


*Dream to
Reality....*

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Also sometimes known as “Dream to
What Am I Doing this for?”....!!!??



OUTLINE

- History
- Successes? Failures? Insights gained!
- A wee bit of advice
- Opportunities for future
- Questions?

Burns Lake Quick Facts....

- Located in central (“northern”) British Columbia on Highway 16
- 3614 residents in the Village of Burns Lake, serving approximately 10,000 residents
- A “one stop light” town....



- Ample recreation opportunities (“10,000 miles of lakes” for fishing/boating, hunting, hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling)
- Primarily a forest industry-based community (two larger Hampton Affiliates sawmills)

History of Burns Lake Community Forest

- September 1998 - the Ministry of Forests issued a Request for Proposals
- The Village of Burns Lake was one of four communities selected

- A new community-owned corporation, Burns Lake Community Forest Ltd. (BLCF), was established with an emphasis on innovative harvesting techniques, increased public consultation, and the development of backcountry recreation infrastructure.

What did the public want?

- Ownership? – CF to belong to everyone
- CF to benefit the community as a whole

- Initial pilot license signed July 7, 2000
- Initial AAC was 23,677 m³
- Initial size was 23,325 hectares surrounding the Village of Burns Lake

- Awarded several uplifts between 2005 and 2010 (salvage) (300,000 m³ to 500,000 m³)
- Underwent several expansions

BLCF today?

- AAC of 260,000 m³ for next 3 years
- 87,088 hectares in size

Successes?

- As per our 1999 BLCF Mission Statement:
- 1) Local management of resources:**
- Board of local residents
- “Open door” policy, consultation
- Public reviews/surveys to adjust

Successes?

- As per our 1999 BLCF Mission Statement:
- 2) Local processing:**
- Harvested over 2 million cubic meters – almost all locally processed
- Processed some volume at our own mill(s)



Successes?

- As per our 1999 BLCF Mission Statement:
- 3) Local employment:**
- Generated hundreds of thousands of manhours of employment
- All harvesting, planting and some management contracted to locals



Successes?

- As per our 1999 BLCF Mission Statement:
- 4) Forestry training and education:**
- Participated in local schools and college programs
- Hosted workshops, donated simulators to local college



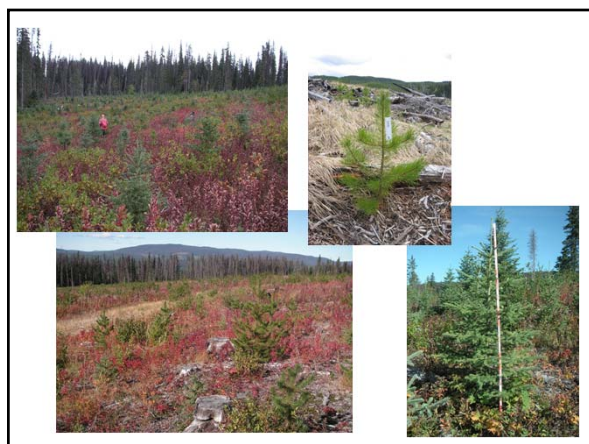
Successes?

- As per our 1999 BLCF Mission Statement:
- 5) Outdoor recreation activities:**
- Donated over \$1 million to recreation programs and infrastructure
- Purchased private land for mountain bike park development
- Donated to ensure local trails and recreation sites remain open



Successes?

- As per our 1999 BLCF Mission Statement:
- 6) Lasting relationship with the land:**
- Employ sustainable forest practices
- Updated resource inventories
- Planted over 10 million seedlings (50-50 local pine and genetically improved spruce)
- Declared first Free-to-grow stand in 2009



Successes?

- As per our 1999 BLCF Mission Statement:
- 7) Culturally significant economic and educational opportunities for First Nations:**
- Assisted First Nations with management of forest licenses
- Employed First Nations forestry crew
- Sponsored courses (NTFP, etc.)



Successes?

- As per our 1999 BLCF Mission Statement:
- 8) Revenue – to sustain the corporation and to support the community:**
- Generated over **\$103 million** worth of economic activity in the area between 2001 and 2009
- Donated over **\$3.1 million** to the community
- Maintain over **\$4 million** in reserve to cover future silviculture obligations



Failures?

There are risks and costs to a program of action, but they are far less than the long range risks and costs of comfortable inaction.

Failures?

- Parent company invested in several companies that failed
- Lack of controls and oversight, poor management, failure to recognize and react to changes in the marketplace
- Led to millions of dollars in losses

Failures?

- Were not transparent enough in the eyes of some members of the public, and lost some public trust

Failures?

- We were not very successful in keeping the community IN the community forest
- Tried numerous mechanisms to engage the community, but still get little public input into management of CF

Insight

**Be cautious
in areas of inexperience.**

**Be aggressive
in areas of expertise.**

A wee bit of advice...

- 1) Develop policies early - don't**
build policies out of crisis
- Gives clear direction to board and staff
 - Gives clear direction to the public
 - Saves energy (and money!)

A wee bit of advice...

- 2) "Blow your own horn" early –**
celebrate successes!
- Develop clear Mission Statements that are measurable
 - Report regularly to the public on progress in meeting these objectives/goals

A wee bit of advice...

- 3) Be transparent**
- Admit failures, take corrective action (policy changes?) and move on
 - Maintain the trust between your governing body and the public
 - Keep media informed – educate if necessary

A wee bit of advice...

With a **solid governance** model, **strong management**, **good leadership** and **sound policies**, you will go far!

Opportunities for future

The community forest tenure is a GREAT tenure

- Local Management
- Benefits stay in the community

Vision without Action is merely
a dream

Action without Vision just
passes the time

Vision with Action can change
the world.

Japanese proverb