



British Columbia
Community
Forest
Association

local people, local forests, local decisions

COMMUNITY FOREST INDICATORS 2022

MEASURING THE BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY FORESTRY

OCTOBER 2022



THE COMMUNITY FOREST INDICATORS PROJECT would not be possible without the thoughtful and thorough participation of our members. Thank you to our survey respondents and also to the BC Community Forest Association Board of Directors for their encouragement and unwavering support.

Many challenges and new developments have arisen during the fiscal year of 2020-2021, which is primarily the time period this report is based upon. There has been much to navigate —from the global pandemic, to market changes and administrative burdens, to increased risk of high-intensity wildfire events, to new forest policy released by the provincial government. Community forests have remained leaders throughout the ups and downs, striving to serve their local communities while keeping their businesses operating. With innovation grounded in community spirit and science coupled with Indigenous knowledge, many community forests are an inspiration. We hope that others working in forestry will be motivated as they learn about the approaches our members are taking to uphold multiple values; continuing to learn and grow together towards a more sustainable future.

We look forward to sharing many of the fantastic stories that were submitted in the survey on our website and social media accounts. Follow us to learn more about our members and their achievements!

— Jennifer Gunter, BCCFA Executive Director; Susan Mulkey, BCCFA Manager of Communication & Extension; and Carly Dow, BCCFA Administrative Assistant

Community Forest Indicators 2022: Measuring the Benefits of Community Forestry

October 2022

Cover photos clockwise from top Forest YiSeung Photographie; UBC WRR Research project on NACFOR by Frances Swan; Lily at Work on the Kaslo and District Community Forest by Jeff Reyden; Little treeplanter on Wells Gray Community Forest By George Brcko; and Qala:yit Cedar Canoe by Steve Lorimer.

Graphic design by Nadene Rehnby, Hands on Publications



Learn more about the BCCFA
and community forestry in BC at
bccfa.ca/community-forestry/



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KASLO COMMUNITY FOREST INTERFACE SHUTTY BENCH, PHOTO JEFF REYDEN

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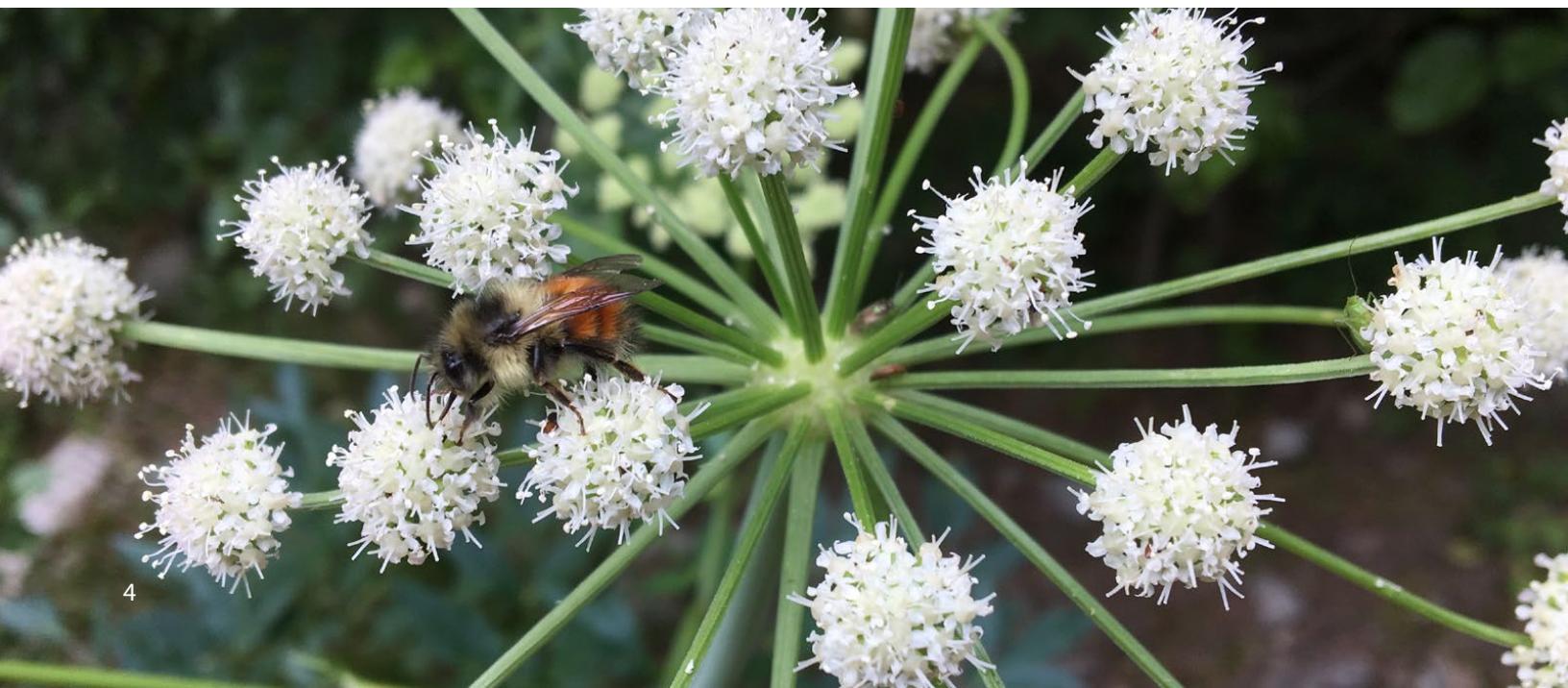
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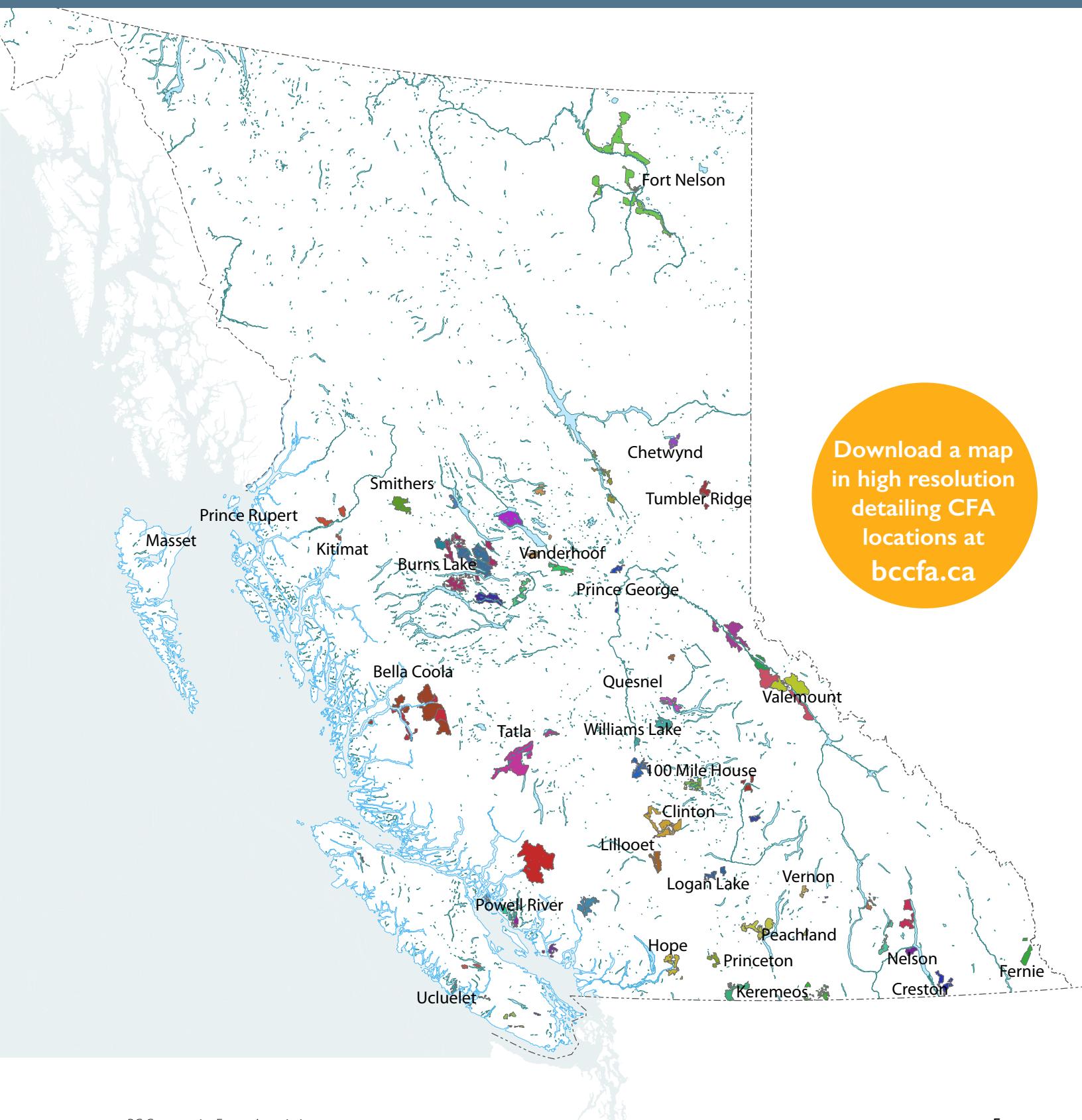
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COMMUNITY FORESTS THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE 2022 INDICATORS SURVEY

Alberni Valley Community Forest Corporation	McBride Community Forest
Bamfield Huu-ay-aht Community Forest Society	McLeod Lake Mackenzie Community Forest Ltd.
Barkley Community Forest Corporation	Monashee Community Forest
Bella Coola Resource Society	Nakusp and Area Community Forest, Inc.
Cheatamus Community Forest Ltd. Partnership	Powell River Community Forest Ltd.
Cherry Ridge Management Committee	Qala:yit Forestry Ltd. Partnership
Cheslatta Community Forest	Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative (SIFCo)
Chinook Comfor Ltd.	Spēlkúmtn Community Forest
Clinton & District Community Forest of BC Ltd.	Sunshine Coast Community Forest
Creston Valley Forest Corporation	Tumbler Ridge Community Forest Corporation
District of Fort St James	Valemount Community Forest Company Ltd.
Dungate Community Forest	Wells Gray Community Forest Corporation
Harrop-Procter Community Co-operative	Wells-Barkerville Community Forest Ltd
Kaslo & District Community Forest Society	West Boundary Community Forest Inc.
Khowutzun Community Forest	Westbank First Nation Community Forest
Little Prairie Community Forest Inc.	Wetzin'Kwa Community Forest Corporation
Logan Lake Community Forest Corporation	Williams Lake Community Forest Ltd.
Lower North Thompson Community Forest Society	





Download a map
in high resolution
detailing CFA
locations at
bccfa.ca

Executive Summary

THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE of British Columbia, community forests demonstrate their leadership in implementing an inspiring vision for forestry that allows local communities to manage local forests in ways that generate economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits. Operating under the eight goals of the Community Forest Program mandated by the provincial government, community forest tenures are an innovation in forestry.

This report shares the results of the BC Community Forest Association's 8th Community Forest Indicators Survey and provides insight into the measurable value of community forestry. The 18 indicators outlined in the report provide quantitative information on the wide range of benefits that community forests generate in rural communities and beyond. Thirty-three community forests, 80 per cent of those operating within the BCCFA, participated in the 2021/2022 survey, providing data from their last reporting year.

As forest policy in BC shifts focus to an increase in Indigenous led forestry and on value rather than volume, this report demonstrates how community forests are already playing an active role in the movement towards reconciliation, as well as how community forests lead the way in innovative co-management and consideration of multiple values on the landscape.

Community forestry provides a tangible, proactive model for forest operations that includes community values, long-term stewardship and a lasting positive impact for future generations.

Jobs and Economic Contributions

Community forests created 0.48 full time local jobs per 1,000 m³ in forestry, logging, and support services, which is approximately 76 per cent greater than the industry average. Community forests created 385 jobs in forestry activities during the reporting period. On average, they generated \$2.4 million in economic activity, up slightly from last year, and contributed a total of over \$14 million in cash and in-kind to local

projects. Further, community forests are meeting their cut control and reliably supplying logs to many facets of the timber market, while also providing support to value-added operations.

First Nations Involvement

Nearly half of the operating community forests in BC are held by a First Nation or are partnerships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. First Nations are engaged in cooperative planning, share profits, have MOUs and employment contracts, and work with community forest organizations in capacity building activities such as training and education. In addition to community forests where First Nations are owners or partners, 50 per cent of community forest organizations include First Nations representation on their boards.

Healthy and Resilient Communities

As the risk of high-intensity wildfires increases on the landscape, rural communities understand the urgency of wildfire risk reduction and preparedness. The survey results demonstrate that many community forests are leaders in the management of wildfire hazard. Over time, reporting community forests have invested over \$5.5 million of their own dollars into wildfire risk reduction work, while managing over \$16 million from outside sources.

Other social benefits include investing over 7,500 hours in community forestry education this year, as well as the creation and maintenance of over 1,300 kms of recreational trails to date.

Total harvest in the reporting year: 808,070 m³
Average: 24,487 m³

Environmental Stewardship

Community forests are unique, long-term tenures that are committed to managing for ecosystem resilience. The range of environmental objectives include enhanced forest stewardship and the conservation of ecologically and culturally significant areas and values. Ninety-six per cent of community forests have portions of their tenures set aside in reserves such as Old Growth Management Areas. In addition to the \$1 million that community forests invested in forest stewardship activities above and beyond legal requirements, they also managed over \$750,000 from external sources.

The combined results of the 18 indicators are evidence of the success and promise of community forestry. Themes that emerged in the survey included collaborative management with First Nations; old growth retention and management; innovation to create more value and jobs through utilization; the importance of investing in education and recreation to build stronger connections between people and forests; adaptive management for climate change including wildfire risk reduction work; and stewardship that goes above and beyond legal requirements to support healthy ecosystems.

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 bccfa.ca/category/indicators/



WORKING UNDER COVID 19

“For efficiency, the Nakusp and Area Community Forest (NACFOR) adopted new methods of communication with the Board of Directors, our internal organization, and the public during COVID-19 times. NACFOR hosted many virtual meetings, and to accommodate this with the volunteer Board of Directors, NACFOR created an opportunity to build capacity within the board members. A virtual system was provided to the board for sharing information, scheduling meetings, and conducting meetings. This adaptation allowed board members to stay up to date on information in between meetings and allowed for ease of sharing information. The new computer and virtual management system meant board members gained new skills, capacity and understanding of virtual systems.”

— Frances Swan, Nakusp and Area Community Forest

NACFOR DIRECTORS AND PARENTS, PHOTO: NACFOR CF

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS REPORT

AAC = Allowable Annual Cut

Ha = Hectares

CF = Community forest*

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

CFA = Community forest agreement

M³ = cubic metres of wood

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

Indicator

1

Number of Jobs

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

Total: 1,860

Average: 56



NACFOR FUEL REDUCTION
PROJECT CONTRACTOR,
PHOTO FRANCES SWAN

LOCAL JOBS ARE CREATED and maintained by community forests in rural areas. The total direct employment and contract labour from community forests are measured in this indicator. Person year (PY) is the metric used to determine employment per 1,000 m³ of timber. This explains the job value allocated to community forests based on harvest volume, which varies between each community forest agreement. Because not all jobs are full-time, respondents also reported the total number of workers that received all or part of their income from a community forest.

Number of Person Year (PY) ^a based on reported harvest of 808,070 m ³				
Employment	Forestry, logging and support ^b	Trail building, firefighting, research etc.	Milling ^c	All activities ^d
Person years /1,000 m ³	0.48	0.03	0.43	0.94
Average person years per community forest	11.6	0.6	10.7	22.93
Total person years	385	20	355	760

Notes: Analysis completed by Peak Solutions Consulting Inc. ^a 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. ^b Includes forest management, logging, hauling, road building, silviculture (planting, spacing pruning etc.), administration and accounting. ^c Milling employment is based on jobs with one job representing one person year in this report. ^d Sum of Person Years for forestry, logging, support services, trail building etc., and milling.

The total PY of 760 is an increase of just under 5 per cent from the PY reported in the previous year. Community forests provide employment in a wide array of activities, including forest management, logging, hauling, silviculture, road/trail building and maintenance, scientific research, administration and bookkeeping, and wildfire risk reduction treatments.

Community forests created 0.48 full time local jobs/1,000 m³ in forestry, logging, and support services, which is approximately 76 per cent greater than the industry average.¹



LOWER NORTH THOMPSON COMMUNITY FOREST MILLING EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM, PHOTO MIKE FRANCIS

¹ Barnes, Alex. Manager, Economics Analysis, BC Ministry of Forests, 2022, Provincial Employment Coefficient Breakdowns, September 20, 2022, Pers comm.

Indicator**2**

Total Economic Activity

COMMUNITY FORESTS CONTRIBUTE to local economy, stability, and resiliency in their rural communities throughout BC. This is a particularly compelling attribute of community forests, as we observe the many benefits they bring to local communities while operating on relatively small tenures. The average population of the communities in which they operate is 4,633 with an annual harvest of only 24,487 m³. This indicator calculates the total annual value of sales and expenditures, which are reflective of the total economic activity generated by community forests in the reporting year.

Value of sales		\$73,442,730
Average		\$2,448,091
Minimum		\$ 0
Maximum		\$9,105,622

Value of expenditures		\$50,086,593
Average		\$1,669,553
Minimum		\$30,000
Maximum		\$8,095,952

The value of sales has increased by 26 per cent from the previous year's reported sales, which is an expected outcome considering the market changes and increased value of timber over the last fiscal period.

NAKUSP — NACFOR HARVESTING PHOTO FRANCES SWAN



NACFOR HARVESTING
PHOTO FRANCES SWAN

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Community Contributions



SUNSHINE COAST COMMUNITY FOREST
COMMUNITY FIREWOOD PROJECT
VOLUNTEERS, PHOTO WARREN HANSEN

Community forests made many community contributions last fiscal including:

- Powell River Community Forest: Contributed to the local Salmon Society for water quality monitoring, plus made annual contributions for scholarships, and firewood and log donations to non-profit groups.
- “In 2021 NACFOR supported the Arrow Lakes Fine Arts Guild Society and their effort to restore the old BC government forestry building to house an art gallery space in Nakusp. This project will support arts and culture, tourism, Nakusp history, community capacity building and will update an outdated property with lots of potential.” — Frances Swan, Manager, Nakusp and Area Community Forest

COMMUNITY FORESTS GIVE BACK to the communities in which they operate. This is a cornerstone of community forestry. It builds social licence and helps to create self-reliant, healthy communities. Many community forest organizations make cash and in-kind contributions including dividends, grants, infrastructure improvements, special projects and more. These contributions regularly extend beyond economic objectives to also meet social, cultural, and environmental goals.

Total cash contributed to the community	
Total	\$13,123,147
Average	\$423,327

Total in-kind contributions to the community	
Total	\$1,039,929
Average	\$38,516

In the last reporting year, 77 per cent of respondents made cash and/or in-kind contributions in their communities. On average, they provided \$423,327 with an additional \$38,516 in in-kind contributions. The total in-kind contribution of the respondents was over \$1 million, similar to what was reported in the previous year.

“The donations we make go a long way, thanks to the efforts of volunteers and others in our community. This is a story about the smallest donation we made this year — \$283.53. A local Search and Rescue volunteer equipped a popular winter recreation area with sealed buckets containing first aid and warming supplies for emergency use who said “it can easily take two hours for Search and Rescue to reach a subject at the perimeter of the trail system. This way a subject can at least have a means to keep warm, wrap a sprained ankle, or use the handwarmers.” The volunteer had supply donations from two local businesses and asked us to fund the few items that couldn’t be donated. This modest donation got us the most significant bump in social media following that we had seen to date.”

— Warren Hansen, Manager, Sunshine Coast Community Forest



SARS FIRST AID BUCKET,
PHOTO WARREN HANSEN

Indicator

4

Funds Leveraged

NEARLY HALF of the reporting community forests leverage their profits as seed money to grow larger projects with support from outside sources. This indicator tallies the additional funds that were brought in from outside sources for a wide range of community priorities, including local jobs, wildfire risk reduction and recreation.

For example:

- Williams Lake Community Forest leveraged \$600,000 for fuel treatments across the community forest land base.
- Lower North Thompson Community Forest leveraged \$37,000 for Wildfire Risk Reduction and an additional \$28,000 for employing summer students.

Nearly half of the reporting community forests leverage their profits as seed money to grow larger projects with support from outside sources. The average of those that leveraged was \$123,624.

Total \$ raised for projects from outside sources	
Total	\$2,719,735
Average of those that leveraged	\$123,624

Lower North Thompson Community Forest is a constant champion of skills training and student employment. In the fall of 2020, the LNTCFS partnered with Recreation Sites & Trails BC for a Forest Employment Project that saw the construction of 210 tables and nine outhouses at our mill site, for distribution throughout the Thompson & Cariboo Regions. The project created six months of employment for two people and they have since hired one of the participants as their new sawyer.

LNTCF 2021 MILL STUDENTS PHOTO MIKE FRANCIS



WETZINKWA WRR PLOTS
PHOTO AURORA LAVENDER

Cut Control

The majority of reporting community forests are successfully harvesting the volume of timber allocated and are keeping logs flowing into the market.

COMMUNITY FORESTS ARE PRIMARILY timber harvesting operations, and as such, have an active role in the log market. This indicator measures their success at meeting cut control requirements and contributing to the current market.

Seventy-five per cent of community forests reported being on track to meet their cut control.

The majority of reporting community forests are successfully harvesting the volume of timber allocated and are keeping logs flowing into the market. Several of those who are not on track are facing challenges due to wildfire losses, the availability of mature timber, operational constraints due to COVID-19, and the newly introduced Old Growth Deferrals outlined by the provincial government.

PHOTO S. MULKEY



Distribution of Log Sales

COMMUNITY FORESTS ARE ACTIVE contributors to the open market. By supplying logs and supporting a spectrum of milling and manufacturing facilities, many community forests play an important role in the timber market, particularly for local bidders. This indicator provides the total percentage of sales to a variety of buyers.

Distribution of log sales	
Sales to very large mills > 850,000 m ³ /year	46.9%
Sales to large mills 295,000 m ³ – 850,000 m ³ /year	15.5%
Sales to medium mills 95,000 m ³ – 295,000 m ³ /year	11.4%
Sales to small mills < 95,000 m ³ /year	3.1%
Broker	10.5%
Sales to facilities that use low quality fibre (chip, pellet, pulp & paper)	6.5%
Sales to pole, veneer, plywood & OSB	2.6%
Sales to shake and shingle mills	1.2%
Sales to mill owned by the community forest	0.8%
Sales to firewood	0.8%
Logs exported	0.7%
Sales to value-added mills	0.2%

Sixty per cent of respondents consider 100 per cent of their sales to mills to be local. Log sales were opened up to an average of 4.5 bidders, and community forests sold logs to an average of 3.5 different buyers. These figures vary greatly between community forests, with several respondents selling to as many as eight different entities.

PHOTO LNTCFS



REPAIRS PHOTO S. MULKEY

Of the community forests that participated in the survey:

63% have markets for waste and residue.

50% are actively seeking markets for waste and residue.

63% are shipping pulp or other low value fibre at a loss that would otherwise be waste, in order to achieve environmental or social benefits.

Only 37% of respondents have accessed external funding to help pay for shipping residual fibre.

Indicator

7

Investments in Intensive Silviculture

Community forests go above and beyond legal requirements: 45% make investments in incremental silviculture past the free to grow stage.



NACFOR invested in incremental fertilization in partnership with the ministry's Forest Carbon Initiative to fertilize 450 hectares on the community forest. Fertilization treatments targeted 20 80-year-old Douglas fir and cedar leading stands in the McDonald Creek area. Objectives of this treatment are to increase tree volume for carbon sequestration and financial return.

NAKUSP FFT FOREST FERTILIZATION
PHOTO FRANCES SWAN

SILVICULTURE IS AN IMPORTANT INVESTMENT for many community forests. They are unique—long-term, area-based tenures with a focus on community values, quality over quantity of timber, and the future productivity of forests. This indicator measures investments made in silviculture, above and beyond legal requirements, and demonstrates the priorities of increasing longevity and capacity in a community forest.

Community Forest investment in intensive silviculture	
Total	\$620,589
Average of those that invested	\$51,715

Forty-three per cent of respondents made investments in incremental silviculture in the reporting year. The total investment is less than what was reported the year prior, which may be attributed to a larger focus of funds allocated to wildfire risk reduction activities. However, there was an increase this year in funds allocated from outside sources and Land Based Investment/Forests for Tomorrow. A total of 1,460 hectares were treated in this reporting period. On average, this year's respondents treated 104 hectares and have collectively treated 4,691 hectares to date.

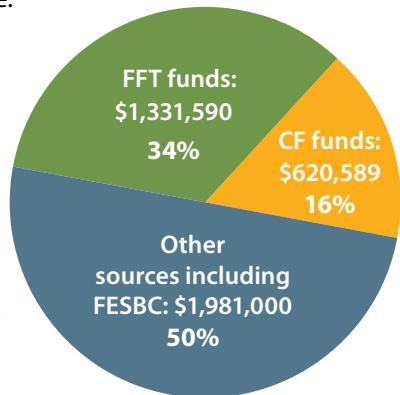
Value and source of investment in intensive silviculture

Total: \$3,185,232

CF: Community Forest

FFT: Forests for Tomorrow

FESBC: Forest Enhancement Society of BC



KDCFS SEEDLINGS PHOTO SUSAN MULKEY



Economic Diversification

COMMUNITY FORESTS DIVERSIFY the benefits derived from the community forest agreement area, as required in one of the 8 goals of the provincial Community Forest Program. The most significant way that community forests offered diversification during the reporting period was by providing wildfire mitigation services, including prescribed burns, community fire hazard assessments and writing wildfire risk reduction prescriptions. Diversification can also include the development of goods such as non-timber forest products (NTFPs)² including medicinal plants, berries or mushrooms, and value-added products from micro sawmills.

Economic diversification	
Total value of diversified sales	\$2,898,509
Average of those that had revenue from diversified sales	\$483,085

One hundred per cent of the community forests who had revenue from diversified sales used their expertise in wildfire hazard mitigation from work on their own tenures to complete work off the community forest. This is a reflection of how community forests are prioritizing community safety in the face of increased risk of wildfire on the landscape.



A number of community forests have developed their skills in planning and implementing fuel management projects on their own tenures and are now offering services to other tenure holders. They are particularly skilled in the community engagement necessary for project success.

"We developed a few different Wildfire Risk Reductions prescriptions for other proponents and the West Boundary Community Forest (WBCF) received funding for our efforts." — Dan Macmaster, Manager

Pictured are members of the community touring the prescription with RPFs from WBCF.

PHOTO WEST BOUNDARY COMMUNITY FOREST

² When it comes to NTFPs, to date community forests are generally not involved in commercial activity, beyond services. Instead, they have taken on the role of facilitating access to resources such as berries, mushrooms and medicinal plants for the community and adapting the timber harvesting approach to protect the non-timber resources.

Community Accountability

97% of survey respondents report annually to their community



NAKUSP – ARROW LAKES
CARIBOU SOCIETY MAT PEN
WORKBEE-SELKIRK STUDENTS,
PHOTO FRANCES SWAN

COMMUNITY FORESTS STAND APART from other forest tenures in BC for a number of reasons. This indicator reports on the legal obligation of community forests to report annually to local residents. This requirement is outlined as part of the Community Forest Program goals set by the provincial government. Every community forest is required to develop a Management Plan that contains the social, economic and resource management goals proposed for the tenure. The annual reporting helps to provide transparent accountability to their community.

Going beyond this requirement, many community forests are committed to using additional means of connecting with their communities with a variety of engagement tools, social media, and events. Community forests see the benefit in connecting with their local residents and fostering meaningful relationships.



LNTCF PHOTO

One community forest did not provide reporting to their community over the past year because they had reduced capacity due to COVID-19.

Tools used by CF to communicate	Percent of total
Annual meeting	84%
Website	74%
Meeting minutes	65%
Financial statements	58%
Local newspaper	55%
Open house	48%
Facebook/social media	48%
Meetings open to public	45%
Field trips	45%
Newsletter	32%
Other	23%

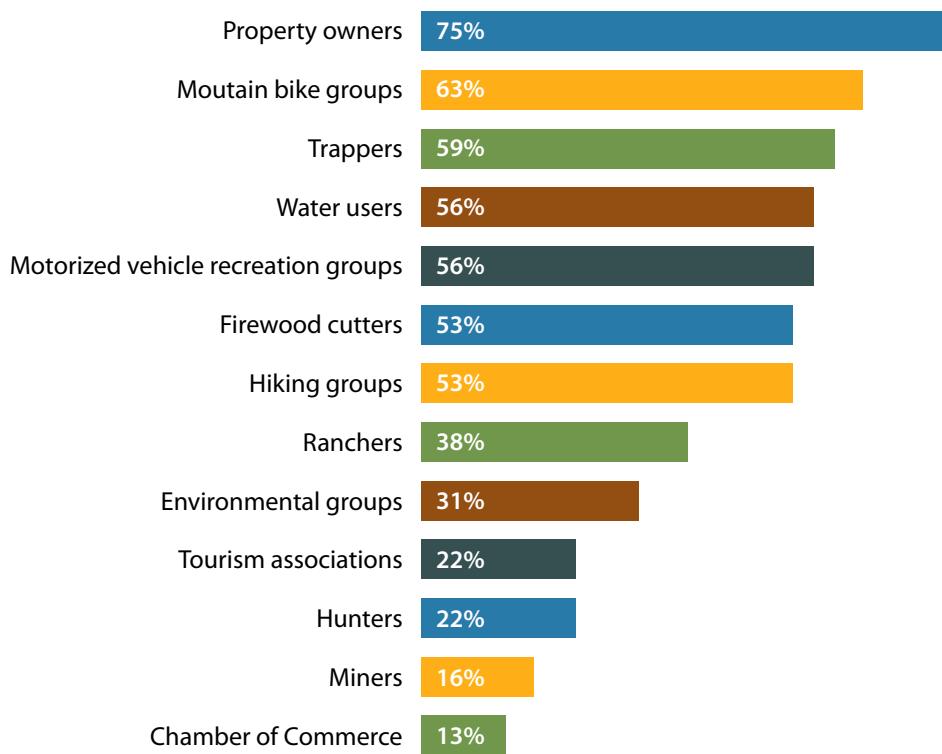
Public Engagement

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT LEADS TO an increased awareness of forest management and related activities that take place on the community forest land base. It also leads to better decisions that reflect local values. The Indigenous and rural communities in which community forests are located contain a diversity of people, stakeholder groups and invested parties. In addition to working with local First Nations, community forests make an effort to engage with the wide array of forest users.

Sixty-three per cent of reporting community forests have developed formal agreements with one or more of their forest user groups, which is a 16 per cent increase from the previous year.

The COVID-19 pandemic presented a number of obstacles to community engagement, yet 100 per cent of reporting community forests have made an effort to connect with their communities during this challenging time through a variety of methods including online conferencing/meetings and socially distanced meetings.

Engagement with Community Sectors



"Community outreach and communications is a good example of how we feel we significantly exceed the legal requirements. Before, during and after the Tremont Wildfire, we played meaningful roles that directly served the public interest in Logan Lake. Our ability to integrate at all levels such as supporting the Emergency Operations Center and Incident Command positions (Liaison Officer, Line Locators and Equipment Supervisors) cannot be understated. Community forest management involvement at these levels informed decision-making strategically and tactically. It also kept community leaders like Mayor and Council and the Thompson Nicola Regional District staff informed. We followed this up with community webinars to share our plans both before and after the wildfire. As the pandemic measures relaxed, we met with the community by piggybacking on an event held in the curling rink with other community groups. We have also completed door-to-door engagement (200 homes) adjacent to our fire salvage area complimented by social media posts, direct mail through Canada Post and presentations in Council Chambers to Mayor and Council."

— Garnet Mireau Logan Lake Community Forest

Indicator**11**

Investments in Community Education



"Nakusp and Area Community Forest (NACFOR) collaborates with School District 10 throughout the school year, organizing National Forest Week events, tree planting days, and hikes. The outdoor activities were a great way to engage with students during the pandemic. In 2021 NACFOR also donated 4,000 board feet of white pine lumber (a Kootenay specialty) to the Nakusp Secondary School woodshop class for student projects. The lumber was milled with a portable band sawmill at the NACFOR yard." — Frances Swan, Manager, NACFOR

WHITE PINE DONATED TO NAKUSP SECONDARY, PHOTOS S. CUNNINGHAM



MORE COMMUNITY FORESTS are becoming outdoor classrooms. They provide valuable education relating to forest ecosystems and forest management and have the potential to create a sense of connectivity to local habitats and surroundings by getting people out on the land. Investments in education include school presentations, field trips, public events, as well as job training sponsored by the community forest.

Investment in education	
Total number of hours invested	7,526 hrs
Average of those that invested	376 hrs

Although many reported that their educational activities were scaled-down or postponed due to COVID-19, programming was able to increase as restrictions shifted. Over 7,500 hours were invested in community education over the past reporting period, which is triple the amount invested last year.

Some of the fantastic community education initiatives over the past year include sponsoring a wildfire fighting course, hosting cedar bark stripping excursions for college students, high school student bursaries, tree planting days with youth, and running an outdoor education centre.

"To celebrate National Forest Week, the Wetzin'kwa Community Forest offered a photo scavenger hunt contest, the Hunt for the Golden Tokens. Five golden tokens were hidden at recreation features throughout the tenure, including at a new viewpoint bench funded by Wetzin'kwa, with riddles provided as hints for each location. Participants had to solve the riddles, find the tokens, and submit a photo with it as proof to be entered for prizes donated by Wetzin'kwa and local businesses (with bonus prizes for costumes). We were thrilled with the participation and positive feedback from both area residents and visitors, where many participants expressed it was a great reason to get out and explore the area with their friends and families, including some who didn't know anything about the community forest before."

— Aurora Lavender,
RPF, Manager



GOLDEN TOKENS PHOTO WETZINKWA COMMUNITY FOREST

Investments in Recreation

ENHANCING RECREATION opportunities is a top priority for many community forests. Community forests go above and beyond operating solely as timber businesses, and many engage with their local residents by providing recreation opportunities on the land base.

By building and maintaining trails and recreation areas, community forests are contributing to the health and well-being of their local people. This indicator measures investments in recreation features, on and off the community forest, including trails for hiking, biking, skiing, horseback riding, information kiosks, cabins and warming huts, and viewpoints.

Investment in recreation	
Total	\$607,190
Average of those that invested	\$25,300

The total amount of dollars invested in recreation this reporting period was nearly double what was reported in the last period. In addition, respondents managed another \$617,316 this year from outside funding sources. To date, the reporting community forests have invested over \$2.5 million in recreation and managed over \$3.4 million from outside source investments.

KASLO CF TRAILS JUNCTION PHOTO S. MULKEY



Kilometers of trail: **148**

Average kilometres of those that built and maintained trails: **6**

NATIONAL FOREST WEEK HIKE WITH NAKUSP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, PHOTO NACFOR



Indicator

13

Proactive Management of Wildfire Hazard

To date, the reporting community forests have collectively treated nearly 8,000 hectares to reduce wildfire hazard.

Hectares treated in the reporting year: **1,219**

Average: **76** hectares



KASLO & DISTRICT COMMUNITY FOREST PHOTO

WILDFIRE HAS BECOME one of the primary forest management topics of concern throughout British Columbia, as we see an increase in high-intensity fires sweeping across the landscape and into many Indigenous and rural communities. Most community forests are uniquely positioned in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), the area of transition between wilderness and settlements. As such, community forests have had a crucial leading role in wildfire mitigation activities which strive to protect communities in the event of a wildfire and preserve timber base and forest health as much as possible.

Investment to reduce wildfire hazard	
Total	\$1,081,282
Average of those that invested	\$72,085



HUGH MURDOCK, BCWS, (LEFT) WITH PREMIER JOHN HORGAN AND GARNET MIREAU

"Logan Lake's wildfire planning, preparedness and mitigation activities were put to the test during the Tremont Creek Wildfire in the summer 2021. Our FireSmart, wildfire risk reduction and community forest logging all combined to modify fire behaviour and made suppression efforts more efficient and effective. Noteworthy is the significantly reduced environmental impact of fire inside of treated areas versus untreated areas. It is our belief that fuel modification efforts alone were not the reason that the community survived major impacts from the wildfire. The efforts of the BC Wildfire Service crews, ground and air, combined with over 200 structural firefighters in the community along with the structural protection units (sprinklers) provided invaluable support. A timely positive shift in the winds also influenced tactical decision-making at the time."

— Garnet Mireau, Logan Lake Community Forest Manager, pictured here two weeks post wildfire with (L) Hugh Murdoch, BCWS, and (Centre) Premier John Horgan. Garnet played a critical role in suppression coordination.

Community forests are demonstrating their leadership in wildfire mitigation not only through risk reduction activities on their tenures, but also in the dollars invested into this work. Over \$1 million was invested in wildfire risk reduction activities during the reporting period, with an additional \$4 million managed from outside sources. Over time, community forests have invested over \$5.5 million of their own dollars into wildfire risk reduction work, while managing over \$16 million from outside sources.

To date, the reporting community forests have collectively treated nearly 8,000 hectares to reduce wildfire hazard.

Sixty-five per cent of respondents collaborated with their local government on wildfire planning and preparedness. Community forests are taking on a leadership role in the planning and implementation of these activities. Funding from external sources, such as the Forest Enhancement Society of BC, is imperative given the urgency to reduce wildfire hazard in rural communities.



KASLO COMMUNITY FOREST
PHOTO JEFF REYDEN



PHOTO WILLIAMS LAKE COMMUNITY FOREST

The Williams Lake Community Forest recently completed the 45 ha Flatrock Fire Hazard Reduction Operational Treatment with funding received through the BCCFA/BCWS partnership. The funding allocation of \$403,576, part of the Province's economic recovery plan to create or stimulate employment opportunities generated 585 total person days of employment. The up to 30-person crew implementing the treatment is from the Esk'etemc First Nation. The primary objective of this project was to increase crown gaps in the overstory creating a featured boundary around the restored grassland areas as well as reducing the potential for a crown fire.

The important role that community forests are playing in wildfire risk reduction was recognized by the provincial government with an investment of over \$5 Million in wildfire management and job creation through The StrongerBC Economic Recovery Initiative.

Indicator

14

Forest Worker Safety



HAULING LOGS IN KASLO,
PHOTO S. MULKEY

**"Our first priority
is finding the right
person for the job.
Within that context, we
hire safe certified."**

— Stephan Martineau,
SIFCO (Slocan Integral
Forestry Cooperative)
Community Forest

ENSURING THE SAFETY OF WORKERS is critically important in all forestry operations. 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, as well as information on the number and severity of incidents. The four serious incidents that were reported over the past year were related to work in the field and did not result in any fatalities.

Percent requiring Safe Certification	
Percent yes	85 %
Percent no	15 %

Number and severity of recordable incidents	
Minor	30
Serious (requiring attention)	4
Fatality	0
Total	34

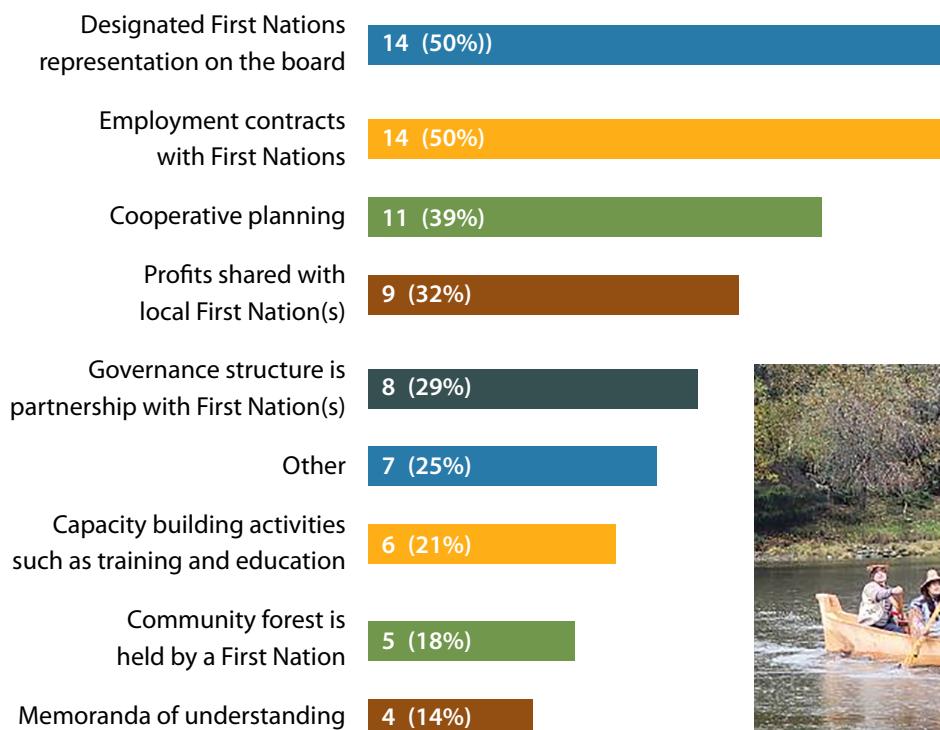


First Nations Involvement

THE BCCFA PROMOTES the application of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and its principles in community forest management. Community forests strive to promote forest management that respects First Nation rights and cultural values and are leaders in fostering understanding and cooperation between rural communities and First Nations. Among the proposed changes to forest policy, as outlined in a new intentions paper released by the provincial government, is the inclusion of a framework to redistribute forest tenures to Indigenous Nations, forest communities and small operators. Nearly half of the reporting community forests in BC are held by First Nations or are already partnerships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.

By measuring the types of involvement with First Nations beyond legal requirements, this indicator serves to demonstrate how community forests organizations are working with the First Nations within whose traditional territory the community forest exists.

First Nations Involvement



The Qala:yit Community Forest is a partnership between the Cowichan Lake Community Forest Co-operative, the Pacheedaht First Nation, and the provincial government.

For the Pacheedaht, a member of the Nuu-chah-nulth Nation, a cedar canoe is not just a boat. The canoe was once the lifeblood of their economic, social, spiritual, and governance systems.

The project, in partnership with the University of Victoria, set out to “reclaim Nuu-chah-nulth teachings to empower and strengthen the roles and responsibilities of Pacheedaht young men.” The canoe had its beginning as a two-metre-wide, 11-metre-high cedar tree from the community forest.

For more, see uvic.ca/news/topics/2021+pacheedaht-canoe+news

QALA:YIT CEDAR CANOE
PHOTO STEVE LORIMER



Management of Sensitive Areas

Percentage of total area that is sensitive: **47%**



"Plimsoll Productions from the UK are producing a National Geographic wildlife series for Disney+ on a series that aims to reveal fascinating aspects of the natural world that are hidden in plain sight. One of the episodes features Douglas-fir beetles as part of a sequence on Canadian forests, particularly their production of pheromones. NACFOR worked with Rossland filmmaker Frankowski Pictures to locate and wrangle beetles for filming and provided some technical review on the script. It was an interesting assignment and a nice change from daily operations for NACFOR staff!" — Frances Swan, Nakusp and Area Community Forest (NACFOR)

COMMUNITY FORESTS CONTAIN sensitive habitats such as watersheds and old growth, as well as culturally sensitive areas. With the changing climate and evolving forestry regulations, we see a shift in focus to manage landscapes in an adaptive and dynamic way that includes old growth and other sensitive areas. These tenures are managed with social licence to prescribe and conduct management activities aligned with individual community values. Survey respondents were asked to report on the area within their boundaries that is sensitive.

Sensitive areas are defined as any of the following: 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-seven per cent of the combined tenure area of survey respondents is considered sensitive, and 19 per cent of those sensitive areas is operable. Five community forests reported that 100 per cent of their land base is sensitive, which creates some unique management challenges and opportunities.



Most (96 per cent) community forests have portions of their tenures set aside in reserves, including enhanced areas for management of old growth. One community forest that responded to not having reserves set aside has a very small tenure base relative to the other community forests that do have reserves. Overall, this demonstrates the leadership of community forests in focusing their management to consider other values, in addition to timber, that are important for ecological resiliency and biodiversity.

"Many of the sensitive areas within the Logan Lake Community Forest are located within 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 also represent public safety concerns with dead timber adjacent to our community representing a significant wildfire threat. We look forward to a more robust discussion regarding OGMA management and allocation in our tenure area and solutions to better serve our community forest and the public. At this time, we are stepping back and assessing the impact of the Tremont Creek Wildfire on the Logan Lake Community Forest. Roughly 18 per cent of the area was impacted by severe wildfire behaviour. Old growth management areas were amongst the landbase that were impacted."

— Garnet Mireau, Logan Lake

Indicator**17**

Investments in Forest Stewardship

THIS INDICATOR MEASURES the investments community forests make in forest stewardship, incremental to legal requirements. Healthy forest ecosystems are crucial to the longevity and resiliency of local economies and communities. In order to pass on a positive legacy to future generations, rural communities require forward-thinking, innovative and holistic approaches to forest management. Community forests make significant contributions to the ecological integrity of the forests they manage. Activities include enhanced management of sensitive areas (as listed in Indicator 16), data compilation and planning, and monitoring and research that extends above and beyond what is required by law.

Investment in enhanced or modified management for ecological or social reasons	
Total \$	\$1,034,237
Average of those who invested	\$103,424

Number of hectares treated within and outside the CF boundary	
Total ha	47,878
Average # ha treated	105

The total dollars invested in enhanced or modified management has nearly doubled in this reporting period compared to the last. This is primarily due to an increased focus on identifying old growth areas and developing long-term landscape level management plans. In addition to the \$1 million that community forests invested above and beyond legal requirements, they also managed over \$750,000 from external sources such as the Forest Enhancement Society of BC. A total of 630 volunteer hours were reported over the past year relating to forest stewardship work.

Westbank First Nation Community Forest has developed a Seven Generation Stewardship Plan for management of the community forest landbase and beyond into their traditional territory. Over 70% of the community forest area is classified as an ecosystem with frequent stand-maintaining fires (NDT4). Yet fire has been suppressed over the past 100 years, creating imbalance in the forest ecosystem. The Seven Generation Plan seeks to balance forest management with traditional WFN priorities including hunting, trapping, food and medicine gathering and spiritual use. The Plan includes a management approach to old growth which includes not just the age of trees, but how old local forests function and where old forests will have the best success to thrive. They are incorporating both scientific and Indigenous knowledge to identify where on the landscape it is important to have old trees. They recognize that human activities, including climate change, will impact old forests into the future. Resiliency to adapt to future change is a core element of the Plan.

Plan in place for conserving old growth: **63%**

Invested in LiDAR geospatial/inventory technology: **81%**

"The old growth areas mapped on our CFA are mostly gorgeous decadent old growth that is worth more standing than on a truck so these areas will be reserved in perpetuity." — Jeff Reyden, Manager, Kaslo & District CF



KDCFS OLD GROWTH PHOTO JEFF REYDEN

"We use the LiDAR every day. Wonderful investment that pays itself off in many different ways." — Craig Pryor, Manager, Valemount CF

"We are currently updating our management plan and cut calculation. We are using LiDAR data to enhance the provincial Vegetation Resources Inventory data sets. This may result in a reduced annual allowable cut." — George Brcko, Wells Gray CF

Compliance with Environmental Standards



UBC WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION
RESEARCH IN NAKUSP,
PHOTO FRANCES SWAN

Fuel Mitigation Treatment Efficacy Research

Dr. Lori Daniels and her University of British Columbia research team are collaborating with community forests around BC on efficacy of treatments to reduce wildfire risk and hazards.

Their research approach is to measure and compare fuels in treated and untreated areas and use stand-level models to assess probability of fire and potential fire effects.

THIS INDICATOR REPORTS on the number of Compliance and Enforcement inspections conducted, as well as the number of determinations issued against the community forest for potential environmental damage. The survey also included inquiries regarding the results of any applicable Forest Practices Board audits or investigations by other provincial or federal agencies. Three determinations were issued against community forests over the reporting period, one of which was administrative and not related to an environmental issue.

Number of Compliance & Enforcement inspections conducted & determinations	
Total inspections	8
Determinations issued against the CF	3

CFA management practices met, exceeded, or significantly exceeded requirements outlined in legislation:

Per cent that met requirements	25%
Per cent that exceeded requirements	44%
Per cent that significantly exceeded requirements	22%

We found that 66 per cent of community forests reported they exceed or significantly exceed standard BC requirements.

Examples include:

- Reserving more wildlife tree patches and retention areas by cutblock beyond what is required by legislation;
- Invasive plant surveys and manual control efforts;
- Increased retention along small streams;
- Development of a framework for management of migratory birds; and
- Utilization of fibre which would be left on-site through the logging process and/or post-harvest process.



Field trip at the 2019 BCCFA Conference and AGM in Mission PHOTO BCCFA



Join us

Celebrating 20 Years of the BCCFA

In March 2002, 40 people who believed in the concept of community forestry gathered to establish the BC Community Forest Association (BCCFA). The BCCFA was formed to serve as the voice to represent community forests, and to create a network of the communities that aspired to create a long-term role for communities in the forest tenure system. With only 10 member communities at the beginning, the BCCFA membership now includes 48 organizations representing over 100 communities, plus supplier and associate members.

Since the formation of the BCCFA we have seen society and community expectations, as well as government priorities and the associated legislative and regulatory requirements change over time, some with challenging consequences for community forests. Guided by the principles set out in that first 2002 meeting — principles of open, honest, accountable, and transparent communications, professional standards of excellence, inclusivity and respect, the BCCFA has represented the diverse interests of members and of our unique tenure.

We are grateful to our government, industry and educational partners for the important relationships that have been cultivated and for their support for the perspectives and needs of community forests.

We are incredibly proud of the accomplishments of our grassroots organization and deeply grateful for the generous, skilled contributions of our volunteer board of directors and members over the years. We look forward to navigating the years ahead together with resilient hearts and minds and a continued commitment to community-based forest management.



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PHOTO YISEUNG PHOTOGRAPHIE