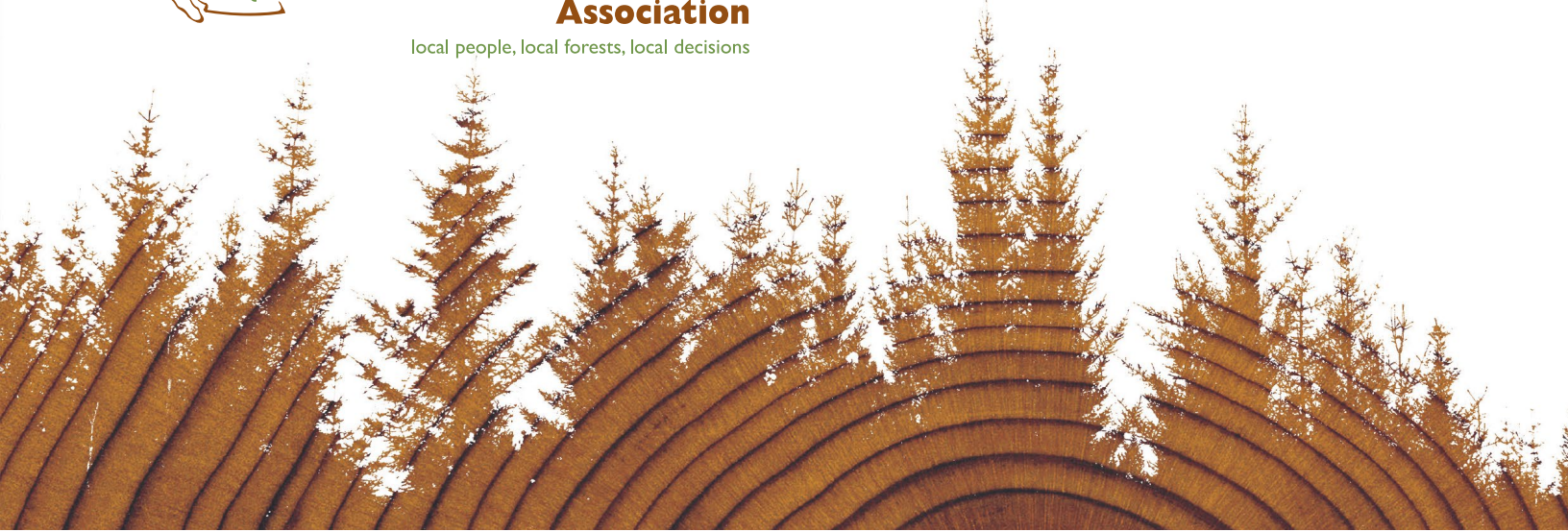




British Columbia  
**Community  
Forest  
Association**  
local people, local forests, local decisions



# COMMUNITY FOREST INDICATORS 2020

MEASURING THE BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY FORESTRY

OCTOBER 2020





WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK everyone who devoted time and effort to respond to the Community Forest Indicators Survey. This project would not be possible without the participation of our members. Thank you also to the British Columbia Community Forest Association Board of Directors for guidance and support.

This report is based on the last fiscal year for our members, primarily 2018-2019, however we compiled the survey results and wrote this report during the spring and summer months of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Throughout the pandemic, community forests have shown remarkable resilience. There have been numerous logistical challenges and an increased administrative burden to ensure the safety of their crews and communities. Markets slowed down for many and plans had to change. Yet, with their long term, area-based tenures and a pledge to their communities to manage local forests for the benefit of the community, they have kept their crews going, refocused harvesting plans to activities like wildfire mitigation projects, and carried on with educational tours, community networking and outreach. They are demonstrating resiliency and flexibility and community forests are once again proving their ability to innovate to meet current and future challenges.

Our members shared more stories through the survey than can fit in this report. We will keep telling them throughout the year. Follow us on social media to learn more about their accomplishments — the links are below.

— Jennifer Gunter, BCCFA Executive Director and  
Susan Mulkey, BCCFA Manager of Communication & Extension



@BC\_CFA



@bccommunityforests



@bc\_cfa

## COMMUNITY FOREST INDICATORS 2020 MEASURING THE BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY FORESTRY

October 2020

Cover photo, Creston Valley Community Forest, by Trevor Marzke

Graphic design by Nadene Rehnby, Hands on Publications



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**Community  
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PHOTO: WETZIN'KWA COMMUNITY FOREST

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# COMMUNITY FORESTS IN BC

■ = Contributed to the *Community Forest Indicators 2020* report

100 Mile Community Forest

Alberni Valley Community Forest

Babine Lake Community Forest

Bamfield-Huu-ay-aht Community Forest

Barkley Community Forest

Bella Coola Resource Society

Burns Lake Community Forest

Cascade Lower Canyon Community Forest

Cheakamus Community Forest

Cherryville Community Forest

Cheslatta Carrier Nation

Chinook Community Forest

Clinton & District Community Forest

Cortes Forestry General Partnership

Creston Valley Community Forest

Dungate Community Forest

Dunster Community Forest

Eniyud Community Forest

Esk'etemc Community Forest

Fort St. James Community Forest

Fraser Lake Community Forest

Harrop-Procter Community Forest

Huu-ay-aht First Nation Forestry

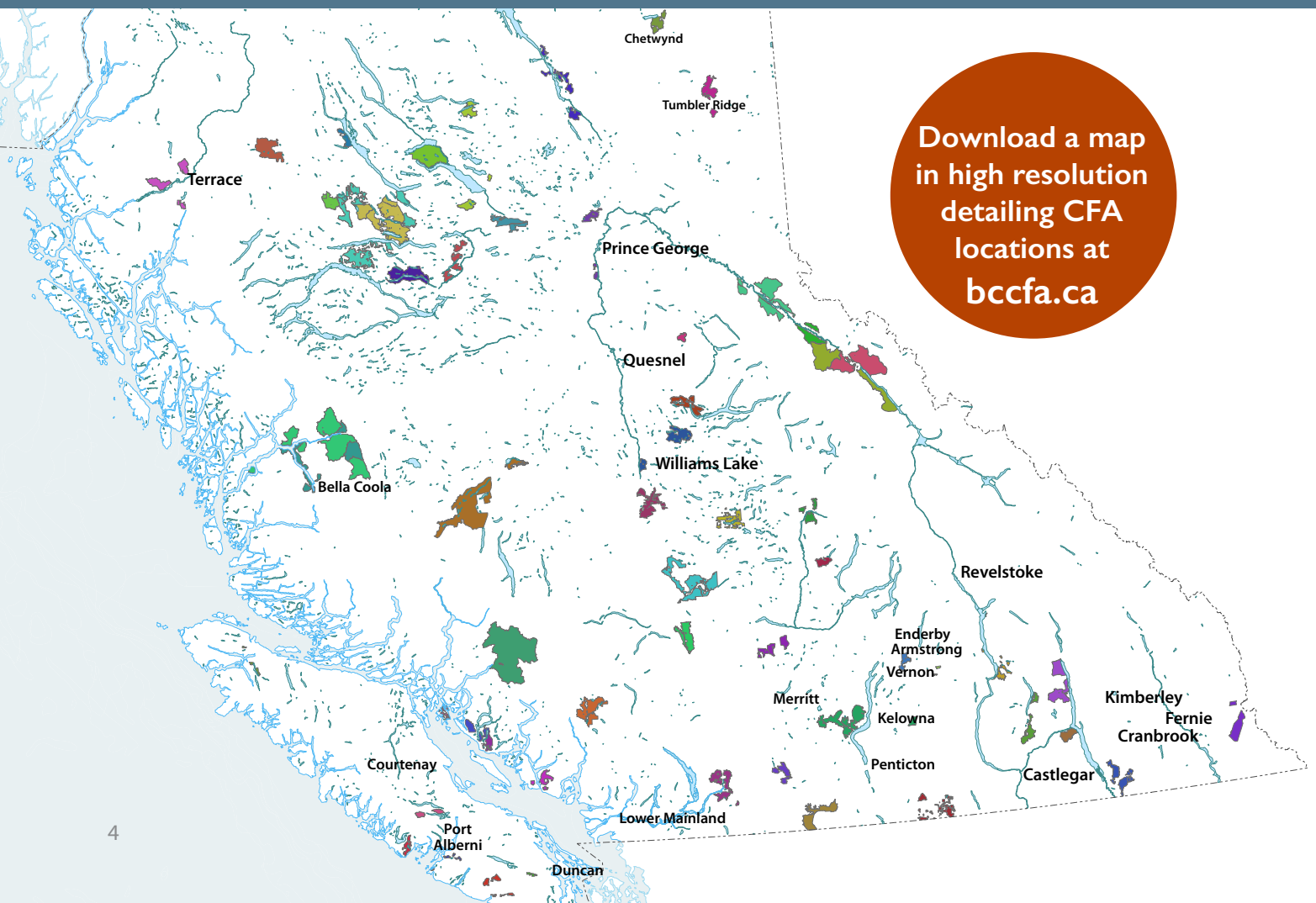
Kaslo and District Community Forest

Khowutzun Community Forest

Klahoose Forestry Limited Partnership

Likely-Xats'ull Community Forest

Little Prairie Community Forest





Logan Lake Community Forest

Lower North Thompson Community Forest

Lower Similkameen Community Forest

McBride Community Forest

McLeod Lake-Mackenzie Community Forest

Monashee Community Forest

Nakusp & Area Community Forest

North Island Community Forest

Northern Rockies Community Forest

Nupqu Development Corporation

Nuxalk Forestry Limited Partnership

Powell River Community Forest

Qala:yit Forestry Limited Partnership

Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative

Sunshine Coast Community Forest

Tanizul Timber Ltd.

Tano T'enneh

Terrace Community Forest

Tla'amin Timber Products

Tumbler Ridge Community Forest

Valemont Community Forest

Vanderhoof Community Forest

Vermillion Forks Community Forest

Wells Gray Community Forest

Wells-Barkerville Community Forest

West Boundary Community Forest

Westbank First Nation Community Forest

Wetzin'kwa Community Forest

Williams Lake Community Forest

Xaxli'p Community Forest

## **PROFILE: Leveraging Funds, Investment and Community Awareness and the Lower North Thompson Community Forest**

"Through our Firewood Business Development Project, the Lower North Thompson Community Forest was able to leverage \$32,023 in cash and in-kind contributions to receive a \$100,000 grant from the BC Rural Dividend Fund. The objective of this project was to expand upon our current milling operation based in Barriere by developing a small firewood processing facility to utilize waste material from our mill as well as low value logs that would otherwise have been wasted and burned in slash-piles. The project saw the purchase of a firewood processor, construction of a shelter, and created one permanent full-time position. Response to the project has been strong with \$69,000 in revenue through local sales during our first winter of operation. We continue to expand and develop this aspect of our business as a means of job creation, community service, and economic diversification for our organization."

— Mike Francis, General Manager,  
Lower North Thompson Community Forest



PHOTO: LNTCF

**"I think selling firewood has raised our profile and general awareness of our organization more than anything we've done previously. The sheer volume of people we talk to through firewood sales is much larger than any community meeting or event we've held or attended. It's an additional community role we've taken on that brings awareness of our organization and the benefits we provide, which in turn helps build social licence."**

— Mike Francis

# Executive Summary

## IN BRITISH COLUMBIA, COMMUNITY FORESTS

offer local communities, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, the opportunity to manage local forests in ways that work for their communities—generating economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits for the people that live there and for the province as a whole. Operating on public forest land, community forest tenures are an innovation. From local job creation to forest education, from wildfire management to enhancing recreation, from ecosystem restoration to contributions to local service organizations—community forest organizations demonstrate how solutions can be found when local people make local decisions about local forests.

This report shares the results of the BC Community Forest Association's sixth Community Forest Indicators Survey and provides a glimpse into the depth and breadth of the benefits of community forestry. Eighteen indicators provide tangible, quantitative information on the economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits that community forests generate. Thirty-two community forests participated in the 2019/2020 survey, providing data from their last reporting year, specific to their operations. This sample represents 73 percent of the operating community forests in the BC Community Forest Association. Most are small rural communities, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, with an average population of 3,965. In fact most respondents represent communities of under 3,000 people.

Even before the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic were being realized<sup>1</sup>, these small commu-

ities were feeling the impacts of the mill curtailments and closures across BC. As land managers and log sellers, fluctuating log markets directly affect management decisions and the financial health of the organization. However, the strong foundations of the long-term tenure are helping community forests manage the changes over time. As independent log sellers, community forests have flexibility and can respond to local and regional market demand. The ability to provide a

secure source of fibre to manufacturers and value-added businesses can leverage new opportunities and expand existing ones. Moreover, community forests are thinking long-term and planning for the ecological resiliency of their area-based tenures.

Community forestry is a strategy to promote ecosystem resilience and community economic development. Communities need both to move forward.

The most dramatic change in this year's survey results is the increase in spending on wildfire risk reduction—both through a community forest's own investment, and investment from outside sources. The BCCFA would like to acknowledge the Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC) for support to community forests to reduce forest fuels and the risk of wildfire and to move uneconomic wood to the appropriate facility to reduce the need to burn slash piles. These types of projects are costly, time consuming, and extract marginal timber, but the benefits to the community are immeasurable, making them more resilient to wildfire and contributing to BC's efforts to reduce carbon emissions. With the provincial government's



WEST BOUNDARY COMMUNITY FOREST  
WILDFIRE MITIGATION PUBLIC MEETING

<sup>1</sup> Note: The data in this year's report was collected prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.



**Total harvest in the reporting year: 1,026,811 m<sup>3</sup>**  
**Average: 32,088 m<sup>3</sup>**

new Community Resilience Initiative — Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction program, we look forward to a successful collaboration to ensure community forests can continue this important work.

### **Economic Benefits**

This year's results show that community forests are creating 85% more jobs/ m<sup>3</sup> than the industry average in their forestry, logging and support services. They operate in sensitive areas and are meeting their cut control while reliably supplying logs to both major processing facilities and small manufacturers. They generated \$1.84 million in economic activity, on average, and contributed an average of \$558,309 cash and in-kind to local projects.

### **Social Benefits**

Community forests are primarily located in the land surrounding communities where there are many overlapping values, known as the wildland urban interface, or WUI. Increasingly, British Columbians understand the urgent need to manage these areas to adapt to climate change and mitigate the risk of catastrophic wildfire. The survey results demonstrate that many community forests are leaders in the proactive management of wildfire hazard. Eighty-one percent of survey respondents have collaborated with their local government on wildfire planning and preparedness.

Evidence of the urgency of the problem and of the leadership role that community forest organizations are playing, this year's results show a tripling of the community forests' own investments from a total of \$794,987 last year to \$2,682,196 this year. On average, community forests treated 96 hectares and spent \$127,724 of their own funds to reduce wildfire risk in

the reporting year. To date, the reporting community forests have collectively treated 12,857 ha and invested over \$6.1 million for wildfire mitigation. They have managed an additional \$14.2 million from outside sources.

### **Cultural Benefits**

Nearly half of the operating community forests in BC are held by First Nations or are partnerships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. In addition to community forests where First Nations are owners or partners, many community forest organizations include First Nations representation on their boards. In many cases, First Nations are engaged in cooperative planning, share profits, have MOUs and employment contracts, and work with community forest organizations in capacity building activities like training and education.

### **Environmental Benefits**

A community with a long-term, area-based tenure is motivated to manage for ecosystem resilience and to invest for the future. Communities that manage community forests are directly affected by their forest management decisions. For this reason, Community Forest holders are considering a range of objectives including enhanced forest stewardship and the conservation of ecologically and culturally significant areas and values. This year's survey respondents collectively invested \$2.2 million in enhanced forest stewardship, above and beyond legal requirements. This is up from \$1.9 million the year before.

Background information on the Community Forest Indicators survey questions and methodology as well as an electronic copy of this report can be found at: [bccfa.ca/category/indicators/](http://bccfa.ca/category/indicators/).

# The Context

**THE COMMUNITY FOREST AGREEMENT** (community forest) is an area-based licence that provides the exclusive right to harvest timber within the community forest area, and the right to manage botanical forest products. Licences are long-term, 25 years, replaceable every 10. Since the development of the community forest tenure in 1998, BC has issued 58 community forests with another five formally in the application process. These licences are held by a variety of community-based legal entities, including Limited Partnerships, Societies, Co-Ops, Indigenous and local governments. Collectively, over 100 Indigenous and rural communities are involved in community forestry in BC. Half of the operating community forests are held by First Nations or a partnership between an Indigenous and non-Indigenous community.

The community forest tenure was developed to give local communities the opportunity to manage local forests for the benefit of those communities, in a manner consistent with locally defined objectives and values.

**The community forest tenure is unique in the province for several reasons:**

1. The ownership of the tenure is exclusively local, and the organization that holds the licence must represent the local community. Profits do not leave the community to benefit distant shareholders.
2. There is a comprehensive application process that includes the requirement to demonstrate local community engagement and support.
3. The Licence Document and Management Plan must:
  - Contain the broad social, economic and resource management goals proposed for the community forest;
  - Identify the linkage between the community forest goals and the provincial Community Forest Program goals (below); and
  - Include a plan for annual reporting out to the community.



**Class of 2019 Master of Sustainable Forest Management at UBC on a field tour to Harrop-Procter Community Forest.**

PHOTO: SUSAN MULKEY



Community forests reflect the ecological and cultural diversity of BC. They exist in many types of forests and terrain. They range in size from 361 to 160,000 hectares, with a current annual harvest from 860 m<sup>3</sup> to 225,000,m<sup>3</sup>.

### The Provincial Government's Goals for the Community Forest Program further set the tenure apart. The Goals are to:

1. Provide long-term opportunities for achieving a range of community objectives, values and priorities.
2. Diversify the use of and benefits derived from the community forest agreement area.
3. Provide social and economic benefits to British Columbia.
4. Undertake community forestry consistent with sound principles of environmental stewardship that reflect a broad spectrum of values.
5. Promote community involvement and participation.
6. Promote communication and strengthen relationships between aboriginal and non-aboriginal communities and persons.
7. Foster innovation.
8. Advocate forest worker safety.

Community forests in BC reflect the ecological and cultural diversity of BC. They exist in many types of forests and terrain. They range in size from 361 to 160,000 hectares, with a current annual harvest from 860 m<sup>3</sup> to 225,000,m<sup>3</sup>.

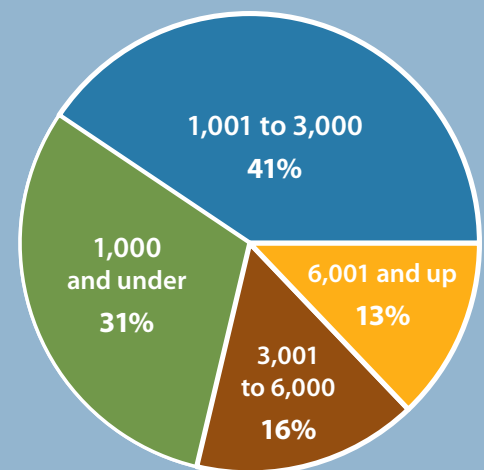
Community forests work under the same rules as the rest of the forest industry in BC. They are governed by the Forest Act and the Forest and Range Practices Act, and all other applicable statutes and regulations. They pay stumpage (fees paid for harvesting timber from Crown land in BC) based on a tabular rate system that recognizes the Community Forest Program goals and the unique conditions under which they operate.

**"Eliminating slash pile burning is a low hanging fruit as far as carbon emissions go. You're avoiding emitting the carbon on day one — it has a benefit right away. Using carbon dollars to fund fuel treatment, which has a carbon benefit, is a win-win."**

**— Erik Leslie, Manager at the Harrop-Procter Community Forest**

## Population of Reporting Communities

*What is the population directly served by your community forest?*



Minimum population: 220

Maximum population: 25,000

Average population: 3,965

### ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS REPORT

AAC = Allowable Annual Cut

CF = Community forest\*

CFA = Community forest agreement

Ha = Hectares

PY = Person Year of Employment.  
One PY, considered 1 full time job = 1,750 hours.

M<sup>3</sup> = cubic metres of wood

\*Note: BCCFA often uses the term "community forest" to refer to the organization that holds a community forest agreement.

# Featured Community Forests

A FEW STORIES HAVE BEEN SELECTED from the dozens and dozens received through the survey to highlight the capacity of community forests to contribute to solutions to meet current and future challenges. As BC turns its attention to policy reform and transition planning that supports resilient forestry communities, that reconfigures relationships with Indigenous communities, and takes on the challenges of climate change and the risk of wildfire, community forests are an immediate and accessible tool to employ.

## Social Licence and Wetzin'Kwa Community Forest

"The challenges of operating a successful community forest tenure are vast. The work of acquiring and maintaining social licence is complicated. Wetzin'Kwa works very hard to ensure there is an open and transparent process when it comes to future harvesting plans, we coordinate with multiple stakeholders around management strategies specific to known landscape values. We report on accomplishments and failures and above all else we talk to people. We are not unique in this regard.

We know that every community forest works very hard to share and communicate with the people who are interested in the values the community forest contains. We believe that doing what you say and saying what you do is an excellent way to build relationships that lead to social licence to operate. We also know that what we did yesterday may not be good enough tomorrow and we attempt to adapt as values on the land base change. We recognize that we cannot expect every neighbour or interested stakeholder to endorse our activities. We consider all of the input we receive in an effort to find a balance that fits as best as possible into societal expectations. All the while striving to ensure operations remain profitable so that funds are available to the community at large for use as they see fit."

— Jay Baker, Manager Wetzin'Kwa Community Forest



SOURCE: WETZIN'KWA COMMUNITY FOREST

## Burns Lake Community Forest Ltd (BLCF)

The Burns Lake Community Forest (BLCF) Ltd. was the very first to be selected for the Community Forest Pilot Program in 1998. In 2004, they became the first to be awarded a long-term community forest agreement. The Village of Burns Lake is the sole shareholder. The Wet'suwet'en First Nation, Office of the Wet'suwet'en and the Ts'il Kaz Koh First Nation (Burns Lake Band) all have a seat on the board and directly receive a portion of the annual profit. Three more board members from the community-at-large are appointed by the Village of Burns Lake. Burns Lake became the second community forest to become certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). They are audited annually by the FSC



**First Nation Capacity Building:** “As part of our Boer Mountain Project hazard abatement we recognized a need for a small chipper. BLCF covered the upfront cost of the chipper and offered a contract for works associated with the use of the chipper to a local First Nation company. Through this contract the First Nation company was able to fully pay off the chipper and now has increased local capacity to carry out fuel mitigation and brushing throughout the year.” — Frank Varga, Burns Lake Community Forest



PHOTO: BURNS LAKE COMMUNITY FOREST

international standards which ensure that the wood harvested is responsibly managed, socially beneficial, environmentally conscious, and economically viable.

### Harvesting Techniques & Innovation

“The BLCF purchased a Ponsse Simulator, a video-based harvester and forwarder computer that helps machine operators learn the process of equipment operations in a classroom type setting. This simulator is specific to single tree selection system whereby each tree is individually harvested, processed, and forwarded. The simulator controls are specific to Ponsse’s equipment, however, the principles of how harvesters and forwarders work are fairly universal, making the simulator applicable to other types of machinery.

In a European natural resource program, such simulators are part of the curriculum in training and development of future forest professionals. Locally we have two companies that are committed to supporting this training process, and we are currently working with local post-secondary institutions to incorporate the simulator into a training and development initiative.

The Ponsse allows our operation to deploy partial harvest techniques to better manage for multiple values in our area-based tenure. It really helps fulfill our commitment to the community for innovation

and demonstrates that we are getting away from all blocks being clear cuts, and that we are into a different management style — single tree selection.”

— Frank Varga, Manager, Burns Lake Community Forest

### Enhanced Forest Stewardship at Nakusp and Area Community Forest (NACFOR)

“In 2018, with support from the Interior Working Group of forest licencees, NACFOR developed a strategy to manage for migratory birds on the community forest. This non-legal guidance document provides a framework for management practices and procedures to protect bird species. The beneficial management practices apply to primary forest management and are implemented at all stages of operations, during planning, harvesting, and silviculture activities. In 2020, NACFOR will be testing a new survey method in active blocks to record bird song and identify breeding species during the nesting period.”



**The Southern Five:** The five community forests in the south east meet regularly to talk about their shared challenges, successes, and innovations.

PHOTO: FRANCES SWAN

# Indicator 1

## Number of Jobs

**LOCAL JOBS IN RURAL COMMUNITIES** are one of the primary benefits of community forests. This indicator measures the total direct employment and contract labour generated by community forests. By determining the number of person years of employment per 1,000 m<sup>3</sup> of timber harvested we can see the value, in terms of jobs, of the harvest volume allocated to community forests. Person year 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 all or part of their income from the community forest.

Number of Person Year (PY) <sup>a</sup> based on reported harvest of 1,026,811 m <sup>3</sup>				
Employment	Forestry, logging and support <sup>b</sup>	Trail building, firefighting, research etc.	Milling <sup>c</sup>	All activities <sup>d</sup>
Person years /1,000 m <sup>3</sup>	0.45	0.01	0.47	0.93
Average person years per community forest	14.38	0.35	14.83	29.65
Total person years	463.23	11.26	481.29	955.78

Notes: Analysis completed by Peak Solutions Consulting Inc. <sup>a</sup> In accordance with BC Stats, one Person Year (PY) is 1,750 hours. This replaces Full Time Equivalent (FTE) of 1,820 hours used in previous BCCFA reports. <sup>b</sup> Includes forest management, logging, hauling, road building, silviculture (planting, spacing pruning etc.), administration and accounting. <sup>c</sup> Milling employment is based on jobs with one job representing one person year in this report. According to Statistics Canada the average number of hours worked in 2018 for wood product manufacturing (BS321) workers in BC was 1,894 hours. <sup>d</sup> Sum of Person Years for forestry, logging, support services, trail building etc., and milling.



### BUILDING CAPACITY

**At West Boundary Community Forest,** “We hire Osoyoos Indian Band members to help layout blocks and learn about the development side of forestry. Band members work in our road building program, logging, and brush pile burning. This allows the First Nations to be involved in many stages in forestry, building capacity.”  
 — Dan Macmaster, Manager

PHOTO: DAN MACMASTER



Number of people who derived all or part of their income from the community forests:

**Total: 2,080**

**Average: 65**

Community forests created 0.45 full time local jobs/1,000 m<sup>3</sup> in forestry, logging, and support services. This is approximately 85% more than the industry average.<sup>1</sup> When employment in trail building, firefighting, and scientific study are included, the coefficient goes up to 0.46 jobs/1,000 cubic metres.



PHOTO: CREDIT FRANCES SWAN, MANAGEMENT TEAM NAKUSP AND AREA COMMUNITY FOREST

<sup>1</sup> Leng, Jiali, FLNRORD, personal communication July 8, 2020; FLNRORD. 2020. BC Major Primary Timber Processing BC 2018, [https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/forestry/fibre-mills/2018\\_mill\\_list\\_report\\_final.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/forestry/fibre-mills/2018_mill_list_report_final.pdf); Natural Resources Canada. 2019. Secondary manufacturing of solid wood products in British Columbia, <https://cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/authors/read/15709>

OF NOTE: 55,902 m<sup>3</sup> was sold to value added manufacturers, pole, veneer, plywood, & OSB facilities. Collectively, the mix of wood volume going to these mills in 2019 created a wood processing employment coefficient of 0.884. This means that the relatively small volume sold by community forests to those processing facilities resulted in 49.40 person years of wood processing employment. While impressive, this is a decline in volume from 80,729 m<sup>3</sup> and the 76.03 full-time jobs created by these processing categories in last year's survey from the volume of wood received from community forests.

# Indicator 2

## Total Economic Activity

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.

**COMMUNITY FORESTS ARE** community economic development enterprises that help to build a rural community’s self-reliance and resilience. 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.

Value of sales	
Average	\$2,437,731
Minimum	\$0
Maximum	\$9,935,000

Value of expenditures	
Average	\$1,844,572
Minimum	\$308
Maximum	\$7,200,000

This economic activity was generated by an average harvest of only 32,088 m³. Considering the average population of these communities is 3,965, community forests can be game changers for rural communities.

PHOTO: HUGH FLINTON, FOREST  
MANAGER, WILLIAMS LAKE  
COMMUNITY FOREST



### SPECIALTY LOG SORTS

“The **Williams Lake Community Forest (WLCF)** is an equal partnership between the Williams Lake Indian Band and the City of Williams Lake. During our logging operations, the community forest logging contractors do specialty log sorts in order to supply log home builders, timber framers, and small sawmills with log profiles that meet their specifications. Over the last three years WLCF has provided over 80 truckloads of log supplies to these local value-added companies.”



Indicator  
**3**

# Community Contributions

**PROFITS FROM COMMUNITY FORESTS** accrue directly to Indigenous and rural communities. The result is that many community forest organizations can make cash and in-kind contributions including dividends, grants, infrastructure improvements, special projects. In many cases, these payments serve social, cultural and environmental objectives, in addition to economic ones.

Total cash contributed to the community	
Total	\$17,183,947
Average	\$536,998

In the reporting year, 84% of respondents made cash contributions in their communities. On average, they contributed \$536,998 with an additional \$21,311 in in-kind contributions. The total in-kind contribution of the respondents was nearly \$700,000.

## SUPPORTING COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

**“Burns Lake Community Forest (BLCF)** contributes to local not-for-profit volunteer organizations that make our community a better place to live. The BLCF generously supports community initiatives and has contributed more than \$2.5 million since its inception in 2000, plus in-kind support to more than 90 organizations and projects within the community. Our in-kind contribution this year was primarily to support capacity building and training for First Nation community contractors and wildfire hazard abatement activities.”— Frank Varga, Manager



PHOTO: BURNS LAKE COMMUNITY FOREST

Average cash and in-kind contributions:  
**\$558,309**

### Sample contributions:

- **Eniyud Community Forest:** \$500 provided to each partner for their Christmas food hamper programs.
- **Nakusp and Area Community Forest:** Donations were approved for 21 projects, helping to fund a wide variety of projects in the Nakusp and Arrow Lakes area.
- **Harrop-Procter Community Co-operative:** In-kind contributions include setting aside firewood for public use, work on recreation trails and snow plowing.
- **Little Prairie Community Forest (LPCF):** Provided dividends to each of the 3 Partners: The District of Chetwynd, the Saulteau First Nations and West Moberly First Nations. The LPCF also sponsored cultural events for the two First Nations partners and provided sponsorship for the Chetwynd Chainsaw Carving Championship.

# Indicator 4

## Funds Leveraged

Total \$ raised for projects from outside sources:

**\$3,320,497**

an average of \$276,708 for those that leveraged



The local mountain bike trails group secured funding by matching dollars from the **Wells Gray Community Forest**.

PHOTO: LAURA STANTON IN THE WETZIN'KWA COMMUNITY FOREST

**THE PROFITS GENERATED**, and contributions made by community forests are often used as seed money to grow larger projects and create even more local benefits. This indicator shows how CF funds are used to leverage additional funds for community priorities.

Community forests can use their profits to attract even greater benefits to their communities. Fifty-seven percent of respondents said they leveraged the community forest's funds to bring in additional dollars. The total of \$3.3 million is down from \$5.3 million reported last year, but higher than the \$2.7 leveraged the year before that.

For example:

- The **McLeod Lake Mackenzie Community Forest** approved \$84,355 in project funding in 2019. Project proponents leveraged this investment through project partnerships totalling \$198,497. In 2019, this outside funding supported the purchase of a ski trail groomer, Tse'Khene Cultural Gatherings, and the implementation of forestry field trip modules for a school ecology program.



At **Creston Community Forest**, "After an upfront investment by the community forest in wildfire mitigation, we received a grant for \$667,000 from the Forest Enhancement Society. With matching funds from the community forest, we received \$22,500 from Columbia Basin Trust for trail building. We also received \$5,280 from the Government of Canada for the Summer Student Grant to subsidize the wages of our summer student." — Daniel Gratton, Manager

PHOTO: TREVOR MARZKE



# Cut Control

**COMMUNITY FORESTS PLAY** an active role in the forest sector through timber harvesting. This indicator measures their success at meeting cut control requirements, keeping the supply of logs flowing into the market.

Seventy-five per cent of community forests reported being on track to meet their cut control, up from 72 per cent the year before.

This means that the majority are successfully harvesting the volume of timber allocated, and they are contributing logs to the market. Some of the main challenges faced by those that are not on track are the impacts of wildfire, poor markets, and that the AAC is not achievable in the tenure area.



PHOTO: SUSAN MULKEY

**75%** of community forests reported being on track to meet their cut control; up from 72% the year before.

**“Operating in a Community Watershed and a Special Management Zone under the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan has more required net downs than calculated by the province in determining our AAC.”**  
— **Chris Law, Manager, Alberni Valley Community Forest Corporation**

**“2019 was Year 1 of the current cut control period. We had just come off an uplift cut control period for beetle issues. We continue to work on beetle impacted stands and may need another uplift in this cut control period.”**  
— **Dan Boulianne, General Manager, McLeod Lake Mackenzie Community Forest**



# Indicator 6

## Distribution of Log Sales

Of the community forests that participated in the 2018/2019 survey:

**58% have markets for waste and residue,** up from 48% last year

**39% are actively seeking markets** for waste and residue, down from 58% last year



### CLINTON COMMUNITY FOREST PARTNERS TO SALVAGE BURNT TIMBER FROM THE 2017 ELEPHANT HILL WILDFIRE:

The CCF has been participating in a pulpwood grinding program of their salvaged timber, supported by the Forest Enhancement Society BC in partnership with Ledcor. With the shutdown of the Norbord OSB facility in 100 Mile House where the pulpwood used to go, the CCF and local woodlots are glad to have access to the program. The economics are break even at best, but still it is the best option to move the fibre forward. Ledcor has also ground/chipped the logging debris piles in the CCF's last two cutting permits." — Steve Law, Manager

CLINTON LOG YARD,  
PHOTO: SUSAN MULKEY

**COMMUNITY FORESTS SUPPLY LOGS** on the open market and strive to support the full spectrum of milling and manufacturing facilities.

Distribution of log sales	
Sales to very large mills > 850,000 m <sup>3</sup> /year	30.8%
Sales to large mills 295,000 m <sup>3</sup> – 850,000 m <sup>3</sup> /year	35.6%
Sales to medium mills 95,000 m <sup>3</sup> – 295,000 m <sup>3</sup> /year	6.6%
Sales to small mills < 95,000 m <sup>3</sup> /year	3.5%
Sales to mill owned by the community forest	0.3%
Sales to value-added mills	0.2%
Sales to pole, veneer, plywood & OSB	4.0%
Sales to facilities that use low quality fibre (chip, pellet, pulp & paper)	8.8%
Sales to shake and shingle mills	0.4%
Sales to firewood	0.4%
Logs exported	0.8%
Broker	8.6%

Where markets are diverse, community forests are able to sell to numerous buyers. The average number of bidders invited was 4.7, and on average, community forests sold logs to 3.6 different buyers. These figures vary greatly around the province, with two respondents selling to 10 different buyers in the reporting year.

**Wetzin'Kwa Community Forest Corporation** "takes pride in working with our community partners to develop better utilization of the timber resource while reducing the annual debris burning required for fire hazard abatement. WCFC delivered loads of firewood to the community of Witset First Nation (formerly known as Moricetown). Additional volume of non-sawlog material was also delivered to Seaton Forest Products for further processing. Finally, tops and logs with severe defects were made available for delivery to the Village of Telkwa for their bio heating system and to Pinnacle Pellet in Smithers. All of this volume would have been burnt during our fall fuel hazard abatement efforts in the past." — Jay Baker, Manager



WETZIN'KWA COMMUNITY FOREST BOARD. PHOTO: JAY BAKER

Indicator  
**7**

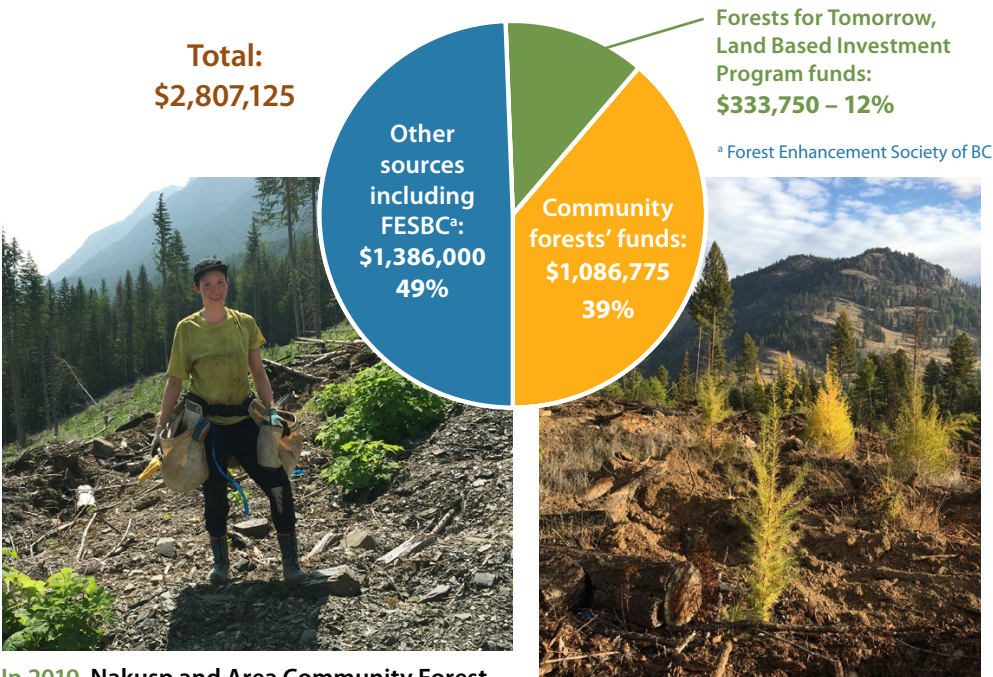
# Investments in Intensive Silviculture

**COMMUNITY FORESTS** have strong incentives to investment in the future productivity of the forest because they are long-term, area-based tenures held by local communities.

By measuring the investments in intensive silviculture that are above and beyond legal requirements, we see the efforts being made to increase the growing capacity in a community forest, with the intent of increasing the quality and quantity of timber over time. Activities include spacing, brushing, and enhanced genetic stock. Respondents reported the total treatment cost, including planning, development, and administration of these projects.

CFA investment in intensive silviculture	
Total	\$1,086,775
Average of those that invested	\$83,598

## Value and source of investment in intensive silviculture



In 2019, Nakusp and Area Community Forest purchased genetically improved seed for 81% of seedlings sown, planted 61 hectares prior to regeneration delay obligation date, brushed 19 hectares to improve regeneration survival and carried out stump removal to manage for *Armillaria ostoyae* root disease.

NACFOR PLANTER, PHOTO: FRANCES SWAN

West Boundary Community Forest planted an area that was deemed Not Sufficiently Restocked (NSR) many years ago, with financial assistance from the Land Based Investment (LBI) Forests for Tomorrow program.

WEST BOUNDARY, PHOTO: DAN MACMASTER

Respondents that made investments in incremental silviculture: **44%**, compared 56% the year prior.

Total investment: **\$2.8 million**, down from \$4 million in last year's survey, but up from \$2 million the year prior.

Area treated: **2,353 hectares**, averaging 157 hectares per respondent.

Community forests are proud to go beyond the minimum requirements to fulfill their silviculture obligations. Examples of investments made in the last fiscal include:

- Prompt regeneration with high genetic gain seed lots and tea bag fertilization of all seedlings planted to enhance growth and establishment.
- Pruning of deciduous to maintain a healthy, biodiverse stand.
- Stumping an area with high incidence of root rot from harvesting.
- Pre-commercial thinning.
- Fir spacing and rehabilitation treatments for low volume and damaged stands.



# Indicator 8

## Economic Diversification

Total value of  
diversified sales:

**\$2,689,434**

an average of  
\$448,239 for those  
that had revenue  
from diversified sales

**AN IMPORTANT PROVINCIAL GOAL** for the Community Forest Program is to diversify the use of and benefits derived from the community forest agreement area. This diversification can include the development of goods, like Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs)<sup>2</sup> such as berries or greenery, as well as the development of services.

More community forests are using their acquired expertise and equipment to diversify the revenue stream to the community forest organization and to keep their crews working. The Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative, Esk'etemc First Nation and Westbank First Nation Community Forests are all involved in activities including wildfire risk reduction prescriptions, fuel treatments and monitoring, habitat restoration including prescribed burns, and seed sales. The Lower North Thompson and Harrop-Procter Community Forests both have small value-added mills. The revenues and jobs associated with these mills broaden the economic impacts of the community forest operations beyond log sales.



PHOTO: LIKELY XAT'SULL COMMUNITY FOREST

<sup>2</sup> When it comes to NTFPs, to date community forests are generally not involved in commercial activity, beyond services. Their role is to facilitate access for the community and adapt the timber harvesting approach to protect the non-timber resources.



# Community Accountability

**THE COMMUNITY FOREST TENURE** is unique in BC in its requirements concerning community accountability. This indicator measures whether the community forest reports out annually to its community and describes the methods used to report.

Community forests must develop Management Plans that contain the broad social, economic and resource management goals proposed for the tenure. Setting them apart from other forest tenures, they must hold an annual meeting where they report to residents the community forest's performance on the commitments made in the Management Plan. They also employ a variety of communication strategies and tools, including field trips, social media, local newspapers, and open houses. With the feedback from this engagement, community forests find ways to be innovative and include multiple values in their decisions.



BARRIERE ELEMENTARY TREE PLANT, PHOTO: LOWER NORTH THOMPSON COMMUNITY FOREST

**97%** of survey respondents report annually to the community.

## Advice from a community forest manager:

- “Maintain an open-door policy. Listen and try to address concerns.
- Building relationships with First Nations, stakeholders, community organizations, and interested members of the public reduces conflict by improving understanding and recognition of common goals.
- Take on more non-legislated/social roles to help out your community; they appreciate it.”

— Mike Francis,  
Manager, Lower  
North Thompson  
Community Forest

# Indicator 10

## Public Engagement



### GOALS UPDATED IN COMMUNITY VISION SESSION

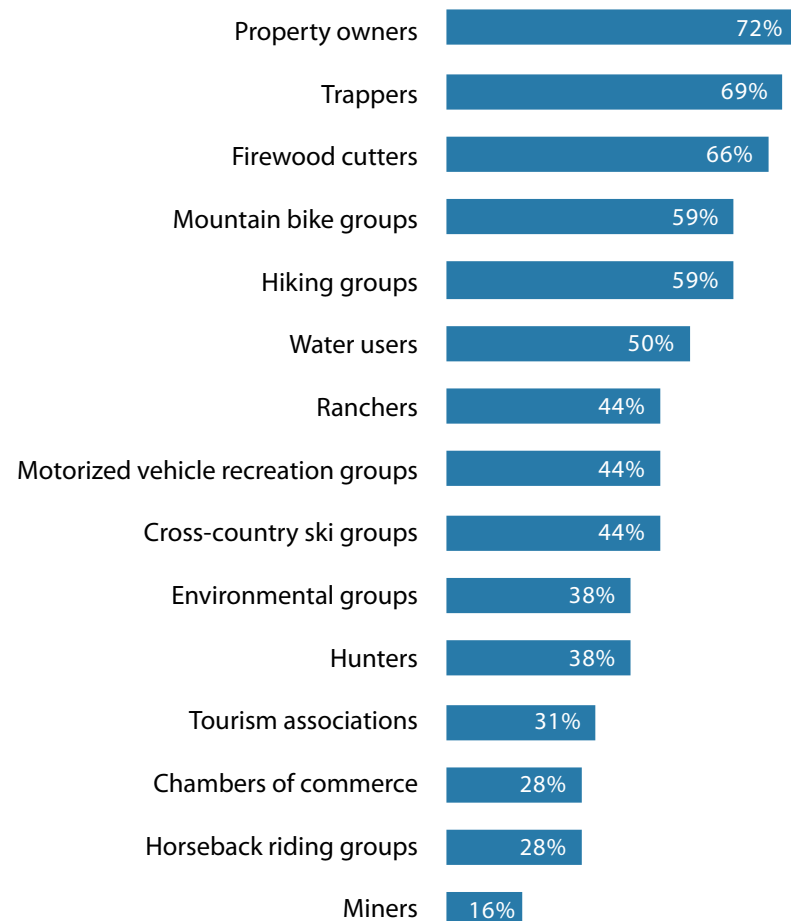
**Williams Lake Community Forest** “hosted a visioning session that included a wide range of representatives from our community partners and shareholders. This session enabled the Community Forest to update its goals and described five integrated management pillars that support and guide WLCF operations.

- Strong positive partnerships
- Sustainable forest management
- Respect of culture and heritage resources
- Community engagement and education
- Long term financial sustainability.”

—Hugh Flinton, Manager, WLCF

**THIS INDICATOR 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.

### Engagement with Community Sectors



At **Creston Community Forest**, “our goal moving forward is to focus on our three mandates which we refer to as the three ‘ions’. *Ion* is a Greek word meaning ‘to go’ or ‘move’ which is what we have done rather than remain static. The three mandates have inspired us to engage with the community in a meaningful way helping us to raise our profile. The three mandates of the Creston Community Forest include: forest education, forest recreation, and fuel mitigation.” — Daniel Gratton, Manager, Creston Community Forest



# Indicator 11

## Investments in Community Education

**COMMUNITY FORESTS HELP COMMUNITY MEMBERS** increase their understanding of forest ecosystems and forest management. Investments in education and capacity building include 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.

Investment in education	
Total	\$206,181
Average	\$8,591
Total number of hours invested	2,869 hours
Average	115 hours

Community forests are using their creativity to engage youth, seniors and the community at large in numerous educational activities. Training young people for work on the tenure is a major focus for many. Additionally, eleven organizations had programs targeting their local K–12 schools and getting kids out into the forest.

**“Reveal the wonders of the forest and you will foster a passion for the outdoors. Getting school aged children out in the woods to learn about the environment is a priority mandate” of the Creston Community Forest. — Daniel Gratton, Manager, CCF**



CRESTON COMMUNITY FOREST, PHOTO: DANIEL GRATTON



**Nakusp and Area Community Forest** (NACFOR) worked with the BC Wildfire Service to coordinate firefighting and FireSmart activities and demonstrations at the Nakusp fire base for National Forest Week. Fourteen members of the Valhalla and Selkirk unit crews organized fun activities, including a presentation of career related information for high school students. Activities included scavenger hunts for pump parts, assembling pumps and hoses, obstacle races with firefighting equipment, and charged fire hose relays. Regional District of Central Kootenay Wildfire Mitigation Specialist presented FireSmart information and games and NACFOR provided information on community scale wildfire risk reduction efforts in the Nakusp area. PHOTOS: FRANCES SWAN





# Indicator 12

## Investments in Recreation

The reporting community forests have collectively developed and maintained a total of **1,026 km** of trails in the area around communities to date.

**COMMUNITY FORESTS** make significant investments in building, improving and maintaining local recreational infrastructure and opportunities. This indicator measures investments in recreation features, on and off the community forest, including trails for hiking, biking, skiing, horseback riding, information kiosks, cabins or warming huts, and viewpoints.

Investment in recreation	
Total	\$218,587
Average of those that invested	\$12,144

In addition, respondents managed another \$237,000 from outside funding sources.

Number of kilometres of trail	
Total	120
Average kms of those that built & maintained trails	10

At **Creston Community Forest**, “recreation is a high priority. In total, we currently manage 31 kilometres of trails within our operating area. Kiosks containing trail information have been constructed by the community forest for some of the trail heads along with picnic tables and fire rings at some of the main viewpoints. In 2019 we matched a \$25K grant from the Columbia Basin Trust to develop and build over 14.5 km of hiking trails. The summer of 2020 will see the construction of an additional 6.5 km of mountain bike trails and an additional 5 km of hiking trails all of which will be fully funded by the community forest.” — Daniel Gratton, Manager, CCF



CRESTON COMMUNITY FOREST, PHOTO: DANIEL GRATTON

Cheslatta Community Forest maintains heritage trails including trails to the historic village sites on Cheslatta Lake.

CHESLATTA LAKE, PHOTO: SUSAN MULKEY

# Indicator 13

## Proactive Management of Wildfire Hazard

**COMMUNITY FORESTS ARE IN A UNIQUE POSITION** to serve as leaders in the coordination and management of the wildland urban interface, or WUI to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire.

Investment to reduce wildfire hazard	
Total	\$2,682,196
Average of those that invested	\$127,724

Number of hectares treated	
Total	1,532
Average # of ha treated	96

As evidence of the urgency of the problem and of the leadership role that community forest organizations are playing, this year's results show a tripling of the community forests' own investments from \$794,987 last year to \$2,682,196 this year.

To date, the reporting community forests have collectively treated 12,857 ha and invested over \$6.1 million for wildfire mitigation. They managed an additional \$14.2 million from outside sources.

Eighty-one percent of respondents collaborated with their local government on wildfire planning and preparedness. Funding from external sources, like the Forest Enhancement Society of BC and the Community Resilience Initiative is crucial given the urgency to reduce fire risk to rural communities. Community forests are taking on a leadership role in the planning and implementation of these activities.

In May 2018, the BCCFA presented the Government of British Columbia with a proposal to increase the number and size of community forests around Indigenous and rural communities, to enhance their ability to manage for wildfire. The Union of BC Municipalities<sup>3</sup> and the BC Flood and Wildfire Review<sup>4</sup> made the same recommendation.

<sup>3</sup> Union of BC Municipalities 2018 Resolution B43 <https://www.ubcm.ca/assets/Resolutions~and~Policy/Resolutions/2018%20UBCM%20Resolutions%20Book.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> Addressing the New Normal: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Disaster Management in British Columbia. April 2018. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/public-safety-and-emergency-services/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/embc/bc-flood-and-wildfire-review-addressing-the-new-normal-21st-century-disaster-management-in-bc-web.pdf>



To fund the planning of a fuel hazard reduction initiative, **Wetzin'kwa Community Forest** utilized a Forest Enhancement Society of BC grant. Potential high-hazard areas were identified based on available inventory information. Field data collection was conducted in various stand types to allow for an analysis of the level of fuel loads and subsequent recommendations for potential treatments to reduce wildfire threat. The results of these assessments were then built into treatment prescriptions that depict strategies to reduce the fuel hazard within the community forest.

WETZINKWA, PHOTO: JAY BAKER



# Indicator 14

## Forest Worker Safety

Information on the number of and severity of incidents further demonstrates how community forests are meeting safety objectives in their operations.



PHOTO: SUSAN MULKEY

**SURVEY RESPONDENTS** reported on whether the community forest 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.

Percent requiring Safe Certification	
Percent yes	78%
Percent no	22%

Number and severity of recordable incidents	
Minor	12
Serious (requiring attention)	5
Fatality	0
Total	17



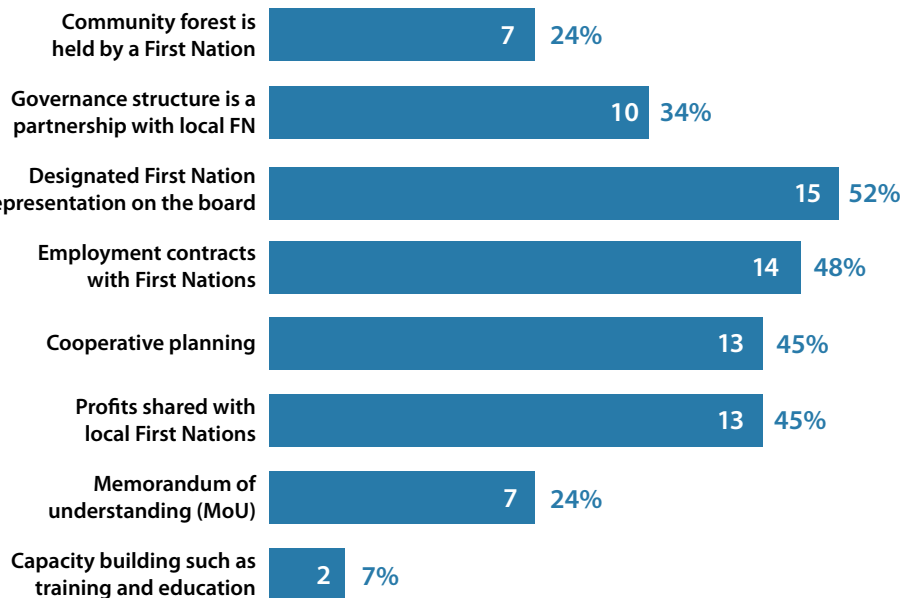
HANDFALLER'S KIT, PHOTO: FRANCES SWAN



# Indicator 15

## First Nations Involvement

**NEARLY HALF** of the operating community forests in BC are held by First Nations or are partnerships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. The BC Community Forest Association (BCCFA) promotes forest management that respects First Nation rights and cultural values, and fosters understanding and cooperation between rural communities and First Nations. The BCCFA promotes the application of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and its principles in community forest management. This indicator measures the breadth and depth of First Nations' involvement in community forests. By measuring the types of involvement beyond legal requirements, this indicator serves to demonstrate how community forest organizations are working with the First Nations within whose traditional territory the community forest is located.



ENIYUD COMMUNITY FOREST (ECF) COMMUNITY MEETING AT TATLA LAKE HALL DURING A POWER OUTAGE

"The ECF represents many years of collaborative efforts between the Alexis Creek Tsi Del Del First Nation and the Tatla Lake Community. We are striving to meet the economic and environmental goals of our constituents with a land base that is logistically and ecologically challenging. We feel that the capacity offered by local control is worth the effort." — Mike

Tomlinson, General Manager, ECF

ECF PHOTO: PETER SHAUGHNESSY

A new pit house is being constructed on Ts'il Kaz Koh (Burns Lake Indian Band) Reserve 19. The project was supported by the Burns Lake Community Forest (BLCF). All of the wood used came from BLCF K1A.

PHOTO: SATNAM MANHAS



# Indicator 16

## Management of Sensitive Areas

Percentage of  
total area that is  
sensitive: **46%**



**At West Boundary Community Forest**, we have a large amount of tenured land in Visual Quality Objectives (VQO) as well as ungulate winter range. These constraints force us to be very creative in developing site plans while following the best management practices. — Dan Macmaster, Manager, WBCF

EHOLT PERMIT IN HEAVY VISUAL AREA, PHOTO: WEST BOUNDARY COMMUNITY FOREST

**THE CFA'S UNIQUE** model of forest management can give community forest managers the social licence to operate in highly constrained areas that may not otherwise be 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.

Forty-six percent of the combined tenure area of survey respondents is deemed sensitive. About one-third indicated at least 75 per cent of their land base is sensitive and six community forests reported that 100 per cent of their land base is sensitive. Four of the reporting community forests have 25 per cent or more of their area set aside in reserves such as Old Growth Management Areas. One as high as 69 per cent. Forty-four per cent of the survey respondents have community watersheds within their boundaries.

**Barkley Community Forest** is working on a long-term strategy to address Old Growth Management Areas, Marbled Murrelet habitat and other factors over and above Ministry guidelines in the Forest Stewardship Plan.

“Many of the sensitive areas within the **Logan Lake Community Forest** are located with Old Growth Management Areas (OGMAs). We are concerned that static OGMAs over our tenure area are restrictive to our stewardship over the long-term. In some cases, OGMAs are public safety concerns with dead timber adjacent to our community creating a significant wildfire threat. We look forward to a more robust discussion regarding OGMA allocation in our tenure area and solutions to better serve our community forest and the public.”

— Garnet Mireau, Management Team, Logan Lake Community Forest



# Indicator 17

## Investments in Forest Stewardship

**HEALTHY FOREST ECOSYSTEMS** are the basis of healthy local economies. With this understanding, community forest organizations are making significant investments in the ecological integrity of the forests they manage. This indicator measures the investments 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 which includes inventory and extra surveys that are above and beyond legal requirements.

Investment in enhanced or modified management for ecological or social reasons	
Total	\$2,205,225
Average of those who invested	\$169,633

Number of hectares treated within and outside the CF boundary	
Total hectares	6,092
Average number of hectares treated	554

Partial cutting to address social, ecological and Indigenous values is widely employed by community forests. It is significantly more expensive than conventional clear cutting. Community forests prioritize these kinds of management decisions and consider them as investments in forest stewardship and social licence.

Other examples of stewardship activities cited in the survey include:

- Grassland restoration;
- Watershed health and planning initiative;
- Implementing best practices and surveys for migratory birds in operating areas;
- Wildlife monitoring studies including Western toads and mountain goats;
- Setting aside areas of old growth for cultural and biodiversity values, including Marbled Murrelet habitat;
- Structuring and monitoring of coarse woody debris; corridors for small fur bearing animals;
- Mule deer winter range improvement; and
- Purchase of LiDAR inventory data.



Beetle funnel traps in three locations to contain spread; ongoing toad surveys; implementing best practices and surveys for migratory birds in active operational areas.” — Frances Swan, Manager, NACFOR

BETLE TRAP, PHOTO: FRANCES SWAN

In addition to the **\$2.2 million** of community forests’ own investment, the reporting community forests managed another **\$905,000** from external sources, like the Forest Enhancement Society of BC.

### At Nakusp and Area Community Forest

(NACFOR), “forest stewardship efforts include significant effort towards managing for Douglas-fir beetle infestations including an overview flight of the community forest to identify infestation areas, followed by ground recce and salvage layout; installed Douglas Fir

# Indicator 18

## Compliance with Environmental Standards

Compliance determinations issued against the community forests surveyed: **0**

**THIS INDICATOR SHOWS** 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. The survey also asked about the results of any applicable Forest Practices Board audits or investigations by other provincial or federal agencies.

Number of Compliance & Enforcement inspections conducted & determinations	
Total inspections	39
Determinations issued against the CF	0



PHOTO: SUSAN MULKEY



At **West Boundary Community Forest**, “we received funding from BC’s Land Based Investment – Forest for Tomorrow Program for rehabilitation and planting after the Rock Creek fire of 2015 scoured the area. Price Waterhouse Coopers audited our work and we passed the audit with flying colours.” — Dan Macmaster, Manager, WBCF

WEST BOUNDARY MINISTRY AUDIT, PHOTO: DAN MCMASTER





TRAIL WORK ABOVE MIDWAY, PHOTO: WEST BOUNDARY COMMUNITY FOREST





SUSAN MULKEY PHOTOS

The BC Community Forest Association is a network of rural community-based organizations engaged in community forest management, and those seeking to establish new community forests. We represent over 90 rural and Indigenous communities across our province. We share a vision of 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.



British Columbia  
**Community Forest Association**  
local people, local forests, local decisions