percentage of sales to Small < 50,000 m ³ /yr.	2.48
Percentage of sales Value Added	6.31
Percentage of sales to facilities that utilize low quality fibre	1.36
Other (i.e. firewood)	0.42
Total	100.00

IMPLICATIONS

Community forest organizations provide a variety of logs to a variety of buyers. Consistent with the research conducted for BC's Working Roundtable in Forestry in 2009, the results show that 76% of the volume sold by community forests went to large mills, while about 24% went to small and medium-sized facilities, value added manufacturers, mills that use low quality fibre and other uses. Community forests can be flexible and respond to local and regional demand. As a long-term tenure, they also have the potential to provide a secure source of fibre to manufacturers and value added businesses that are already established, or are looking to become established in a BC community.

Using Log Trades to Leverage Local Jobs

A community forest can leverage dollars, or they can also leverage logs. Valemount CF can sell all of their medium sized spruce locally. But when a local person expressed a need for cedar shake blocks, the manager set up a deal with a Salmon Arm outfit to trade spruce volume to bring in the cedar.



In addition to a focus on local jobs in direct forest management, having a secure, long term source of timber can allow CFs to play a larger role in local community economic development. A great example is the relationship that the Sunshine Coast Community Forest has with West Coast Log Homes (WCLH), a specialty log home builder based in Gibson's. With 500-1500m³/yr. of quality cedar logs they can put about 16 FTEs to work.

Photo: Susan Mulkey

INDICATOR #7: INVESTMENTS IN INTENSIVE SILVICULTURE

Addresses the Economic Objective

As long-term, area-based tenures, community forest agreements create strong incentives for investment in the future. This indicator measures investments in the future economic return of the forest. By measuring the investments in intensive silviculture, incremental to legal requirements, it shows the efforts being made to increase the growing capacity in community forest, with the intent of increasing the AAC over time.

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

RESULTS

Table #8: Summary of total value of CF’s own investment in intensive silviculture.

Total \$ invested	
n	12
Total	412,850
Average	34,404
Minimum	0
Maximum	300,000

Table #9: Summary of total value from outside sources for intensive silviculture.

Total \$ from outside sources	
n	12
Total	156,300
Average	13,025
Minimum	0
Maximum	150,000

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

# of hectares treated	
n	12
Total	850.5
Average	70.9
Minimum	0
Maximum	452

IMPLICATIONS

The BCCFA's vision is network of diverse community forest initiatives, where local people practice ecologically responsible forest management in perpetuity, fostering and supporting healthy and vibrant rural communities and economies. This vision will be manifested through long-range thinking, and sound investments in the land base. The combination of investments in the reporting year alone resulted in about \$570,000 going into intensive silviculture. 72% of that investment came from the CFA's own funds, while 28% came from outside sources.



Esk'etemc Community Forest is a leader in management of mule deer winter range. Photo: Susan Mulkey

INDICATOR #8: ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

Addresses the Economic Objective

One of the provincial objectives for the community forest program is to diversify the use of and benefits derived from the community forest agreement area. The indicator shows the degree to which community forests are generating revenue from sources other than timber. These include botanical forest products and other prescribed products (such as carbon credits) as listed in Schedule C of the Community Forest Agreement Licence.

Survey respondents reported the total value in dollars of revenue from diversified sales for the reporting period including all products for which the CFA holder has the authority to manage according to Schedule C of the Agreement.

RESULTS

Among survey respondents, no revenue was generated directly by a community forest through diversified sales. However, the community forests did play a facilitation role for community based revenue generation. Examples cited by survey respondents were as follows:

- » The community forest facilitated the free use of cedar bark, mushrooms, firewood, rails, Chagga, and other medicinal and traditional use plants.
- » The community forest enabled the indirect sale of cedar boughs valued at \$6,000 through the community forest's authorization and facilitation within active harvest operation.
- » The community forest is currently negotiating a carbon offset program with the provincial government.

IMPLICATIONS

While little development has occurred in this realm to date, this indicator will provide baseline data over time. The management of non-timber resources is a complex topic. Rights are given to community forests through legislation to manage and charge fees for botanical forest products and other prescribed products. However, there is still no regulation for management due to unresolved First Nations rights, title and historical use. Furthermore, when it comes to the collection of berries and mushrooms by local community members, the concept of charging fees poses a challenge when access has always been free. Even though non timber resources are seen as an opportunity for economic diversification of community forests, this idea has yet to be fully realized.



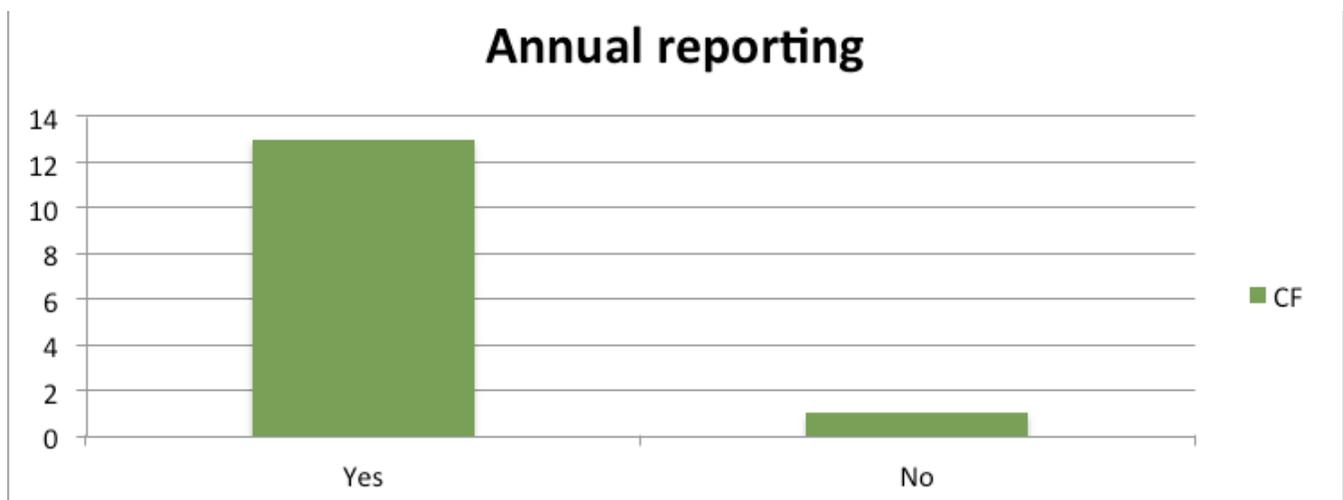
*Local pine mushroom harvest.
Photo: Daphne Hunter*

INDICATOR #9: COMMUNITY ACCOUNTABILITY

Addresses the Social Objective

An element of community forests that sets them apart from other forest tenures is their accountability to their local communities. This accountability is the cornerstone of local decision-making. In community forestry, management decisions are made by those who have to live with them. When local people have a hand in management of the forests adjacent to their rural communities, they are more likely to be innovative in the integration of multiple values in their decision-making. This indicator measures whether the community forest reports out annually to its community on its progress towards objectives as identified in the Community Forest Agreement Management Plan. It also describes the methods used.

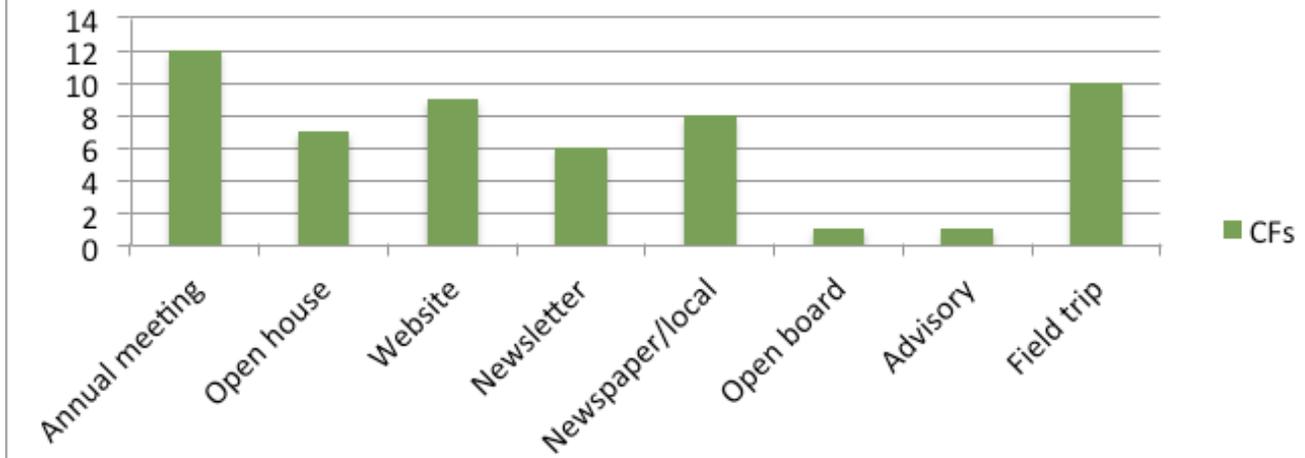
RESULTS



Annual reporting by CFs, where n = 15. 93% report annually.

- » All but one of the community forests confirmed they reported out annually to their community in the reporting year.

Methods of reporting



Methods of reporting by CFs, where n = 14.

Other communication methods noted:

- » Stakeholder groups as needed (example watershed group when developing in the area)
- » Manager's personal/informal contacts
- » Monthly reporting to shareholder (example municipal government)

IMPLICATIONS

The results emphasize accountability and transparency of community forest organizations, and the fact that they are using a range of tools to communicate with the community. When linked to Indicator 10 (Public Engagement) the reach and depth of efforts to communicate and engage with the community and stakeholders is shown to be significant. The goal is for 100% of community forests to be reporting annually to their communities.



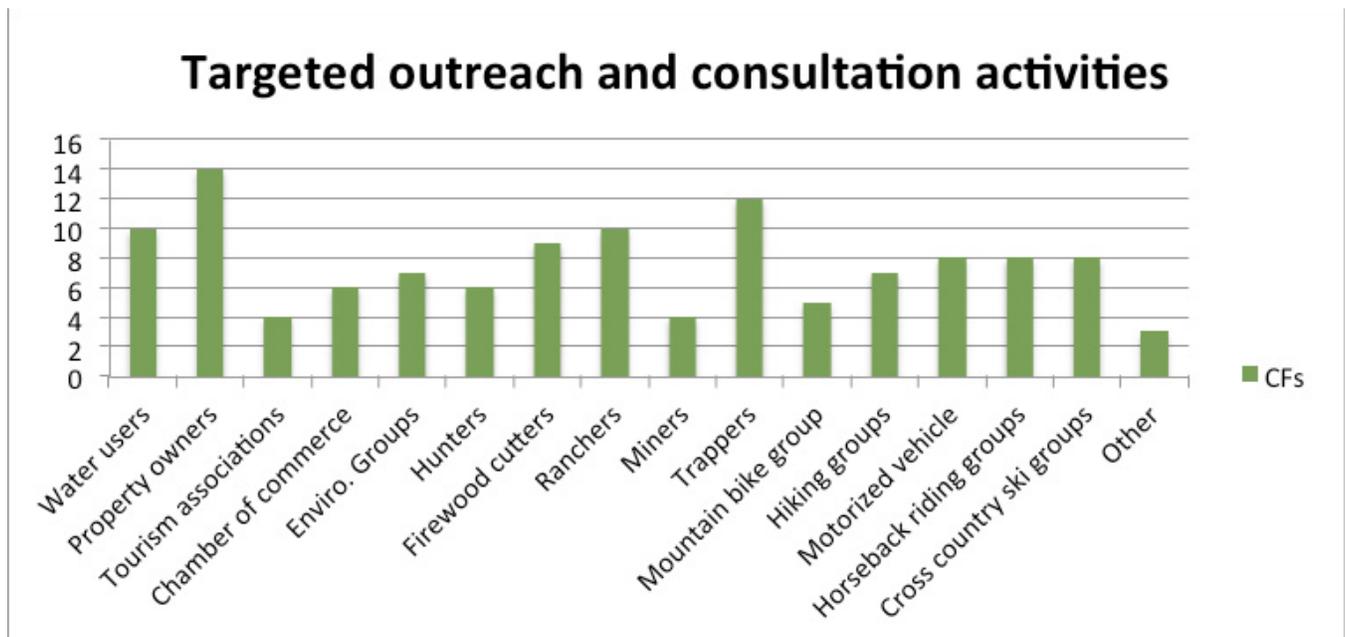
Community reporting. Photo: Wetzin'kwa Community Forest Corporation

INDICATOR #10: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Addresses the Social Objective

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

RESULTS



In addition to the groups in the graph above, respondents reported that they also consulted the following groups:

- » Local mushroom pickers
- » Local municipalities not formally represented on the board
- » The local gun club
- » The historical society

Respondents were also asked to report on the number of formal agreements:

- » Number of respondents: 14
- » Number of formal agreements: 6
- » Formal agreements under development: 1
- » Recreation Tenure Partnership: 1

IMPLICATIONS

The results show that community forests are engaging with a broad range of stakeholders, including nearly 20 different sectors. Though it is not a provincial requirement, often consultation takes place on a cut block basis involving appropriate stakeholders. Community forests are also participating in local and regional multi-party planning tables. Regarding formal agreements, survey responses show that while these agreements are being made, formal agreements are not necessarily the best for every situation. Some stakeholders are reluctant to commit to a formal agreement and prefer an informal approach.



In Whistler, a Forest Recreation Agreement between the Cheakamus Community Forest and the Whistler Off Road Cycling Association created parameters for them to work together on mountain bike development in conjunction with their harvesting activities. Photos: Peter Ackhurst

INDICATOR # 11: INVESTMENTS IN COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Addresses the Social Objective

Community forests provide an opportunity to link community members to the forest, and to increase their understanding of forest ecosystems and management. As long-term, area-based tenures, community forests provide enhanced opportunities for education and research. Community forests can be laboratories for testing innovative forest practices. This indicator measures the investments the community forest is making in education and capacity building. Respondents included the time spent and total value, in dollars, of all investments in education. This includes school presentations, field trips, public events, as well as training supported by the community forest (such as first aid, faller certification, etc.) by community forest staff, contractors, employees and volunteers.

RESULTS

Table #12: Summary of total value of investments (dollars) in education by CFs.

Total \$ investments	
n	13
Total	88,220
Average	6,786
Minimum	0
Maximum	24,420

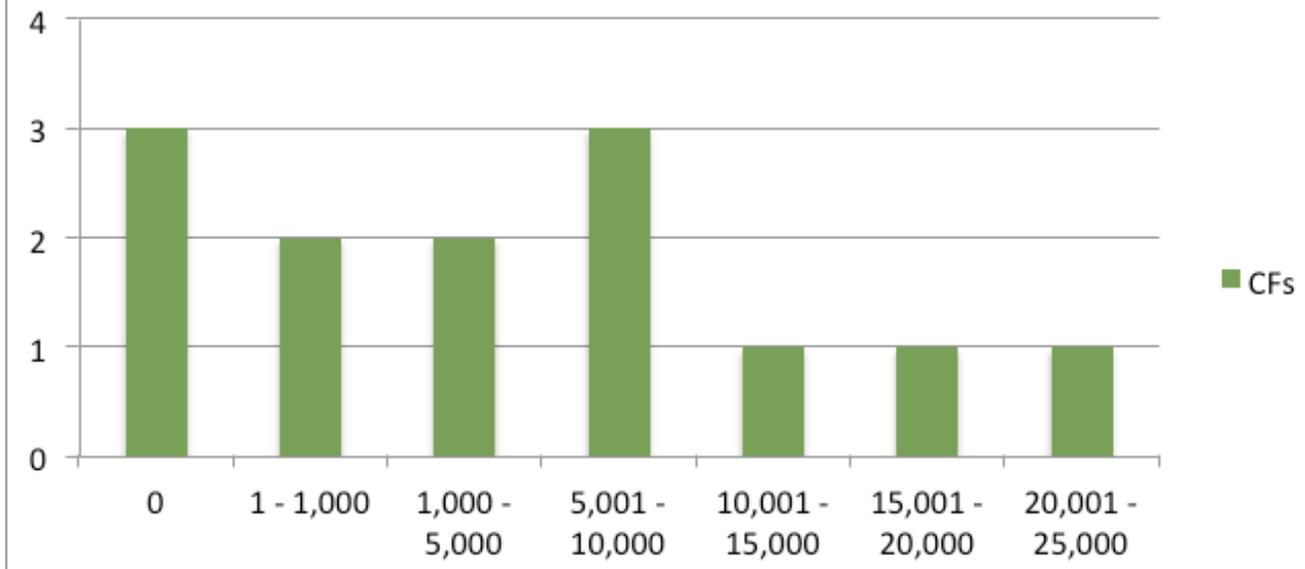
Table #13: Summary of total amount of time invested in education by CFs.

Hours spent on education	
n	15
Total hours	1,719
Average hours	114.6
Minimum	0
Maximum	528



Logan Lake CF started in 2004 with a youth crew of 5 and now every student who applies for a job gets a job for the summer. In 2013 and 2014 they had 17 person crews. The outcomes are great local improvements to local fire safety and infrastructure, much good will between local teens and residents and valuable work experience in a town that previous had very little for youth to do in summers. Photo: Don Brown

Total value of investments in education



Total value of investments in education by CFs.

IMPLICATIONS

Clearly education is very important to individual community forests, and we see that the amount of investment is not tied to the size of the community forest. For many First Nation Community Forests, training young people for work on the tenure is a major focus of their operations. A number of organizations have annual programs that interface with their local K-12 schools and get kids out into the forest land base. There is potential that CFAs are underestimating their educational contributions and partnerships in their communities. We look to more thorough reporting in the next survey round.



Alberni District Secondary School Project-Based Learning Program funded in part by the Alberni Valley CF. Photo: Alberni Valley News

INDICATOR #12: INVESTMENTS IN RECREATION

Addresses the Social Objective

One of the most significant benefits for many communities with community forests is the investment the organization makes in creating, improving and maintaining local recreational infrastructure and opportunities. This indicator measures the value of the cash and in-kind investments in recreation that the community forest has made in the reporting year and over time. Investment in trail development and maintenance was selected as a tangible example of recreational benefits. Respondents included investment in recreation features & trails outside the boundaries of the community forest.

RESULTS

Table #14: Summary of total value of investments in recreation by CFs.

\$ in recreation investments	
n	14
Total	279,921
Average	19,994
Minimum	500
Maximum	204,665

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

# of kilometres	
n	14
Total	259
Average	18.5
Minimum	4
Maximum	160



The Lower North Thompson Community Forest Society partnered with a local Job Creation Program and facilitated a crew who reclaimed a number of historical trails in the area. The trails were promoted to Mantracker, and two episodes were filmed.

Photo: Mike Francis



Winter in the Forest - Kaslo and District CF hosts an annual fun filled Family Day event with numerous activities including the human dog sled race mini luge and sleigh rides.

Photo: Daphne Hunter

IMPLICATIONS

Recreational investment is a factor that sets the community forest apart from much of the forest industry. With community forests located typically in the land surrounding a community, access to recreational trails and features is a priority for fitness, enjoyment and local economic development. Regardless of their size, community forests are investing in local recreation and partnering to bring even more local benefits.



Wetzin'kwa CF contributed to the Bulkley Valley Cross Country Ski Club for development of an underpass to ensure safe passage to the trail network located on the CF. Photo: Wetzin'kwa Community Forest Corp.

INDICATOR #13: PROACTIVE MANAGEMENT OF WILDFIRE HAZARD

Addresses Economic, Social and Environmental Objectives

The combined effects of climate change, the mountain pine beetle, past management increasing forest fuels and the province's limited fire suppression capacity are leading to an increase in wildfire incidence and severity. Community forests are situated in the interface between communities and wild forest lands, and are uniquely positioned to serve as leaders in the coordination and management of these areas to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire. Efforts to manage the wildfire hazard to communities are primarily driven by social objectives, however depending on the ecosystem type, history and outcome of the treatments; they may also bring economic and environmental benefits. Survey respondents reported on the value of investments, cash and in-kind made by the community forest to reduce wildfire hazard and the number of hectares treated.

RESULTS

Table #16: Summary of value of investments, cash, and in-kind funded by CF to reduce wildfire hazard in the reporting period

\$ value funded to reduce wildfire	
N	13
Total	65,877
Average	5,067.46
Minimum	500
Maximum	24,000

Table #17: Summary of number of hectares treated in the reporting period.

# of treated hectares in reporting period	
N	13
Total	430.7
Average	33.1
Minimum	0
Maximum	375

Table #18: Summary of number of hectares treated by the CF to date.

# of treated hectares to date	
N	13
Total	1,675.9
Average	128.9
Minimum	12.2
Maximum	955

- » In previous years, the reporting community forests collectively managed over \$1.1 million for wildfire mitigation.

IMPLICATIONS

In the reporting period, Community Forests saw a significant drop in the availability of outside funding for fuel treatment. However, the need to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire is ever present. In the reporting year, through their own funding and in kind efforts, respondents were able to treat over 430 hectares, and a total of nearly 1,700 hectares to date.



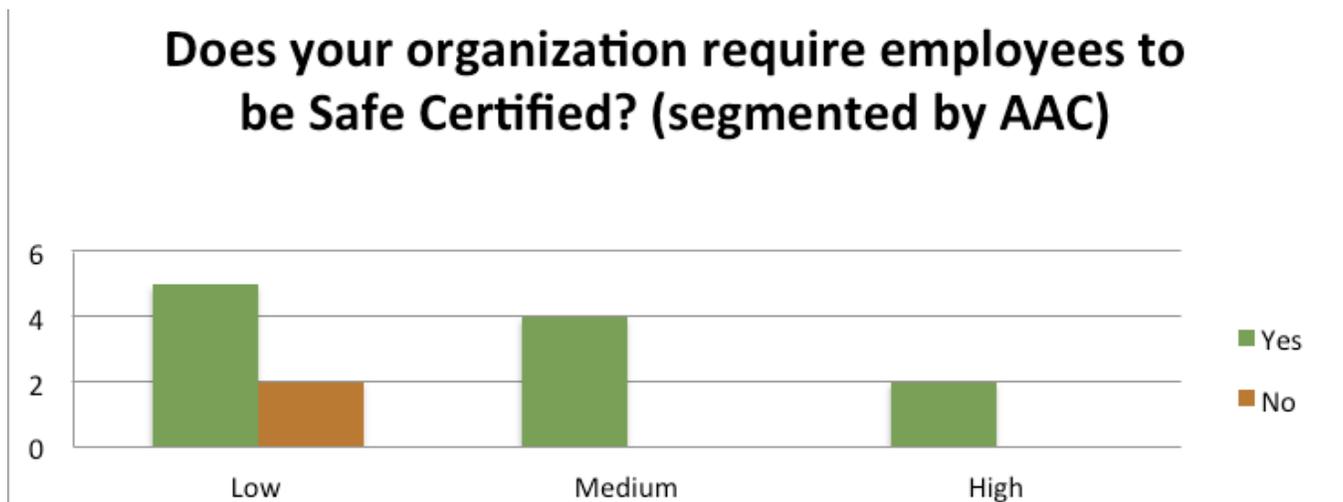
The community of Logan Lake was recognized with an award from FireSmart Canada for its pioneering program to make the community safe from forest fires. Photo: Don Brown

INDICATOR #14: FOREST WORKER SAFETY

Addresses Social Objective

One of the provincial government’s objectives for the community forest program is to advocate for forest worker safety. Survey respondents reported on whether or not the CFA holder requires its employees and/or contractors to be Safe Certified with the BC Forest Safety Council or an equivalent program. Information on the number of recordable incidents and the number of recorded incidents that prevented a worker from returning to work further demonstrates how community forests are meeting safety objectives in their operations.

RESULTS



Organizations requiring employees/contractors to be Safe Certified, segmented by AAC

Table #19: Summary of organizations requiring employees/contractors to be Safe Certified in percentages

% requiring Safe Certified	
n	13
% yes	86%
% no	14%

Table #20: Summary of number of recordable incidents in the reporting year.

Reported number	
n	14
Recorded incidents	5
Incidents that prevented a worker from returning to work	0

Eighty six percent of respondents require their employees and contractors to be Safe Certified. The two that reported that they do not have this requirement are small CFAs. In the reporting year, there were 5 reportable incidents, and none of the reported incidents prevented a worker from returning to work.

IMPLICATIONS

Community forest organizations believe in safety and the majority of them require their employees and/or contractors to be Safe Certified with the BC Forest Safety Council. Two small community forests have allowed for flexibility in the implementation of their policy for certified workers to allow for short term employment of small local operators. There is always a safety plan and an equivalent program implemented where workers sign in and discuss safety. While some operators are in the process of certification and are only registered at this point we think this is a good performance measure and we look to measuring progress towards a target of 100%. According to the BC Forest Safety Council, the community forest stats are comparable to those of the major forest industry requiring certification of their workers.³



Photo: Susan Mulkey

³ Reported by Rob Moonen, Director of Safe Companies BC Forest Safety Council. Phone call January 15, 2015

INDICATOR #15: FIRST NATIONS INVOLVEMENT

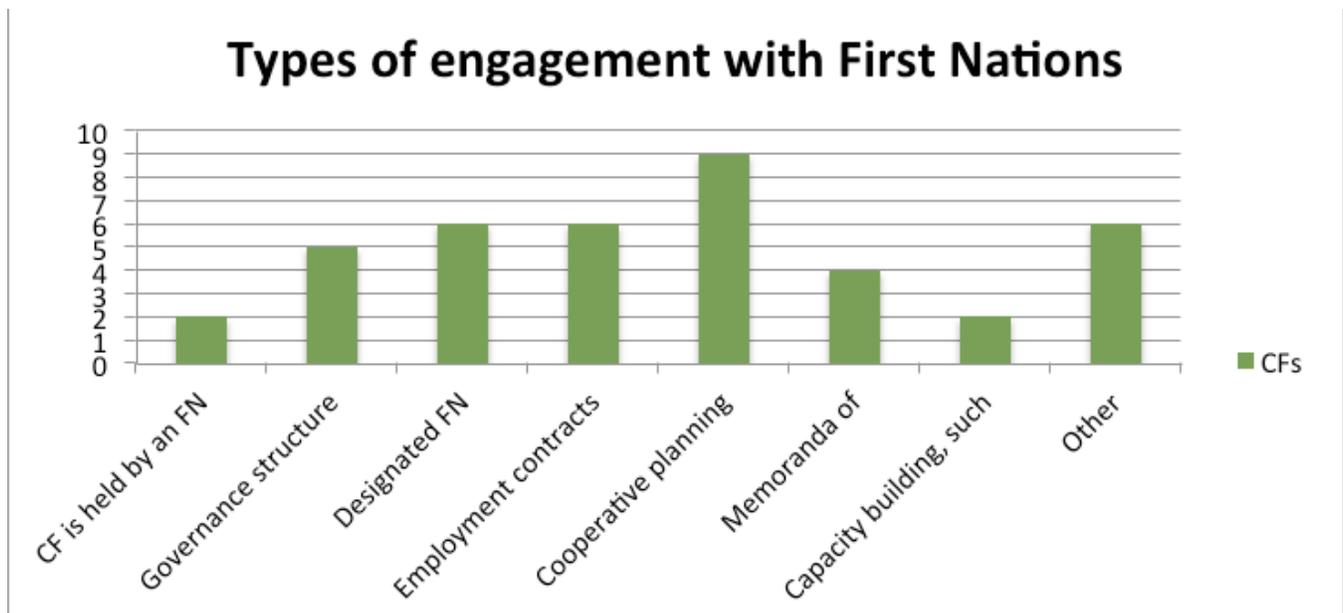
Addresses the Cultural Objective

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

RESULTS

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

- » The community forest is held by a First Nation
- » The governance structure is a partnership with local First Nation(s)
- » There is designated First Nations representation on the board
- » Employment contracts with First Nations
- » Cooperative planning
- » Memoranda of Understanding
- » Capacity building activities such as training and education.



IMPLICATIONS

In BC, over half of the operating CFs are held by First Nations or a partnership between an Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community. 14% of survey respondents are CFs that are held by First Nations, and 36% are partnerships. 43% have a First Nations representation on their board of directors. We see from this indicator that there are additional types of agreements and relationships that have been created to improve communication and build relationships for the long term. While each aboriginal and non-aboriginal community is unique, community forests are demonstrating that there are many ways to work together.



When the crew at the Esk'etemc CF was doing some block layout when they came across an old pit house village of 30 pit sites that was not identified on any of their maps and had been forgotten in their oral history. Irvine Johnson, Senior Treaty Negotiator tells the BCCFA 2014 Conference participants about what this new connection means to the Esk'etemc people. Photo: Susan Mulkey



Ruby Alexis from Head of the Lake Band, Okanagan Nation, and harvests cedar bark in the Cherryville Community Forest with her niece. Photo: Hank Cameron

“The community forest has allowed for the spiritual connection on the land to be re-established. They don’t call it a community forest at home, they call it home.”

**Mike Robertson,
Senior Policy Advisor,
Cheslatta Carrier Nation**

INDICATOR #16: MANAGEMENT OF SENSITIVE AREAS

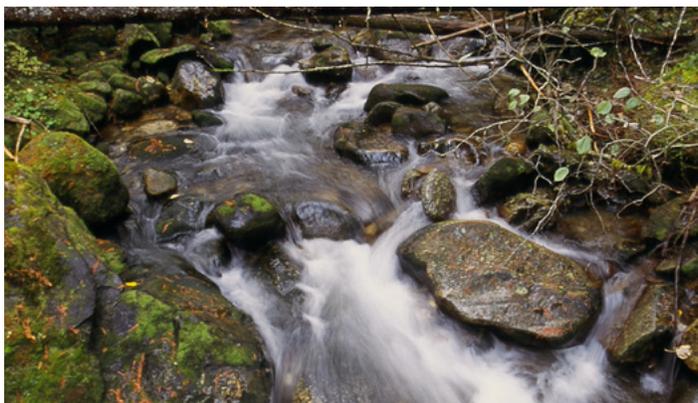
Addresses the Environmental Objective

The CFA's unique model of forest management allows community forest managers the social license to operate in highly constrained areas that have not been previously accessible for timber harvesting due to local opposition. Survey respondents were asked to document the area within their land base that is sensitive. Sensitive areas are defined as: domestic and community watersheds; riparian areas ; visually sensitive areas; potentially unstable and unstable terrain; areas with archaeological values or cultural heritage; identified and critical wildlife habitat; fisheries sensitive watersheds; recreation trails and sites; and areas identified as sensitive by the community.

RESULTS

Table #21: Summary of the area in community forests that is sensitive

Sensitive areas	
n	10
Percentage of total area that is sensitive	65
Percentage of sensitive area that is operable	56
Percentage of total area that is sensitive & operable	37



By implementing ecosystem-based management, the Harrop Procter CFA now operates as a coop made of local residents who previously blocked development of a logging road in the watershed. Photo: Erik Leslie

The results show that among respondents, 65% of the total community forest area is considered sensitive, and over half of these sensitive areas are operable. Six out of 10 respondents reported that over 2/3 of their land base is considered sensitive, and 2 of them reported that their entire land base is sensitive ground.

IMPLICATIONS

These results were expected, as most community forests are located in the land surrounding communities. These are highly visible areas, with many overlapping values. When combined with many of the economic indicators, the real potential of community forest management emerges. They have the ability to operate in these challenging areas, while still meeting cut control, supplying logs to a wide range of users, and creating jobs and other benefits for their communities.

Note:

This indicator required information that was difficult for some respondents to obtain in a short time-frame. We expect more complete results in subsequent reporting years.

INDICATOR #17: FOREST STEWARDSHIP

Addresses the Social and Environmental Objectives

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

RESULTS

Table #22: Summary of value of investments in enhanced or modified management for ecological or social reasons.

\$ investments in enhanced management	
n	13
Total \$	468,943
% of CFs that invested	62
Average invested	36,073
Minimum (\$)	2,437
Maximum (\$)	200,000

Table #23: Summary of number of hectares treated within the CF and outside the boundaries

# of hectares treated within and outside CF	
n	13
Total (Ha)	630
Average (Ha)	49
Minimum (Ha)	30
Maximum (Ha)	200

IMPLICATIONS

With the knowledge that healthy forest ecosystems are the basis of healthy local economics, community forests organizations are making significant investments in the ecological integrity of the forests they manage. Examples of stewardship activities cited in the survey include:

- » Research and strategies for species at risk beyond legal requirements.
- » FSC Certification that requires a large investment in enhanced management.

» Modification of silviculture systems & harvesting rates to protect sensitive sites.

Each community forest is unique, and each defines “profits” and “benefits” differently. In cases where the community forest organization has made forest stewardship their top priority, it means higher forest management costs. In one community forest, we see enhanced investment on the land base primarily to address their water protection priority rather than dispersing grants in the community.

Lower North Thompson Community Forest Society

Forest Stewardship Fund

The CF has established a stewardship fund to provide for the reinvestment of revenues back into the land base as a means of supporting long term improvements.

Eligible activities include:

- *Rehabilitation of low volume marginal forest types*
- *incremental silviculture on non-obligated openings*
- *non-obligatory deactivation, maintenance and/or rehabilitation of non-status roads*
- *development and maintenance of recreation sites and/or trail work*
- *inventory improvements/assessments of range of values including riparian, forest, visual, terrain, wildlife, cultural; invasive plant management*
- *fish passage (assessments, remediation design, construction/upgrade works)*

The amount of funding is determined annually by the Board of Directors and prioritization and selection conducted by the manager.



The Esketemc First Nation is working to bring back natural grasslands, a unique ecosystem that is threatened by invasive plants. Photo: Jennifer Gunter

INDICATOR #18: COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS

Addresses Environmental Objective

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

RESULTS

Table #24: Number of FLNRO C&E inspections conducted in reporting year

# Inspections	
n	13
Total	23
# of determinations issued against the CF	0

IMPLICATIONS

As demonstrated through the benefits measured by the first 17 indicators, community forest organizations are doing a good job of addressing a wide array of expectations and challenges. While working to create economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits for their communities, fundamentally, they must comply with the all statutory requirements of the BC and Canada. The results of this indicator show positive results in this first reporting year.



Photo: George Brcko

(Footnotes)

1 The average of \$82,077 includes communities that do not make cash contributions. Of those who do prioritize cash contributions, the average donation is \$95,756.

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