

Non Timber Forest Resources: Community Perspectives and Management Options

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Outline

- ▶ Background
- ▶ Research Description
- ▶ Recommendations/ Next Steps
- ▶ Lessons Learned



Background: Community Forests

- ▶ Provide long-term opportunities for a range of objectives and values

- ▶ diversify the use of and benefits derived from the community forest agreement area

- ▶ environmental stewardship

- ▶ community involvement and participation

- ▶ Promote communication and strengthen relationships between aboriginal and non-aboriginal communities and persons

- ▶ foster innovation

- ▶ forest worker safety



Forest Act

“A community forest agreement may give to its holder the rights to harvest, manage and charge fees for botanical forest products and other prescribed products”



NTFR sector (value & characteristics)

- ▶ In Canada as a whole the NTFR sector generates over a billion dollars per year (CFS, 2007).
- ▶ Floral greens and wild mushrooms
- ▶ Important trading resource
- ▶ Non-monetary = cost-cutting, capacity building, economic buffering and affirmation of self worth during times of unemployment, identity expression, and social network development

▶ (The Centre for Non-Timber Resources, 2006; McLain, 2008; Reimer, 2006)

Background: NTFRs

**=Common pool resource
(subtractable, difficult to
exclude)**



- ▶ First Nations constitutional aboriginal right
- ▶ Legal framework

▶ The Centre for Non-Timber Resources, 2006; McLain, 2008; Reimer, 2006; FPB, 2011

Research Question and Objectives

- ▶ What are challenges and opportunities to the harvest of non-timber forest resources in the case study community?

- Sustainable modes of harvesting

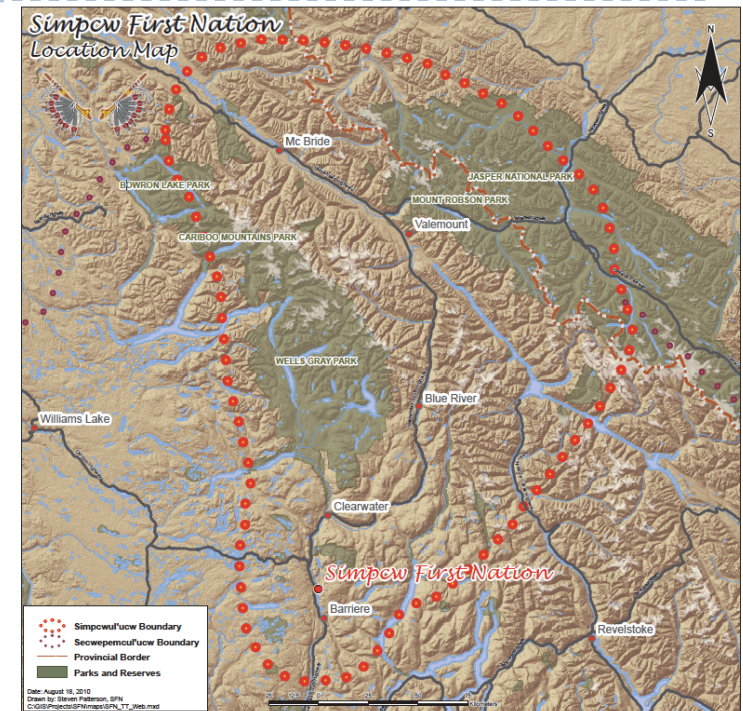
- Perspectives

- Factors of success and challenges through co-management framework

- Constraints and opportunities for harvest and commercialization



Background: Case Study Location



The Wells Gray Community Forest
and the Simpcw First Nation

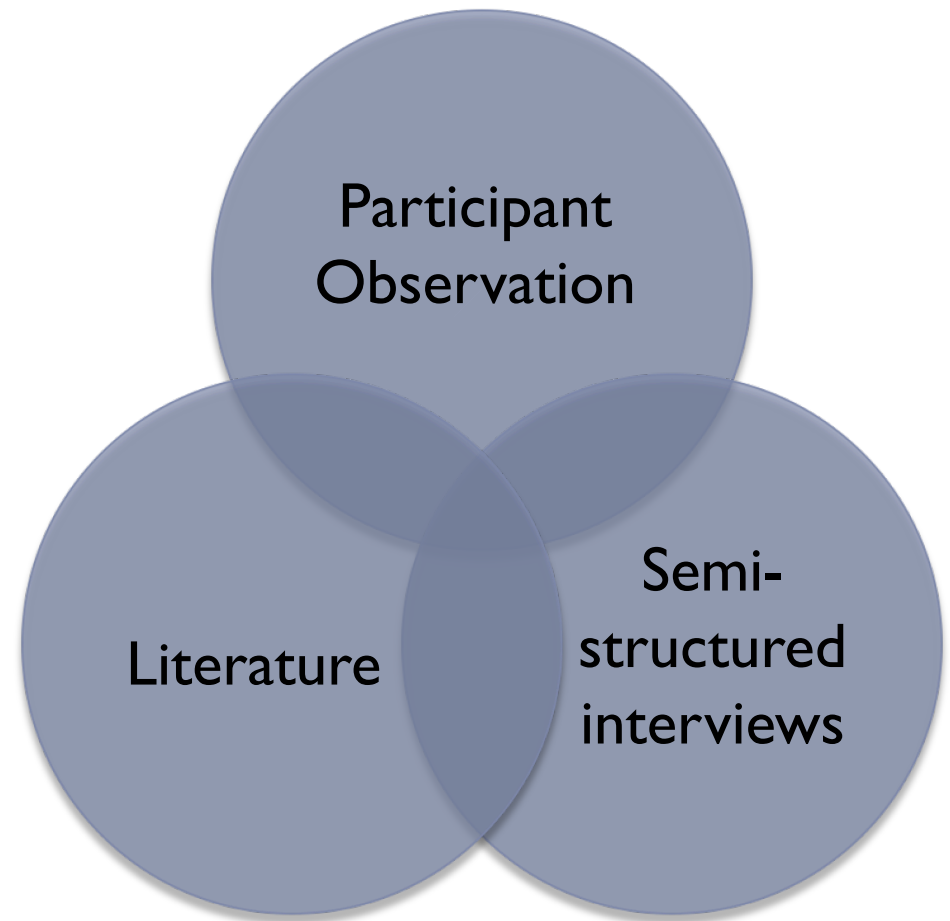
Before I arrived on the scene...

- ▶ Non Timber Forest Products dedicated Board Member
- ▶ Symposium on Non Timber Forest Products (2010)
- ▶ Community to Community Meeting (Spring 2011)



Methodology

- ▶ 46 interviews
- ▶ 2.5 months spent in community



- ▶ Frankfurt-Nachmias and Nachmias, 1992; Glaser and Strauss, 1967; Huntington, 1998; Spradely, 1979; Yin, 2003

Sample Results: Top species harvested

Species		Sources	References
Galls, wood and stumps		3	3
Raspberry	Rubus idaeus	6	6
Strawberry	Fragaria virginiana	6	6
Blueberry	Vaccinium ovalifolium, Vaccinium myrtilloides, Vaccinium caespitosum	6	6
Cedar	Thuja plicata	6	6
Boughs	Various spp.	7	7
Saskatoon	Amelanchier alnifolia	7	7
Soopalalie	Shepherdia canadensis	8	8
Mushrooms	Various spp.	9	10
Berries	Various spp.	11	11
Huckleberry	Vaccinium membranaceum and Vaccinium parvifolium	12	13



Sample Results: Threatened or Sensitive NTFRs

Species		Sources	References
Labrador tea	Ledum groenlandicum	3	3
Devil's club	Oplopanax horridus	3	3
Huckleberries	Vaccinium membranaceum and Vaccinium parvifolium	4	4
Lilies	Various spp.	5	5
Mushrooms	Various spp.	6	6



Sample Results: Harvesting Best Practices



- ▶ *(For indian hellebore) we leave well over half of what we see. Some would take the very last plant. I don't know how it regenerates, but I don't think you want to even for your own long-term use or for the community's, you don't want to run out.. From the source that we have in the ground I would not supply very many people because I don't know enough about the regeneration.*



Sample Results: Harvesting Best Practices

- ▶ *I pretty well often go back to the same areas that I've been to and harvest there trying to point out if they're easy areas, like chokecherries just on this road outside of the village here they hang like grapes out there. So I will tell people about those but I myself will go someplace further away to pick, so I kind of go a little more off road myself if I can go up some of the back roads.*



Similarities in perspectives

- ▶ Protecting plants
- ▶ Ensuring personal sustenance
- ▶ Detailed attention to management
- ▶ Common reasons for harvesting NTFRs
- ▶ Similar in terms of lack of a desire to regulate NTFRs
- ▶ Education and relationship building



Differences in perspectives

- ▶ Simpcw: NTFRs are about healing, trading, where things grow
- ▶ Simpcw: the link between culture, language and plants
- ▶ Non-Simpcw: discussion about economic activity and business development
- ▶ Simpcw: community discussion of trading, sharing and gifting NTFRs
- ▶ Non-Simpcw: more comfortable ranking species according to importance or value.
- ▶ Non-Simpcw: Research focus



Recommendations –Short Term

- ▶ WGCF: neither a high known level of risk to NTFR resources, nor a concrete idea of rent capture lost
- ▶ According to my study, CF's role should focus on:
 - ▶ 1) Relationship building with First Nations and,
 - ▶ 2) Raising awareness and educating the public about economically and culturally valuable NTFRs
 - ▶ 3) Research species yield, quality, regeneration



Recommendations- Long term

- ▶ No commercialization of medicine
- ▶ Emphasis on proper consultation and accommodation
- ▶ Promote benefits from NTFRs
- ▶ Permits for commercial harvest. Only of compatible products.



Lessons Learned

- ▶ What I learned.....
- ▶ What I would do differently.....
- ▶ How can a community forest achieve the same results with less time and energy?.....



Management Ideas

- ▶ Create rec trails that also provide access to good NTFR sites
- ▶ Make NTFR sector development a formal part of an annual plan
- ▶ Make NTFR planning a part of a job description
- ▶ Provide maps and information about access to picking spots
- ▶ Keep the community informed about changes to NTFR policy and research
- ▶ Communicate with harvesters about retrieving native plants prior to road building and logging
- ▶ Make best practices picking guidelines available
- ▶ Use revenue to co-ordinate/support a certified community kitchen that can be used for NTFR processing
- ▶ A budget line for NTFR, if they put 10 cents for every cubic meter harvested, % rather than fixed amount.



Thank you!



Questions?



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Appendix 1: Commercial NTFRs in the region

Species	Business Type	Market	Value	Comments
Many	wreaths	Edmonton		
Spruce	spruce bud syrup			
Many	small trees and shrubs for landscaping		\$200-\$500 a tree	
Many	christmas greenery	Edmonton		
Many	christmas trees	Edmonton		
Poplar	poplar oil		7\$ a vial	
Spruce	cones for seed	seed bank in Surrey	200-300 a day for pickers	
Birch	decorative	Edmonton		
Huckberries/ blubberies		Kamloops	\$10 a pound	Historically shipped to Vancouver



Appendix 1: Commercial NTFRs in the region

Species	Product	Market	Value	Comments
Soopalalie	Juice and berries	Strauss Herbal, Pow wows		Hooshum: 120 lbs of hooshum. 3-4 days of picking. 2 hrs a day. up on Skull Mountain. 65 pints and 12 quarts of pure juice
Cedar branches	for oil		peak year was up to \$150 for 4-5 hrs work for picker. \$50,000 into economy of CW	
Cedar cones	seeds		200-300 a day for pickers	
	topsoil from road clearing etc.	Lower mainland?	. topsoil is \$24 or so a cubic yard. round here it's selling for \$45	
Many	other seeds			
Cedar	cedar log planters			
Morels	fresh or dried	global. Buyers in valemount, barriere	\$5 a pound	
Pine mushrooms	fresh or dried	global. Buyers in valemount, barriere	up to \$300 a pound	
	moccasins, making gloves, birch bark basket, pine needle basket		varies. Mark up being captured by gift shops in cities.	
	cottonwood pitch and grease. same with pine pitch, and Douglas fir pitch			

Appendix 2: Sample Results: Harvesting Best Practices

Category	Action	Sources	References
Sustainability and Yield	Awareness of quantity taken	6	27
	Harvest for pitch only does not damage plants	1	1
	Prune branches as you pick	3	7
	Special harvesting practices for roots	1	1
	Break branches off to encourage growth (Soopalalie)	2	6
	Use of fire to encourage abundance of berries	1	3
	Choice of location for: minimizing impact, or maximizing regeneration or rotating locations.	6	13
	Proper practice for mushrooms (use of knife and no use of rake)	2	7
	Pick off the bad berries	2	2
Distribution	Choice of harvesting location to ensure distribution of the resource throughout the community.	6	13

Appendix 3: Informal economy and rural economies

- ▶ informal economy literature are cost-cutting, capacity building, economic buffering, affirmation of self-worth during times of unemployment, identity expression, and social network development
- ▶ Non-economic benefits from NTFR harvest and management are internationally recognized and include increased pride and self-sufficiency, re-connection with the land and community, rediscovery of traditions, and skills development (Belcher, et. al., 2010; UN Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992). For harvesters and their families, non-economic gains encompass improvements to health through improved diet and exercise due to spending more time on the land.



Appendix 4: Legislative framework

- ▶ section 35(1) states that "the existing aboriginal and treaty rights of the aboriginal peoples of Canada are hereby recognized and affirmed" (*Constitution Act*, 1982).
- ▶ right to these species and right to consultation and accommodation for any potential impacts within their traditional territory
- ▶ Historic legislation for Cascara (1942) and Pacific Yew
- ▶ FSP, FRPA
- ▶ Nisga'a Final Agreement Act (1999)
- ▶ 2 tenure types under Forest Act 1996 (CF and FN woodland license)



Appendix 5: Sample Results: Potential for co-management

		Sources	Refs
Preconditions			
	Negotiation or experimental co-management	1	1
	Willingness to contribute (financially or otherwise) to management of the resource	2	2
	Stock depletion	10	16
Conditions supporting co-management			
	Co-management data collection	1	1
	Re-circulating wealth	1	2
	Conserving and enhancing the resource and culture	3	3
	External support and discussion of co-management or NTFRs	6	7
	Existence of an energy centre	20	161



Appendix 5: Process-based outcomes of co-management

<i>Co-management</i>	<i>Sources</i>	<i>References</i>
Goodwill	3	4
Trust and Open Communication	13	22
Sharing Culture	5	6



Appendix 5: Sample Results: Co-management

- ▶ *Huckleberries don't exist in the abundance and widespread area that they once used to. Blueberries are becoming more rare, and the ones we find these days are tiny, they don't grow to the large size they used to. The blueberries used to grow as large as the Huckleberries or even larger, now no matter where you go the bushes are stunted and hard to pick. It's hard to get a bucket of them; at one time they flourished as much as the Huckleberries.*



Appendix 5: Sample Results: Co-management

- ▶ *I would like to see a provincial gathering and symposium proposed where people from many communities both native and non native can come together and have a look at this. Because the more people you bring into a process like that with their different ways of thinking and different insights into the land and traditional use of the land, the more likely you are going to come up with a management practice that's going to be suitable to everyone.*



Appendix 5: Conclusions: Co-management

- ▶ 1) Informal co-management agreements can precede or substitute for formal legal arrangements for management of NTFRs
- ▶ 2) The case study revealed two preconditions of co-management and three supporting conditions of co-management



Appendix 6: Limits to co-management



Co-management displays potential as a route towards management of NTFRs. However, it is limited by

- 1) sharing of formal rights.
- 2) the nature of common pool resources.

