



British Columbia
**Community
Forest**
Association

COMMUNITY FOREST INDICATORS 2016

Measuring the Benefits of Community Forestry

March 2017



Acknowledgements

The Community Forest Indicators Project would not be possible without the participation of our members. We would like to express our deepest gratitude to everyone that made the time and effort to participate in the survey. Thank you also to the British Columbia Community Forest Association Board of Directors and the Community Forest Indicators Project Advisory Group for guidance and support.

- *Jennifer Gunter, BCCFA Executive Director &*
Susan Mulkey, BCCFA Manager of Communication & Extension

The following BCCFA members reported on the Community Forest Indicators:

1. 100 Mile Development Corporation
2. Alberni Valley Community Forest Corporation
3. Alkali Resource Management - Esk'etemc Community Forest
4. Barkley Community Forest Corporation
5. Bella Coola Community Forest Ltd
6. Burns Lake Community Forest Ltd
7. Cascade Lower Canyon Community Forest
8. Cheakamus Community Forest
9. Cheslatta Carrier Nation
10. Chinook Comfor Limited
11. Clinton Community Forest
12. Cortes Forestry General Partnership
13. Creston Community Forest
14. District of Fort St. James
15. Dungate Community Forest
16. Dunster Community Forest
17. Harrop-Procter Community Co-operative
18. Kaslo & District Community Forest Society
19. Khowutzun Forest Services Ltd
20. Likely Xats'ull Community Forest Ltd.
21. Logan Lake Community Forest
22. Lower North Thompson Community Forest Society
23. McBride Community Forest Corporation
24. McLeod Lake Mackenzie Community Forest
25. Monashee Community Forest LLP
26. Nakusp and Area Community Forest
27. Nuxalk Forestry Limited Partnership
28. Powell River Community Forest
29. Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative
30. Sunshine Coast Community Forest
31. Tumbler Ridge Community Forest
32. Valemount Community Forest
33. Wells Gray Community Forest
34. Wells-Barkerville Community Forest Corporation
35. West Boundary Community Forest
36. Westbank First Nation Community Forest
37. Wetzin'kwa Community Forest
38. Williams Lake Community Forest LP

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Community forestry gives communities the opportunity to manage local forests for local benefit. This innovative form of forest management puts management decisions in the hands of local people, challenging them to consider economic, social, cultural and environmental values. 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 in BC.

We have selected 18 indicators that provide tangible information on the benefits that community forests bring to their communities and to the province. Working with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, independent advisors and community forest practitioners, we have identified 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 characteristics of the land base.

This report summarizes the results of the third annual survey of community forests in the province. Thirty-eight community forests participated, providing data from their last reporting year, specific to their operations. This sample represents 93% of the operating community forests in the BCCFA, and is a 10% increase over last year. Most are small rural communities, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, with an average population of 3,543. Sixty-six percent of respondents represent communities of under 3,000 people and 32% percent represent communities under 1,000.

The community forest organizations operate relatively small forest tenures, with an average Allowable Annual Cut (AAC) of 40,719 m³. Despite their small size, the interplay of the results reported on the 18 indicators tells the story of how important community forests are to their communities and the province.

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 \$1.9 million a year to the economy and make donations of over \$257,000 annually to support local priorities.

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 Indigenous and non Indigenous communities and persons.
4. Community forest management is consistent with sound principles of environmental stewardship that reflect a broad spectrum of values.

COMMUNITY FOREST INDICATORS SURVEY RESULTS: HIGHLIGHTS

Economic Benefits

- › Community forests create local jobs. On average, community forests created 0.33 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 \$1.9 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 donated an average of \$257,000 cash and in-kind to local projects.
- › Community forests are investing in the future economic return of the forest. On average, they spent \$77,000 of their own funds on intensive silviculture, with an additional \$155,000 from outside sources, and treated over 270 hectares each. The combined investment in the reporting year was \$2.3 million, treating 3,600 hectares.

Social Benefits

- › Community forests support education. Sixty-nine percent of respondents invested funds and/or time in education, collectively spending \$115,000 and 1,320 hours.
- › Recreation is a key benefit. Community forests invested an average of \$21,000 in recreation and built or maintained 20 km of trail. In total, respondents built or maintained 284 km of trail in the reporting period.
- › Community forests are working to protect residents from the threat of wildfire. In the reporting year, they treated an average of 95 hectares and spent \$52,000 of their own funds to reduce wildfire risk. To date, the reporting community forests have collectively treated 3,522 hectares and invested over \$1.8 million for wildfire mitigation. They managed an additional \$4.6 million from outside sources.
- › 70% of respondents collaborated with their local government on Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative projects.



Photo by Hayden Markin

Profitability is very important to our community forest. However, profitability for a community forest is measured by different metrics than used by industry. While profitability for a community forest can definitely be measured in cash, no less important are more intangible benefits such as the long-term health and sustainability of our forest; recreation, employment and development opportunities for community members and harmony with all the other users of the forest. - McLeod Lake Mackenzie Community Forest

Cultural Benefits

- In BC, nearly half of the operating community forests are held by First Nations or a partnership between an Indigenous and non-Indigenous community. Nineteen percent of survey respondents are CFs that are held by First Nations, and an additional 27% are partnerships. Forty-nine percent have First Nations representation on their board of directors.

Environmental Benefits

- Community forests operate in challenging areas around communities. Forty-three percent of the landbase of the reporting community forests is deemed sensitive.
- Forty percent of community forests made investments in forest stewardship, incremental to legal requirements, averaging a \$108,000 investment and treating 4,500 ha each.

Photo by Dave Gill



The Monashee Community Forest is a partnership between the Village of Lumby and the Splotsin First Nations people of Enderby. The Community Forest is in its 4th year of operations and has added significantly to each community and to the regional economy both in jobs and financial returns for community infrastructure and social programs. Both are rural communities with deep ties to the land and a long history of forest use and management. It is with great pride that both communities are working together to co-manage a local community forest with significant cultural and economic importance. The success of this initiative has spurred the partners to look at additional joint opportunities in the future.

The West Boundary Community Forest uses 100% local employment in all phases of management. We have a strong relationship with the Osoyoos Indian Band, and have been highly profitable since day one. The fibre generated from the WBCF helps to maintain our local community mill, which in turn, is the foundation for the small rural towns of Midway and Greenwood.

Our focus on forest health has improved pine beetle and root rot stands, and our strong ties to the local recreational organizations has initiated the development and improvement of local trails. We have addressed fuel management in the well documented wildfire corridor of Rock Creek, while developing two Ecosystem Restoration Projects in conjunction with the MFLNRO. Our local communication with the public has been praised, with Ministry staff stating "The immediate success of this community forest from a financial, environmental, and social licence standpoint is unbelievable."

This report contains many stories and examples from the participating community forests. These first-hand examples, in addition to the data collected, more fully illustrate the benefits and the significant impacts community forests have on 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 learn more about the BCCFA and community forestry in BC.



Photo by Susan Mulkey



Photo by Powell River Community Forest

COMMUNITY FORESTRY IN BRITISH COLUMBIA: SETTING THE CONTEXT

British Columbia’s community forest program began as a pilot in 1998 and has since become an important part of rural economies, growing to include 57 community forests distributed widely around the province. The Community Forest Agreement (CFA) is an area-based, long-term forest tenure that grants the right to harvest timber from provincial forests to legal entities representing local communities. These entities may be a local government or First Nation, or a society, cooperative, or corporation that is community controlled and represents community interests.

An important goal of the community forest program is to promote communication and strengthen relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities and persons. 47% of the province’s CFAs are held by a First Nation or by a partnership with one or more First Nations. The BCCFA promotes culturally, ecologically, and economically sustainable forestry and the practice of community forest initiatives in a manner which respects First Nation rights and cultural values, and which fosters understanding and cooperation between rural communities and First Nations.

The CFA gives the holder exclusive rights to harvest 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. While community forests have a range of priorities and motivations, collectively their efforts support the Provincial Government’s goals. 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 200,000 m3. The organizational structures are varied as well. However, by and large CFAs are managed by small, rural communities, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous.

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

*We use the term “community forest” to refer to the organization that holds a community forest agreement.

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS	38
1000 and under	12
1001 – 3000	13
3001 – 6000	8
6001 and up	5
Minimum Population	250
Maximum Population	19,921
Average Population	3,543

INDICATOR #1: NUMBER OF JOBS

Employment in rural communities is one of the foremost benefits of community forests. This indicator measures the total direct employment and contract labour generated by community forests. By determining the number of full-time equivalent jobs per 1,000 m³ of timber harvested we can see the value, in terms of employment, of the harvest volume allocated to community forests. Full time equivalent (FTE) is a commonly used metric, but since not all jobs associated with community forest operations are full time, respondents also reported the total number of workers that derived part of their income from the community forest.

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 m³ 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 employment category: logging; hauling, road building, silviculture, forest management and administration, as well as trail building and research. The responses gave 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 type and size of mill 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

NUMBER OF M³ HARVESTED.

HARVEST	
Number of responses	29
Total Harvest (m ³)	1,180,864
Total Harvest (m ³)	40,719



Photo by Powell River Community Forest

NUMBER OF FTE JOBS AND FTE/1000 M³ HARVESTED BASED ON ACTUAL HARVEST OF 1,180,864 M³

JOBS	FORESTRY, LOGGING & SUPPORT	MILLING	ALL ACTIVITIES**
Total FTE/1000m ³	0.33	0.49	0.82
Average FTE	13	20	33
Total FTE*	385	579	964

* One "Full Time Equivalent" (FTE) is equal to 1820 hours per year. ** Sum of FTE for forestry, logging, support services and milling.

A total of 1,462 people worked in "forestry, logging and support", averaging 50 people per community forest.

According to Natural Resources Canada², the BC forest sector employment coefficient from 2014 is in the range of 0.68 to 0.84 jobs/1,000 m³. These figures, confirmed by Barnes (2014)³, 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/1,000m³ for community forests is higher than the industry average.

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 Canada⁴, and supported by MNP LLP (2015).⁵

This year's survey of community forests results in a coefficient of 0.33 FTE/1,000 m³ for the activities included in forestry, logging and support services. This is consistent with the findings of our 2014 and 2015 surveys, 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 in subsequent survey questions, where 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: 593 FTEs 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 (75%) of the community forest wood in the reporting year went to large lumber mills, in cases where it was sold to small, medium & value added manufactures, the resultant job creation was significant - with 11% of the logs sold creating 148 FTEs of milling employment or 25% of the milling jobs.⁶

Alkali Resource Management - Esk'etemc Community Forest

We are proud of our expertise in Dry Belt Douglas Fir Management practices. In 2016, we employed over 30 people to space dense fir stands and provided 34,160 hours at an average wage of \$24/hr for local Esk'etemc First Nation members. Work experience on the community forest and the belief that there is a positive future in forest management, inspired 6 community members go to post-secondary school to study Resource Management. They checked into the office during the Christmas break; they were so proud of themselves and were talking about the summer jobs they are considering. This was awesome and it made managing the community forest worthwhile.

Bella Coola Community Forest. Photo by Hans Granander



² Natural Resources Canada - 2016. Statistical Data. Available at: <http://cfs-nrcan.gc.ca/stats/profile/>. Accessed February 3, 2016. Derived from employment and harvest data on British Columbia.

³ Barnes, Alex - 2014. 2013 Economic State of the BC Forest Sector: Competitiveness and Innovation Branch. Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. Victoria, British Columbia.

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

⁵ MNP LLP - 2015. BC Forest Industry Economic Impact Study http://www.cofi.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/bc_industry_impact_01-2015.pdf

⁶ Employment figures provided by Randy Sunderman from the following sources: BCFLNRO - 2017. Special Run on Data collected in Major Primary Timber Processing Facilities in British Columbia 2015; and Canadian Forest Service.

INDICATOR #2: TOTAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

Community forests 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.

SUMMARY OF TOTAL \$ VALUE OF SALES

TOTAL \$ VALUE OF SALES	
Number of responses	32
Average	\$2,268,994
Minimum	\$215,466
Maximum	\$8,599,192

SUMMARY OF TOTAL \$ VALUE OF EXPENDITURES

TOTAL \$ VALUE OF EXPENDITURES	
Number of responses	32
Average	\$1,862,062
Minimum	\$210,013
Maximum	\$7,677,850

West Boundary Community Forest – After all expenses are accounted for in each permit, there is approximately \$15/m³ as revenue for the communities of Midway and Greenwood.

With average expenditures of \$1.9 million and the average total value of sales at \$2.3 million, community forests give a substantial boost to their local economies. This economic activity was generated by an average harvest of only 40,719 m3. The responses show that in the reporting year some CFs 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.

With an average population of 3,543, the pivotal role that a community forest can play in a rural community must not be understated. In fact, 32% of the respondents are in communities of less than 1,000 people.



Westbank First Nation Community Forest. Photo by Dave Gill

In the Logan Lake Community Forest (LLCF), revenue and expenditures were significantly higher than in the past due to the increased harvest activity to catch up with the cut control and a shift to a market sales approach. The LLCF switched from a fixed dollar amount per cubic meter from a single buyer, to an open market competitive bid process. The new process resulted in increased sales revenues and stability by spreading the risk out over four buyers. At the time of this survey, the LLCF Board of Directors and the District of Logan Lake Mayor and Council are engaged in strategic discussions on how best to distribute the revenue.

INDICATOR #3: COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

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, cultural and environmental objectives, in addition to economic ones.

Results

SUMMARY OF TOTAL CASH CONTRIBUTED TO THE COMMUNITY THROUGH GRANTS

TOTAL \$ CONTRIBUTED TO THE COMMUNITY	
Number of responses	35
Total	\$6,001,474
Average of all respondents	\$171,471
Number of CFs that made contributions	29
Average of those that made contributions	\$206,947
Minimum	\$500
Maximum	\$1,402,452

Lower North Thompson Community Forest Society 2016 Cash Contributions

- *Barriere Search & Rescue Building \$55,000*
- *Thompson-Nicola Regional District Boat Launch at Agate Bay \$10,000*
- *Provincial Winter Fair in Barriere \$10,000*
- *Various Community groups and projects \$29,375*
- *Scholarships/Bursaries \$15,000*

Eighty-three percent of respondents made cash contributions in their communities. On average, they contributed \$206,947 in the reporting year, with an additional \$50,428 in in-kind contributions.

Average cash and in kind contributions = \$257,375

Each community has unique priorities for investment and they are extremely varied. Through community forestry, communities can create their own definition of “benefits” and their own disbursement policies and priorities. Some community forests are new and not yet able to make cash contributions to the community. Others 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. It is up to each community forest organization to determine how surplus funds are directed to achieve the greatest community benefit.



McLeod Lake Mackenzie Community Forest (MLMCF)

The MLMCF distributed payments of \$500,000 to each of its shareholders, the McLeod Lake Indian Band and the District of Mackenzie. In addition, \$1,000,000 has been set aside in a fund to be disbursed to community groups over time.

*\$150,000 from the Lower North Thompson CF helped to build a new splash pad.
Photo - Jill Hayward*

Westbank First Nation Community Forest (WFN)

Funding was provided to the Syilx Language House whose mission is to use, preserve and revitalize the Nsyilxcn (Okanagan) language. Three young adult WFN members are enrolled in this program; that requires two days a week and up to 2,000 hours of their time.

Esk'etemc First Nation Community Forest

We provide 100 cords of firewood to Elders and people that require social assistance. We are designing a community heating system that will heat 10 local buildings.

Powell River Community Forest

It is the Powell River Community Forest's 10th anniversary; throughout our 10 years, the community forest has contributed 6.5 million dollars towards 75 separate community projects.

Alberni Valley Community Forest

In 2016, \$100,000 from the community forest flowed into city coffers – with an even larger payment expected next year. All the funds will be placed in the Alberni Valley Community Forest Legacy Fund, with a view to eventually build a new aquatic centre.



The Powell River Community Forest supports the Life Cycle Housing Society. Photo by Powell River Community Forest



Simpcw First Nation Members receiving cheque of \$14,500 from LNTCFS for fire department equipment and a Wood Energy Technician training. Photo by Jill Hayward

INDICATOR #4: FUNDS LEVERAGED BY THE COMMUNITY FOREST

The profits generated and contributions made by community forests are often used as seed money to grow larger projects and generate even more local benefits. This indicator shows how CF 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

SUMMARY OF TOTAL DOLLARS GENERATED FROM OUTSIDE SOURCES FOR LOCAL PROJECTS

TOTAL \$ RAISED FOR PROJECTS FROM OUTSIDE SOURCES	
Number of responses	27
Total	\$2,287,807
Average	\$84,734
Number of CFs that leveraged	11
Average of those that leveraged	\$207,982
Minimum	\$30,000
Maximum	\$514,000

Westbank Community Forest (WFN)
partnered with the City of West Kelowna to complete 45 hectares of fire mitigation work within the community forest and land adjacent to the City of West Kelowna under the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative. The work was contracted out to a WFN crew and the WFN provided in-kind contributions of \$36,597.

Community forests can use their profits to attract even greater benefits to their communities. Thirty nine percent of respondents said they leveraged the community forest’s funds to bring in additional dollars. We expect the response rate to rise with time, as this indicator requires systems in place to collect data locally.

Lower North Thompson Community Forest Society (LNTCFS) Agate Bay Public Washroom & Boat Launch: LNTCFS contributed 25% of the funds (= \$10k) for a partnership project with Ministry of Transportation, North Thompson Communities Foundation, Argo Road Maintenance, and Thompson Nicola Regional District.

Cheslatta Carrier Nation Community Forest
Community forest profits were used to leverage funding for a business plan, engineering and other work associated with the community centre and industrial site development plans.

Agate Bay boat launch installation crew. Photo by Mike Francis

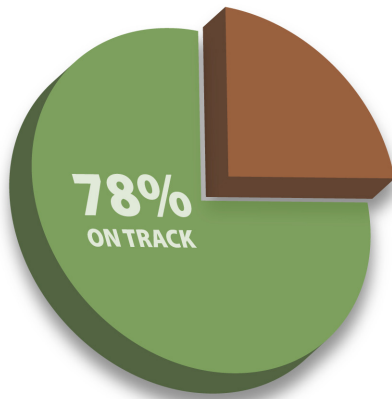


INDICATOR #5: CUT CONTROL

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

SUMMARY OF CFs REPORTING WHETHER THEY ARE ON TRACK TO MEET CUT CONTROL IN THE CURRENT PERIOD



Westbank First Nation Community Forest. Photo by Dave Gill

Number of responses	37
Total "yes"	29

Seventy-eight percent 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. Of the eight CFs that are not on target to meet cut their control, half cite that they are in the first year of a new 5 year cut control period. Others assert that their AAC is set too high, is not sustainable at that level and that a new timber supply analysis is required.

The Logan Lake Community Forest (LLCF) under new management since May 2015, has taken decisive action to catch up on the under-cut situation based on 1) carry forward of the previous cut control, 2) increased AAC based on new timber supply review, and 3) uplift to address dead pine. The harvest in 2016 is significantly higher as a result, and represents great strides going forward to meet the cut by the end of the current cut control period.

The Cascade Lower Canyon Community Forest has just finished its first cut control period and had only a 2% undercut. Considering all the start-up issues and the large volume needed to be logged in the final year, we are pleased that we could come so close.

The Wells Gray Community Forest Corporation is proud to have completed its second five year cut control. We have strived for the highest degree of forest management, completed harvesting with minimal impacts and have maintained good relationships with our local stakeholders and First Nations.

INDICATOR #6: DISTRIBUTION OF LOG SALES

Community forests supply logs on the open market to major industry and 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

SUMMARY OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF LOG SALES

DISTRIBUTION OF LOG SALES	
Number of responses	30
Sales to large mills $\geq 295,000 \text{ m}^3$ /year	75%
Sales to medium mills $95,000 \text{ m}^3$ - $295,000 \text{ m}^3$ /year	9%
Sales to small mills $< 95,000 \text{ m}^3$ /year	2%
Sales to Value Added mills	1%
Sales to Pole, Veneer, Plywood & OSB	6%
Sales to facilities that use low quality fibre <small>(chip, pellet, pulp & paper)</small>	4%
Sales to firewood	1%
Logs exported	2%

Likely Xat'súll Community Forest

Following a feasibility study completed by FP Innovations, plans have been made to set up a firewood sort in the woods, followed by a firewood processing facility as a business and for local use.

Respondents were also asked to report on whether they had markets for waste and residue, and if those markets were being actively sought. Fifty percent reported having markets for waste and residue, and an additional 42% are actively seeking markets, totalling 92% of all respondents.

Consistent with the 2014 & 2015 survey results and the BCCFA research conducted for BC's Working Roundtable in Forestry in 2009, this year's results show that 75% of the volume sold by community forests went to large sawmills, while about 25% 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.

Tumbler Ridge Community Forest

We engaged the McLeod Lake First Nation in a fibre business relationship that directs otherwise waste fibre to their cant mill in Mackenzie. This relationship will be further expanded in 2017, utilizing waste fibre and bringing mutual benefits to both community businesses.



Log bundles for transport from Nuxalk Community Forest at Larso Bay, South Bentinck. Photo - Hans Granander

INDICATOR #7: INVESTMENTS IN INTENSIVE SILVICULTURE

Community forests are long-term, area-based forest tenures. These conditions create strong incentives for investment in the future productivity of the forest. By measuring the investments in intensive silviculture that are above and beyond 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, and enhanced genetic stock. Respondents reported the total treatment cost, including planning, development, and administration of these projects.

Results

SUMMARY OF TOTAL VALUE OF CF'S OWN INVESTMENT IN INTENSIVE SILVICULTURE

TOTAL OF CF'S OWN \$ INVESTED	
Number of responses	33
Total	\$1,000,498
Average	\$30,318
Number of CFs that invested in intensive silviculture	13
Average of those that invested	\$76,961
Minimum	\$2,000
Maximum	\$458,940

SUMMARY OF NUMBER OF HECTARES TREATED IN THE REPORTING YEAR

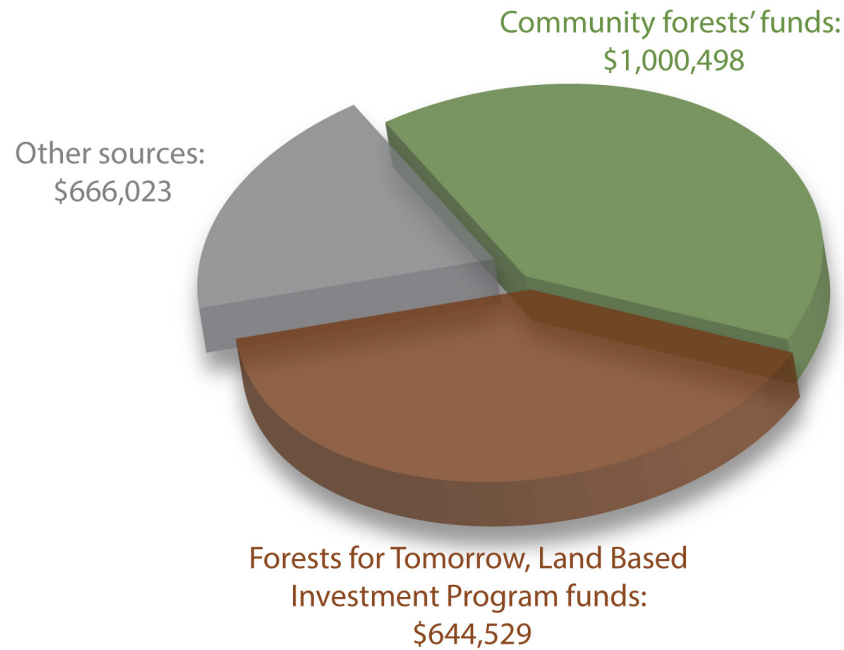
HECTARES TREATED	
Number of responses	33
Total	3,604
Average # ha of those that invested in intensive silviculture	277
Minimum	10
Maximum	1,000

Lower North Thompson Community Forest

In the last fiscal period the following was invested in intensive silviculture:

- Stumping \$116,306
- Teabag Fertilizer Bags \$23,892
- A Class Seed \$6,524 (incremental rate)
- Land Based Investment Program Surveys 432 ha
- Land Based Investment Program Site Prep, Seed & Sow 13.1ha

The combination of investments in the reporting year resulted in \$2.3 million going into intensive silviculture. Forty-three percent of that investment came from the CFA's own funds. 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 made a reality through long-range thinking and sound investments in the land base.



Cheslatta Carrier Nation Community Forest directly purchases the highest Genetic Worth (GW) seed available from the seed orchard at Kalamalka. The GW of the purchased seed is between 35% and 37%, far in excess of the 5% minimum required. In round terms the trees are expected to grow 30% faster than legal minimums.

Esk'etemc Community Forest

Thirty people train where at least 20 are working at any given time spacing trees with the funding accessed through the Land Based Investment Strategy - Forests for Tomorrow (LBIS-FFT) program. We use this program to keep our firefighting crews gainfully employed so that we can deploy them on fires in short notice.



Photo by Susan Mulkey

INDICATOR #8: ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

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 as listed in Schedule C of the Community Forest Agreement Licence. New to the survey this year is reporting on revenue from the Cheakamus Community Forest Carbon Project. The results also include services provided outside the community forest. Increasingly community forests are using the expertise they have gained to offer services to other forest-based initiatives in their area. For example, one community forest is expanding their wildfire management skills to other communities in their valley.

Survey respondents reported the total value in dollars of revenue from diversified sales for the reporting period including service contracts as well as all forest products for which the CFA holder has the authority to manage according to Schedule C of the Community Forest Licence Agreement.

Results

SUMMARY OF VALUE OF SALES FROM SOURCES OTHER THAN TIMBER

ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION	
Number of respondents	31
Total \$ value of diversified sales	\$ 384,048
Number that had revenue from diversified sales	6
Average of those that had revenue from diversified sales	\$ 64,008
Minimum	\$ 5,000
Maximum	\$ 230,000

These results are a significant jump from the previous year, when only two community forests generated revenue through the sale of jam, rosehip tea and cultural wood. In general, many Non-Timber Forest Resources (NTFRs) are harvested on community forest lands 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 non-timber resources.

While NTFRs can be an opportunity for economic diversification, management of these resources is a complex topic. Rights are given to CFA holders to manage and charge fees for botanical forest products and other prescribed products. However, there is 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.

Harrop-Procter Community Forest

There are a lot of non-monetized, NTFRs harvested from the Harrop-Procter Community Forest. To support this, we keep our roads in good condition for huckleberry picking and firewood collection. In addition, we pay our logger to sort firewood out of debris piles for the public to use.



Photo by Bob Brett

Cheakamus Community Forest Carbon Sales

In 2015, the Cheakamus Community Forest Carbon Project verified and issued its first carbon offsets in the amount of 44,000 tonnes. To date, they've sold all but 2,000 tonnes, with 80% going to the BC government and the rest scooped up by voluntary buyers such as Vancity Credit Union, Tinhorn Creek Winery, Local Practice Architecture and MET Fine Printers. Project developers Ecotrust Canada and Brinkman Climate, along with the Resort Municipality of Whistler, also neutralize their emissions by buying offsets from the project.⁷

Nakusp and Area Community Forest (NACFOR)

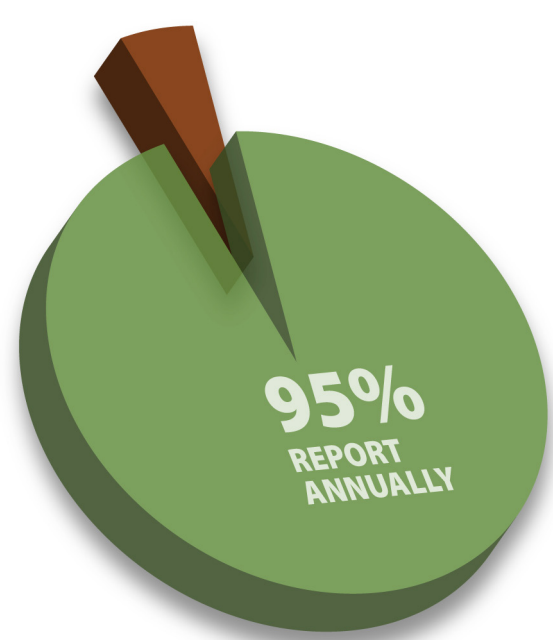
Mushrooms are an important NTFR in the Nakusp area. Anecdotally, the mushroom harvest supports the local economy when each fall, pickers flock to the area to pick pines and other species. NACFOR has worked with local mushroom pickers and ecology experts to protect mushroom habitat during harvest planning. Firewood is also considered an important NTFR in the NACFOR chart area. NACFOR supplies approximately 10 to 15 logging truckloads of firewood per year as a service to locals with a small profit realized by logging contractors and truckers.

⁷Excerpt from How Two First Nations and a Small Canadian Town Tapped Carbon Finance to Sustainably Manage Their Shared Forest: Allie Goldstein with Ecosystem Marketplace <http://www.ecosystemmarketplace.com>

INDICATOR #9: COMMUNITY ACCOUNTABILITY

The CFA tenure is unique in its requirements concerning community accountability. 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 to report.

Results



Cheakamus Community Forest

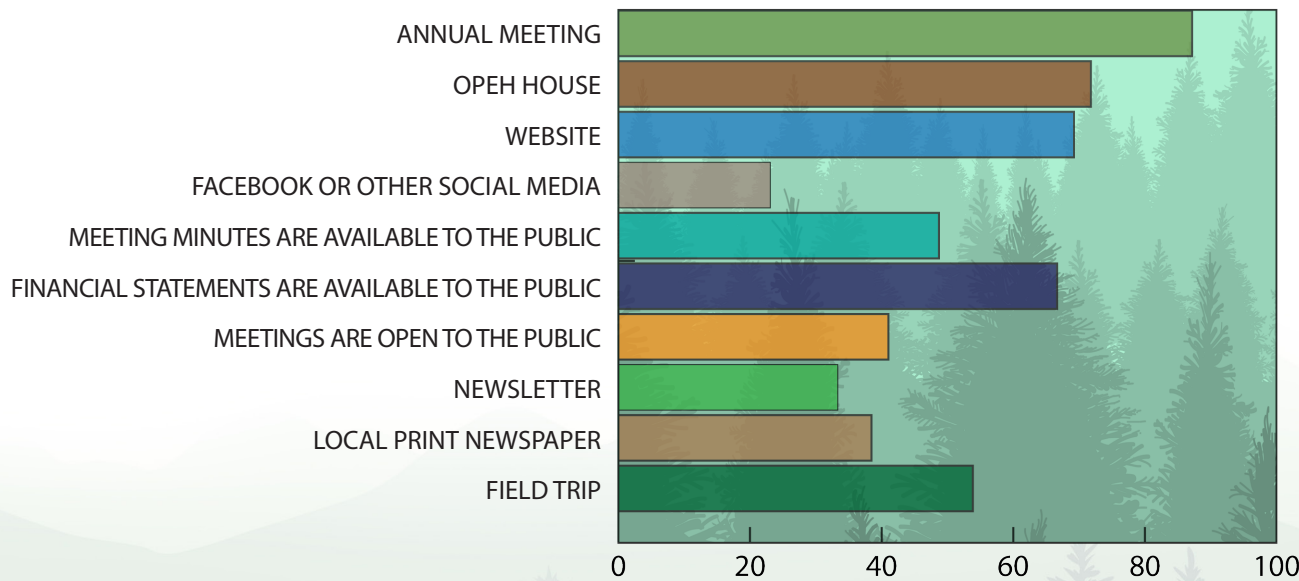
Within the Cheakamus Community Forest, old forest protection has been spatially assigned to > 30% of the community forest area through an integrated management plan that engaged all community stakeholders and forest users.

Cowichan Community Forest - Khowutzun Development Corporation

When Cowichan Tribes first acquired the community forest, management had to demonstrate good logging practices to build trust with Chief and Council and with the Ministry. Things are different now and the value of the community forest is recognized by the First Nation.

Annual reporting by CFs

Number of responses	38
Percent that report annually	95



The results show an increase of 5% from 2015, with a goal of 100% of community forests reporting annually to their communities. This data represents a growing trend of transparency and accountability within community forest organisations. Today, many community forest organisations use various tools such as newsletters, local print newspapers and field trips to connect with their communities. 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.



McBride Community Forest Outreach. Photo by Susan Mulkey

Lower North Thompson Community Forest Society (LNTCFS)

In the Spring of 2016, LNTCFS held a series of five 'Accountability' meetings and dinners throughout the valley as a means of reporting back to the communities we represent. In addition to reporting, these meetings also provided opportunities to gather input and ideas, identify concerns and educate the public about community forests and our organization.

When local citizens are responsible for the land use decisions surrounding their communities, they're more likely to be innovative and implement multiple values in to these decisions. The support for the management decisions of the community forest are a gauge of social license to operate locally.

Tumbler Ridge Community Forest (TRFC)

The process to gain the social license needed to harvest adjacent to town in the wildfire interface areas involved significant communication through open meetings, newspaper ads, flyers, open houses, open board meetings and tours to anyone interested in seeing the sites pre-harvest. Additionally, TRFC assisted the ATV club to secure a highway access permit, and extended invitations to local council for field walks. We found it important to include multi-use outcomes for wildfire treatment areas in urban interfaces.

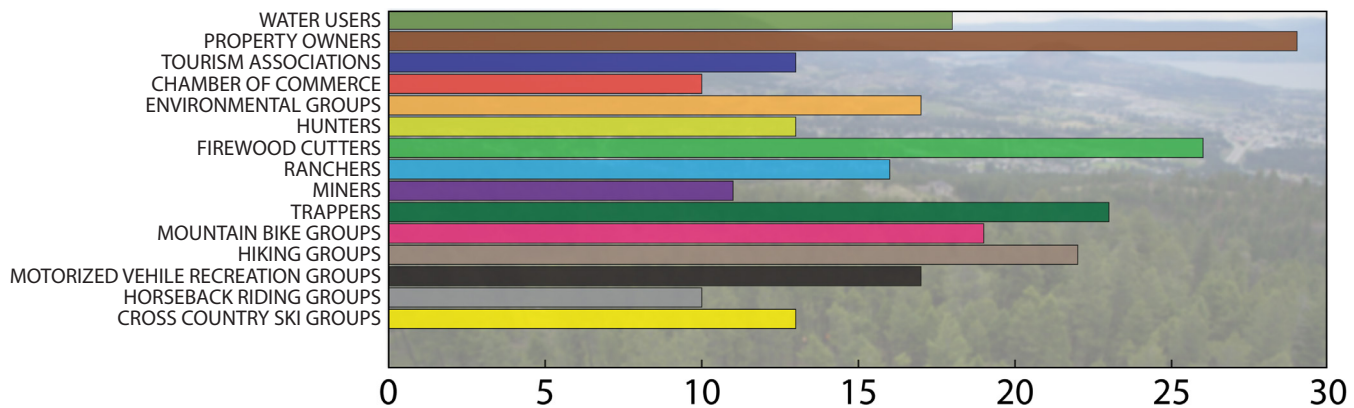


Community members review McBride Community Forest proposals. Photo by Susan Mulkey

INDICATOR #10: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

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:

- Local government
- Mushroom harvesters
- Local woodlot licensees
- Disc golf group

Out of 36 respondents, 15 reported having formal agreements with community organizations.

Burns Lake Community Forest (BLCF)

A significant effort was made to engage the community, share information, and conduct a survey during the annual Burns Lake Fall Fair. A booth was set up at the fair's entrance where, through the course of the weekend, information was shared about the community forest and community members were encouraged to participate in a survey. The survey was developed to learn about the community's level of understanding of the community forest, the ways they wanted to see the community forest engage with them, and the community's priorities given the impending reduction in the AAC. The results identified investment in community infrastructure, financial support for community based groups and investment in recreation as the top 3 priorities. 170 surveys were filled out during the three days; 36 additional surveys were filled out online or through meetings with First Nations following the fair. The 206 surveys completed through this project are a representation of a broad profile of the community and a baseline for the future.



Community engagement on future direction for the Burns Lake Community Forest at the Fall Fair. Photo by Susan Mulkey

Logan Lake Community Forest (LLCF)

The LLCF supports FireSmart activities and utilizes the same management team to stickhandle the UBCM Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative (SWPI) program. A unique situation this past season was the planning of fuel mitigation activities in and around the Logan Lake Disc Golf course, which is located on both Municipal and LLCF lands. The course is nationally recognized for its technical challenges and consequently, changes in golf hazards through FireSmart activities needed to be carefully considered so that the rating of the disc golf course was not negatively affected. Field assessments and prescriptions were developed based on discussions with the disc golf group and operational treatments are scheduled for 2017.

The data shows that community forest organisations are engaging with a range of stakeholders. When involved, this broad range of stakeholders provides the community forest with a wealth of information on diverse perspectives. Community forests organizations 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.

Williams Lake Community Forest

The Williams Lake Community Forest is dealing with an on-going outbreak of Douglas-fir bark beetle and is working to clean up years of accumulated dumping in the areas close to town. We are working to get to know all of the licensed resource users who share the land base with us and to make a concerted effort to improve their situation while carrying out our work. This has resulted in a cooperative and supportive relationship with community members.

West Boundary Community Forest

Formal agreements? None. All agreements are face to face meetings and handshakes. Nothing stronger than a person's word in Boundary Country.

INDICATOR #11: INVESTMENTS IN COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Community forests offer an opportunity to link community members to the forest and to increase their understanding of forest ecosystems and management. 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

SUMMARY OF TOTAL VALUE OF INVESTMENTS IN EDUCATION BY CFS

TOTAL \$ INVESTED IN EDUCATION	
Number of responses	35
Total	\$114,616
Average	\$ 3,275
Number of CFS that made investments	20
Average of those that invested	\$5,731
Minimum	\$1,000
Maximum	\$29,120

SUMMARY OF TOTAL AMOUNT OF TIME INVESTED IN EDUCATION BY CFS

HOURS SPENT ON EDUCATION	
Number of responses	35
Total hours	1320
Average hours of those who invested time	24
Minimum	55
Maximum	8

Nakusp and Area Community Forest (NACFOR)

School District 10 (SD 10) and NACFOR developed a partnership to formalize and work collaboratively on educational activities in the SD 10 area. The partnership is built on a “shared vision of enhancing and growing understanding and appreciation of the young people in our communities about the local and global environment, our forests, and about natural resource management careers and opportunities”. Goals of the partnership are:

- 1. To enhance communication between our organizations.*
- 2. To expand and develop hands-on learning opportunities and place-conscious project-based learning experiences with educators throughout SD 10.*
- 3. To collaboratively plan rich learning experiences for National Forest Week each year.*
- 4. To develop and maintain an updated inventory of community and regional resources and projects which intersect with our mutual work.*

The partnership defines roles and responsibilities of each organization and provides the direction for NACFOR's Educational Connections program.



Student tree planters in the Bella Coola Community Forest. Photo by Hans Granander.

McLeod Lake Mackenzie Community Forest (MLMCF)

MLMCF Board members and the General Manager participate in the local college's planning activities. The MLMCF's Board has established a dedicated fund of \$100,000+ which will generate interest used to fund bursaries, scholarships and/or trades training. Payments will commence in 2017.

Education is very important to many 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. Additionally, seven organizations had programs targeting their local K-12 schools, getting kids out into the forest.

Wells Gray Community Forest (WGCF)

The WGCF strongly supports and promotes National Forestry Week. We coordinate a week of educational events for the community and host a field trip with a big lunch.



School field trip in the Nakusp and Area Community Forest.
Photo by Frances Swan

INDICATOR #12: INVESTMENTS IN RECREATION

One of the most significant benefits for many communities that hold CFAs 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 made by the community forest organizations, and the kilometres of trail built or maintained. Respondents also included investment in recreation features & trails outside the boundaries of the community forest.

Results

SUMMARY OF TOTAL VALUE OF INVESTMENTS IN RECREATION

TOTAL \$ INVESTED IN RECREATION	
Number of responses	34
Total	\$485,955
Average	\$ 14,293
Number who made investments in recreation	23
Average of those that invested	\$21,129
Minimum	\$700
Maximum	\$150,006

SUMMARY OF KILOMETRES OF TRAIL IN THE REPORTING PERIOD

NUMBER OF KILOMETRES OF TRAIL	
Number of responses	32
Total	284
Average	9
Number of CFs that built and maintained trails	14
Average kms of those that built & maintained trails	20
Minimum	2
Maximum	60

McLeod Lake Mackenzie Community Forest

At the McLeod Lake Mackenzie Community Forest, there was a block of timber with extensive cross-country ski trails traversing it; this block had been destroyed by the mountain pine beetle. Following consultation with the ski club, an agreement was struck to use the trails in the summer/fall as logging roads on condition that the trails be cleared, widened and realigned in sections to accommodate a large groomer. This was completed successfully and one block road was adopted as a new ski trail.

Many community forests are managed for the community to enjoy a range of recreational activities. As community forests often surround communities, they provide for prime recreation areas and features such as cross-country skiing, mountain biking and walking trails. Ultimately, investment in this recreational infrastructure supports the health and well-being of the community while also contributing to local economic development.



Lower North Thompson Community Forest Society (LNTCFS)

The first phase of our 2016 Job Creation Partnerships (JCP) program, the Little Fort Trails Restoration Project, ran from April to August 2016, employing a supervisor and four participants. They gained work experience and training while doing trail restoration work in the Little Fort area. This work included the historic Hudson's Bay Company Brigade Trail from Eakin Creek to Lynn Lake.

Restoring the Hudson's Bay Trail. Photo by LNTCFS

Cascade Lower Canyon Community Forest (CLCCF)

The CLCCF partnered on one project with a local outdoor organization to regain access to two important hiking trails. The CLCCF paid for and completed the road improvements while the hiking group provided labour to do the roadside brushing for better vehicle access to the trail heads.

Powell River Community Forest

We made extensive improvements to trail head parking areas, making access easier for recreational users. A large portion of our grant funding goes to recreation projects every year.



Kaslo & District Community Forest. Photo by Kellie Knoll

INDICATOR #13: PROACTIVE MANAGEMENT OF WILDFIRE HAZARD

Community forests are situated in the interface between communities and wild forest lands (the wildland urban interface, or WUI) 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 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. They also reported on collaboration with their local governments on the provincial Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative.

Results

SUMMARY OF THE TOTAL VALUE OF INVESTMENTS TO REDUCE WILDFIRE HAZARD

TOTAL \$ INVESTED TO REDUCE WILDFIRE	
Number of responses	33
Total	\$676,321
Average	\$20,494
Number of CFs that made investments to reduce wildfire hazard	13
Average of those that invested	\$52,025
Minimum	\$1,000
Maximum	\$500,000

SUMMARY OF NUMBER OF HECTARES TREATED IN THE REPORTING PERIOD

NUMBER OF HECTARES TREATED	
Number of responses	33
Total	950
Average	29
Number of CFs that treated forest land to reduce wildfire hazard	10
Average # of hectares treated	95
Minimum	6
Maximum	388



Logan Lake is Fire Smart.
Photo by Forsite Consultants Ltd.

To date, the reporting community forests have collectively treated 3,522 hectares and invested over \$1.8 million for wildfire mitigation. They managed an additional \$4.6 million from outside sources.

70% of respondents collaborated with their local government on Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative projects.



Wildfire management in the Westbank Community Forest. Photo by Dave Gill

The need to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire to protect health and safety is ever present. In the reporting year, through their own funding and in kind efforts, respondents treated over 950 hectares, and a total of 3,522 hectares to date. Funding from external sources is crucial 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.

Williams Lake Community Forest

Our community forest will undertake a pilot project through the Forest Enhancement Society to create a landscape-level fuel break to protect our community. Funding commitments are in hand and implementation is now underway.

Creston Valley Community Forest

We partnered with the Town of Creston to implement a FireSmart program and worked with them to obtain funding for and implement a FireSmart community ambassador program. The job of the ambassador is to educate the public on measures they can take to protect their homes and property from wildfire. The Community Forest has also worked with the Town to obtain funding, and are currently working on updating the Town's Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

West Boundary Community Forest

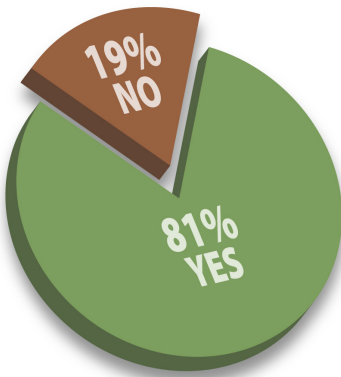
Through the Forest Enhancement Society of BC and Land Based Investment Strategy, we secured funding for two ecosystem restoration projects focused on fuel management and wildfire prevention. One project was outside the City of Grand Forks and the other beside the community of Rock Creek.

INDICATOR #14: FOREST WORKER SAFETY

One of the provincial government’s objectives for the community forest program is to advocate for forest worker safety. Survey respondents reported on whether 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 and severity of incidents further demonstrates how community forests are meeting safety objectives in their operations.

Results

SUMMARY OF ORGANIZATIONS REQUIRING
EMPLOYEES/CONTRACTORS TO BE SAFE CERTIFIED



Photos by Powell River Community Forest

Number of responses 36

SUMMARY OF NUMBER OF RECORDABLE INCIDENTS IN THE REPORTING YEAR

NUMBER AND SEVERITY OF INCIDENTS	
Minor	14
Serious (requiring attention)	4
Fatality	1
Total	41

Kaslo and District Community Forest has a safety supervisor who works with the contractors to prevent incidents. Safety site reviews are conducted monthly. There were no injury incidents reported in 2016.

Eighty-one percent of respondents require their employees and contractors to be Safe Certified. This is an increase from 67% in 2015. In the reporting year, there were 41 recordable incidents, five of which prevented a worker from returning to work. We are sad to report that there was one fatal injury in the reporting year. A landslide originated several hundred metres above an active cut block. The resulting debris torrent, although fairly narrow, swept through the active block at the exact time a logging truck was in the danger zone and the driver was fatally injured.

Community forest organizations believe in safety and most 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 with the BC Forest Safety Council, is developing materials to encourage woodlot and CFA holders to develop more robust safety programs, and to inform them of their responsibilities with respect to maintaining a safe work environment.⁸

Nakusp and Area Community Forest (NACFOR) requires major logging and road construction contractors to be Safe Certified and small one or two person contractors to be registered with the BC Forest Safety Council and have a current safety plan. All contractors and consultants working for NACFOR must have a safety plan approved by NACFOR management.

Logger training in the Nakusp and Area Community Forest.
Photo by Frances Swan

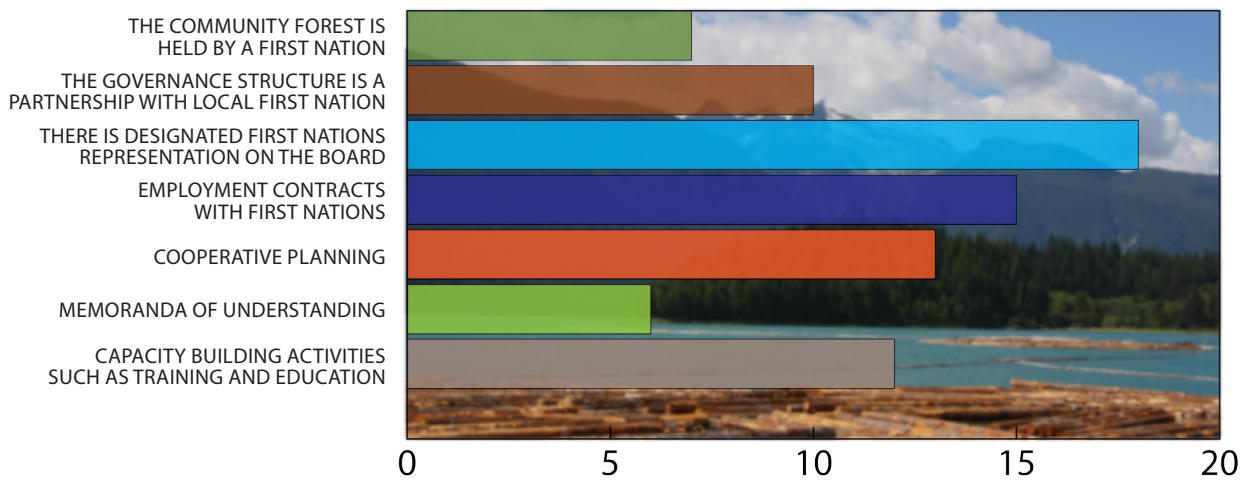


⁸ See www.bccfaca for details

INDICATOR #15: FIRST NATIONS INVOLVEMENT

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. Nearly half of the operating community forests in BC are held by First Nations or are partnerships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous 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 Nations within whose traditional territory the community forest is located.

Results



Nineteen percent of survey respondents are CFs that are held by First Nations, and an additional 27% are partnerships. Forty-nine percent have First Nations representation on their board of directors.

The results of this question demonstrate that many types of agreements and relationships have been created to improve communication and build relationships for the long term. While each Indigenous and non-Indigenous community is unique, community forests are demonstrating that there are many ways to work together and much to learn from each other.

Williams Lake Community Forest

Our organization is a partnership between the City of Williams Lake and the Williams Lake Indian Band. As a new Community Forest, there is a need for place names, road names, and historical information. We are fortunate to be able to rely on an elder from the community to help with such knowledge.

Sunshine Coast Community Forest

We have criteria in our bid packages that give points for employing First Nation members, sub-contractors or contractors. In addition, the local First Nation performs the Archeological Assessments on all blocks in our tenure.

Powell River Community Forest

There is a local First Nation joint venture company that bids successfully on some of our logging packages. The First Nation has a large community forest chart beyond ours and as a result, we have a joint use agreement and have had several large road maintenance projects to improve shared roads.



Photo by Gord Chipman

INDICATOR #16: MANAGEMENT OF SENSITIVE AREAS

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

SUMMARY OF THE AREA IN COMMUNITY FORESTS THAT IS SENSITIVE

SENSITIVE AREAS	
Number of responses	29
Percentage of total area that is sensitive	43%
Percentage of sensitive area that is operable	67%
Percentage of total area that is sensitive & operable	29%

Thirty-four percent of 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.

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 can 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.

Esk’etemc Community Forest

We have been managing a Douglas Fir Bark beetle population over the past couple of years. This has forced us to go into Mule Deer Winter Ranges and Old Growth Management Areas. Most of our operations are in sensitive areas.

Nakusp and Area Community Forest (NACFOR)

Treatment includes single tree and group retention for visuals, strip or small patch cuts and partial cut harvest systems to protect mushroom habitat, implementing recommendations by the geotech in potential unstable and unstable terrain, timber harvesting development using small openings and temporary road construction to protect wildlife and water values.

INDICATOR #17: INVESTMENTS IN FOREST STEWARDSHIP

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 and planning, and monitoring and research, including inventory and extra surveys that are above and beyond legal requirements.

Results

SUMMARY OF VALUE OF INVESTMENTS IN ENHANCED OR MODIFIED MANAGEMENT FOR ECOLOGICAL OR SOCIAL REASONS

TOTAL \$ INVESTMENT IN ENHANCED MANAGEMENT	
Number of responses	35
Total \$	\$1,512,016
Number of CFs that invested in enhanced management	14
Average of those who invested	\$108,001
Minimum	\$6,517
Maximum	\$500,000



A bear den in the Powell River Community Forest

SUMMARY OF NUMBER OF HECTARES (HA) TREATED WITHIN THE CF AND OUTSIDE THE BOUNDARIES

NUMBER OF HECTARES TREATED WITHIN AND OUTSIDE CF	
Number of responses	35
Total ha	49,919
Number of CFs that treated forest land	11
Average # ha treated	4,538
Minimum	2
Maximum	47,076

With the understanding that healthy forest ecosystems are the basis of healthy local economies, community forest organizations are making significant investments in the ecological integrity of the forests they manage. In cases where the community forest organization has made forest stewardship a high priority, it can mean greater costs for forest management.

Examples of stewardship activities cited in the survey include:

- › Detailed aerial root disease and bark beetle mapping.
- › Enhanced inventory analysis on the whole license utilizing LiDAR.
- › Enhanced lakeshore management.
- › Forest Stewardship Council Certification that requires a large investment in enhanced management.
- › Produced an Integrated Management Plan mapped additional voluntary protection areas, primarily old forest, for both environmental and recreational objectives.



Photo by Brian Smart

Photo by Brian Smart



Sunshine Coast Community Forest

We created some new red-legged frog habitat in one of our cut-blocks as a trial. We will monitor the results and have other areas selected for future work if our habitat creation efforts are successful.

McLeod Mackenzie Community Forest (MLMCF)

In conjunction with John Prince Research Forest, MLMCF is involved with an operational trial to assess the effectiveness of Coarse Woody Debris (CWD) corridors in cut blocks to create habitat and facilitate movement of furbearers. To that end, 17 CWD corridors over 6 blocks were constructed. These corridors will be monitored throughout this winter. Eventual outcome will be a research publication that reports on findings.

Burns Lake Community Forest

We are completing detailed assessments using the latest technologies available (i.e. LiDAR) to show our commitments to managing the community forest in a sustainable manner and balancing the social, economic and environmental values.

INDICATOR #18: COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS

This indicator shows whether 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 of 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

NUMBER OF FLNRO COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT INSPECTIONS CONDUCTED

NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS & DETERMINATIONS	
Number of responses	35
Total inspections	30
Determinations issued against the CF	3

As demonstrated through the benefits measured by the first 17 indicators, community forest organizations are doing an excellent 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 BC and Canada. The results of this indicator show positive results in this third reporting year.

Tumbler Ridge Community Forest

Our 2016 Forest Planning and Practices audit was conducted by the Forest Practices Board in September for our entire area. The audit revealed compliance in all significant respects with the Forest Range and Practices Act, the Wildfire Act and related regulations. The report goes on to say “All activities were well done including harvesting the fire interface areas adjacent to Tumbler Ridge”.



Photo by Susan Mulkey



Photo by Kellie Knoll



Photo by Steve Law

CONTACT US
BC Community Forest Association

130 Government Street
Victoria BC V8V 2K7 Canada
250 384-4110

info@bccfa.ca
www.bccfa.ca

