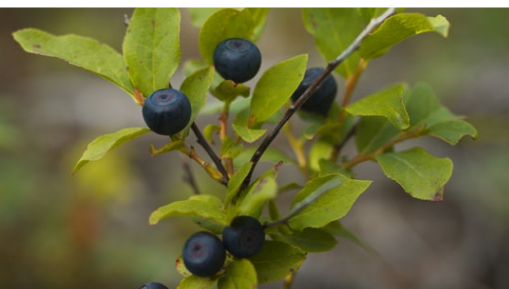
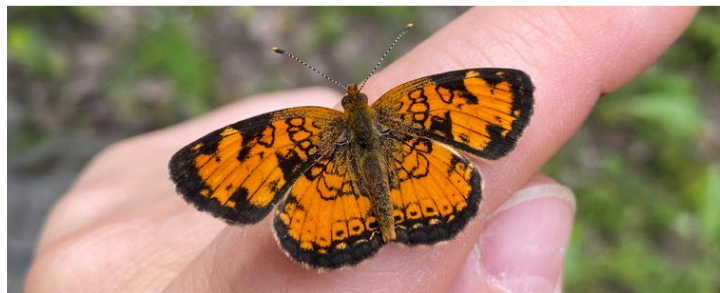




BC **COMMUNITY**
FOREST
ASSOCIATION

COMMUNITY FOREST INDICATORS 2026



MEASURING THE BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY FORESTRY

BCCFA.CA



Community Forest Indicators 2026
Measuring the Benefits of Community Forestry

September 2026

Front cover photos: notebook in the forest at Sunshine Coast CF by Olam Films, Powell River logger Madill by Anji Smith Photos, butterfly by NACFOR, huckleberry picking by Ntityix Resources, wild berries closeup by Olam Films, mountain biker in Cheakamus CF by Glenn Mackie, and woman and tall tree by Talaysay Tours.

Graphic design by Nadene Rehnby

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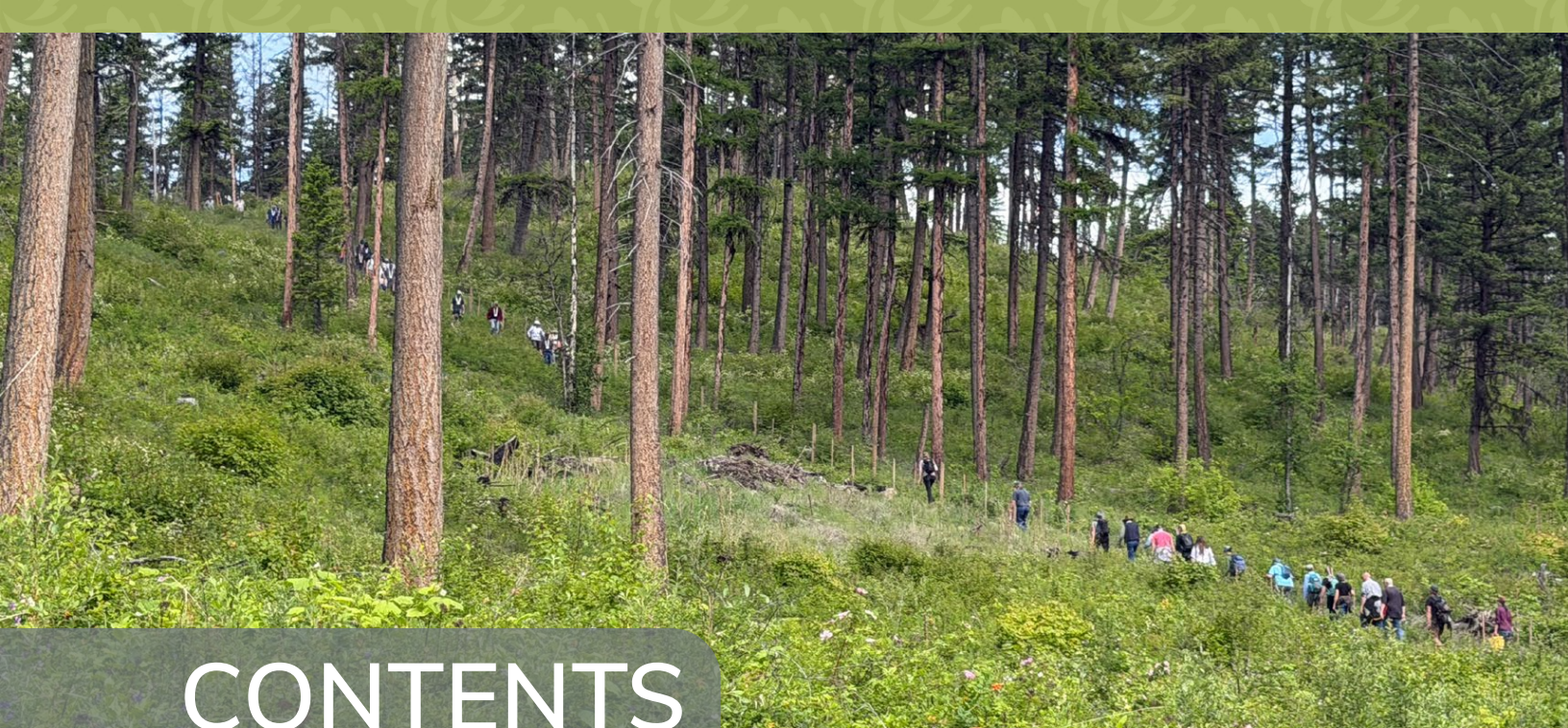


The 2026 Indicators Report reflects the knowledge and generosity of community forests across BC. Thank you to our members for sharing your data, stories, photos, and experiences. Your contributions bring the report to life and help tell the broader story of the benefits community forests deliver through local stewardship, employment, wildfire resilience, partnerships, and long-term investment in your communities and forests.

Thank you as well to our partners and colleagues who contributed their expertise and support, including Peak Solutions Consulting, Skye Cunningham with Cabin Resources and the team at Amplify Consulting.

— Jennifer Gunter, BCCFA Executive Director; Susan Mulkey, BCCFA Senior Manager; Carly Dow, BCCFA Manager of Communications and Outreach





SUSAN MULKEY PHOTO

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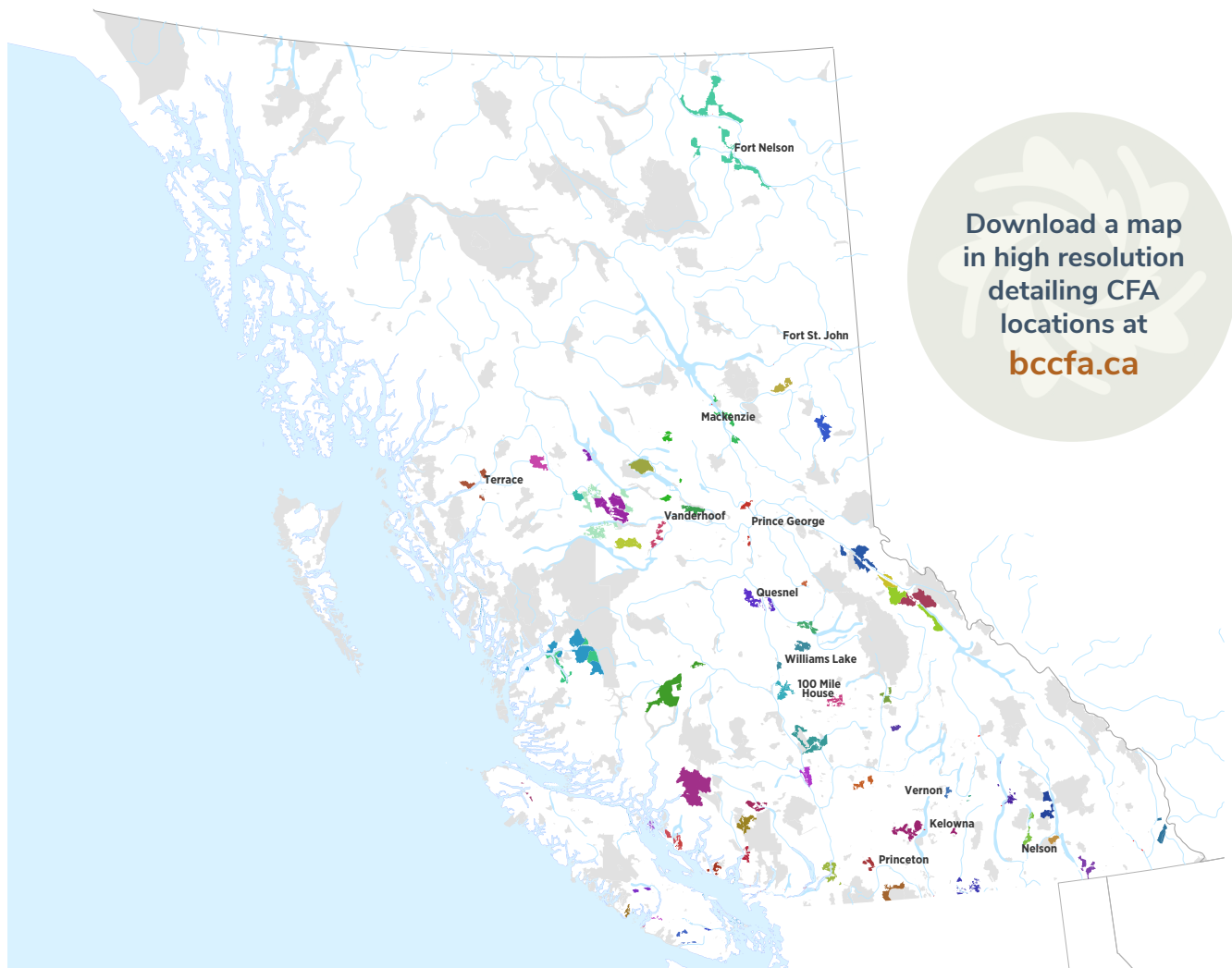
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37 COMMUNITY FORESTS PARTICIPATED IN THE 2026 SURVEY

Alberni Valley Community Forest • **Bamfield Huu-ay-aht** Community Forest Society • **Barkley** Community Forest • **Burns Lake** Community Forest • **Cheakamus** Community Forest • **Cherry Ridge** Management Committee • **Cheslatta Carrier** Nation • **Chinook** Community Forest • **Clinton** Community Forest • **Eniyud** Community Forest • **Fraser Lake** (Village of) • **Fort St James** (Village of) • **Harrop Procter** Community Cooperative • **Kaslo & District** Community Forest • **Likely-Xat'sül** Community Forest • **Little Prairie** Community Forest • **Logan Lake** Community Forest • **Lower North Thompson** Community Forest • **McBride** Community Forest • **McLeod Lake Mackenzie** Community Forest • **Monashee** Community Forest • **Nakusp** and Area Community Forest • **North Island** Community Forest • **Powell River** Community Forest • **Qala:yit** Community Forest • **Slocan** Integral Forestry Cooperative • **Spel'kúmt'n** Community Forest • **Squamish** Community Forest • **Sunshine** Coast Community Forest • **Three Rivers** Community Forest • **Tumbler Ridge** Community Forest • **Valemount** Community Forest • **Vanderhoof** (Village of) • **Wells Gray** Community Forest • **West Boundary** Community Forest • **Westbank** First Nation • **Wetzin'kwa** Community Forest



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Community Forestry: Rooted in Place, Built for the Future

British Columbia's community forests continue to demonstrate the lasting benefits of local stewardship. Rooted in their communities, they manage forests with an understanding that every decision involves trade-offs. Using local knowledge, good science, and meaningful engagement, community forests make informed decisions that reflect community priorities, the characteristics of the land, and a responsibility to future generations.

The 2026 Community Forest Indicators Report tells that story through survey data and examples from across the province. Community forests create local employment and economic activity, reinvest revenues in their communities and land base, strengthen wildfire resilience, support recreation and education, strengthen relationships with First Nations, and adapt forest management in response to changing conditions.



The forest is not just a working land base—it is a shared landscape with deep ecological, cultural, and economic meaning.”

— Dan Macmaster, Manager, West Boundary CF

Dan's words capture a theme that runs throughout this year's report. Community forests are managing complex landscapes where many values and interests come together. This requires strong relationships, good information, local knowledge, and a willingness to make thoughtful decisions. It also requires looking beyond today's decisions to the long-term resilience of forests and communities and the generations that will depend on them.

Drawing on quantitative data from 18 indicators, the report is complemented by stories and examples that show how community forestry is being put into practice across BC. For the reporting year, 37 community forests completed the survey, representing 77% of BCCFA's operating members.

Together, the results demonstrate the unique role community forests play in delivering lasting economic, environmental, social, and cultural benefits across British Columbia.

Working collaboratively with the BCCFA Board and staff, the province has updated the goals of the Community Forest Program to reflect the evolving role of community forestry. The new goals recognize the importance of local stewardship, relationships with First Nations, wildfire and climate resilience, community benefits, sustainable fibre supply, innovation, accountability, and safety (see page 11). These new goals will guide the continued growth of the program.



BY THE NUMBERS

Collectively, in the reporting year, survey respondents:

- Generated **\$129 million+** in economic activity
- Harvested **662,727** cubic meters
- Delivered **74%** higher job rate per cubic metre than industry average
- Planted **6.17 million** trees
- Directed **\$1.33 million** to wildfire resiliency
- Built/maintained **56 km** of trails.



BCCFA is guided by a 10-member board that represents community forests from across BC — Vancouver Island to the Interior and the North, including Indigenous-partnered operations. Read about each of our board members at bccfa.ca/board-staff

First Nations Collaboration

Community forestry provides a meaningful and practical pathway for advancing reconciliation in BC.

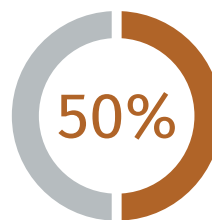
Over half of the province's community forests are either held by First Nations or operated in partnership with them: a figure confirmed by this survey's participants.

Collaboration is a defining feature of these partnerships. Nearly **60%** of community forests reported having cooperative planning processes in place with local First Nations, reflecting a commitment to shared stewardship and inclusive decision-making. In response to the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA), **78%** of survey respondents have taken concrete steps such as establishing co-ownership arrangements, adopting co-management frameworks, and implementing shared governance models.

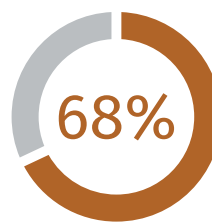
These efforts reflect the growing role of community forests as leaders in building respectful, long-term relationships with Indigenous communities: grounded in mutual trust, cultural recognition, and a shared commitment to the land.



More than half of CFs are held by First Nations or partner with them



50% have cooperative planning processes with local First Nations



68% have taken additional steps to strengthen relationships with First Nations

Jobs and Economic Contributions

Community forests make an important contribution to rural and First Nations economies, creating employment, generating economic activity, supporting local businesses, and keeping forestry revenues circulating in their communities.

In the reporting year, survey respondents harvested a combined **662,727 m³**. They created **0.45 full-time** jobs per 1,000 m³ in forestry, logging, and support services, which is approximately **74%** higher than the industry average. When combined with trail building, wildfire response, research and milling, total employment increases to **0.94 PY** per 1,000 m³ harvested.

Respondents generated more than **\$129 million** in total economic activity, averaging approximately **\$3.5 million** per community forest. This spending supports contractors, workers, suppliers, and businesses, extending the economic impact of community forestry throughout rural and First Nations communities.

The benefits flow directly back to communities. Respondents reported a total of **\$10.4 million** in cash contributions and more than **\$325,000** in in-kind contributions during the reporting year.

Community forests are also creating economic opportunities beyond conventional timber harvesting. Diversified activities include value-added manufacturing, wildfire mitigation and forestry services, recreation, firewood, and other locally driven enterprises. Diversified sales reported exceeded **\$1.7 million**.



0.94 jobs
per 1,000 m³
harvested



Diversified sales
over \$1.7 million



Combined total
harvest of 662,727
cubic metres



\$129+ million in
total economic
activity



“Decisions made on the land affect people’s livelihoods, recreation, water, wildlife, and sense of place. Taking the time to listen, explain, and incorporate feedback ensures that management reflects local values, not just operational priorities.”

— Dan Macmaster, Manager, West Boundary Community Forest



WEST BOUNDARY COMMUNITY FOREST. OLAM FILMS PHOTO

Healthy and Resilient Communities

Community forests manage for much more than timber.

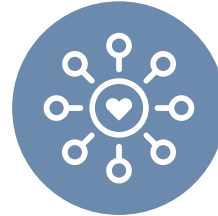
Rooted in place and accountable to their communities, they invest in the land and in local priorities, from wildfire resilience and recreation to education, and long-term stewardship.

Wildfire resilience is a significant priority. **51%** of respondents invested their own revenues in wildfire risk reduction, contributing more than **\$1.3 million** and treating **856 hectares**. Community forests secured **\$6.9 million** in external funding from sources like the Forest Enhancement Society of BC, to support initiatives like fuel treatments, community resilience planning, collaborations, and landscape-level fuel breaks.

Community forests also invest in connecting people with the land. Respondents contributed **\$874,963** of their own funds to recreation, alongside **1,553 volunteer hours**. Investment in community education totalled **\$154,133**, with more than **2,300 hours** dedicated to educational activities including field trips, workshops, and hands-on learning.

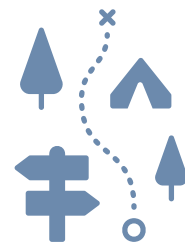


\$1.3 million in CF funds and **\$6.9 million** in external funds for wildfire risk reduction and resilience



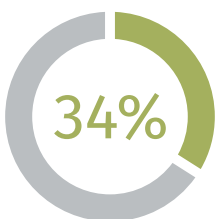
\$154,133 + 2,326 hours invested in community education

\$874,963 invested in recreation

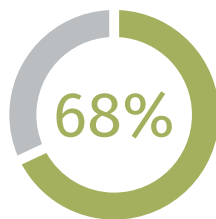


Environmental Stewardship and Climate Adaptation

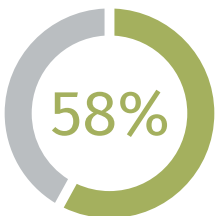
Community forests manage complex land bases where ecological, cultural, social, and economic values overlap. In the reporting period, **91%** of respondents reported sensitive values within their licence areas, representing 34% of their combined land base. Respondents invested more than **\$1.4 million** of their own funds in enhanced forest stewardship, while **58% are** incorporating climate adaptation into long-term or strategic planning and operational practices. **72%** reported exceeding or significantly exceeding environmental compliance standards.



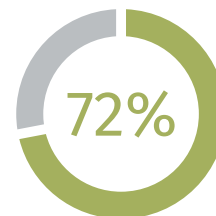
34% of the total combined land base is identified as sensitive



68% have monitoring programs in place



58% incorporate climate adaptation into operations and planning



72% exceed environmental compliance standards



\$1.45 million of community forest funds invested in enhanced stewardship



NAKUSP AND AREA CF PHOTO DARIAN CANNARD

Community Forest Agreements in British Columbia

A Community Forest Agreement (CFA) is a long-term, area-based forest tenure granted by the province of British Columbia to local communities. It provides the exclusive right to harvest timber within a defined area and the right to manage forest products. CFAs have a 25-year term and can be replaced every 10 years, providing the long-term certainty needed to manage forests with a multi-generational perspective.

The community forest tenure was established in 1998 to give local communities a greater role in managing local forests in ways that reflect their values, priorities, and objectives, while creating benefits for the communities involved.

To date, the province has issued 62 Community Forest Agreements, with a goal to expand the program. CFAs are held by a variety of community-based legal entities, including limited partnerships, societies, cooperatives, and First Nations and local governments. Collectively, more than 100 First Nations and rural communities are involved in community forestry in BC. More than half of operating community forests are held by First Nations or through partnerships between First Nation and community organizations and local governments.

Most public land in BC, commonly referred to as Crown land, is within the unceded traditional lands and territories of First Nations. Aligned with BC's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, the BCCFA is committed to advancing forest management that respects First Nations rights and cultural values and strengthens understanding and cooperation between First Nations and rural communities. The inclusion of First Nations' knowledge and values in forest management is an important part of reconciliation and long-term stewardship of the land.



Community forests are shaped by the knowledge, values, and vision of each community.”

— Participant 2026 BCCFA Conference

What Makes Community Forestry Unique

Community forest tenures are held by organizations that represent the local community. Revenues generated from the forest are reinvested locally rather than leaving the community to benefit distant shareholders.

Establishing a community forest requires a comprehensive application process, including demonstrating local engagement and support. Once established, the Licence Document and Management Plan provide an important framework for accountability. They must:

- Set out the broad social, economic, and resource management goals for the community forest;
- Demonstrate how those goals align with the provincial Community Forest Program goals; and
- Include a plan for annual reporting to the community.

Within this framework, communities manage for timber alongside social, economic, environmental, and cultural objectives, integrating these values and navigating the trade-offs among them over the long term.

Community forests reflect the ecological, cultural, and geographic diversity of BC. They operate across many forest types and landscapes and vary considerably in scale — from 361 to 184,682 hectares, with annual allowable cuts ranging from 860 m³ to 194,226 m³.

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.

Across BC's 62 operating community forests, the combined AAC is 2,310,603 m³, averaging 37,268 m³ per year. However, most operate at a much smaller scale: the median AAC is 25,000 m³, and 63% have an AAC below 30,000 m³ per year.

Size alone, whether measured by AAC or land base, is not a reliable indicator of economic viability. Forest health, timber profile, operating costs, and distance to markets can be far more significant in determining the economic realities of a community forest.

Range of community forests based on annual allowable cut (m ³)	*calculated on 62	
	#	%
≤10,000	6	10%
10,001–20,000	17	27%
20,001–30,000	16	26%
30,001–40,000	7	11%
40,001–50,000	5	8%
50,001–60,000	3	5%
60,001–70,000	1	2%
70,001–80,000	1	2%
80,001–90,000	2	3%
90,001–100,000	0	0%
>100,000	4	6%
Total	62	100%

ABBREVIATIONS IN THIS REPORT

AAC = Allowable Annual Cut
 CF = Community forest*
 CFA = Community Forest Agreement
 Ha = Hectares
 M³ = cubic metres of wood

Unless otherwise noted, infographic data reflects the reporting year. Averages are calculated using responses from community forests that participated in the survey.

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



Learn more about the BCCFA and community forestry at bccfa.ca

New Goals for BC's Community Forest Program

Working collaboratively with the BCCFA Board and staff, the province updated the goals of the Community Forest Program to reflect the evolving role of community forestry in BC. The revised goals recognize that community forests face new opportunities and challenges, including climate change, wildfire resilience, and the growing importance of local stewardship. They provide a modern framework for the program while continuing to support local decision-making and the unique environmental, social, cultural, and economic benefits community forests deliver to communities across BC.

Empower communities to manage forests according to local priorities

Community forests are shaped by the knowledge, values, and vision of each community, ensuring management aligns with community-defined objectives and contributing to broader government priorities.

Support a diversity of forest uses and values

Community forests complement a range of forest uses and benefits.

Foster thriving communities and contribute social, cultural, and economic benefits

Community forests support local jobs, community economic development, community wellbeing and long-term resilience.

Support sustainable fibre supply and strong partnerships

Community forests provide a reliable, sustainable supply of fibre to market, building partnerships with local businesses, value-added manufacturers, provincial partners and industry to strengthen local economies.

Advance stewardship and climate resilience

Community forests contribute to ecological integrity, promote land-based investment, and take practical steps to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change.



Minister Parmar, Jennifer Gunter and Randy Spyksma

MINISTRY OF FORESTS PHOTO

Improve community wildfire resilience

Community forests collaborate to reduce wildfire risk and strengthen local mitigation, preparedness, and response.

Ensure inclusive, transparent, and accountable governance

Community forests are financially sound, community-led organizations that actively engage community members, First Nations, partners and the province.

Advance relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities and peoples

First Nations have meaningful roles in community forest governance and operations, with their rights, culture, responsibilities and priorities considered throughout decision-making processes as direct partners or through ongoing engagement and collaboration.

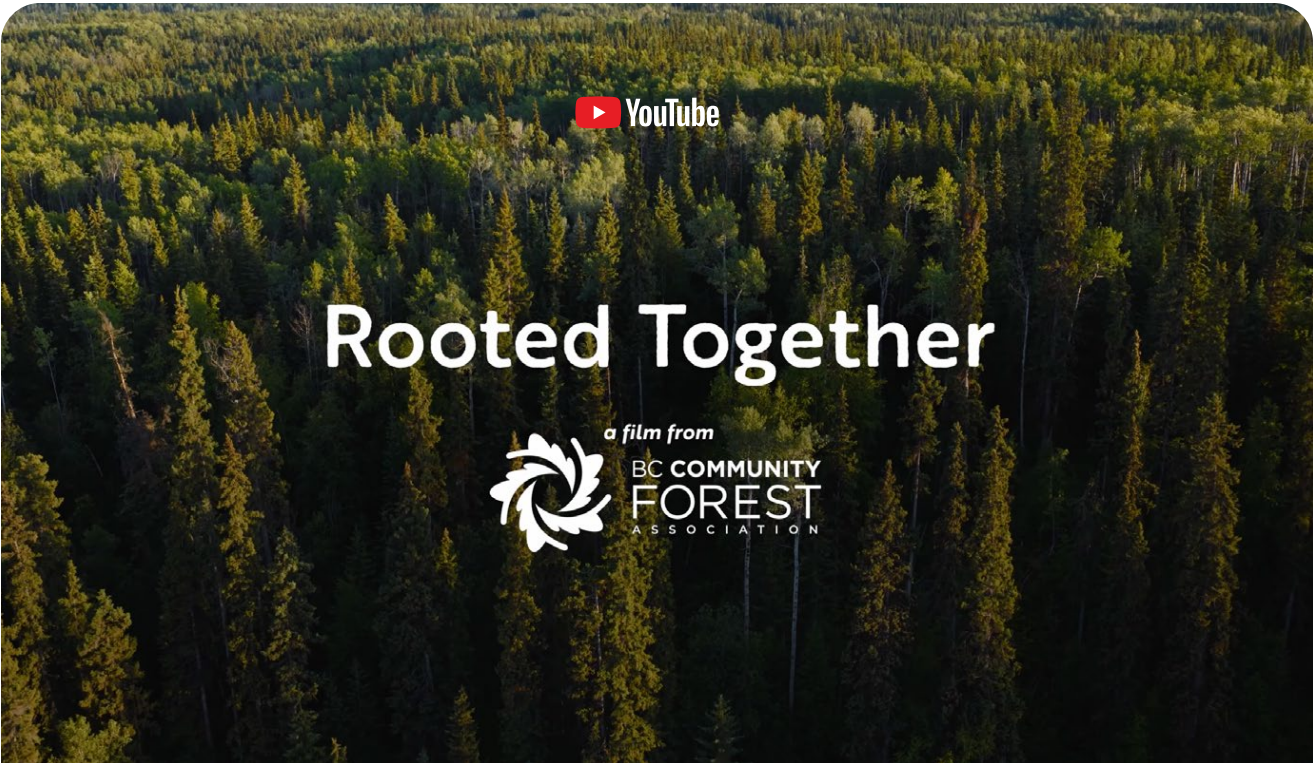
Champion innovation and learning in community forest management

Community forests serve as hubs for piloting new ideas and advancing shared learning.

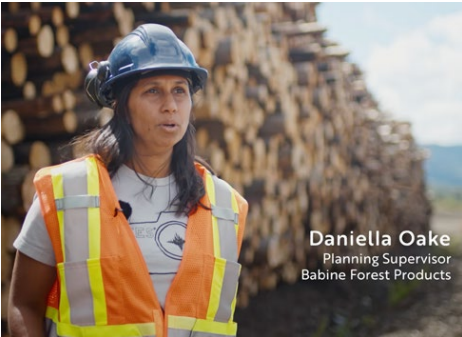
Promote safety and respect

Community forests prioritize safe practices and foster a culture of respect and care for workers, partners, and the public.

Visit the Ministry of Forests community forest webpage for updates and to learn more.



Working with Olam Films, the BCCFA brought together five community forests — West Boundary, Chinook, Sunshine Coast, Logan Lake, and Creston Community Forests — and their stakeholders to tell the story of the value and impact of community forests throughout BC. We invite you to watch and share!



Daniella Oake
Planning Supervisor
Babine Forest Products



Ken Nielsen
Manager
Chinook Community Forest



INDICATOR



Number of Jobs

COMMUNITY FORESTS INVEST in people as well as forests. During the reporting year, **1,833 people** derived all or part of their income from participating community forests, reflecting the broad range of employment generated through the CF model.

To understand this employment impact, the report looks at person-years (PY) in two ways. Forestry, logging and support services generated **0.45 PY per 1,000 m³** harvested — approximately **74% higher** than the industry average. This measure captures activities comparable to those undertaken across the broader forest industry.

Community forests also create employment through activities that extend beyond conventional forestry operations, including trail building, wildfire response, research and other community forest initiatives. When these activities and milling are included, total employment increases to **0.94 PY per 1,000 m³** harvested.

Together, these measures show both the employment generated through core forestry operations and the additional work created through the broader responsibilities and investments of community forests.



Participating community forests created an average of **18 person years of employment** per CF, with jobs in forestry, logging, trail building, firefighting, research, milling, and more.

Person years (PY) of employment based on reported harvest of 662,727 m³

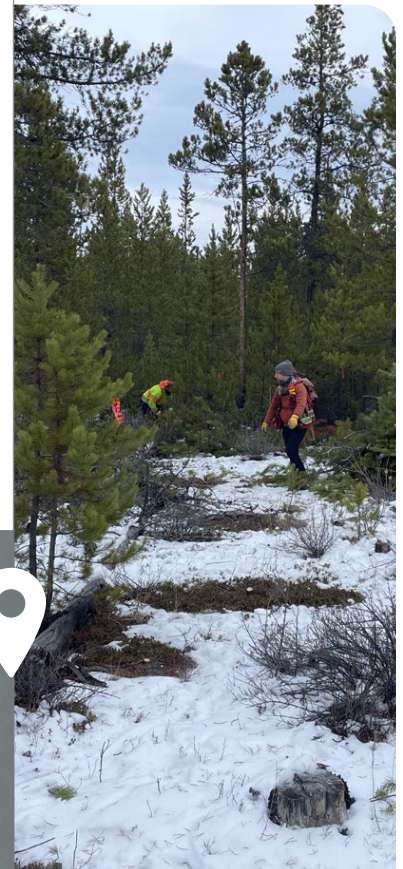
Employment	Forestry, logging and support	Trail building, firefighting, research etc.	Milling	All activities
Person years /1,000 m³	0.454	0.019	0.467	0.939
Average person years per community forest	9.11	0.38	8.63	18.12
Total person years	300.1	12.6	309.3	622.5

Analysis by Peak Solutions Consulting Inc. In accordance with BC Stats, one person-year (PY) equals 1,750 hours, replacing the 1,820-hour FTE measure used in previous reports.

Eniyud Community Forest, a partnership of the community of Tatla Lake and Alexis Creek Tsi Del Del First Nation, completed more than 127 hectares of fuel management treatments along Bluff Lake Road and near Tatla Lake. The project, carried out by local crews employing nearly 30 people, improved wildfire resilience while creating valuable employment opportunities in rural communities.

WORKERS FROM LOCAL FIRST NATIONS ON ENIYUD COMMUNITY FOREST, PHOTO MIKE TOMLINSON

CHILCOTIN
REGION



INDICATOR



Total Economic Activity

THIS COMMUNITY FOREST INDICATOR MEASURES the total annual value of sales and expenditures reported by community forests. Respondents reported more than **\$129 million** in expenditures, averaging **\$3.5 million per organization** in the reporting year.

This is a substantial increase from the previous reporting year and reflects, in part, a change in survey participation. Burns Lake Community Forest, one of the program's largest community forests and a significant contributor to this year's total, participated in the 2026 survey.

Community forests also make significant investments beyond conventional forestry operations, dedicating resources to community engagement, enhanced stewardship and adaptive management, and planning for the many values and priorities associated with their land base. These expenditures reflect the unique responsibilities of the community forest model and contribute to long-term forest and community resilience.



Value of sales:

\$77,042,633

Average: **\$2,082,233**

Value of expenditures:

\$129,418,906

Average: **\$3,497,808**

INVESTING BEYOND TIMBER

West Boundary Community Forest invests beyond conventional forestry to strengthen stewardship, reduce wildfire risk, and ensure forest management reflects local priorities. In a typical year, the WBCF invests an additional \$100,000 – \$200,000 in activities such as community engagement, enhanced planning, and wildfire risk reduction.



KOOTENAY BOUNDARY



These incremental costs are not inefficiencies — they are strategic investments. By allocating more resources toward wildfire risk reduction, ecosystem stewardship, and community engagement, we are building a more resilient forest and a stronger local economy.”

— Dan Macmaster,
Manager, **West Boundary Community Forest**



WEST BOUNDARY COMMUNITY FOREST, OLAM FILMS PHOTO

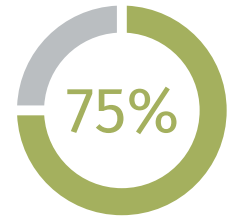
INDICATOR



Community Contributions

ONE OF THE STRENGTHS of the community forest model is the ability to return benefits directly to the communities that steward the land. Community forest revenues support local priorities, organizations, and projects, helping build community capacity and create lasting benefits.

Contributions take many forms, from grants and financial distributions to lumber, contractor time, firewood, trail work, and other in-kind support. During the reporting year, more than **75%** of respondents made cash and/or in-kind contributions in their communities.



75% made cash and/or in-kind contributions in their communities



Cash contributed to the community:
Total: **\$11,740,849** • Average: **\$404,857**



In-kind contributions to the community:
Total: **\$410,064** • Average: **\$410,064**



NORTH THOMPSON

LNTCFS PHOTO

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT WITH LASTING BENEFITS

The Lower North Thompson Community Forest Society (LNTCFS) purchased and renovated a downtown building at 573 Barkley Road for its new office, with space that will also support the development of a medical clinic. The project provides LNTCFS with a stable source of rental income, diversifies revenue, and expands access to healthcare services in the community. LNTCFS invested an additional \$120,000 toward the clinic, helping strengthen healthcare recruitment and retention in the region.



Funds Leveraged

CONTRIBUTIONS THAT COMMUNITY FORESTS MAKE to communities and local organizations help bring new projects to life. Seed funding from community forests is often used to leverage larger initiatives and broader support.

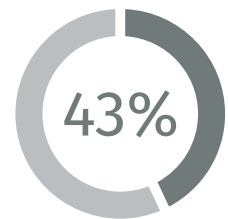
Investments from community forests impact a broad range of projects such as recreation infrastructure, wildlife habitat enhancement, wildfire fuel mitigation, non-profit programs and projects, community health resources, and community art and culture events. Contributions, when matched by other funding sources, can make a significant impact. Over **43%** of reporting community forests see their contributions leveraged by community organizations for initiatives and projects.



Total raised from outside sources for community projects leveraged by CFA profits:

\$8,990,268

Average of those that leveraged: **\$561,891**



Over 43% of the reporting community forests leverage their profits as seed funding to grow larger local projects.



The Spelkúmtn Community Forest leveraged its funding to support a range of community initiatives, including a sustainable trail-building workshop, a video highlighting the importance of consultation and collaboration with First Nations, a Grizzly Bear Art Show that raised awareness of human-bear interactions in local communities, and Earth Week events that engaged community members in environmental stewardship.

SPELKÚMTN COMMUNITY FOREST PHOTOS

INDICATOR



Cut Control

COMMUNITY FORESTS MUST ADHERE to provincial cut control requirements. **68%** of respondents reported being on track to meet their cut control in the reporting year.

While this percentage is slightly higher than the previous reporting year, respondents reported that they faced increasing challenges in meeting their annual allowable cut (AAC).

These challenges include timber loss from wildfires, land base constraints, weak markets for pulp and hemlock, and lengthy processes for cutting permits, management plans, or forest stewardship plans.

Some community forests are adjusting their AAC to better reflect what can be sustainably harvested over the long term while managing for the many values across their land base. Others are engaged in collaborative planning with local First Nations to help shape future forest management.



68% of community forests reported being on track to meet their cut control

Despite a slower start to the current cut control period, Three Rivers Community Forest has remained focused on the long game. Rather than rushing to harvest, the community forest has invested in building a strong foundation for future operations by developing its Standing Timber Inventory and completing the technical and regulatory groundwork required. This investment will better position TRCF to initiate harvesting and meet cut control requirements over the balance of the period while supporting thoughtful, informed stewardship of the community forest.

THREE RIVERS, NICK PICKLES PHOTOS



PEACE REGION



Distribution of Log Sales

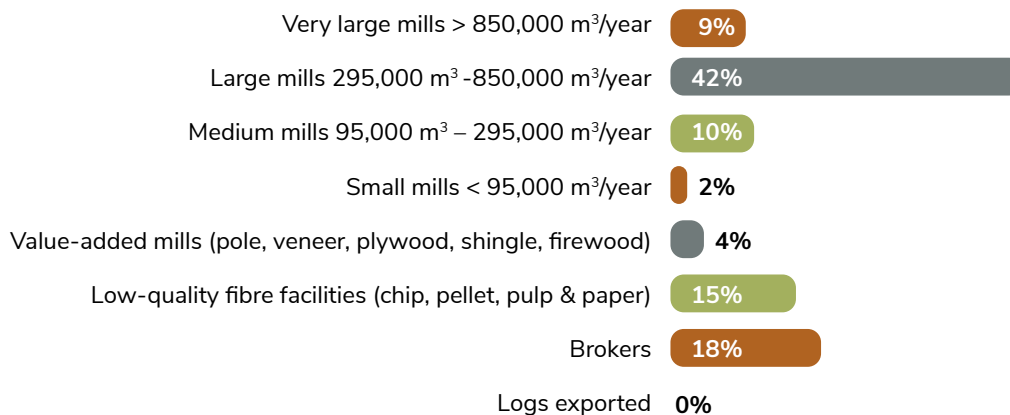


POWELL RIVER COMMUNITY FOREST, ANJI SMITH PHOTO

FIBRE FROM COMMUNITY FOREST operations goes to a wide range of buyers, from large mills to small local and value-added manufacturers. Community forests work to find the best markets for their timber while supporting local opportunities and making better use of available fibre.

In the reporting year, **63%** of respondents sold **80–100%** of their logs locally, while **67%** sorted logs to maximize value and utilization. Log sales attracted an average of **5.5** bidders and **3.5** buyers.

DISTRIBUTION OF LOG SALES TO...

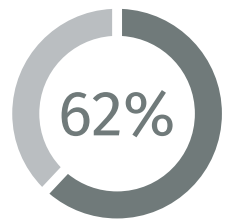


FIBRE UTILIZATION

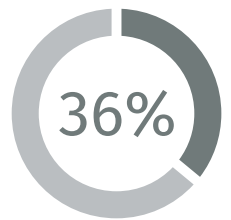
Making use of lower-value and residual fibre can be challenging, particularly where markets are distant. Community forests continue to seek opportunities to put more fibre to use through local firewood programs, facilities that use lower-quality fibre, grinding residue, and emerging approaches such as biochar. **62%** reported shipping residual fibre at a loss to improve utilization. **36%** accessed FESBC funding to help offset the cost of transporting residual fibre.



63% reported that 80% to 100% of their logs are sold to mills considered local.



62% of respondents ship at a loss to utilize residual fibre



36% accessed FESBC funding to help offset the cost of transporting residual fibre



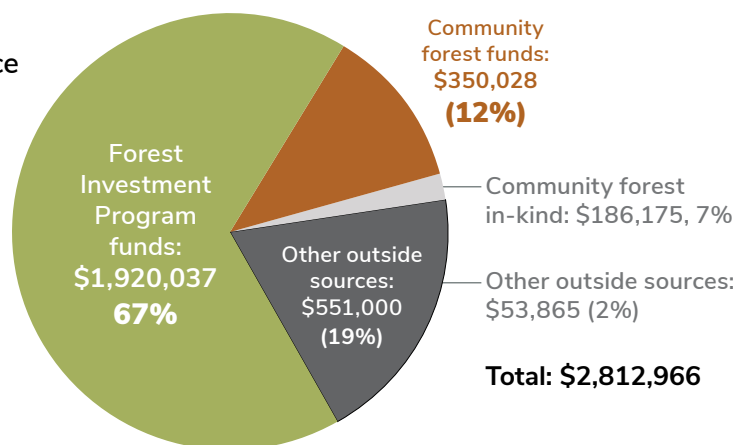
See also *In Focus*, “NACFOR connects lower-value fibre with high-value opportunity” on page 21.



Investments in Intensive Silviculture

BEYOND LEGAL REQUIREMENTS, community forests invest in enhanced silviculture to support long-term forest health, resilience, and productivity. Activities include pruning, spacing, brushing, fertilization, site preparation, and the use of genetically improved seedlings. During the reporting year, community forests invested more than **\$2.8 million** in incremental silviculture activities, treating **950 hectares**. Of this investment, **\$403,893** came directly from community forest funds and in-kind contributions.

Value and source of investment in incremental silviculture



During the reporting period, community forests invested more than **\$2.8 million** in incremental silviculture treatments.



950 hectares were treated during the past fiscal period.



43% of reporting community forests make investments in the forest land base beyond the "free to grow" stage.

ENHANCED SILVICULTURE

Tumbler Ridge Community Forest has established a Landbase Investment Fund to support silviculture and landbase enhancement beyond regulatory requirements. The fund reinvests operational revenues into activities such as stand rehabilitation, pre-commercial thinning, pruning, density management, and road rehabilitation to improve long-term forest productivity, resilience, and fibre quality.

TUMBLER RIDGE SPRUCE,
PHOTO SUSAN MULKEY





Economic Diversification

COMMUNITY FORESTS CREATE ECONOMIC VALUE beyond timber harvesting. Diversification reflects local priorities, organizational capacity, and the opportunities available locally. Activities include value-added manufacturing, recreation, firewood, non-timber forest products, and forestry services.

Some community forests also apply expertise developed on their own tenures to provide wildfire fuel management, planning, prescription development, supervision, and treatment services elsewhere. This generates revenue while supporting local contractors and building rural capacity.

BC forest legislation allows community forests to manage non-timber forest resources, including berries, mushrooms, and medicinal plants. Many adapt harvesting practices to protect or enhance these resources, primarily for local and cultural use.

Cheakamus Community Forest is unique in generating revenue through a long-standing carbon offset project established under an earlier provincial policy framework. As this opportunity is not currently available to other community forests, the associated revenues have been excluded from this analysis.

Other examples of economic diversification include:

- Long-term investments that generate income for future community priorities.
- Advertising and rental revenue.
- Firewood sales that make use of lower-value fibre.
- Lumber production through community forest-owned small sawmills.



Total value of diversified sales: **\$1,259,631**

Average of those with revenue from diversified sales: **\$251,926**

HARROP-PROCTER CF PHOTO

Established in 1999, the Harrop-Procter Community Cooperative is one of BC's earliest community forests. In 2011, it expanded into value-added manufacturing by establishing Harrop-Procter Forest Products, creating local jobs and retaining more of the economic value generated from its community forest.



KOOTENAYS



IN FOCUS: NACFOR + SUNSHINE COAST

Putting Low-Value Fibre to Work

NACFOR CONNECTS LOWER-VALUE FIBRE WITH HIGH-VALUE OPPORTUNITY

In 2025, Nakusp and Area Community Forest (NACFOR) found a new market for a significant, but less desirable, portion of its timber profile. Hemlock sawlogs not being utilized by other regional mills are now being supplied to Kalesnikoff for use in its mass timber and prefabricated modular mass timber facilities. By connecting lower-value fibre with high-value manufacturing opportunities, NACFOR is maximizing the use of its forest resource while contributing to innovative, value-added wood products made in BC.

NACFOR HARVESTING PHOTO MIKE CRONE



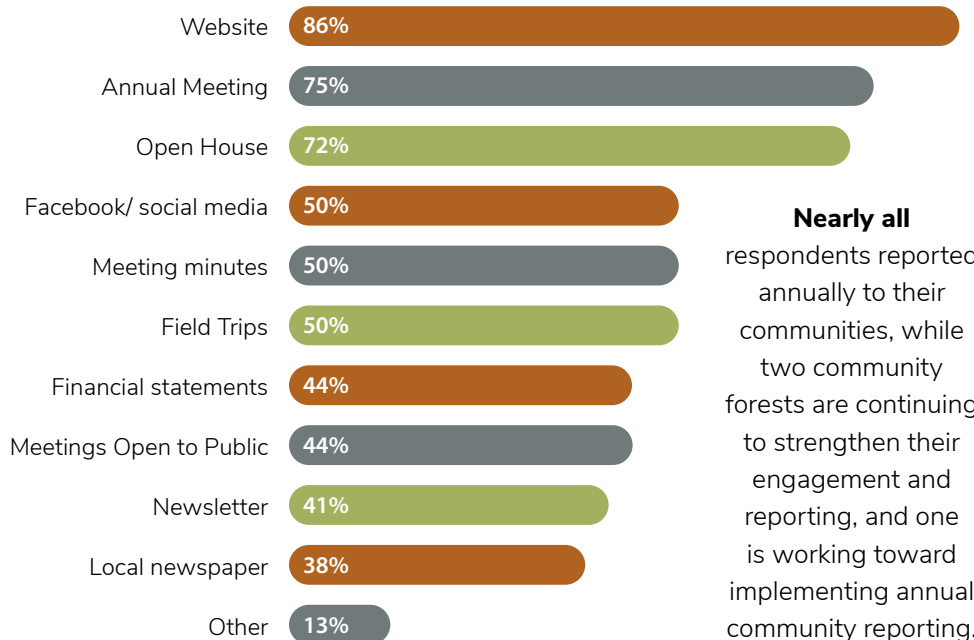
The Sunshine Coast Community Forest started a Firewood Program in 2021 due to the unmet need for firewood in our community. By providing employment to people with barriers to traditional employment, we not only addressed this additional need in the community but also learned what it means to be an inclusive employer.”

— Sara Zieleman, Executive Director,
Sunshine Coast Community Forest

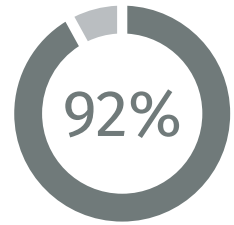
SUNSHINE COAST COMMUNITY FOREST PHOTO

Community Accountability

COMMUNITY ACCOUNTABILITY is fundamental to the community forest model. As a condition of their licence, community forests must hold an annual public meeting to report on community goals and financial performance. Recognizing that traditional meetings do not always attract strong participation, many are finding creative ways to connect throughout the year. **92%** reported annually to their communities. Community forest representatives contributed **3,382** volunteer hours to accountability and engagement, averaging **147 hours** per community forest.



Nearly all respondents reported annually to their communities, while two community forests are continuing to strengthen their engagement and reporting, and one is working toward implementing annual community reporting.



92% of respondents reported annually to their community, with one community forest currently in the process of establishing more thorough reporting.



3,382 volunteer hours were devoted to community accountability.



Powell River Community Forest partnered with the Powell River Salmon Society to co-host its 2025 Annual Open House, combining the event with the Society's annual Salmon Expo. The new approach attracted significantly more community participation than previous years while creating opportunities for residents to learn about local stewardship. The Powell River Salmon Society has received more than \$468,000 in community forest grants over the past 20 years. ANJI SMITH PHOTO

INDICATOR

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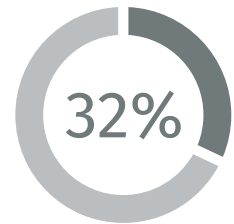
Public Engagement

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT IS FUNDAMENTAL to the community forest model. Ongoing dialogue gives people opportunities to understand forest management, share local knowledge, and contribute their perspectives, helping build trust and inform local decision-making.

As West Boundary CF manager Dan Macmaster explained, **“When people understand why certain decisions are being made — and see their input reflected in outcomes — they are far more likely to support forest operations, even when those decisions involve trade-offs. Transparency and consistency build credibility over time, turning the community into partners rather than observers.”**

Community forests engage with property owners, recreation groups, trappers, water users, tenure holders, industry, and many others through field tours, community events, advisory panels, presentations, and meetings. The Sunshine Coast Community Forest’s Community Advisory Panel, for example, meets monthly to bring community perspectives into forest management and organizational decisions.

A total of **1,641 volunteer hours** were contributed to public engagement.



32% have formal agreements with one or more forest user groups, and **35%** have shared decision-making agreements with user groups.

ENGAGEMENT WITH COMMUNITY SECTORS

Chamber of Commerce: **38%**

Cross-country ski groups: **35%**

Environmental groups: **38%**

Firewood cutters: **56%**

Hiking groups: **50%**

Horseback riding groups: **21%**

Hunters: **26%**

Miners: **9%**

Motorized vehicle recreation groups: **47%**

Mountain bike groups: **65%**

Other: **21%**

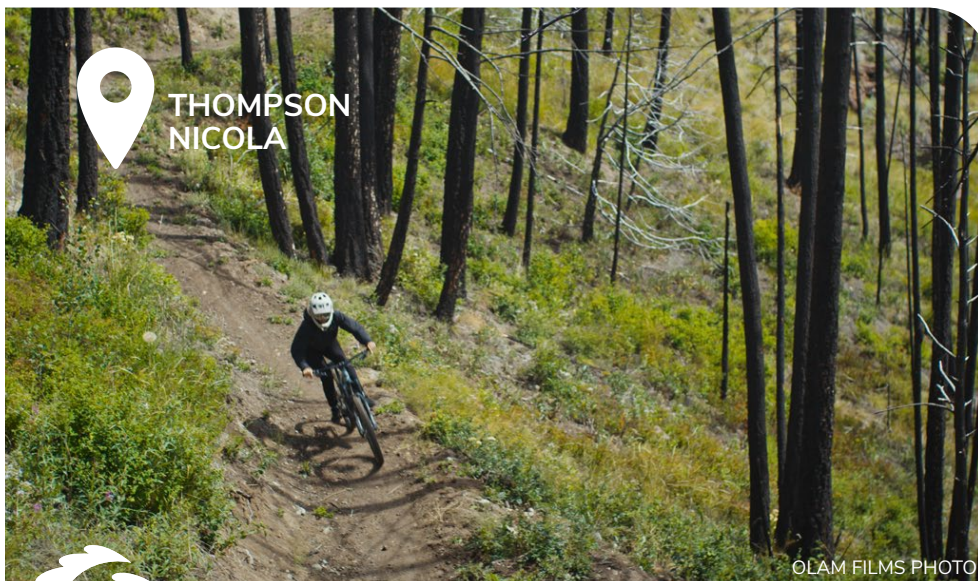
Property owners: **4%**

Ranchers: **41%**

Tourism association: **21%**

Trappers: **1%**

Water users: **50%**



“The Highland Valley Outdoor Association’s non-motorized closure area overlaps directly with the Logan Lake Community Forest. We’ve built a strong relationship and detailed agreements to guide fire salvage, road rehabilitation, trail maintenance, fuel management, and other trail-related activities.”

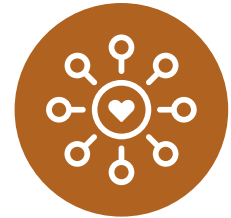
— Randy Spyksma, Manager, **Logan Lake Community Forest**

Investments in Community Education

COMMUNITY FORESTS PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE in connecting people with their local forests. Through partnerships with schools, post-secondary institutions, and community organizations, they help people understand sustainable forest management and local stewardship. Workshops, field trips, tours, presentations, and other hands-on learning opportunities build knowledge of forest ecology, wildfire resilience, and the many values communities hold for their forests.

During the reporting year, community forests supported skills training for youth and community members, participated in career fairs, hosted school field trips, and provided scholarships for students pursuing post-secondary education related to forestry and natural resource management.

Community forests invested **\$154,133** of their own funds in educational partnerships, with **44%** of respondents contributing to education during the year. These activities connect people with their local forests, build awareness of community forestry, and introduce young people to career opportunities in the forest sector. Over **2,300** hours were allocated toward planning and coordinating educational activities by community forests in the reporting year. **38%** of respondents reported conducting activities with K-12 students, and **18%** reported conducting activities related to National Forest Week.



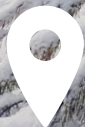
Community forest investments in education:

\$154,133

Hours invested:

2,326

The McLeod Lake Mackenzie Community Forest is a long-time supporter of the Williston School Ecology Program with direct funding and in-kind support for forestry modules for students in Grades 5, 7, 8, 11 and 12. In 2025, funding was increased to support the development of a wildfire module for Grade 11 and 12 students to gain a better understanding of principles and work opportunities associated with wildfire.



OMINECA REGION

PHOTOS WILLISTON SCHOOL ECOLOGY PROGRAM

Investments in Recreation

OUTDOOR RECREATION is one of the many ways community forests create benefits for their communities. Recreation projects provide opportunities to work with local organizations, connect people with their community forest, and support access to and enjoyment of the land.

Community forests contribute to recreation in many ways, from building new trails and infrastructure to maintaining well-used trail networks and considering recreation opportunities in forest management and planning. Many community forest areas include extensive trail networks and recreation sites, both formal and informal.

Working alongside local recreation and community groups, **50%** of respondents invested their own funds in recreation management during the reporting year, including a community that is investing for the first time. Community forest representatives also contributed **1,553** volunteer hours to recreation initiatives.

The Cheakamus Community Forest's tenure has a very large mountain bike trail system within it, managed by the Whistler Off Road Cycling Association. The CCF has an information sharing policy with them. They meet quarterly to share plans for forestry activities that may occur in the area, ask for feedback on the plans, and provide funding to repair trails after harvesting, if necessary.

CHEAKAMUS PHOTO
GLENN MACKIE



Investment in recreation:

Total: **\$874,963**

Average: **\$48,609**



Kilometres of trail
built and maintained:

Total: **56 km**

Average: **6 km**



Volunteer hours
on trails: **1,553**

Average: **104**

Proactive Management of Wildfire

WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION remains a significant focus for community forests, particularly in the wildland urban interface. Working across boundaries with First Nations, local governments, neighbouring tenure holders, private landowners and others, community forests reduce fuel loads, create defensible space, and develop landscape-level approaches to strengthen wildfire resilience.

In the reporting year, **51%** of respondents invested their own funds in wildfire risk reduction, contributing more than **\$1.3 million**. Community forests also secured **\$6.9 million** in external funding primarily in partnership with Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC) for fuel treatments, prescriptions and risk assessments, resilience planning, collaborative projects, and landscape-level fuel breaks and cultural and prescribed burns.

Community forests also play an important role in bringing people together to plan and implement wildfire resilience work across the landscape. They work with First Nations, parks, private landowners, neighbouring licensees, including woodlots and BC Timber Sales, and others.



\$1,330,656 invested from community forest funds

1,482 volunteer hours

856 ha treated for risk

59% participate in local planning tables

76% collaborate with local and First Nations governments or adjacent licence holders

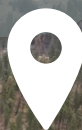
63% connected with BCCFA wildfire liaisons



"The 383-ha Munro Lake wildfire burned 322 ha within the Westbank First Nation Community Forest. When the fire reached an area partially harvested in 2022, the reduced fire intensity created a defensible area BCWS used to stop its spread on that flank. Most of the residual trees survived."

— Coulter Roberts, Ntityix Resources

OKANAGAN



MUNRO WILDFIRE ENCOUNTERING PARTIAL CUT,
PHOTO WESTBANK COMMUNITY FOREST

EXPANDED SUPPORT FOR WILDFIRE RESILIENCY

The BCCFA has expanded its team with three Regional Liaisons, strengthening its ability to support community forests in proactive wildfire management. With financial support from BC Wildfire Service, the Wildfire Resiliency Planning and Engagement Project is helping community forests play an even greater role across all four pillars of emergency management: prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery.

Learn more at bccfa.ca/wildfire-risk-reduction



BCCFA WILDFIRE RESILIENCY REGIONAL LIAISON TEAM,
GORD PRATT, SAM COGGINS, SIMON CRAIG

INDICATOR

14

Forest Worker Safety

SAFETY AND RESPECT ARE CORE VALUES of the community forest program. Community forests prioritize safe practices and foster a culture of respect and care for workers, partners, and the public.

Safety for employees, contractors, volunteers, recreation users, and community members is paramount to operations in community forests. Many community forests require their staff or contractors to hold safety certification with BC Forest Safety Council or the equivalent. **32%** of respondents reported being directly Safe Certified through BC Forest Safety Council, and **81%** of respondents indicated that they require employees or contractors to be Safe Certified. With a focus on prevention, some community forests host annual training sessions for contractors or employees to reinforce the importance of safe practices.

19% of respondent community forests reported safety incidents in the reporting year. Of the total recorded incidents during the reporting period, **88%** were minor.



Number and severity of recordable incidents in the reporting period:

Minor: **19**

Serious (requiring attention): **2**

Other: **5***

Fatality: **0**

Total: **26**

**Close calls during field work that did not result in minor or serious issues.*



ENVIRONMENTAL AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
DRILL ON NACFOR, PHOTO CORRIN MEITHER

For the Westbank First Nation, forest worker safety is a top priority. After a serious safety incident involving trees coming down on a processor from a retention patch that was too close to a landing, the WFN adjusted layout practices relating to retention patch locations to ensure safer fieldwork going forward.

Robin Hood Memorial Award

Established in 2016, the **Robin Hood Memorial Award for Excellence in Community Forestry** recognizes a community forest that exemplifies leadership, innovation, stewardship, local economic opportunity, and a passion for community forestry. Presented jointly by the BCCFA and the Ministry of Forests, the award includes a \$10,000 grant.

The award honours Robin Hood, a dedicated community organizer, woodlot operator, and early champion of community forestry. Robin believed deeply in local stewardship, long-term thinking, and the connection between healthy forests and healthy communities. Remembered for his integrity, leadership, technical expertise, humility, and humour, his influence helped shape community forestry in BC.



Sandy McKellar captured Robin's life and contribution in a Tree Frog Forestry News feature at treefrogcreative.ca

NACFOR Receives the 2026 Robin Hood Memorial Award

Nakusp and Area Community Forest received the 2026 Robin Hood Memorial Award, recognizing more than two decades of leadership and stewardship in the Arrow Lakes region. Managing nearly 12,600 hectares of community forest, NACFOR reinvests forestry revenues into local jobs, community priorities, wildfire resilience, and long-term

stewardship of the land. The community forest is also recognized for successfully managing multiple values, including watersheds, wildlife habitat, recreation, and culturally important resources, through strong partnerships and local engagement. In presenting the award, Minister of Forests Ravi Parmar highlighted NACFOR as an example of how community forestry strengthens local economies, builds wildfire resilience, and delivers lasting benefits to communities.



Nakusp and Area Community Forest Robin Hood Award recipients left to right: Mike Crone Management Team (MT), Erin McLeod (MT), Tara Morris, Mayor Tom Zeleznik (board), Skye Cunningham (MT), John Cann (board), MLA Steve Morissette, Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Development. PHOTO ASH SIMPSON

BCCFA 2026 Conference & AGM

In June of 2026 we hosted our sold-out event in Vernon, on the ancestral and unceded territories of the Syilx and Secwépemc peoples. The three-day gathering brought together community forest leaders, First Nations partners, industry representatives, and supporters from across BC to celebrate, connect and explore the challenges and opportunities of community forestry in the years ahead. The Monashee Community Forest, a partnership between the Village of Lumby and the Splatstin First Nation, were our welcoming hosts.



First Nations Collaboration

FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP AND STEWARDSHIP are integral to BC's Community Forest Program. Across the province, this is reflected through ownership, partnerships, cooperative planning, board representation, formal agreements, and shared decision-making.

As West Boundary CF manager Dan Macmaster put it, "Meaningful engagement goes beyond consultation. It is about respect, recognition, and incorporating knowledge that has been built over generations. Local and Traditional Ecological Knowledge can strengthen planning decisions, improve stewardship outcomes, and build lasting relationships based on trust rather than obligation."

Among reporting community forests, **24%** are held by First Nations, **41%** are governed through partnerships between First Nations and local communities, and **50%** reported cooperative planning or designated First Nations representation on their boards.

Community forests are also incorporating First Nations knowledge, teachings, and cultural values into forest planning and management. During the reporting year, **68%** of respondents reported taking action in response to DRIPA and other provincial commitments related to First Nations.

The Tatchulmixw ?e te Swiya (Animals of the Land) initiative is a three-year land-based learning program led by Talaysay Tours with support from the Sunshine Coast Community Forest. Blending Indigenous knowledge, forest science, art, and language, the program connects people to local forests while honouring the territories of the Shíshálh and Skwxwú7mesh peoples, and builds capacity through education, paid mentorship, and workforce training.



SUNSHINE COAST
SHÍSHÁLH &
SKWXWÚ7MESH TERRITORY



FIRST NATION INVOLVEMENT

Cooperative planning: **50%**

Employment contracts: **50%**

First Nations representation on the board: **50%**

Governance partnership: **41%**

Shared decision-making: **41%**

Capacity-building activities: **41%**

Profit sharing: **29%**

Community forest held by a First Nation: **24%**

Other: **24%**

Memoranda of Understanding: **9%**

Considering a new ownership partnership: **3%**

Into the forest, and into a deeper connection with the land. A glimpse from a Mountain Medicine Walk led by cultural ambassadors from Talaysay Tours in partnership with the Sunshine Coast Community Forest.

MELISSA WOEHLE PHOTO

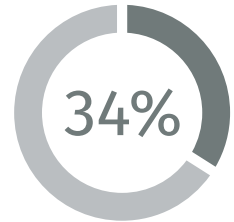
Management of Sensitive Areas

COMMUNITY FORESTS MANAGE LANDSCAPES where many values overlap, including recreation trails, watersheds and streams, wildlife habitat, old growth, visual values, cultural heritage sites, and steep or sensitive terrain. Stewardship of these forests requires community forests to manage social, cultural, environmental, and economic values while navigating the trade-offs inherent in a diverse land base.

Sensitive areas are often managed in collaboration with First Nations, local organizations, residents, and others with knowledge of and connections to the land, helping to inform management approaches that reflect local values and priorities.

Of the 35 community forests responding to this indicator, **91%** reported sensitive values within their licence area. Overall, **34%** of the combined land base of respondents was identified as sensitive, and for some community forests, sensitive areas account for more than half of their tenure.

For small, area-based tenures, managing a high proportion of sensitive areas alongside operational and economic realities can be challenging. Community forests continue to adapt their management to protect these values while supporting forest health, biodiversity, ecosystem resilience, and the long-term viability of the community forest.

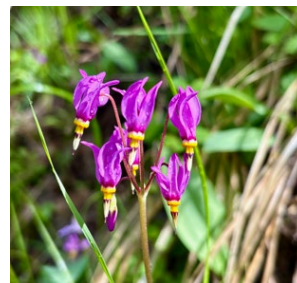


Percentage of total area that is sensitive: **34%**

That is sensitive & operable: **11%**

That is set aside in reserves: **13%**

That is part of a community watershed: **9%**



The easier question is probably how many hectares aren't considered sensitive. Much of the Squamish Community Forest is managed for ecological and cultural values, from old growth and wildlife habitat to rock and ice, cultural sites, and Special Cultural Management Areas. As new information from the Squamish Nation – BC Land Use Plan and wildlife connectivity planning is incorporated, our understanding of these sensitive areas continues to evolve."

— Sara Weber, Project Coordinator



KOOTENAYS PHOTOS HAYDEN MARKIN

Investments in Forest Stewardship

LONG-TERM STEWARDSHIP, biodiversity and climate resilience are core to the Community Forest Program. Community forests invest beyond legal requirements to better understand and care for their land base, including monitoring water and forest health, collecting additional field data, protecting sensitive habitat, and adapting management as conditions change.

Climate adaptation is increasingly part of this work. Community forests are using climate projections, monitoring, science and local knowledge to inform decisions about silviculture, species selection, wildfire risk, sensitive values, harvesting, infrastructure and restoration.

The Chinook Community Forest has established 110 Continuous Measurement Inventory plots that are remeasured every three to five years, providing valuable information about how the forest is changing over time. Chinook has also established Predictive Ecosystem Mapping plots to ground-truth ecosystem classifications and strengthen understanding of the land base beyond timber growth.



ENHANCED STEWARDSHIP

\$1.45 million invested
\$830,381 from outside sources
635 hectares treated
81% invested in LiDAR
68% have monitoring programs

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN PLANNING

Long-term or strategic plan: **58%**
 Wildfire or fuel management plan: **56%**
 Forest stewardship plan: **50%**
 Management plan: **33%**
 Not currently considered: **17%**
 Other planning documents: **14%**
 Other: **11%**

CLIMATE ADAPTATION PARTNERS

First Nations: **41%**
 Researchers or academic institutions: **41%**
 No collaboration: **35%**
 Local governments: **30%**
 BC Wildfire Service: **30%**
 Other community forests: **22%**
 Non-government organizations: **16%**
 Other: **8%**



IN FOCUS: SPEŁKÚMTN + WETZIN'KWA

Stewardship Beyond Requirements

SPEŁKÚMTN TURNS SLASH INTO BIOCHAR

In 2025, Spełkúmtn Community Forest invested in the carbonization of post-harvest residual fibre near homes and community areas without relying on external funding. The project supported fuel reduction within the wildland-urban interface, helping reduce wildfire risk while minimizing smoke from slash disposal. It also produced biochar, creating an additional local benefit for gardeners and composters.



WETZIN'KWA LOW-DENSITY FIX SERVES FIRE, CULTURE, BEARS

Wetzin'kwa Community Forest (WCF) implements fire management stocking standards and is currently creating low density stocking standards.

In culturally important areas, WCF plants or transplants culturally important species such as huckleberry and soopalalie rather than planting a high volume of trees.

The low-density stocking is also suitable for grizzly bear population management, making the one stocking standard suitable for multiple values.

This area was the subject of the first cultural burn in 100 years for the Wet'suwet'en.

— Sam Coggins, Manager, Kira Hoffman, Bulkley Valley Research Centre, and Kimberley Alec, Office of the Wet'suwet'en

HUCKLEBERRY PLANTERS PHOTO MARTY CLEMENS

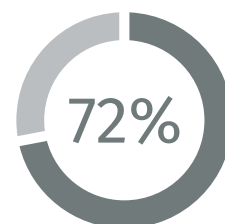
Compliance with Environmental Standards

COMMUNITY FORESTS HAVE A STRONG COMMITMENT to responsible forest management on their tenures, and many continue to go beyond baseline environmental compliance requirements. In this reporting period, **72%** of respondents reported that their forest operations exceeded or significantly exceeded environmental compliance standards. This reflects their close connection to the land, their communities, and the many values present across the landscape. Two community forests reported compliance and enforcement determinations. Both have taken steps to address the issues and apply what they learned to strengthen current planning and practices.

Transparency and accountability are core values of community forests, and proactive management that exceeds legal requirements continues to be the common theme in community forestry. Ongoing engagement helps to understand local priorities while building trust and maintaining social licence.

Examples of exceeded standards during the reporting year include:

- Established greater riparian setbacks than provincial legislation;
- Voluntary retention of large wildlife tree retention areas or permanent conservation reserves within CFA tenure, beyond legal requirements;
- Implemented standing stem harvesting practices in sensitive or high-value areas to reduce the ecological impacts on the forest stand, at a much higher cost than conventional harvesting; and
- Species diversity in planting with climate-informed species.



Exceeded or significantly exceeded requirements: **72%**

“...Compliance is the baseline and long-term stewardship is the goal.”

— Dan Macmaster,
Manager, West
Boundary CF



OKANAGAN

PHOTO WESTBANK COMMUNITY FOREST

WETLAND RESTORATION

Ntityix Resources partnered with the Derickson Family Trapline and the BC Wildlife Federation to restore wetlands within the Westbank First Nation Community Forest by constructing 37 beaver dam analogues. The project will improve water retention, restore beaver habitat, and strengthen ecosystem resilience. Elder and trapper Ray Derickson is pictured helping construct one of the analogues.

Stay connected.



2026 BCCFA CONFERENCE, PHOTO SKYE CUNNINGHAM

**Community forestry is always evolving.
Keep up with the people, ideas and work shaping it across BC.**

Sign up for the BCCFA newsletter. Scan the QR code or visit bccfa.ca





The BCCFA worked with Olam Films to bring together five community forests to tell the story of the value and impact of community forests throughout BC. We invite you to watch and share!



BC **COMMUNITY**
FOREST
ASSOCIATION

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Victoria, BC Canada, V9C 2B8

e: info@bccfa.ca

bccfa.ca



The BC Community Forest Association is a network of community-based organizations engaged in community forest management, and those seeking to establish new community forests. We represent over 100 rural and First Nations 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.