



Conference Report

June 11-13, 2015

Clearwater, BC

The 2015 Conference and AGM were attended by over 130 people with 26 community forests represented. We would like to thank our tremendous hosts, the Wells Gray Community Forest and the community of Clearwater. Their efforts were completely over the top and the successful event demonstrated their dedication and hard work. We value everyone who took time out of their busy lives to join us. The community forest network was strengthened and enriched because of your participation.

The results from our post conference survey confirm that the conference is a very important information sharing and networking event for people involved in community forestry.

Shelly Descatels from Forsite put together a “story map” of the event that uses geo referenced photos. The link to the map is:

<http://forsite.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/?appid=c5fb4aa6de3147feb1cb1a1cb80e83ad>

Overall the conference was a great success with something worthwhile for everyone.

A summary of some of the sessions follows. Presentations can be found on the BCCFA website at <http://bccfa.ca/index.php/what-we-do/conferences/item/544-it-was-a-great-2015-conference-and-agm>

Please contact BCCFA staff for more detailed information about any of the sessions and topics discussed.



**We were welcomed to the District of Clearwater
home of our host
the Wells Gray Community Forest Corporation**

The Wells Gray Community Forest Corporation (WGFC) is owned and managed on behalf of the citizens of Wells Gray Country (Thompson-Nicola Regional District Electoral Area A). The community forest landbase surrounds the township of Clearwater and is in the traditional territory of the Simpcw First Nation.

WGFC operates under the direction of a board of directors comprised of eight volunteer members who oversee the management of the business affairs of the corporation. The day to day operations are under the direction of the General Manager who reports to the board of directors.

The Community Forest Advisory Committee (CFAC) was created to provide a mechanism for community participation and involvement in the Community Forest.

The role of the Wells Gray Forest (2010) Society (WGFS) is to hold the shares and to receive and distribute the profits of the WGFC. As shareholder, the society also ratifies and appoints the directors of the WGFC.

Distribution of Benefits

- 25% to social needs in Wells Gray Country as determined by the directors
- 50% to capital infrastructure improvements in which another person has matched funds in Wells Gray Country
- 25% accumulating for larger projects that benefit Wells Gray Country either as a lump sum or ongoing payments.



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Unsafe is Unacceptable

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Conference Report

Thursday June 11th	
1:00 pm – 1:30 pm	Registration desk open
1:30 pm - 4:30 pm	<p>Working Effectively with Aboriginal Peoples® Workshop</p> <p>Presenter Bob Joseph, President, of Indigenous Corporate Training Inc.</p> <p>ABC FP members were eligible for Professional Development Program course credit.</p> <p>Aboriginal issues like land claims and self-government, the Tsilhqot'in decision in particular, represent some of the biggest change, challenges, risks and exciting opportunities for community forests today. With some tried and proven approaches, individuals and organizations can position themselves to take advantage of the major change under way in Canada now. Bob Joseph provided a review of historical events and their relation to the present economic environment; explored critical issues of taxation, housing, and education; showed how working with Aboriginal Peoples can enhance our activities with Aboriginal peoples; and helped us understand cross-cultural perspectives.</p> <p>Differences in terms between rights and title? Title is just part of a spectrum of rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do we balance the timeframes and needs of a business with the frustrations of engagement? Tight timelines are often the source of conflict and poor decision-making and eventual court cases. Make efforts to build long-term sustainable relationships early and often. • Employ First Nations members – they'll fight on your behalf at the council office • Importance of language, conversation pacing, timing of engagement (e.g. election cycle), terms (do not say terms like Crown lands) • Larger companies using capacity funding as a way to get the foot in the door for engagement. While community forests don't have the funds for that, they may need to start moving into that space (along with other forms of engagement). • How to approach FN? "We believe the work we are doing may impact your territory, and we would like to do that in a sensitive way..." • FN are generally Not against development, but NOT development at all costs. Fundamental difference – first nations would rather have environmental piece occurring first, with business, employment, and everything following afterward (a fundamental shift from status quo in this country)

- Fish-based cultures are working on Maslow’s first two levels of hierarchy of needs (food, shelter and clothing) for only a few weeks out of the year, leaving time for arts, political development, leisure, etc.
- Don’t get defensive when people blame you for history. Accept and try to understand
- “I’ve got lots to share and lots to learn, and want to see where we can work together. I’m looking forward to working to...etc.... If I make a mistake please correct me...” – much better approach with First Nations (as opposed to “hi, I’m a doctoral candidate in land use planning...” which can trigger an issue with authority).
- Recognize and affirm existing aboriginal and treaty rights (Section 35 of the Constitution). Don’t rely on the law for economic certainty. Things change – focus on consent and good solid relationships.
- Get out of the car and join in cultural practices (if invited).
- How to begin: “I would like to thank the XYZ First Nation(s) for agreeing to meet with us and inviting us into your traditional territory.

There is a business case for working with Aboriginal peoples and includes advantages for:

- Risk management
- Reward enhancement
- Strategies
- Consultation programs
- Training for employees
- Build capacity
- Develop business relations
- Workforce development
- Co-management, revenue sharing, equity partnerships

For more resources from Bob Joseph go to <http://www.ictinc.ca/>

Bob Joseph has provided training on Indigenous and Aboriginal Relations since 1994. Bob is an Aboriginal person, a status Indian, and is a member of the Gwawaenuk Nation. He has an educational background in Business Administration and International Trade.

6:30 pm - 9:00 pm	Registration desk open
	Dinner on your own

6:30 pm – 9:30 pm	<p>Reception Cash bar and appetizers</p> <p>7:30 Welcome and Opening Remarks Erik Leslie, BCCFA President</p> <p>Regional Dignitaries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • William Pete, Simpwc First Nation Elder • John Harwood, Mayor, District of Clearwater <p>Sponsors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dave Meehan, Chair, Wells Gray Community Forest • Harley Wright, Chair, Lower North Thompson Community Forest • Dave Tremblay, Gilbert Smith Forest Products • Brad Bennett , Woodlands Manager-Adams Lake Interfor <p>BCCFA Staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jennifer Gunter, Executive Director • Susan Mulkey, Manager Communications and Extension
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Friday June 12th	
7:00 am - 8:30 am	Hot Breakfast and registration at Dutch Creek Community Centre
9:00 am - 12:00 pm	<p>Field Trip - Managing for Visuals snacks and bag lunch in the field</p> <p><i>Volunteers helped with carpooling. No active forest service roads were utilized for access to field trip areas.</i></p> <p>George Brcko, General Manager of the Wells Gray Community Forest lead the tour. He will was joined by FLNRO – Visual Resource Specialist – Peter Rennie.</p> <p>Many community forests are charged with the management of scenic areas within their landbase. Local viewscapes are often full of strong tourism priorities, public attachment, and fire interface issues. This field trip addressed the identification and classification of scenic landscapes and the management of forestry activities on the landscape to meet the needs of the community, visitors and other resource values.</p> <p>The informal session covered the following topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public perception • Pre-harvest planning and design overview • Selection of viewpoints • Assessment post-harvest • Visual rehab opportunities • Opportunities to harvest in an already modified landscape • Impacts of managing visual quality on timber supply

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest and Range Evaluation Program’s (FREP) visuals indicators and protocol <p>Take home messages include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scenery is valued by the public (quality of life) and by our tourism sector (economics). This should not be discounted by short-term interests. 2. Scenery and harvesting can coexist. In fact, benefits are optimized when they are managed together. 3. Managing scenery does not “cost more” if it is part of normal planning. In the long run, it will cost more not to do it. 4. VIAs are a great tool for showing people what you are planning, and also for measuring consistency with VQOs. 5. Design is key to a natural-looking landscape (irregular shapes, tree retention, no visible roads). Aesthetics and natural processes share the same goal. 6. Think of the long-term patterns you are creating. 7. Emphasize the importance of touching back with the community and public to see what they prefer in aesthetics and visual quality (as it differs from the perspectives of foresters or executives) 8. Partial retentions meets both the wants of the public and foresters (i.e. economic returns) 9. Tourism is at a slow and steady growth over past couple decades. Can coexist with forestry and both provide real benefits to the province. 10. Perspective from the field trip - Importance of buy-in from private owners (in this case, the owner of the golf course). 11. Look at multiple viewpoints and the potential visual impact of logging. Google Earth is a great inexpensive tool to do this as well. 12. Need for broader landscape planning. Not enough communication between licensees and landowners for visual quality and wildlife corridors, etc.
<p>12:00 pm – 1:00 pm</p>	<p>Lunch in the field Returned to Dutch Creek Community Centre for 1:00 plenary session start up</p>
<p>1:00 pm - 1:40 pm</p>	<p>Key Initiatives Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BCCFA Jennifer Gunter, Executive Director • Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations Doug Stewart, Forest Tenures Branch Director and Emma Neill, Senior Timber Tenures Forester Neil Edwards, First Nations Relations Branch, First Nations Policy Forester

1:50 pm - 4:15 pm

Concurrent Sessions

Session 1 - Managers Meeting

Harley Wright, Moderator

The Manager's Meeting is an opportunity for exchange of information, ideas and dialogue about the questions, issues and concerns of interest to community forest managers. 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 the community forest program.

Summary of Manager's Session Discussions

1. Overlapping Tenures
 - Commercial operators are causing challenges for the Cheakamus CFA. Commercial recreation tenures placing demands on CFA for all road maintenance.
 - Natural Resource Roads Act may address the sharing of road maintenance.
2. Area-based AAC
 - Burns Lake CF is interested in the idea.
 - Debate over the concept, seems experience has found difficulty with it.
 - TFL 54 and 57 do this. But it is not supported going forward. It is very difficult to implement with partial cutting.
3. Expansion
 - Who are all the people who want CF but don't have them, who are the ones who have them want to have more area? BCCFA and FLNRO to work on updating the list.
4. Log Sorts
 - Anyone with experience in how to manage log sorts?
 - Need a good variety of grades & species. And you need a large volume to flow through a log yard.
5. One Cutting Permit (Priority for JWG)
 - What is happening with those who aren't in 1-CP?
 - Nothing has really changed since Tsilhqot'in
 - Significant benefits of 1CP for those that have it. Requires much work upfront, but it is worth it.
 - Why can we not have a CP that is longer than 4 years?
 - Seems to be inconsistency around how roads are managed, needs clarity. Also non status roads came up in separate part of discussion.
6. Certification
 - Question about whether or not the Burns Lake CFA is required to seek certification.
7. Land Based Investment Program: New Investments beyond- Forests for Tomorrow eligible activities
 - Jen reported that the BCCFA is working with the FBCWA to ask FLNRO for more information about how CFAs & WLs can be more engaged in the Land

	<p>Based Investment Program, and how our tenures can access funding for a broader scope of activities. Fuel management, inventory & Lidar, ecosystem restoration, fish passage and recreation were all mentioned.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could CFAs manage fuel treatments instead of UBCM? This could produce efficiencies <p>8. Community Forest Indicators Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive feedback. • BCCFA to provide more support to survey respondents so that we get a higher response rate. Successful respondents from last year can share templates & strategies for easy data collection & reporting. • September, October is good for survey • Jennifer to work with Emma & Doug to find metric on collection of information to show that CFAs are selling logs at market price <p>9. BCCFA Membership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion about why some CFAs have not joined the Association • Lack of awareness, it takes time to get up to speed when there is high turnover on a board. <p>10. Residue/Waste</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are we removing waste benchmarks? • Ministry has asked, if we remove waste benchmarks, will that improve utilization? This is led by pricing branch. • There is inconsistency on measurement procedures. This issue is ongoing. • Minister will likely be making a decision on waste benchmarks & measurement procedures by the Fall <p>11. Permit Approvals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seemed to be one District with issue around FSP extensions, discussions that perhaps FLNR is applying more rigor to FSP extension (measurable and Verifiable) • Discussed the importance of working respectfully with First Nations • Advice: Include FN in helping to develop the plans, the plans get approved very quickly. It works. But it puts the onus on the CFA to do the engagement • FLNR can do bulletins that are educational pieces for ministry staff. This can be done if there is inconsistency in implementation. <p>12. NTFPs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal that there be a referral process when there is a commercial initiative to harvest NTFPs • Neil to engage BCCFA in review of new NTFP Policy. It is being developed by the Ministry, the FNFC and 6 different First Nations. <p>13. Legally designated trails</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor if these are impacting CFAs <p>14. Alternative Stocking Standards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licensees are free to propose alternative stocking standards, and the
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- decision-maker needs to decide if it will adversely affect timber supply.
- Comments brought forward by Fort St James, McBride and Williams Lake.

15. Non Status Roads

Session 2 – Community Forest Board of Directors Governance Session

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. Moderated by Susan Mulkey

Format – everybody introduced themselves and identified the issues they wanted to discuss.

Topics of interest:

- How to keep directors without an understanding of forestry in the loop and make issues easier to understand. Keeping these people engaged and allowing them to make knowledgeable informed decisions
- What are best management practices between CFA and municipality and improving/maintaining that relationship
- Identification of best practices in fiduciary policy development and issues of accountability
- Conflicts of interest. Is there a conflict when there is a member of Council who is also a director in the CF?
- How to source governance policies, and cutting permit documents. New community forest – doesn't want to reinvent the wheel
- Getting the right people on your board
- Partnerships, governance, and best practices with local First Nations
- Issues of conflict of interest (owns the mill)
- Board selection and composition
- Testimonial from McLeod Mackenzie CF - Governance session with Susan was very helpful. Sent her all of their documents beforehand. Susan found inconsistencies, gaps, and things, needing revisiting. 10 years ago they received tenure, but planning process took very long time before harvesting began. Not uncommon situation for CFAs.
- Does the BCCFA have information on community contribution companies to assist community forests? Potential advantages?
- 3 community forests in the area. Is there advice on promoting regional cooperation?
 - Looking also for Susan to come and help "straighten us out"

Living in small towns, it is difficult to engage people in the CFs (highly technical industry). While forestry expertise is valuable, it is also important to have diversity on your board.

Different skillsets required on the board – need diversity to see the community reflected and their perspectives. Examples:

- Someone good at finances
- Someone good at educational component
- Someone good at communicating with the community

Susan emphasized the need for a board to have a strategic plan. This way the board is involved at the higher level of planning – beginning with mission and goals, and then from there develop measureable objectives. Do not need technical expertise to be involved at this level. Board should be providing higher level guidance to the manager

How to engage the community?

- Knock on doors / talk to people
- Get on the agenda of different meetings in town and engaging the community at a high level
- Get innovative with engagement in the community. Thinking of young people, moms who are good at mobilizing, etc. – cross the divides and reach different segments of the community

Conflict of interest – lots of guidance from municipal governments

- Disclose any potential conflict of interest with the board

5 members is a good minimum for a board, but will depend highly on the community and diversity of perspectives present.

Template for confidentiality policy exists in the CF Guidebook

How do you represent interests in the community against the mission of the CF?

- “I am willing to uphold the principles and mission of this CF” as part of the application may be very important

Engage the broader community (or a committee) to develop some comprehensive broad-scale planning

Takes time to demonstrate that forest practices can coexist with other community values. Change the mindset by demonstrating good practices. Attempt to gain social license. Powerful but takes time

CF-Municipality partnerships:

- Province extended CFA invites to municipalities and municipal governments became managers of a number of CFs
- Where municipality is sole shareholder (or a limited partnership with FN), there must be a clearly stated agreement between the shareholder and the management arm
 - How profits are handled
 - Relationship between SH and CF organization
 - How profits are defined
 - The shareholder has to stay out of the business to avoid liability. Arm’s

	<p>length management organization exists for that purpose. Caution against elected officials on the board from municipality or FN council in order to protect limited liability.</p> <p>Use the Guidebook for converting policies there into a director’s handbook. Policies help to make sure everyone is on the same page, accountability is clear.</p> <p>Review safety and injury at board meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should occur at least once per quarter and should appear in the minutes to minimize risk/liability • Should have safety program, liability plan <p>FN rep. on the board v. ownership of the company</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less interested in success of company without a financial stake • Best practices more meaningful involvement with more ownership and stake in the success of the CF <p>Confidentiality form in the handbook. Role of the Board Chair to enforce confidentiality</p> <p>Regional cooperation – why not?! Beneficial for all parties, and happening to a degree in some places and between some CFs (e.g. of sharing a common RPF)</p> <p>Issues for follow up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidebook update every few years • Where there is strength of claim, incorporating traditional knowledge into management plan • Research information on community contribution companies and potential benefits for CFAs
<p>4:30 pm – 5:30 pm</p>	<p>BCCFA Board of Directors meeting with Minister Thomson</p>
<p>5:30 pm - 10:00 pm</p>	<p>Annual Banquet and Silent Auction</p> <p>Location: Clearwater Ski Hill 10 minutes from Dutch Creek Centre 566 Dunn Lake Thompson-Nicola, Subdivision A</p> <p><i>A shuttle service was provided, starting from town at 5:15, and leaving every 15 minutes. The return shuttle began at 8:30</i></p> <p>5:30 – 6:30 Cash bar and Silent Auction 6:20 – 6:30 Welcome from Local Youth 6:30 – 7:30 Dinner</p> <p>Post Dinner Activities</p> <p>Guest Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honourable Terry Lake, MLA for Kamloops North Thompson and Minister of Health • Honourable Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearwater Ski Hill <p>BCCFA Board Acknowledgements Silent Auction Announcements</p>
Saturday June 13th	
7:00 am - 8:30 am	Hot Breakfast at Dutch Lake Community Centre
8:30 am - 10:30 am	<p>BCCFA AGM (See the separate detailed agenda)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President's Report • Financial Reports • Discussion and vote on member fees • Board Elections
10:30am - 11:00 am	Break
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	<p>Setting Harvest Rates on Community Forests - A Management Choice Are your community values and priorities reflected in your AAC analysis? What factors are included in your list of assumptions? How sensitive is your AAC to the long term operation of your community forest? Are you avoiding a profile you can't afford to cut but leaving it in the operable land base? In this session we took a look at the elephant in the room, and heard from 3 CFA managers about how they are trying to take an honest approach to setting harvest rates.</p> <p>Moderated by Harley Wright, Board Chair of the Lower North Thompson Community Forest and BCCFA board member</p> <p>Panelists Ken Day, Manager of the Williams Lake CF and of the UBC Alex Fraser Research Forest Ken gave a brief primer on AAC and speak to the question of what board members should know about AAC. As a long-time manager of an area based tenure, Ken talked about his experience with the AAC tricks and traps and explained how poor decisions can make the future even harder than the present.</p> <p>George Brcko, Manager of the Wells Gray CF Now in their 10th year of operations and reaching the end of the second 5-year cut control, ensuring cut levels are accurate is a very high priority for our host community. George explained how they are trying to take an honest approach to setting sustainable harvest rates and provided an overview of what they have done to ensure their AAC is realistic.</p> <p>Erik Leslie, Manager of the Harrop-Procter CF Erik spoke about their community discussions leading into HP's new management plan and AAC in 2012. He introduced the customized land base net downs that were applied along with the scenarios they considered.</p> <p>Panel Discussion</p> <p>Ken Day</p> <p>Things I think about as I'm falling asleep:</p>

1. Why do people speak in tongues? The use of acronyms is problematic when speaking to Boards.
2. How fast is my community growing? Uncertainty in estimates.
3. Which species are growing fastest, slowest, and are most valuable?
4. Which species are most valuable for my objectives? Not necessarily most valuable as timber, but most valuable to objectives of management (e.g. regeneration).
5. How big is my timber land-base? Accessible lands vs. inaccessible lands, future potential losses of the land-base, etc. Contemplate future risks to this land-base.
6. What obligations are imposed on us that remove timber reliability?
7. What commitments have we made that reduce our access to timber? E.g. riparian protection, managing for cultural values, etc.
8. Are there areas in the timber land-base that are difficult to log or difficult to sell? E.g. steep slopes
9. Will I make my cut control? If you fall short of that control, you lose that wood in the next period. If you overcut, you pay a stumpage penalty for that overcut volume.
10. Am I cutting the profile? If we ignore the hard stuff, eventually we'll be married to it. So take it a little bit at a time, as your budget can bear.

Advice from Wells Gray Community Forest

Make sure you periodically review your allowable cut. Lay out intentions in a spatial way to help determine if your AAC fits.

Assumptions in a TSA AAC calculation do not likely fit in a community forest.

Are we overcutting? Is our AAC realistic? Invest into improving dataset. Wells Gray undertook a terrestrial ecosystem mapping (TEM) analysis. Ecosystem mapping is very useful. Also completed a vegetative resource inventory (VRI) to provide the distribution and volume of trees within the CF. Especially useful following disturbances (e.g. pine beetle) and also helped increase AC. TEM and VRI were paid for in about a year. Spatial – locating on the landscape.

George is able to deal with First Nations referrals process by having 3 or 4 years laid out. Also margin analysis on net return and realistic expectation for a stand. Annual harvest blending low value and high value stands. Blend on an annual basis. To further engage in long-term planning, they have undertaken a 15 year plan which including replacing logged blocks, verifies major roads, infrastructure, etc.

Continually try to improve dataset and confidence. AAC assumptions examined. Genetic use of A-class stock, community watershed, future roads (including having an inventory of roads in the land-base), and infrastructure are all important considerations and deserve being looked at. Consultation with the public also very important. Verify assumptions, plans – the importance of monitoring.

Harrop-Procter Community Forest

They have focused on community process, and AAC net-downs and scenarios.

Their AAC has changed from 2,600 to 12,000 to 10,000 m³. All those figures were socially determined; the outcome of an analysis, but based upon social values.

Community process

- Public meetings (3 over 12 months)
- Process tied to new management plan
- In-depth Board discussions
- Community forest exists because people drink of the creeks, and some of the same people now are supporting logging plans.

Management plan / AAC update

- Low risk approach to water
- Riparian and headwaters protection
- Protect ecologically sensitive and rare sites
- Old growth reserves
- More

Google Earth overlays useful for identifying areas (net-downs, old growth, etc.). Each of the main creek areas get riparian barriers (all presented in Google Earth overlays).

- Key community features are headwaters protection (off-limits)
- Caribou habitat to support this headwater protection
- Aggregate these critical/sensitive areas. What is remaining is then examined for risk, willingness, public support, etc.
- Cut blocks (for 10 years) are overlain

The model: base case

- Model for sustainable yield, sensitivity analyses, operability scenarios.

Their approach

- Be conservative about where we log
- Based on ecosystem data, we know growth rates are underestimated 25-30%
- Examine in the context of climate change

Choices

- Conservative operability scenario
- Active on that 30% for fire risks
- Consider climate change impacts – short vs. long term

Modeling dead trees into timber supply with pine beetle

- Identifiable. Went after this timber first
- Go after every slice of pine possible (dead with green)

	<p>Questions for the panel:</p> <p>Can you speak to the quality of the timber?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start with regeneration strategies. Making sure you're regenerating timber for the best value. Opportunity for tinning strategy to manage for value also <p>How did you resolve conflicts with the province regarding AAC?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Built trust in Harrop-Procter and presented better information than the province had • Third party review to have that additional level of confirmation • Used accredited model and showed due diligence <p>Opportunity cost of cut control if not hitting cut control on 5 year period</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undercutting consistently not a good option, otherwise district managers become involved • When cut is below AAC due to social values (HP), it is written about in detail within the management plan <p>How do you take stocking standards into account in planning?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standards of the Ministry accepted, and make assumptions over and above. For timber density and quality <p>Lidar? Are you using it or plan to?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Haven't considered it for forest inventory but use it for other purposes (mapping stand structure as an example)
<p>12:00 pm – 1:00 pm</p>	<p>Lunch</p>
<p>1:00 pm – 1:30 pm</p>	<p>BC Forest Safety Council - Working with Community Forests</p> <p>Reynold Hert, Board Chair - CEO Dustin Meierhofer, Director, Transportation</p> <p>A new group has been formed that is dedicated to safety on woodlot licencees and community forest agreement holders. The BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC), the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations (FBCWA), and the BCCFA will collaborate to identify issues, develop solutions, and support projects that are important to worker safety and safety on our small tenures. In this session we heard from the BCFSC and Dave Lasser, Manager of the Sunshine Coast Community Forest, who is one of three BCCFA reps who sit on the committee about what they hope to achieve through the new process.</p>
<p>1:30 pm – 2:00 pm</p>	<p>Concurrent Sessions</p> <p>Session 1 First of its Kind - The Cheakamus Community Forest Carbon Project</p> <p>Presenters</p>

- **Heather Beresford, Environmental Stewardship Manager for the Resort Municipality of Whistler**
- **Satnam Manhas, RPF, Ecosystems Services Manager, Ecotrust Canada**
- **Doug Stewart, Ministry of Forests, Land and Natural Resources Operations**

The Cheakamus Community Forest and the BC government have signed an Atmospheric Benefits Sharing Agreement that allows for the generation and sale of carbon offsets, the first such agreement to be signed with a BC community forest. We heard about what it took to secure the opportunity, and terms of the agreement for sale of the offsets. We also heard from government about the potential for more such opportunities.

- The Cheakamus Community Forest, working with Ecotrust and Brinkman Climate, identified carbon offsets as tool to enable ecosystem management.
- The community forest has goals to strengthen relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, engage in public education; and support tourism & recreation. They need revenue to do these things.
- By pursuing carbon management they can generate revenue from non-timber sources and invest in forest infrastructures such as recreation & amenities.
- BC Emission Offsets Regulation and the BC Forest Carbon Offset Protocol provide the framework. In order to sell offsets, the CFA signed an Atmospheric Benefit Sharing Agreement.
- In Atmospheric Benefit Sharing Agreements, proponents develop a forest management strategy that seeks to reduce emissions or increase sequestration rates. This can be done in a number of ways: Harvest less, increase growth rates, reforestation. But it is not an easy process. Proponents must seek 3rd party validation; verification, etc.
- Through a carbon management plan, the community forest was able to demonstrate enhanced carbon sequestration by implementing ecosystem based management. They increased representation of old/mature, stand structures, ages, spp., ecosystems; smaller cut blocks; increased buffers; protection of important wildlife habitat. To qualify, all activities must be additional or incremental to business as usual.
- In this case the Cheakamus CFA is entitled to 80% of the revenue, 20% to gov't.
- The message from government is that these agreements will be signed in unique situations. Whistler was a good candidate because of tourism.
- Brinkman Climate and Ecotrust Canada are developing an offset project that bundles 3-5+ Community Forest projects into a "Program of Activities" Amortizes project cost and timeframes, expands feasibility to more projects. They are seeking interested Community Forests to undertake a feasibility assessment, explore fit & opportunity.

Session 2

Recruiting and Training Future Forest Workers

In this session we heard from two educators on the programs their institutions are creating to support the development of a trained workforce for community forests.

Filling the Forest Worker Skills Gap

Presenter - Greg Neelin, Manager Community Education and Workplace Training, Selkirk College

The historical succession planning cycle, where logging owner/operators trained their kids to take over the business has been broken. Now, a new cycle needs to be created and logging contractors are keen to be part of the development process. Through

	<p>collaboration with Selkirk College, Kaslo and Nakusp Community Forests and a group of local logging contractors a new approach to recruitment and succession planning is developing. Greg spoke about the key elements of the program that will target high schools and give a real world experience of the opportunities in our industry.</p> <p>A Distance Education Network for BC Community Forests Presenter - Rick Chester, BCIT Instructor BCIT is developing a training approach that uses CFA managers as mentors to supervise field activities related to the courses, and assist employees through the distance education programs. Rick was looking for feedback from CFs on direction for the shape of the program.</p>
2:00 pm - 2:30 pm	<p>Community Forest Showcase Brooke Hodson, Steve Lorimer, Cowichan Lake Community Forest Co-operative</p> <p>In this session we heard the story of the Cowichan Lake Community Forest Co-operative (CLCFC) which creates and maintains jobs through its commitment to the principles of forest sustainability and community economic development. CLCFC operates under a 15-year volume based forest licence that due to expire soon. The CLCFC and Pacheedaht First Nation are currently in the process of negotiating a land-based forest licence with the Ministry of Forests.</p>
2:30 pm – 2:45 pm	Break
2:45 pm – 3:15 pm	<p>It's just Good Business - Communication and Negotiation Essentials</p> <p>In this final session of the conference, the group was introduced, or perhaps reintroduced, to the basic skills and tools that are the building blocks of effective communication and collaborative decision making. Susan Mulkey, Conflict Resolution Certificate Program, Justice Institute of BC</p>
3:15 pm – 3:30 pm	Wrap up and Debrief