



British Columbia
Community
Forest
Association

Community Forest Indicators 2015

Measuring the Benefits of Community Forestry

February 2016



Acknowledgements

Many people contributed to the development of the Community Forest Indicators Project and to this report. First, I'd like to express my deep gratitude to the BCCFA members that participated in the survey. Your collective efforts have made this all possible. Thank you also to the BCCFA Board of Directors and the Community Forest Indicators Project Advisory Group for guidance and support. And finally, a sincere thank you to Susan Mulkey for developing the survey and for working with me to bring the results to light.

– Jennifer Gunter, BCCFA Executive Director

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Community forestry is an innovative form of forest management which provides local communities with the right to manage local forests for local benefit. Every community forest is unique and each one strives to generate 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.

The BCCFA worked with community forest practitioners, the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and a number of independent advisors to identify 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 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 second annual survey of community forests in the province. Thirty-one community forests participated in the survey, providing data from their last reporting year, specific to their operations.¹ This sample represents 84% of the operating community forests in the BCCFA. For the most part, these are small rural communities with an average population of 3,300. Thirty-two percent of respondents represent communities of under 1,000 people. The community forest organizations operate relatively small forest tenures, with an average Allowable Annual Cut (AAC) of 30,400 m³. 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 goals².

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. 29 of the 31 participating community forests have been operating for one year or more. Three respondents were in their first year of operations.

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

Community Forest Indicators Survey Results Highlights

Economic Benefits

- » Community forests create local jobs. On average, community forests created 0.3 full time jobs/1000 m³ in forestry, logging and support services, which is 50% higher than the industry average.
- » Community forests boost local economic activity. They contributed an average of \$2.2 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 \$258,000 cash and in-kind to local projects.
- » Community forests were able to leverage an additional \$169,000 for local projects from outside sources.
- » Community forests play an active role in the forest sector through harvesting and supplying logs for the market. Eighty-four percent reported being on track to meet their cut control.
- » Community forests support the full spectrum of milling and manufacturing facilities. Seventy-eight percent of logs were sold to large mills, with 22% going to small, medium and value added manufacturers.
- » Community forests are investing in the future economic return of the forest. On average, they spent \$67,000 of their own funds on intensive silviculture and treated over 100 hectares.
- » Community forests are supporting efforts to diversify the economic benefits of the forest. While the community forest organizations generated little revenue through sources other than timber, they facilitated the harvest of non-timber forest resources for traditional and community use.

Social Benefits

- » Accountability is the corner stone of community forestry. Ninety percent reported annually to their community.
- » Community forests foster participation in forest management. Outreach and consultation was conducted with 20 different types of forest users and community sectors.
- » Community forests support education. On average they invested \$14,000 and 98 hours in educational activities.
- » Recreation is a key benefit. Community forests invested an average of \$69,000 in recreation and built or maintained 25 km of trail. In total, respondents built or maintained 370 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 \$43,000 of their own funds to reduce wildfire risk. To date, the reporting community forests collectively brought in over \$4.6 million for wildfire mitigation and treated over 2,100 ha in areas close to their communities.

- » Forest worker safety is a priority. Sixty-seven percent of community forests required Safe Certification, and there was one accident that prevented a worker from returning to work in the reporting year.

Cultural Benefits

- » In BC, over half of the operating Community Forests are held by First Nations or a partnership between an Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community. Twenty-three percent of survey respondents are Community Forests held by First Nations, and 30% are partnerships. Fifty percent have First Nations representation on their board of directors.

Environmental Benefits

- » Community forests operate in challenging areas around communities. Fifty-five percent of the land base of the reporting community forests is deemed sensitive.
- » Forty-eight percent of community forests made investments in forest stewardship, incremental to legal requirements, averaging a \$105,000 investment and treating 2,100 ha each.
- » Community forests are in compliance with environmental standards. In the reporting year there were 49 inspections conducted, and 11 determinations, with 10 against a single community forest.

On average, community forests are creating 50% more jobs/ m³ than the industry average in their forestry operations. They operate in sensitive areas, and are meeting their cut control while reliably supplying logs to both major processing facilities and small manufacturers. They average contributions of over \$ 2.2 million a year to the economy and make donations of over \$258,000 annually to support local priorities, an increase of 158% from 2014.

This report contains many stories and examples from the participating community forests. The data collected through the survey is one way to demonstrate the tangible benefits that community forests are generating for their communities and the province. 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 to their local communities.

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

“We harvested 130,000m³ this year. We manage the community wildfire protection plan and saved the town about \$1 million. We do selective logging in sensitive areas and successfully harvested around the golf course, school and ski trails. We donated \$30,000 to the community, including \$10,000 to the food bank. We are seeking an expansion and hear the decision will be made soon.”

- Tumbler Ridge Community Forest



Celebration of the first load of logs harvested from the community forest. The Cortes Community Forest is a partnership of the Klahoose First Nation and the Cortes Community Forest Co-op. Jointly they manage 3,869 ha for the long term, using ecosystem based forest stewardship.

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 owned³. This public ownership has enabled 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 53 CFAs spread widely across the province, and an additional 3 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. Entities may be a local government or First Nation, 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 361 to 160,000 hectares, with annual harvest from 860 m³ to 153,000 m³. The organizational structures are varied, however by and large, community forests are managed by small, rural communities, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal.

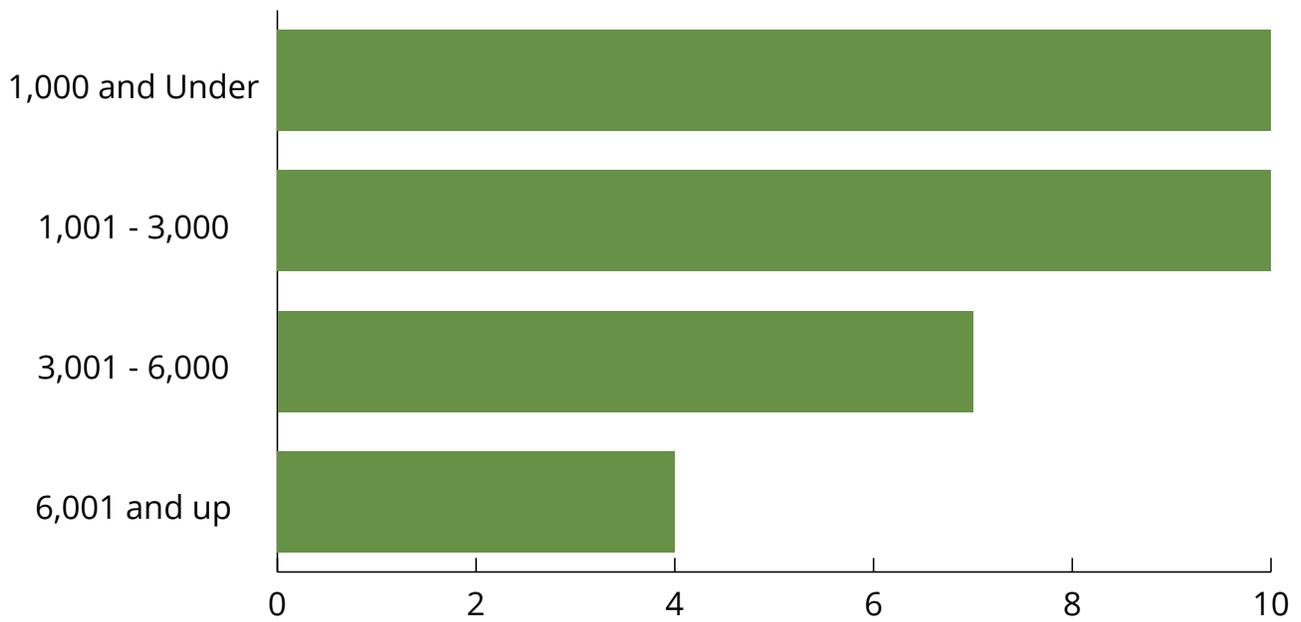


Photo: Hans Granander

3. BC Ministry of Forests, Mines and Lands. 2010. The State of British Columbia's Forests, Third Edition.

https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/sof/2010/SOF_2010_Web.pdf

Population of Reporting Communities



Population of Reporting Communities

Number of respondents	31
1000 and under	10
1001 - 3000	10
3001 - 6000	7
6001 and up	4
Minimum Population	330
Maximum Population	17,143
Average Population	3,314

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 and & 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.

Forest Industry Employment Coefficients

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

Results

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

Forestry, logging and support		Milling	
Number of responses	29	Number of responses	27
Total FTE*	341	Total FTE	610
Average FTE	12	Average FTE	23
Minimum FTE	1	Minimum FTE	1
Maximum FTE	33	Maximum FTE	163
Total Harvest (m ³)	1,093,400	Total Volume Sold (m ³)	1,149,261
Average Harvest (m ³)	37,703	Average Volume Sold (m ³)	42,565
Minimum Harvest (m ³)	0	Minimum Sold (m ³)	2,681
Maximum Harvest (m ³)	177,131	Maximum Sold (m ³)	177,131
FTE/1000 m ³ (forestry & logging)	.31	FTE/1000 m ³ (milling)	.53
Total FTE (all activities**)	951		
FTE/1000 m ³ (all activities)	.84		
Average # of people directly in contact	67		
Total # of people directly in contact	1,935		

* One "Full Time Equivalent" (FTE) is equal to 1820 hours per year.

** Sum of FTE for forestry, logging, support services and milling.

Implications

According to Natural Resources Canada⁴, the BC forest sector employment coefficient from 2014 is in the range of 0.68 to 0.84 jobs/1000 m³. These figures, confirmed by Barnes (2014)⁵, are based on Survey of Employment, Payroll and Hours (SEPH) and Labour Force Survey (LFS) respectively, and are not exactly comparable to Full Time Equivalents (FTEs). They count the number of jobs, but not necessarily full time jobs. Since our methodology provides FTEs, we expect that the number of jobs/1000m³ for community forests is higher than the industry average.



*Harrop Procter is the only community forest certified by the Forest Stewardship Council. The certification provides the social licence necessary to operate in the community watershed.
Photo: Erik Leslie*

This year's survey of community forests results in a coefficient of 0.31 FTE/1000 m³ for the activities included in forestry, logging and support services. This matches the findings of our 2014 survey, and shows that community forests on average employ 50% more people per m³ than the major industry in forest management. This difference may be explained by the results

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

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

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

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

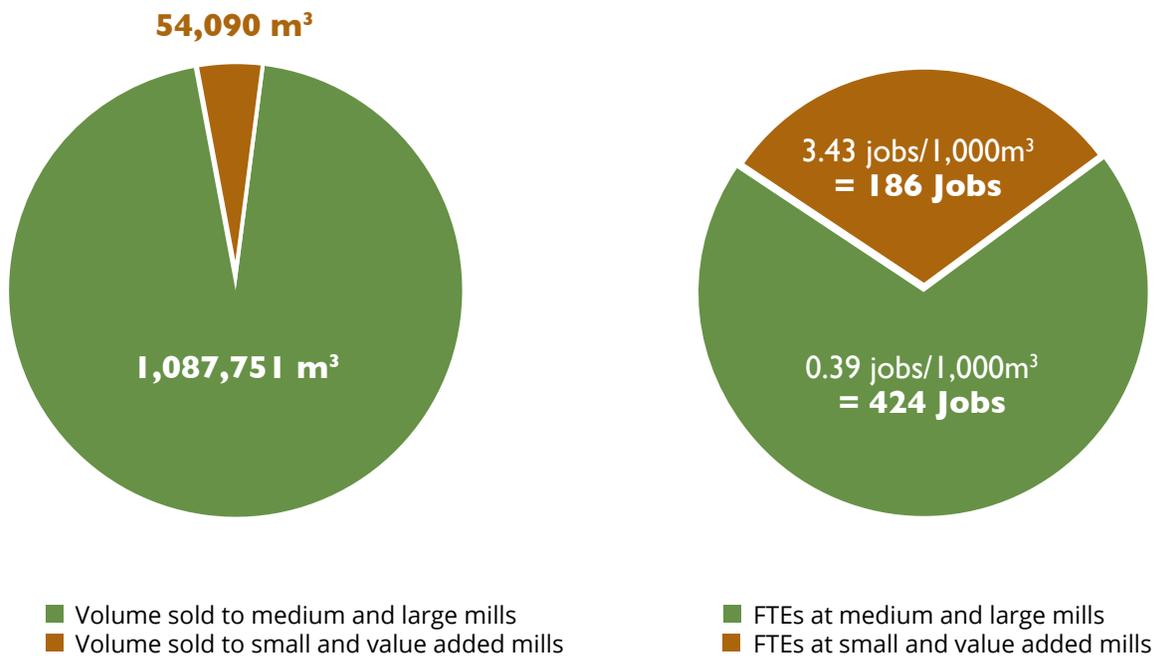
97% of generated employment was local - Bella Coola Community Forest

98% of all employment on the Community Forest is managed by Westbank First Nation member companies. – Westbank First Nation Community Forest

With our AAC of 10,000 m³ and our small sawmill we generate nearly 11 full time equivalent jobs. Because we do a lot of partial cutting and use less mechanized logging contractors, we generate extra jobs per m³. Our forest management approach takes extra time. – Harrop Procter Community Forest

The higher number of jobs is evident when we look exclusively at forestry, logging and support services. The BC industry average in these activities is 0.2 jobs/1000 m³ of industrial round wood generated. This industry data is based on 2012 harvesting information from the BC Harvest Billing System database and employment data from Natural Resources Canada⁶, and supported by MNP LLP (2015)⁷.

in subsequent survey questions, were we find that community forests are operating in sensitive terrain, actively engaging community members in management decisions and investing in intensive silviculture and other land based activities; all of which can demand higher levels of human resources.



Of Note: 610 jobs were created through the manufacturing of logs sold by survey respondents in the reporting year. As described in Indicator #6, community forests sell to a wide variety of facilities. While most of the community forest wood in the reporting year went to large lumber mills, in cases where it was sold to small & value added manufactures, the resultant job creation was significant - with 5% of the logs sold creating 186 FTEs of milling employment or 30% of the milling jobs.

The medium and large mills (lumber, OSB & veneer, pulp and pellet mills) created 0.39 jobs/1000 m³, while the small and valued added mills (remanufacturers, millwork, shake & shingle, engineered wood and “other”) created 3.43 jobs/1000m³. In our study, the volume of logs to medium and large mills created 424 jobs and the volume of logs to small and value added mills created 186 jobs.

INDICATOR #2: TOTAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

Addresses the Economic Objective

Community forests are in a position to support community economic development initiatives which in turn, help to build a rural community's self-reliance. The total annual cost of sales and expenditures is an indicator of the total economic activity generated by the community forests in the reporting year.

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

Total \$ value of sales	
Number of responses	28
Average	2,613,274
Minimum	0
Maximum	11,379,375

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

Total \$ value of expenditures	
Number of responses	28
Average	2,236,818
Minimum	220,000
Maximum	11,526,331

Implications

With average expenditures of \$2.2 million and the average total value of sales at \$2.6 million, community forests give a significant boost to their local economies. This economic activity was generated by an average harvest of only 37,703 m³ in the reporting year. The results show that in the reporting year some CFAs posted a loss and others a profit. Losses were reported for a variety of reasons, including the fact that the reporting year was a planning year for some, with little to no volume harvested.

Council and staff have taken a hard look at our Community Forest and decided to incorporate as many other values as we could into our planning process. Hence the lengthy planning with no harvest volume. Our expenditures are skewed accordingly. - Westbank First Nation Community Forest.



The rate of return for the respondents as a group was \$9.17/m³. With an average population of 3,300, the pivotal role that a community forest can play in a rural community must not be understated. In fact, 65% of the respondents are in communities of less than 3000 people with 32% in communities of less than 1,000 people.

Trucking community forest logs in the Bella Coola Valley, Photo: Hans Granander

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).

Total \$ contributed via grants	
Number of responses	26
Total	5,288,379
Average of all respondents	203,399
Average of those who made contributions	251,828
Minimum	4,080
Maximum	1,228,740

Average cash and in kind contributions
= \$258,022

Eighty-one percent of respondents were in a position to make cash contributions in their communities. On average they contributed \$251,828 in the reporting year, with an additional \$6,194 in in-kind contributions. This is the second year of the survey, and the first for many respondents. It is likely that the in-kind contributions are under reported.

The CFA measures its profits in employment provided to Xaxli'p members, as well as in the value of conserving and restoring the forests that Xaxli'p culture depends on. We hire 3 full time forest crew members, as well as up to 10 seasonal workers per year. The benefits of employing our members cycle money through our community, enriching the community as a whole.
- Xaxli'p First Nation Community Forest

Cash grants were distributed to 8 community organizations, 5 School District 10 initiatives, 1 post-secondary project, and 1 research project. In-kind contributions supported 5 educational projects, 3 economic development projects and community fund-raisers.
- Nakusp and Area Community Forest

In kind contributions include having our loggers stack firewood beside the road, and keeping our roads in good condition so that hunters, berry pickers, firewood cutters, hikers, etc. can use the roads even if the community forest doesn't need them maintained to such a high standard.
- Harrop Procter Community Forest

Implications

The donations of cash and volunteer time that community forests make in their communities are among 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. Some community forests are new and not yet in a position to make cash contributions to the community. Other communities have decided that their priority is to make investments back into the land base with a focus on long term stewardship rather than making cash contributions to communities or shareholders. A unique aspect of the Community Forest Agreement is that it allows communities to create their own definition of “benefits” and to determine how surplus funds are directed to achieve the greatest community benefit.



The Nuxalk Nation’s vision for their community forest is “from the tree to the mill to the house” where timber from the Traditional Territory is used to build Nuxalk homes. Six new three and four-bedroom rancher style homes were built in 2015. Plans for the new houses are practical, uncomplicated, and suited to the climate. They incorporate rain screens, mold-resistant drywall, in-floor heating, flow-through ventilation and are designed to take into account the social and cultural activities people do in their homes. The house is also a cultural reflection of a traditional Nuxalk-style longhouse, and includes a traditional post and beam style frontage at the entrance. Nuxalk Forestry Limited Partnership, in keeping with its mandate, donated logs valued at almost \$70,000 to its sister company, Totem Sawmill Limited Partnership (TSLP). TSLP milled some of these logs into cedar channel-siding and moulding for the new houses thereby fulfilling the vision “from the tree to the mill to the house” and creating well-paid local jobs in the process.

- Nuxalk First Nation Community Forest

Photo: Nuxalk Forestry Ltd. Partnership

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 generated from outside sources for local projects (actual values, rounded to the nearest dollar).

Total \$ raised for projects from outside sources	
Number of responses	24
Total	2,530,431
Average	105,435
Average of those who leveraged	168,695
Minimum	10,000
Maximum	485,000

Implications

Community forests can use their profits to attract even greater benefits to their communities. We see stronger results in the second year of the survey, with 24 respondents compared to only 6 the year before. Sixty-three percent of respondents said they were able to leverage the community forest's funds to bring in additional dollars. We expect the response rate to continue to rise with time, as this indicator requires systems in place to collect data locally.



Davis Bay Gazebo,
Photo: Sunshine Coast Community Forest

In 2014, the community forest extended an offer of \$50,000 to the District of Houston to be used as seed money for a larger grant application for a project that would benefit the citizens of Houston. The money has been set aside in a term deposit, pending the right opportunity. - *Dungate Community Forest*

The Community Forest donated \$100K out of a ~\$470K project cost to the Davis Bay pier. The deck area at end of the pier was increased by 67% compared to the old pier and the walkway out to the end of the pier was widened. The gazebo was built by West Coast Log Homes using logs from the community forest. LED lighting strings going out on the handrails of the walkway and the columns of the gazebo were added, as well as an aluminum ramp and boat dock. The pier is a great spot to watch the grey whales, killer whales, porpoises and dolphins that frequent the area and gets a ton of local use. - *Sunshine Coast Community Forest*

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	
Number of responses	31
Total "yes"	26
Percent on track	84

McLeod Lake Mackenzie Community Forest's licence was issued in 2009 but no significant harvesting was done until 2012. An uplifted AAC to log dead pine was granted in 2014. The new AAC became effective June 12, 2014 and runs until December 31st, 2018. Years 1 and 2, the AAC is set at 50,000 m³ a year. Year's 3, 4, and 5 are set at 80,000 m³ a year. This is then expected to revert back to 30,00 m³ /year starting January 1st 2019. We've aggressively pursued the dead pine, blowdown areas and spruce bark beetle infestations.
- McLeod Lake Mackenzie Community Forest

Implications

The survey results demonstrate that 84% of community forests are on track to meet their cut control. This means they are successfully harvesting the volume of timber allocated, and they are contributing logs to the market. The five CFAs that are not on target to meet cut control cite the following reasons: Poor log markets; lack of availability of economically viable timber; lack of local capacity; and the terms associated with uplift volume.



McLeod Lake Mackenzie Community Forest. Photo: Susan Mulkey

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	29
Percentage of sales Large > 200,000 m3 /yr. mill/	78
Percentage of sales Medium 50,000 to 200,000 m3 /yr. mill	9
Percentage of sales to Small < 50,000 m3 /yr.	2
Percentage of sales Value Added	6
Percentage of sales to facilities that utilize low quality fibre	5
Other (i.e. firewood)	0
Total	100

23 companies purchased our logs

21,295 m3 to 7 companies (2 pulp mills, 2 veneer mills, 3 sawmills)

1559 m3 to 3 companies (poles, fence rails, etc.)

5868 m3 was exported to 7 companies

- Sunshine Coast Community Forest

Implications

Community forest organizations sell a variety of logs to a wide, varied market. Consistent with the 2014 survey results and the BCCFA research conducted for BC's Working Roundtable in Forestry in 2009, this year's results show that 78% of the volume sold by community forests went to large mills, while about 22 % 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 seeking the right conditions like fibre flow to invest in a BC community.



Log barge starting to load log bundles for transport from Bella Coola to the lower mainland. Photo: Hans Granander

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 productivity of the forest. This indicator measures investments in the potential future economic return of the forest. By measuring the investments in intensive silviculture that are 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.



*Bella Coola Treeplanter
Photo: Hans Granander*

Total \$ invested	
Number of responses	31
Total	873,606
Average	28,181
Number that invested in intensive silviculture	13
Average of those who invested	67,200
Minimum	5,085
Maximum	226,667

42% respondents made investments in incremental silviculture.

Table #9: Summary of total value from Forests for Tomorrow, Land Based Investment Program for intensive silviculture.

Total \$ from LBI Forests for Tomorrow (FFT)	
Number of responses	31
Total	693,517
Average	22,372
Number that received FFT funding	6
Average FFT funding received	115,586
Minimum	22,500
Maximum	300,000

Table #10: Summary of total value from other outside sources (not FFT) for intensive silviculture.

Total \$ from outside sources	
Number of responses	31
Total \$ received	50,000
Number that received outside funding	1

Table #11: Summary of number of hectares treated in the reporting year.

Number of hectares treated	
Number of responses	31
Total	960
Average # ha of those who invested in intensive silviculture	107
Minimum	8
Maximum	450



*Mike Francis, Manager of the Lower North Thompson Community Forest, enjoying his time in the field.
Photo: Lower North Thompson Community Forest Society*

Implications

The BCCFA’s vision is a network of diverse community forest initiatives, where local people practice ecologically responsible forest management in perpetuity, fostering and supporting healthy and vibrant rural communities and economies. 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 \$1.6 million going into intensive silviculture. In the reporting year, 54% percent of that investment came from the CFA’s own funds.

The objective of the Forest Stewardship Fund (FSF) is to provide for the reinvestment of Lower North Thompson Community Forest revenues back into the landbase as a means of supporting long term improvements to this area. During this reporting period, the FSF was applied to subsidize the rehabilitation of low volume/value stands that have been impacted by root disease and past harvesting. The selected stands consisted primarily of birch and small cedar, most of which was in poor condition with significant rot and little to no annual growth. In harvesting and reforesting these areas with suitable commercial species (primarily Douglas-fir), the productivity of the sites will increase significantly leading to long term sustainability and/or increases to the annual harvest level for the community forest agreement area. - Lower North Thompson Community Forest

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. This 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, \$2,500 in revenue was generated directly by two community forests through diversified sales of jam and rosehip tea as well as cultural wood. Additionally, three CFAs cited that they are currently contemplating and/or planning new initiatives.

In general, many Non-Timber Forest Resources (NTFRs) are harvested on the local community forest land base but no fees are charged. Primarily the role of community forests is to facilitate access for the community and adapt the harvesting approach to protect the NTFR resource.

Comments provided by survey respondents included:

- » We deliver firewood to community members. The firewood is free, but we charge the band for our crew's time spent delivering, splitting, and stacking the wood for Elders. This amount added up to \$8400 last year.
- » The utilization of NTFRs is discussed in our Management Plan and our Forest Operations Plan but to date there has not been any interest. Although firewood is abundant in this District, while piling debris, we have decked non-utilized birch for the public to harvest for firewood; even creating pickup trails to the piles.
- » NTFRs are not financially viable due to the extreme remoteness of the CFA's operations.
- » CF offers consulting services to others, including the management of wildland urban interface. Last year we generated \$190,000 for interface and consulting services.
- » A community-driven planning process will be initiated in 2016 to determine what, if any, NTFRs will be managed commercially.
- » We collect many non timber products but do not charge money.
- » The community forest has negotiated 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 first year of this survey showed \$0 in revenue generated by diversified sales, so we already see a small increase. The management of NTFRs 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.



*Pine mushroom picking in the Kootenays.
Photo: Susan Mulkey*



UBC Forestry summer students Karen McCloskey and Simone Levesque on the Lower North Thompson Community Forest

Mushrooms are an important non-timber forest product in the area. Anecdotally, the mushroom harvest supports the local economy when each fall pickers flock to the area to pick pines and other species. The community forest has worked with local mushroom pickers and ecology experts to protect mushroom habitat during harvest planning. - Nakusp and Area Community Forest Corporation

INDICATOR #9: COMMUNITY ACCOUNTABILITY

Addresses the Social Objective

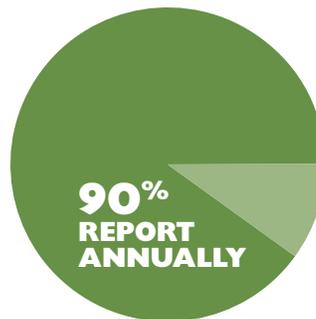
An element of community forests that sets them apart from other forest tenures is their accountability to their local communities. In community forestry, management decisions are made by those who have to live with them. When local people have a hand in the management of the forests adjacent to their 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

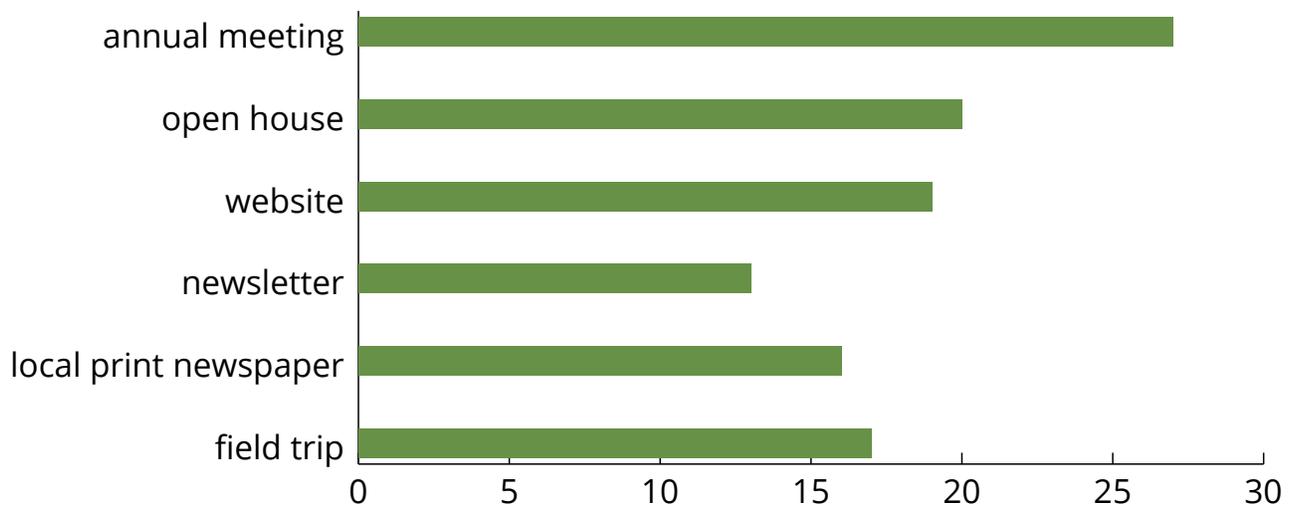
2015: Number of responses = 29.

90% report annually



Implications

Methods of Reporting



The results emphasize accountability and transparency of community forest organizations, along with 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.



*Cheakamus Community Forest forester, Tom Cole, describing logging plans to the public advisory group.
Photo: Cheakamus Community Forest*

We held a public tour of a planned road in 2014 for domestic watershed users. The road builder came on the tour. He is a domestic water user on the same creek. Later, we held a second tour of the road and planned blocks for domestic water users. Our logger came on this tour. He is also a domestic water licensee on the same creek. - *Harrop Procter Community Forest Cooperative*

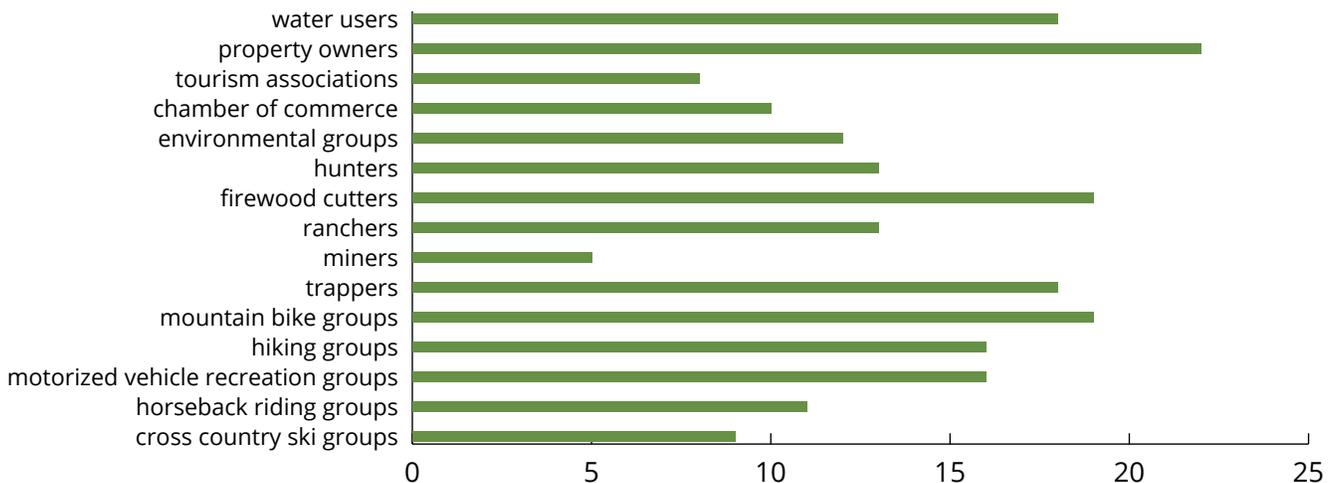
In Powell River a 4-page spread is put in the local newspaper informing the public of our year's results such as volume logged and sold, list of local contractors used, silviculture results, and dollars spent in the community. The website also has the same information but also includes a complete water study report which is done annually to track siltation, water flows, temperatures, etc. - *Powell River Community Forest Corporation*

The first goal of the community forest is the eco-cultural restoration of degraded ecosystems, to encourage our community to continue to practice our traditional way of life across our Survival Territory. We involve community members in these efforts through input in the planning stages of restoration and through hands-on involvement in projects. Our second long-term goal is education of youth and community members in Ntsuw'lhkalha Tl'akmen (our way of life). To achieve this goal, we work with Elders and knowledge holders to organize annual Youth Culture Camps, which are held in alpine areas of the CFA area. In addition, we host field trips, slide shows, open houses, and potluck dinners to involve community members in the community forest. - *Xaxli'p Community Forest*

INDICATOR #10: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Addresses the Social Objective

While Indicator #9 focuses on reporting out to the community, Indicator 10 measures the efforts of the community forest to engage with the diversity of community members and stakeholder groups. Outreach to the full array of forest users and community organizations leads to an improved awareness of forest management among the public, and increases potential to resolve conflicts over timber harvesting in watersheds and other sensitive areas. Here, the level of public engagement is shown in the number of different sectors involved in the community forest, and the number of formal agreements with community organizations.



Results

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

- » TSA Information Sharing Protocol
- » 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: 30
- » Number of formal agreements: 19

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.



Chainsaws and a bike – Photo: Susan Mulkey

Several of the community forest's chart areas are located in forest interface areas that have many and often competing values. Stakeholder consultation and communication is a critical component to forest development in these areas where there are overlapping social, ecological and economical values. Our message to stakeholders is that forest management is a complex task and balancing ecological, social and economic values can be difficult. However, community forestry is probably the most appropriate type of tenure to achieve this balance. We have taken a thorough, research-based approach to development, while encouraging dialogue with stakeholders to identify resource and community values. We think this process is important to build public trust and be accountable for our forest practices. - *Nakusp and Area Community Forest*

Our Public Advisory Group includes representatives from a full range of community based sectors as well as all interested public. Meetings are held about 3 times a year and encourage open dialogue about plans & concerns. Several meetings have been held with a disgruntled trapper about harvesting on his trapline. A local couple constructed an unauthorized bike trail running through a proposed cut block during the reporting year. A dialogue was established and suggestions were put forth as how best to protect the additional recreational values. This collaborative effort resulted in further block amendments to protect the trail while still meeting silviculture objectives. - *McLeod Lake Mackenzie Community Forest Corporation*

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. Community forests provide enhanced opportunities for education and research and 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 (\$) in education by CFs.

Total \$ investments	
Number of responses	29
Total	234,081
Average	8,072
Number that made investments	17
Average of those who invested	13,769
Minimum	800
Maximum	78,991

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

Hours spent on education	
Number of responses	29
Total hours	2,050
Average hours of those who invested time	98
Minimum	10
Maximum	625



Students from the UBC Masters of Sustainable Forest Management tour the Harrop Procter Community Forest. Photo: Erik Leslie

Implications

Education is very important to individual community forests, and the amount of investment is not tied to the size of the community forest. For many First Nation Community Forests, training young people for work on the tenure is a major focus of their operations. A number of organizations have annual programs that interface with their local K-12 schools and get kids out into the forest land base.

Partners in Education: School District 10 and Nakusp Community Forest Foundation share a vision of enhancing and growing understanding and appreciation among the young people in our communities about the local and global environment, our forests, and about natural resource management careers and opportunities. NACFOR and SD 10 are committed to working collaboratively to deepen the partnership between our organizations for the betterment of kids and community. Key goals are to expand and develop hands-on learning opportunities and place-conscious project based learning experiences with educators throughout SD 10 and to collaboratively plan rich learning experiences for National Forest Week each year. - *Nakusp & Area Community Forest*

A goal of the Community Forest is educating youth and Elders in Ntsuwa7lhkalha Tlakmen (Our Way of Life). To accomplish this goal, we organize a youth camping trip to alpine areas of the CFA area, host slideshows, potlucks, and field trips. We educate our members about the CFA through a monthly newsletter, signage throughout the CFA and our AGM. - *Xaxli'p Community Forest*

In partnership with Selkirk College, Nakusp and Area and Kaslo and District Community Forests are developing a new Logger Training Initiative - training for realistic logging jobs that rely upon local contractors providing mentoring in the block. After approximately 11 weeks of certification and onsite training, participants will be able to carry out entry and semi-skilled job functions in overhead cable logging operations and conventional ground logging operations.

Nuxalk Community Forest Education Support

The Nuxalk Community Forest funded the following training opportunities as part of the strategic goal to achieve economic independence for the Nuxalk People in the Nuxalk Ancestral Territory.

- First-aid chainsaw safety
- Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System
- Driving Safety
- Fire Fighting S100
- Small Employer OHS training
- Faller Certification (sponsored 1 student)

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 the reporting period.

\$ in recreation investments	
Number of responses	27
Total	1,306,797
Average	48,399.89
Number who made investments in recreation	19
Average of those who invested	68,779
Minimum	500
Maximum	550,000

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

Number of kilometres of trail	
Number of responses	27
Total	370
Average	14
Number that built and maintained trails	15
Average if those who built & maintained trails	25
Minimum	1.2
Maximum	67

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.



Volunteer bridge crew on Harrop-Procter Community Forest – Photo: Erik Leslie



The Kaslo and District Community Forest's annual Family Day 'Winter in the Forest Festival' is a combination of their investment in education and recreation. Photos: Susan Mulkey

We provided \$22K (of \$25K) to fund a Sunshine Coast Recreation Trail Master Plan. The Plan covers approximately 80-100,000 ha in the Sechelt and Chapman Landscape Units where the community forest tenure is located. There are currently over 400 named and mapped trails in the Trail Master Plan area.

We also funded the construction (\$18K) of a 2km climbing mountain bike trail to the Whistler Standard to be used in the BC Bike Race, a 7day race from North Vancouver to Nanaimo, Comox, Powell River, Sechelt, Squamish and ends in Whistler. We build the trails post-harvest and plant tight to the trail edge and then prune branches that impact the trail. We're also helping to fund (\$4K) a chainsaw safety course for the Trail Society's volunteer trail maintenance crews to help them get insurance. These folks build and maintain trails and also build and maintain bridges on the trails in our Rec Trail Master Plan area.

- Sunshine Coast Community Forest

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: Investments to reduce wildfire hazard in the reporting period.

\$ value funded to reduce wildfire	
Number of responses	28
Total	600,186
Average	21,435
Number that made investments to reduce wildfire hazard	14
Average of those who invested	42,870
Minimum	961
Maximum	500,000

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

Number of hectares treated	
Number of responses	28
Total	362
Average	13
Number that treated forest land to reduce wildfire hazard	11
Average # of hectares treated	33
Minimum	5
Maximum	80

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

Number of treated hectares to date	
Number of responses	28
Total	2,117
Average	76
Number that treated forest land to reduce wildfire hazard	13
Average # hectares treated to date	163
Minimum	6
Maximum	550

To date, the reporting community forests collectively invested over \$1.2 million for wildfire mitigation, and managed an additional \$4.6 million from outside sources.

Implications

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 362 hectares, and a total of nearly 2,117 hectares to date. Funding through external sources remains an important factor given the urgency to reduce fire risk to rural communities. Community forests are well positioned to take on a leadership role in the planning and implementation of these efforts.



Westbank Community Forest interface treatment.

Consistent with the District of Mackenzie's Community Wildfire Protection Plan - 2005, a forest development unit within the community forest emphasizes fuel hazard reduction. This area is seen as a buffer for wildfire and is used to protect the community due to its proximity. A number of conifer stands with this unit have been harvested and are being regenerated with deciduous stocking standards to reduce fire risk. Harvesting was carried out in 2014, and field surveys were carried out in 2015 to determine stocking status. The process is ongoing. - McLeod Lake Mackenzie Community Forest



Westbank crew

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

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

Percent requiring Safe Certified	
Number of responses	30
Percent yes	67
Percent no	33

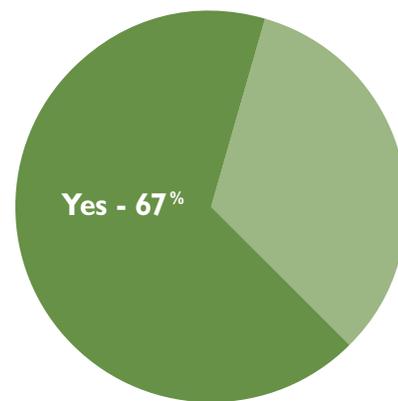


Table #20: Summary of number of recordable incidents in the reporting year.

Recordable incidents	
Number of responses	30
Recorded incidents	10
Incidents that prevented a worker from returning to work	1

Sixty-seven percent of respondents require their employees and contractors to be Safe Certified. In the reporting year, there were 10 recordable incidents, one of which 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 (BCFSC). A few community forests require their logging and trucking contractors to be safe certified, but have allowed for flexibility in the implementation of their policy for certified workers to allow for short term employment of small local operators.

The Woodlot- Community Forest Agreement Safety Committee working in conjunction with the BC Forest Safety Council is developing materials to encourage and inform the implementation of a safety plan and an equivalent program where workers sign in and discuss safety in lieu of full BCFSC certification.



Bella Coola Community Forest provided safety training in the community. Photo: Hans Granander

We require logging, road building, engineering and silviculture contractors to be certified. There are other contractors which may perform very small contracts that aren't certified such as a local sand and gravel business which provides crush on occasion for the roads.
- Powell River Community Forest

Safety to both public and workers are considered in every aspect of planning and implementation, but we do not require certification. - Cheakamus Community Forest

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. Half of the operating community forests in BC 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/s within whose traditional 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
- » Profits are shared with local First Nations
- » Employment contracts with First Nations
- » Cooperative planning
- » Memoranda of Understanding
- » Capacity building activities such as training and education.

23% of survey respondents are CFs that are held by First Nations, and 30% are partnerships. 50% have First Nations representation on their board of directors.

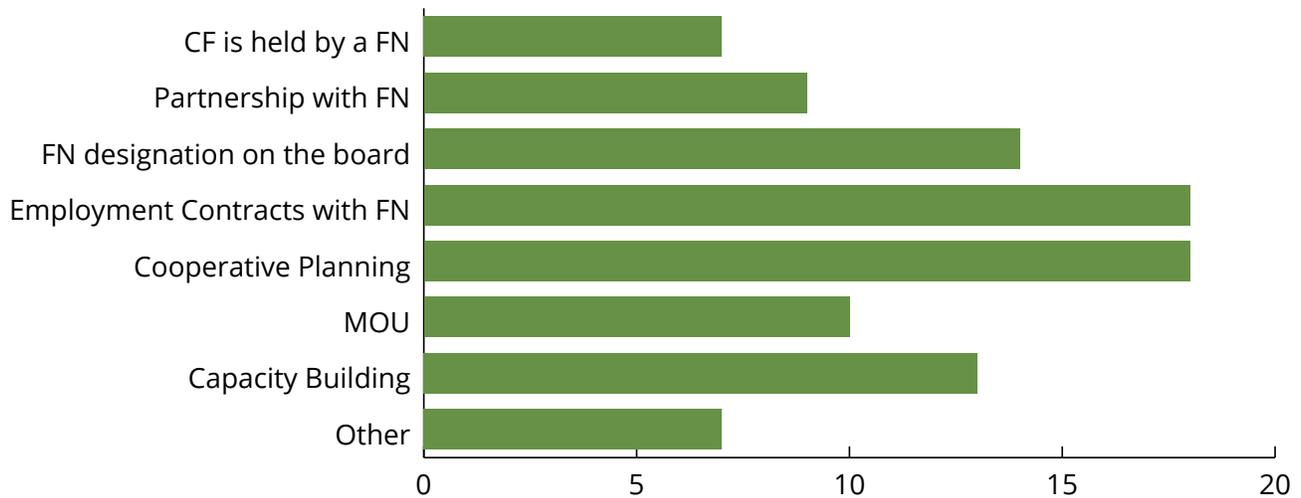
We have a signed Protocol Agreement with the local First Nation; however, this is currently under review due to Tsilhqot'in Supreme Court of Canada decision.
- *Sunshine Coast Community Forest*

Our Community Forest Limited Partnership between the McLeod Lake First Nation and the District of Mackenzie is very balanced and our Board is locally recognized as a great example of cooperation between First Nations and the local community.
- *McLeod Lake Mackenzie Community Forest*

Implications

We see from this indicator that there are many 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.

Types of Engagement with First Nations



*UBC Summer Students and the Job Creation Partnership crew learn about archeological assessments.
Photo: Lower North Thompson Community Forest*

INDICATOR #16: MANAGEMENT OF SENSITIVE AREAS

Addresses the Environmental Objective

The CFA’s unique model of forest management can give 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	
Number of responses	24
Percentage of total area that is sensitive	55
Percentage of sensitive area that is operable	45
Percentage of total area that is sensitive & operable	25

The results show that among respondents, 55% of the total community forest area is considered sensitive, and 45% of these sensitive areas are operable. Half of all respondents reported that over 2/3 of their land base is considered sensitive, and 4 of them reported that their entire land base is sensitive ground.



Virtually all of the areas we’ve been operating in over the past two years have been within sensitive areas. These areas may be sensitive from a community perspective (visual quality objectives, interface operations, community watersheds) or from a wildlife perspective (grizzly bear, marten or UWR management zones). - *Westbank*

Recently, Nakusp and Area Community Forest (NACFOR) has supported the Summit Lake Western Toad research and has been working with FLNRO staff and biologists to develop best management practices for harvesting in western toad habitat. - *Nakusp and Area Community Forest*

Western toadlets
Photo: Frances Swan

Implications

The survey results are not surprising, as most community forests are located in the land surrounding communities, in highly visible areas, and with many overlapping values. Community forests often contain a greater percentage of sensitive areas than the average in the Timber Supply Area. When combined with many of the economic indicators, the real potential of community forest management emerges. They have the ability to operate in challenging areas, while still meeting cut control, supplying logs to a wide range of users, and creating jobs and other benefits for their communities.



Kootenay Giant
Photo: Nyle Mulkey-Chose

INDICATOR #17: INVESTMENTS IN 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. The 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.

Total \$ investments in enhanced management	
Number of responses	25
Total \$	1,259,483
Number that invested in enhanced management	12
Average of those who invested	104,957
Minimum (\$)	5,000
Maximum (\$)	500,000

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

Number of hectares treated within and outside CF	
Number of responses	25
Total (Ha)	25,312
Number that treated forest land	12
Average # hectares treated	2,109
Minimum (Ha)	30
Maximum (Ha)	10,000

Implications

With the understanding 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:

- » Goshawk management strategy developed that goes beyond legal requirements.
- » Enhanced inventory analysis on the whole license utilizing LiDAR.
- » Support for trapping for furbearers using incremental silviculture and debris management practices during harvesting.
- » FSC Certification that requires a large investment in enhanced management. For example: partial cutting costs \$5 to \$10 more per m³, and the higher road building and maintenance standards that are required in sensitive areas also bring higher costs.

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.



*Seed tree block on the Harrop Procter Community Forest.
Photo: Erik Leslie*



*Sallus Creek Headwaters Restoration
Photo: Xaxli’p Community Forest*

Xaxli’p operations within the Community Forest are focussed on the restoration of forested ecosystems within the Xaxli’p Survival Territory. Our territory has been degraded over the past century by fire suppression, extensive high grading of large trees, clear cut logging, and cattle grazing. Since 2010, we have been undertaking restoration treatments to thin out overstocked forests and restore the structure, composition and function of the forests.

- Xaxli’p Community Forest

The 2 Coastal Watershed Assessments completed in 2014 for the 2 Community Watersheds also included complete Terrain Classification (underlying geology) and Terrain Stability Assessments, a Climate Impact Assessment, and a zoning of the 2 watersheds to specifically identify risk zones of forestry activities that might cause a turbidity event at the water intake. Three public presentations were made explaining the results. \$80K plus since 2012 has been invested in major studies; purchased LiDAR coverage for the entire tenure which was critical to provide very detailed info for the 3 watershed assessments. 3 Coastal Watershed Assessments, 2 Terrain Classifications, 2 Terrain Stability Assessments, 3 Climate Change Impact Assessments and a Fisheries Assessment completed so far since 2012.

- Sunshine Coast

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 Compliance & Enforcement inspections conducted in reporting year.

Number of Inspections	
Number of responses	27
Total	49
Number of determinations issued against the CF	11

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 second reporting year.



Harrop Procer Community Forest local crew and trucker – Photo: Erik Leslie

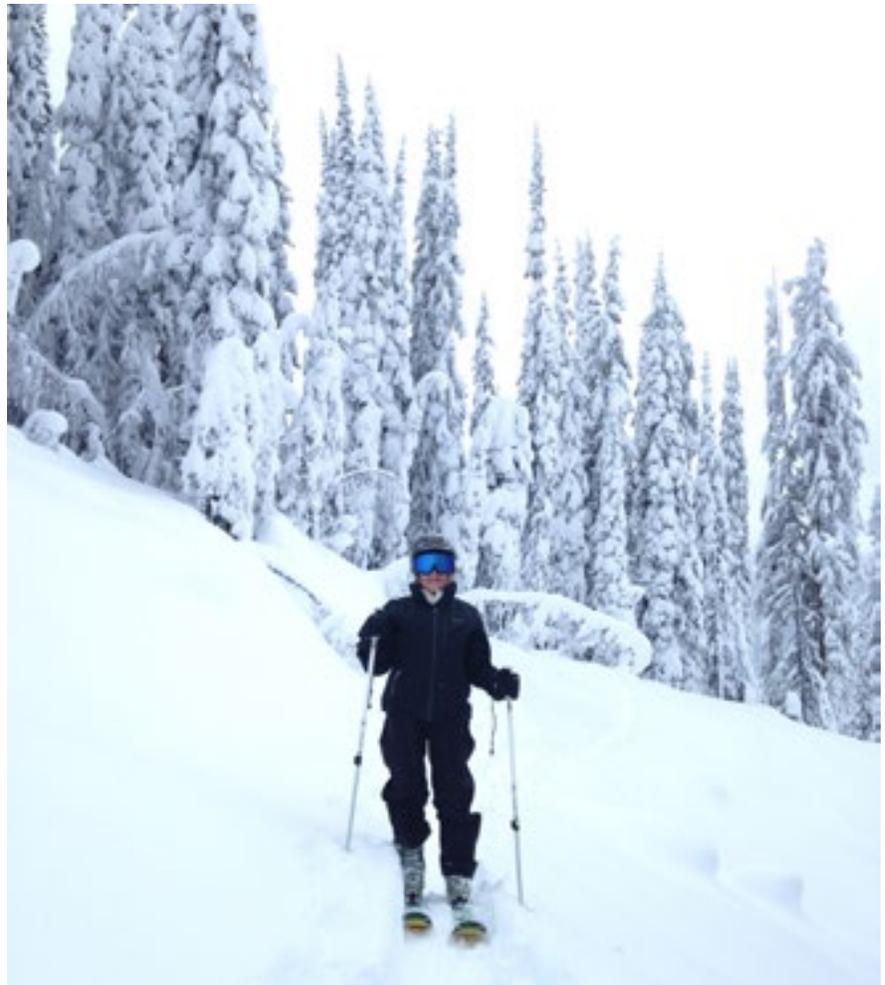
Of the 10 Compliance & Enforcement (C&E) determination for a single CFA, 1 was for harvesting where a contractor miss marked a block number. There was no risk to revenue and no further action was taken by C&E. The other 9 issues were related to Silviculture: 3 were due to the amalgamation of blocks and Results (reporting) was updated incorrectly and promptly rectified. The other 6 silviculture issues were from blocks acquired in the purchase of a local woodlot and reporting was not up to date. The second CFA that reported 1 determination comments that they have resolved the matter.



Lower North Thompson Community Forest fir core



Plantation survey. Lower North Thompson Community Forest Society



Backcountry skiing in the Kaslo Community Forest

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