



COMMUNITY FOREST INDICATORS 2025



MEASURING THE BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY FORESTRY

BCCFA.CA



THE BCCFA HAS A NEW LOOK

Developed with support from Amplify Consulting, the BCCFA's fresh look reflects our roots in community, stewardship, and resilience, and represents the evolution and professional maturity of the Association. While the design is new, our commitment remains unchanged: supporting vibrant communities, healthy forests, and a strong future for community forestry in BC. Thank you to our members and colleagues who provided input and inspiration along the way.

Community Forest Indicators 2025
Measuring the Benefits of Community Forestry

September 2025

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This report highlights the community forestry initiatives undertaken over the past fiscal year by organizations that participated in the annual survey. The data and stories featured in the 2025 Indicators Report showcase outstanding accomplishments and reinforce the value of sustainable forest management. Community forests continue to demonstrate leadership through innovation, adaptive approaches, and a deep commitment to long-term stewardship. The BCCFA is proud to support and work alongside this exceptional network of communities and practitioners.

We also gratefully acknowledge the many partnerships we've built with collaborators in government, academia, and industry. Their support and shared commitment inspire us, and we look forward to continuing this important work together in the years ahead.

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



In 2024 Jennifer was awarded the King's Coronation Medal in recognition of her outstanding contributions. PHOTO GARNET MIERAU



SUSAN MULKEY PHOTO

CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY / 5

First Nations Collaboration / 6

Jobs and Economic Contributions / 7

Healthy and Resilient Communities / 8

Environmental Stewardship / 8

COMMUNITY FORESTS IN BC: THE CONTEXT / 9

2025 ROBIN HOOD MEMORIAL AWARD / 30

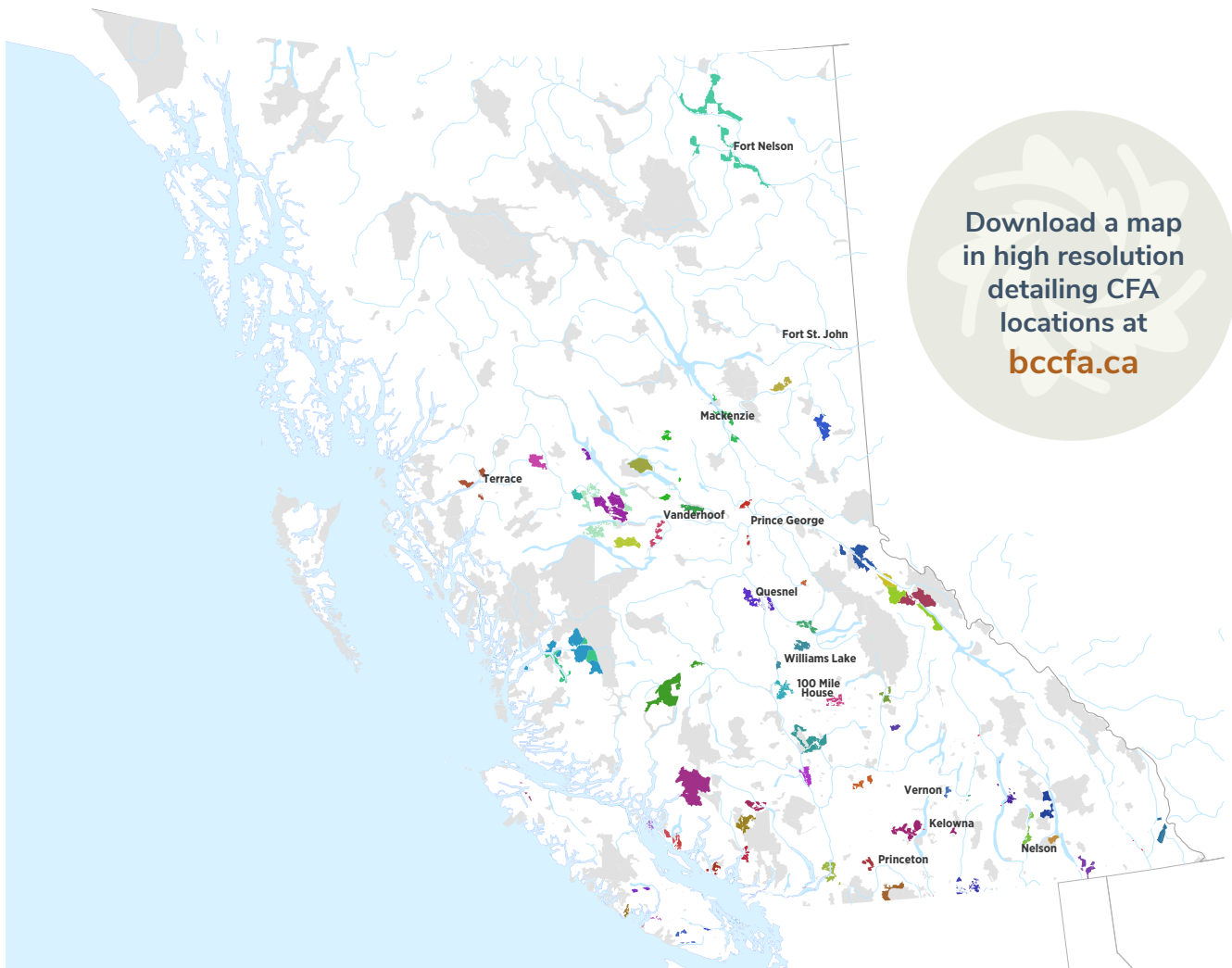
2025 CONFERENCE / 31

INDICATORS

1	Number of Jobs	13
2	Total Economic Activity	14
3	Community Contributions.....	15
4	Funds Leveraged	16
5	Cut Control	17
6	Distribution of Log Sales.....	18
7	Investments in Intensive Silviculture	19
8	Economic Diversification	20
9	Community Accountability	21
10	Public Engagement.....	22
11	Investments in Community Education	23
12	Investments in Recreation	24
13	Proactive Management of Wildfire	25
14	Forest Worker Safety	27
15	First Nations Collaboration.....	28
16	Management of Sensitive Areas.....	32
17	Investments in Forest Stewardship	33
18	Compliance with Environmental Standards....	34

33 COMMUNITY FORESTS PARTICIPATED IN THE 2025 SURVEY

Alberni Valley Community Forest Corporation • **Barkley** Community Forest Corporation • **Cheakamus** Community Forest Ltd. Partnership • **Cherry Ridge** Management Committee • **Cheslatta Carrier Nation** Community Forest • **Chinook** Community Forest Ltd. • **Clinton & District** Community Forest of BC Ltd. • **Creston Valley** Forest Corporation • **District of Vanderhoof** Community Forest • **Dunster** Community Forest Society • **Eniyud** Community Forest Ltd. Partnership • **Harrop-Procter** Community Co-operative • **Kaslo & District** Community Forest Society • **Khowutzun** Community Forest • **Likely-Xat'sull** Community Forest Ltd. • **Little Prairie** Community Forest Inc. • **Logan Lake** Community Forest Corporation • **Lower North Thompson** Community Forest Society • **McBride** Community Forest Corporation • **Monashee** Community Forest Ltd. Partnership • **Nakusp and Area** Community Forest, Inc. (NACFOR) • **North Island** Community Forest Ltd. Partnership • **Powell River** Community Forest Ltd. • **Slocan** Integral Forestry Cooperative (SIFCo) • **Spelkúmtn** Community Forest Ltd. Partnership • **Squamish** Community Forest Ltd. Partnership • **Sunshine Coast** Community Forest • **Tumbler Ridge** Community Forest Corporation • **Wells Gray** Community Forest Corporation • **West Boundary** Community Forest Inc. • **Westbank** First Nation Community Forest • **Wetzin'kwa** Community Forest Corporation • **Williams Lake** Community Forest Ltd. Partnership





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

GEORGE BRCKO PHOTO

This year's *Community Forest Indicators Report* highlights the success and impact of community forests across British Columbia. The data showcases the broad range of contributions these forests make to rural communities and to the province as a whole, including increased investments in education and recreation, strong partnerships with First Nations, ongoing job creation and contributions to local economies, as well as significant efforts in wildfire resiliency. Community forests remain leaders in the forestry sector, demonstrating how sustainable forest management, local engagement, and long-term stewardship can deliver lasting benefits.

The continued success of community forests aligns closely with the provincial government's vision for program expansion. In January 2025, the Premier directed the Honourable Ravi Parmar, Minister of Forests, to expand the Community Forest Program as part of the government's goal to create a stronger future for First Nations and communities that rely on local forests. The positive and proven outcomes highlighted in this report demonstrate how community forests are a strong model for delivering economic, environmental, and social benefits through local forest management.

The report draws on quantitative data from 18 key indicators, as well as stories and examples that reflect the on-the-ground experiences of community forest organizations over the past year. For the 2024/2025 reporting period, 33 community forests participated in the full survey, representing 70% of the BC Community Forest Association's (BCCFA) operating membership.



BCCFA meeting with Minister Parmar
BC MINISTRY OF FORESTS PHOTO

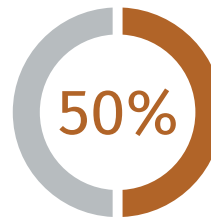
First Nations Collaboration

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

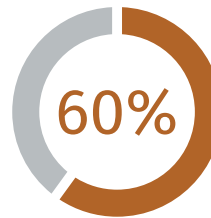
Over half of the province's community forests are either held by First Nations or operated in partnership with them — a figure confirmed by this survey's participants.

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.

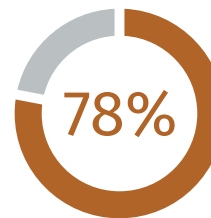
These efforts reflect the growing role of community forests as leaders in building respectful, long-term relationships with Indigenous communities — grounded in mutual trust, cultural recognition, and a shared commitment to the land.



Over half of CFs are held by First Nations or partner with them.



Nearly 60% have cooperative planning process in place.



78% have taken concrete steps like shared governance.



In Ucwalmícwts, the Líl'wat language, *kamúcwkalha* speaks to the shared energy of group alignment and purpose. The **Spel'kúmt'n Community Forest Board** — with members from both the Líl'wat Nation and Pemberton — has cultivated this spirit through regular meetings, shared learning, and open dialogue. In this trusted space, the complex work of shared governance thrives. Beyond their core duties, Directors collaborated to create Spel'kúmt'n's first Strategic Plan, a living document that guides decisions and upholds the values expressed in the Forest Management Plan.

Jobs and Economic Contributions

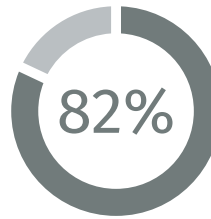
Community forests consistently outperform the industry average in generating employment within forestry, logging, and support services.

In the current reporting year, they created **0.520** full-time jobs per 1,000 cubic metres of harvested wood — approximately **82%** higher than the industry average.

Survey respondents reported a combined total harvest of **894,594** cubic metres, with an average harvest of **27,109** cubic metres per community forest.

On average, respondents generated **\$1,811,687** in economic activity through their expenditures, resulting in a total combined economic activity of **\$59,785,664** for the reporting period.

Beyond timber harvesting, community forests contribute to diversified economic activity. They frequently engage in initiatives such as wildfire mitigation, value-added wood processing through local sawmills, and other service-based ventures. In the past fiscal year, diversified sales from these activities exceeded **\$1.2 million**.



82% higher job rate per cubic metre than the forest industry average.



Combined total harvest of 894,594 cubic metres



Diversified sales over \$1.2 million



Setting up a community forest agreement takes time, dedication, and collaboration. To succeed, we need meaningful support from the province, full Indigenous participation, and strong community engagement. There is no better way to manage our forest resources than through community ownership, involvement, and opportunity. Expanding the Community Forest Program is key to ensuring more communities can access and benefit from this proven model.”

— Ione Brown, Chair
North Island Community Forest

IONE BROWN PHOTO



Healthy and Resilient Communities

Community forests manage their land base with a broad set of priorities that extend well beyond timber sales.

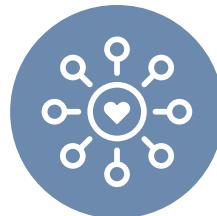
During this reporting period, community forests played a key role in wildfire mitigation across rural BC. They invested more than **\$2.5 million** of their own funds into wildfire resiliency projects, resulting in over **1,300 hectares** of treated land to protect communities and ecosystems.

Over **2,800 hours** of staff and volunteer time were dedicated to delivering educational programs. In total, respondents invested **\$295,743** of their own funds into education, with **72%** of community forests contributing to these initiatives during the reporting year.

Community forests also support local recreation. **Over half** (53%) of respondents invested their own resources — totalling **\$603,336** — into recreational infrastructure and activities. As a result, more than **1,200 kilometres** of trails were built or maintained, enhancing public access and outdoor experiences.

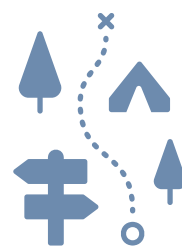


\$2.5 million of CF funds went to wildfire resiliency



72% put their own funds into education initiatives

1,200 kms of trails were built or maintained

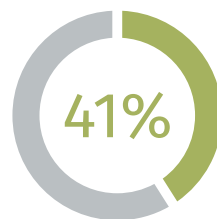


Environmental Stewardship

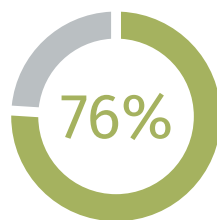
Community forests are deeply committed to managing **ecologically and culturally sensitive areas** in alignment with the values and priorities of their local communities. In this reporting period, **41%** of the total tenure held by respondents was considered sensitive. Additionally, **62%** have developed or are actively developing old growth management plans in collaboration with local First Nations, reflecting a strong commitment to respectful and inclusive forest stewardship.

Community forests invested over **\$2 million** of their own revenues into stewardship activities during the reporting year. These investments go beyond regulatory requirements and demonstrate a proactive approach to sustainable forest management.

Environmental excellence is a foundation of community forest operations. Their practices routinely exceed legal compliance standards through actions such as enhancing riparian protection beyond legislated requirements, conducting independent ecological assessments, and adapting tree retention levels to site-specific ecological conditions, often resulting in retention exceeding minimum requirements where ecologically beneficial. In this reporting period, **76%** of respondents reported exceeding or significantly exceeding environmental compliance standards.



41% of the tenure held was considered sensitive



76% exceeded environmental compliance standards



NACFOR PHOTO

THE CONTEXT

A COMMUNITY FOREST AGREEMENT (CFA) is an area-based licence granted by the provincial government that provides the exclusive right to harvest timber within the community forest area, and the right to manage forest products. These licences are long-term, lasting 25 years, and can be replaced every 10 years.

This community forest tenure was established to empower local communities to manage their forests in ways that align with their specific objectives and values, ultimately benefiting those communities.

Since the development of the community forest tenure in 1998, BC has issued 62 community forest agreements and another two invitations to apply have been extended. These licences are held by a variety of community-based legal entities, including limited partnerships, societies, co-ops, and Indigenous and local governments.

Collectively, over 100 Indigenous and rural communities are involved in community forestry in BC. Over half of the operating community forests are held by First Nations or a partnership between an Indigenous and non-Indigenous community.

Most public land in the province, known as crown land, is unceded traditional lands and territories. Aligned with the BC Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, the BCCFA is committed to advancing forest management that respects First Nation rights and cultural values, and fosters understanding and cooperation between rural communities and First Nations.

Active inclusion and incorporation of Indigenous knowledge and values into forest management will help on the pathway towards reconciliation and forward-thinking stewardship of the land base.

The community forest tenure was established to empower local communities to manage their forests in ways that align with their specific objectives and values, ultimately benefiting those communities.

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

- The ownership of the tenure is exclusively local, and the organization that holds the licence must represent the local community. Profits do not leave the community to benefit distant shareholders.
- There is a comprehensive application process that includes the requirement to demonstrate local community engagement and support.
- The Licence Document and Management Plan must:
 - Contain the broad social, economic and resource management goals proposed for the community forest;
 - Identify the linkage between the community forest goals and the provincial Community Forest Program goals (p. 11); and
 - Include a plan for annual reporting to the community.

Community forests in BC reflect the ecological and cultural diversity of our province. They exist in many types of forests and terrain. They range in size from 361 to 184,682 hectares, with a current annual harvest from 860 m³ to 194,226 m³.

Sixty-three per cent are under 30,000 m³/year, with only 6% harvesting 100,000 m³/year or more, while the majority are under 50,000 m³/year. The average is 37,006 m³/year.

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. ■

Range of community forests based on annual allowable cut (m ³)	*calculated on 62	
	#	%
<10000	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%
>100,000	4	6%

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS REPORT

AAC = Allowable Annual Cut

CF = Community forest*

CFA = Community Forest Agreement

Ha = Hectares

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

M³ = cubic metres of wood

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

Data shown infographically in this report is from the reporting period, with averages based on those that participated in the survey.

Background information on the Indicators survey questions and methodology as well as an electronic copy of this report can be found on our website at: bccfa.ca/indicators-report

The provincial government's **goals for the Community Forest Program** reflect the values of local stewardship and responsible forest management. They are intended to guide the program's outcomes while allowing communities to manage forests in ways that support their unique priorities. As the program evolves, these goals may be refined to reflect emerging needs and opportunities. Currently, they focus on:

- Supporting community-defined priorities
- Encouraging diverse forest use
- Delivering social and economic benefits
- Practicing responsible forest stewardship
- Promoting local involvement
- Strengthening Indigenous and non-Indigenous relationships
- Fostering innovation, and
- Promoting safety in the forest sector.



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

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



BCCFA 2024-2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS, MISSING: RANDY SPYKSMA, CARLY DOW PHOTO



2024 LOGGING YIELDS NO PROFIT, BUT LOCAL JOBS AND INFRASTRUCTURE STILL DELIVERED

“Due to lumber markets in 2024 we were unable to sell our burnt dead hemlock, which was on the harvest schedule. To keep some local contractors busy we harvested 6,000m³ of burnt pulp at a roughly break-even cost. Without making profit from the logging, we still did our annual road maintenance and installed an important bridge needed for next year’s harvest.”

— Jeff Reyden, Kaslo and District Community Forest



WEST
KOOTENAY





Number of Jobs

BY GENERATING LOCAL EMPLOYMENT, community forests create opportunities and contribute to the economic stability of rural areas in BC. Community forests actively involve community members in their planning processes. To secure the trust and endorsement of their community, they dedicate substantial resources to outreach efforts, which include engaging with, consulting, and collaborating alongside First Nations, local communities, and other stakeholders. This dedication is reflected in contributions in creation of jobs per cubic meter in the forestry sector and its related services.

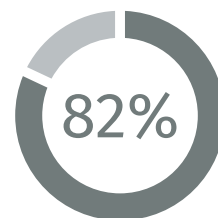
The “person year” (PY) metric is utilized to assess employment for every 1,000 m³ of timber harvested. Since harvest volumes can vary across CFs, this metric is valuable as it indicates the number of jobs generated in relation to the amount of timber harvested.

Person years^a of employment based on reported harvest of 590,228 m³

Employment	Forestry, logging and support ^b	Trail building, firefighting, research etc.	Milling ^c	All activities ^d
Person years /1,000 m ³	0.494	0.026	0.455	0.975
Average person years per community forest	11.09	0.58	10.21	21.88
Total person years	344	18	316	678

Analysis by Peak Solutions Consulting Inc. ^aIn accordance with BC Stats, one PY is 1,750 hours; this replaces FTE of 1,820 hours in previous reports. ^bIncludes forest management, logging, hauling, road building, silviculture (planting, spacing pruning etc.), administration and accounting. ^cMilling is based on jobs with one job representing one PY. ^dSum of PY for forestry, logging, support services, trail building, etc., and milling.

In this reporting year, community forests created **0.520** full time jobs per 1,000 cubic metres in forestry, logging, and support services, about **82% greater than the industry average**.



During the reporting period, **1,606 jobs were created** in all forestry activities by community forests. Between the new jobs that were created and those that have been maintained over time, below are the number of people who derived all or part of their income from the community forests during this reporting period:



Total: **1,606 workers**

Average per community forest: **52 workers**



INDICATOR



Total Economic Activity

COMMUNITY FORESTS PLAY a vital role in strengthening local economies across the province. As a unique form of forest tenure, they generate local employment and boost economic stability and resilience by keeping forestry-related revenues and spending within the community. This indicator measures the total annual value of sales and expenditures reported by respondents during the year.

During the reporting period, community forests generated nearly **\$60 million** in economic activity, averaging **\$1.8 million** per organization.

More than **75%** of respondents represent communities with populations under 10,000 and an average annual harvest of just **25,938 m³** — yet they demonstrate that even small-scale tenures can drive significant economic impact at the local level. These findings highlight the powerful role that community forests play in supporting rural economies, proving that small community forests perform above their weight class.



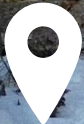
Value of sales:
\$75,553,902

Average: **\$2,289,512**

Value of expenditures:
\$59,785,664

Average: **\$1,811,687**

**BULKLEY
VALLEY**



COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP: WOMEN SHAPING THE FUTURE OF WETZIN'KWA COMMUNITY FOREST

Wetzin'kwa's predominantly female-led team thrives in a culture of collaboration, adaptability, and mutual support. In a traditionally male-dominated field, these women bring a range of skills and perspectives to decisions that shape the future of the community forest. Whether navigating complex forestry challenges or sharing moments of connection on the way to a cut block, their success is defined by strong teamwork and a shared commitment to stewardship. Pictured here: Natasha, Kelsey (and Zoey) Jaya (and Rosie), Sam, Carla and Maggie, Ariel, and Kate and Sandy. WCF PHOTO



Community Contributions

REVENUES FROM COMMUNITY FORESTS are reinvested directly into local priorities. This reinvestment strengthens the economic foundation of the community, creating a cycle of sustainable growth and shared prosperity.

Beyond financial contributions through dividends, donations, grants, and special projects, community forests also provide targeted support rooted in a deep understanding of local needs. Their impact extends beyond economics, advancing environmental, social, and cultural goals that reflect and reinforce community values.

Over **90%** of respondents made cash and/or in-kind contributions in their communities in the past reporting year.



Cash contributed to the community:

Total: **\$11,740,849**

Average: **\$404,857**



In-kind contributions to the community:

Total: **\$410,064**

Average: **\$16,403**

In its first year of operations, the Squamish Community Forest — a partnership between the Squamish Nation and the District of Squamish — donated three large cedar logs to the Nation for cultural use under the Nation's Cultural Cedar Tree Policy.

The logs, preselected by Nation cultural staff, have an estimated market value of \$6,700. This meaningful contribution marks a strong beginning for the community forest and reflects its commitment to cultural values and collaboration.



Khowutzun Forest Services actively supports a wide range of local and regional initiatives, spanning school meal programs, youth services, mental health and recovery support, food security, and more — while also extending to broader efforts such as the Children's Hospital and scholarship programs. KFS also allocates 20% of its profits to its owner, Cowichan Tribes. Through these investments, KFS demonstrates a strong commitment to community well-being.



Funds Leveraged

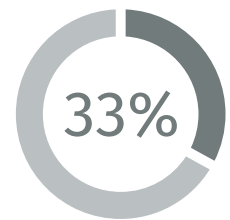
COMMUNITY FOREST REVENUES OFTEN SERVE as critical seed funding for larger-scale initiatives that deliver long-term benefits to the community. These funds help unlock additional financial support, amplifying the impact of local projects. Whether developing recreational infrastructure, such as trails and parks, or supporting amenities that enhance tourism and quality of life, community forests play a role in enhancing broader community development.

Many community forests also establish legacy or reserve funds, designed specifically to support major community priorities over time. These funds provide stable, flexible resources that can be directed toward high-impact projects like community centers, affordable housing, or environmental restoration. By leveraging their revenues strategically, community forests not only meet immediate needs but also lay the groundwork for long-term resilience and community-led initiatives.



Total raised from outside sources for community projects leveraged by CFA profits: **\$4,901,010**

Average of those that leveraged: **\$445,546**



One-third of the reporting community forests leverage their profits as seed funding to grow larger local projects.



ENHANCING ACCESS, HONOURING HERITAGE



SUNSHINE COAST

The Big Tree Recreation Area in Halfmoon Bay received major upgrades to improve access and protect cultural heritage. Funded through BC's Targeted Regional Tourism Development Initiative, the \$300,000 project was a collaboration between the shíshálh Nation, Recreation Sites and Trails BC, the Sunshine Coast Regional District, and Sunshine Coast Community Forest (SCCF), which contributed \$25,000 in project management and a new kiosk.

WARREN HANSEN PHOTO

INDICATOR



Cut Control

AS FORESTRY OPERATIONS, COMMUNITY FORESTS must adhere to provincial cut control requirements. Over **60%** reported being on track to meet their cut control.

While most community forests have historically met their cut control targets reliably, this reporting period marks a notable decline — the lowest percentage on record of community forests on track to meet their allowable harvest. This drop reflects a range of complex and growing challenges faced by tenure holders.

Despite continued success by many in harvesting their allocated timber volumes, a number of community forests are struggling to meet targets due to factors beyond their control. These include significant timber losses from wildfires, unstable or declining market conditions, operational and workforce limitations, and increasing delays in obtaining necessary permits.

Others have determined that the AAC originally set for their tenures is not sustainable and are in the process of setting a new rate. Some also have adjusted their cut due to implementing Ecosystem Based Management or are waiting until they have collaborative planning in place with their local First Nation(s).



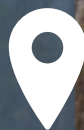
61% of community forests reported being on track to meet their cut control



We remain on track, with 44,000 m³ remaining in our cut control and the current period ending in December 2025. While ongoing discussions and collaborative planning with a local First Nation have slowed cutblock development, the strong working partnership built over the past three years is well worth the delay. We anticipate harvesting the remaining volume in the coming months.”

— Ione Brown, Chair
North Island CF

POWELL RIVER CF, ANJI SMITH PHOTO



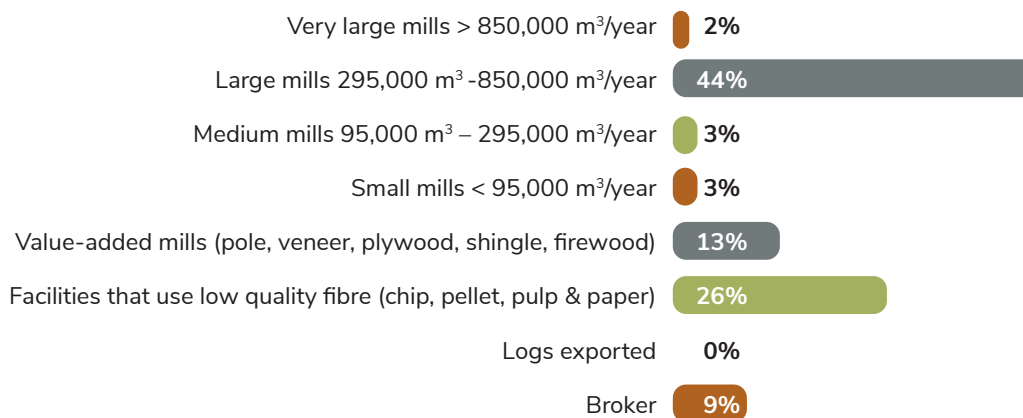
**NORTH
ISLAND**



6

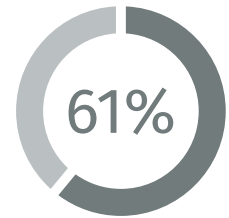
Distribution of Log Sales

COMMUNITY FORESTS SUPPLY TIMBER to a wide range of buyers, including major industry operators, local mills, small and medium-sized mills, and value-added manufacturers. By engaging with this diverse range of facilities, they help strengthen and diversify local and regional forest economies. Data from this indicator shows their consistent provision of locally harvested logs and their ongoing efforts to reduce post-harvest waste.

DISTRIBUTION OF LOG SALES TO...

Log sales averaged 5.03 bidders and 5.02 buyers, slightly above previous years. Half of respondents reported direct sales to local mills or value-added enterprises, and **76%** sorted logs to get the highest value.

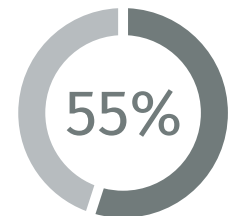
Community forests face significant challenges in utilizing residual fibre. High handling costs, long distances to processing facilities, and limited market demand often mean pulp is sold at break-even or a loss. These issues are compounded by contractor shortages and transportation difficulties, making residual fibre management increasingly difficult.



61% of respondents ship at a loss to utilize residual fibre



72% reported that 75% to 100% of their logs are sold to mills considered local.



55% have accessed external funding to help pay for shipping residual fibre. FESBC has been a key source of support for community forests in their efforts to manage residual fibre.



Williams Lake Community Forest processes, sorts, and ships select timber to a specialized yard to meet the needs of log home builders. While this approach costs more per cubic metre than standard commodity shipping, it allows them to provide high-quality material for custom construction. Currently, up to 5% of their production supports the log home industry.



Investments in Intensive Silviculture

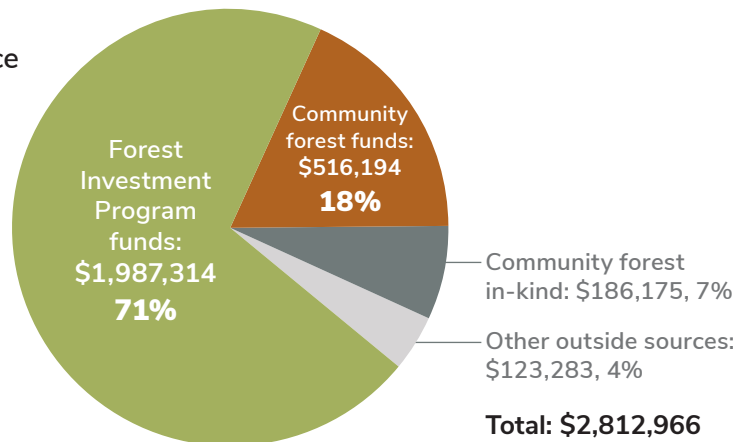
COMMUNITY FORESTS TAKE a long-term approach to forest management by actively investing in the future productivity and health of their area-based tenures. Many go above and beyond legal requirements by implementing intensive, incremental silviculture practices. These efforts are designed to enhance future timber supply and long-term economic returns, and they also improve forest health and biodiversity. During the reporting period, community forests invested more than **\$2.8 million** in incremental silviculture treatments — work that includes spacing, pruning, fertilization, and site preparation activities. Of this total, **\$600,000** came directly from community forest funds and in-kind contributions, marking a significant increase from **\$400,000** in the previous reporting year. A total of 1,629 hectares were treated during the past fiscal period.

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



1,629 hectares were treated during the past fiscal period.

Value and source of investment in incremental silviculture



As an area-based licence, it is essential for us to position the community forest for long-term success. We do this by carrying out incremental silviculture activities — including spacing, pruning, and pre-commercial thinning of free-to-grow stands — to prepare for future commercial thinning and final harvests. These efforts support the growth of high-quality timber and include road rehabilitation to restore site productivity.”

— Coulter Roberts, **Westbank CF**



POST WILDFIRE REHABILITATION OF MCDOUGALL CREEK, NITITYIX RESOURCES PHOTO



Economic Diversification

ONE OF THE KEY OBJECTIVES of the provincial Community Forest Program is to encourage diversification in both the use of and the benefits derived from community forest agreement areas. Although the sale of logs continues to be the primary source of income for most community forests, some are benefitting from diversified revenue streams.¹ This steady growth signals increasing opportunities for local economic development and resilience.

Community forests are increasingly leveraging their local expertise and operational capacity to support wildfire mitigation efforts. Many provide skilled crews and services, including firefighting, inspection, brushing contracts, fireguard rehabilitation, prescriptions, and implementation. This assists nearby tenure holders and municipal governments, expanding their role in community safety and landscape-level forest management. Additionally, several community forests have diversified their operations by establishing small-scale sawmills, marketing firewood, and offering custom milling services, creating new revenue streams while adding value to locally harvested timber.

Collectively, these diversified activities contributed more than **\$1.2 million** in additional revenue over the reporting period, underscoring the evolving economic importance of community forests beyond traditional timber sales.



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

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

CARBON REVENUE FUELS RESILIENCE

Cheakamus Community Forest is the only community forest in the province with a carbon project. Launched as a pilot in 2009, it has generated revenue through carbon offset sales since 2015. This income helps stabilize cash flow and enables investments in initiatives such as the development of a climate resilience plan. “Without that revenue, such projects would not be financially feasible,” says Executive Director Heather Beresford.



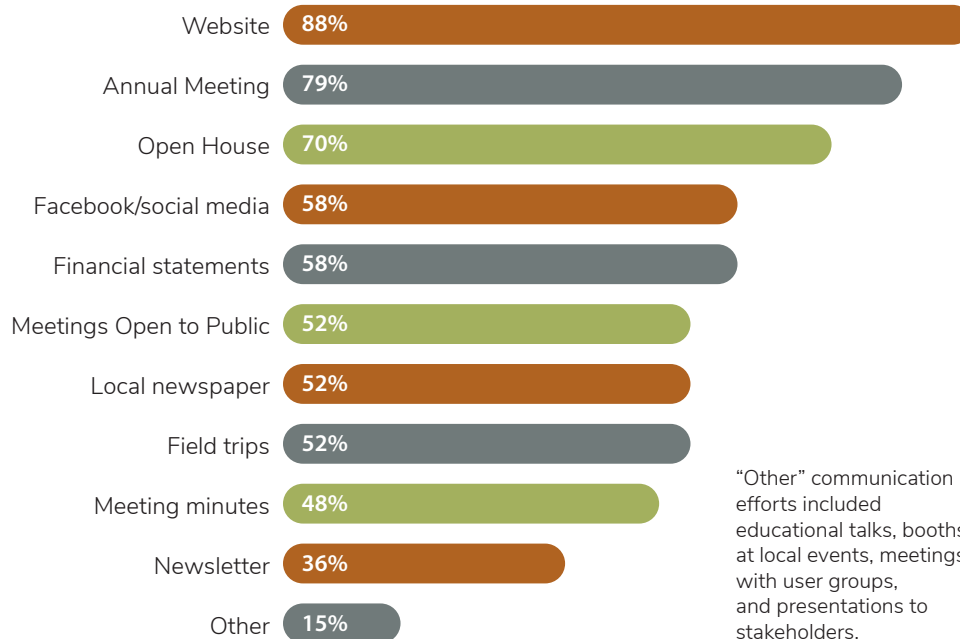
LIL'WAT NATION YOUTH WITH WHISTLER OFF ROAD CYCLING TRAIL BUILDING DAY SPONSORED BY THE CCF, PHOTO CHEAKAMUS CF

¹ BC forest legislation allows community forests to manage Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs), but without regulations, they focus on community access — berries, mushrooms, medicinal plants — and adapt harvesting to protect these resources, while respecting First Nations' traditional use rights and leaving commercial NTFP management undeveloped.

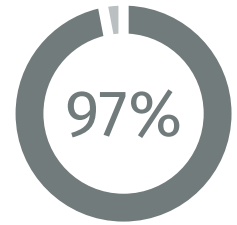
Community Accountability

AT THE HEART of community forestry lies a strong commitment to building and sustaining meaningful relationships and trust within local communities. This deep-rooted connection is a defining characteristic of the community forest model and is fundamental to its success. Community forests are held to a high standard of accountability, not only through their legal obligations but also through the values that guide their operations.

Under their licence agreement with the province, community forests must hold an annual meeting to report to local residents. Many go well beyond, engaging through social media, events, open houses, and newsletters. This proactive approach demonstrates a deep commitment to transparency, responsiveness, and community involvement.



"Other" communication efforts included educational talks, booths at local events, meetings with user groups, and presentations to stakeholders.



97% of respondents reported annually to their community, with one community forest currently in the process of establishing more thorough reporting.



3,532 volunteer hours were devoted to community accountability, a significant increase from the previous period.



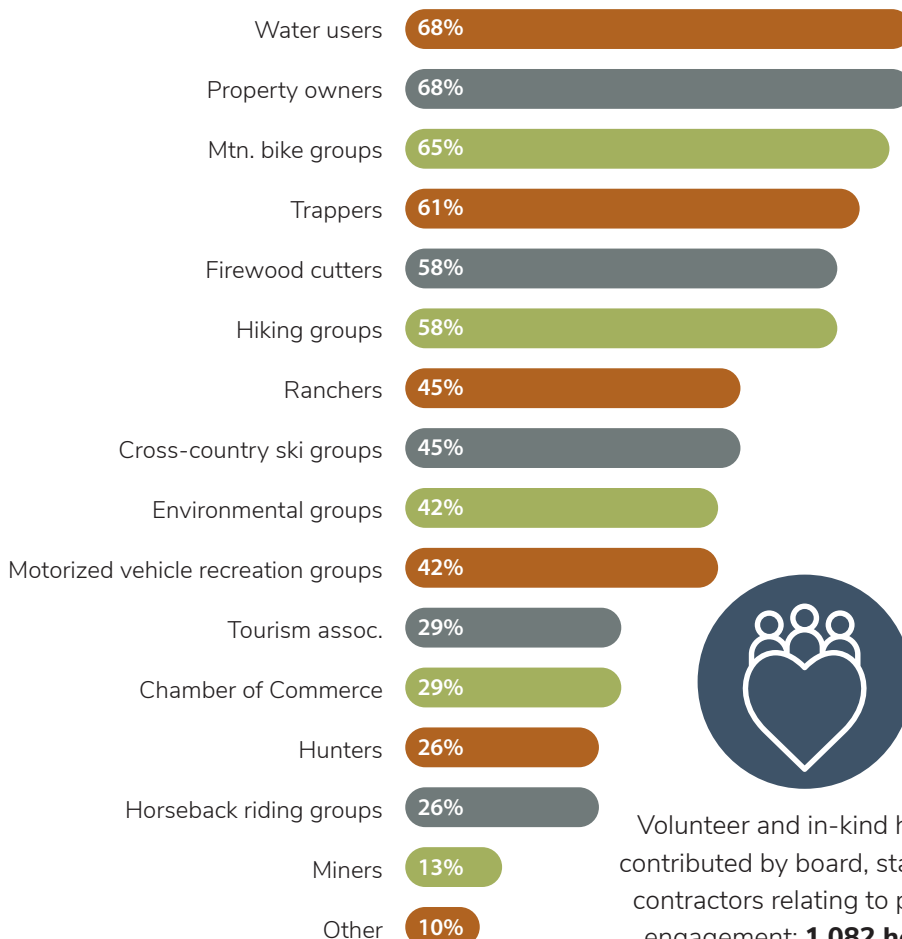
The North Island Community Forest recently launched a new website, developed by a local web designer, to help share our story and keep the public informed with news and updates. We actively participate in the local high school forestry academy, offering students hands-on experience and knowledge about sustainable forestry. Each year, we host an open house providing community members the opportunity to meet our directors and learn more about the work we do to support the region."

— Ione Brown, **North Island Community Forest**

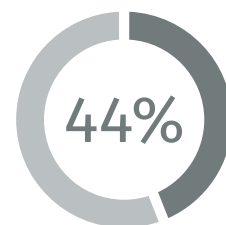
AS COMMUNITY FORESTS BUILD respectful, collaborative relationships with First Nations to support reconciliation (as reported on in Indicator 15), they also strive to maintain consistent engagement with a wide range of community and stakeholder groups, each with diverse interests in local forest use. During the reporting period, the most frequently engaged groups included property owners, water users, trappers, firewood cutters, and recreational users such as hikers and mountain bikers. Public engagement is essential not only for ensuring that forest management decisions reflect local values, but also for increasing awareness and understanding of sustainable practices and the goals of community forests.

During the reporting period, a total of **1,639** volunteer and in-kind hours were contributed by board, staff and contractors relating to public engagement, an increase from the previous fiscal period.

ENGAGEMENT WITH COMMUNITY SECTORS



Volunteer and in-kind hours contributed by board, staff and contractors relating to public engagement: **1,082 hours**



44% of reporting community forests have developed formal agreements with one or more of their forest user groups.

56% identified local land user relationships that have shared decision making or co-management.



SPEL'KÚMTN CF PHOTO

"We work hard to further our strategic goal of a forestry-informed community, along with a commitment to transparency to ensure forestry is not just for foresters – it's for community."

— Sara Zielemann,
Sunshine Coast CF

INDICATOR

11

Investments in Community Education

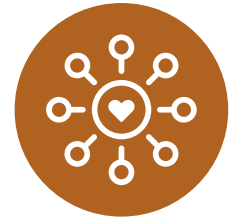
COMMUNITY FORESTS ARE EXCEPTIONAL platforms for forest education, offering hands-on learning experiences rooted in local values, sustainability, and stewardship. As area-based tenures managed by and for local communities, they provide unique and accessible opportunities for residents of all ages to engage with the forest landscape in meaningful ways.

By investing in education and outreach programs, community forests have positioned themselves as vital learning hubs for forest ecology, sustainable resource management, and the cultural and environmental significance of local ecosystems. These programs often include guided field trips, classroom visits, interpretive signage, citizen science projects, and partnerships with schools, Indigenous communities, and environmental organizations.

Respondents invested a total **\$295,743** of their own dollars into community education, with **72%** investing in education during the reporting period.

A particular emphasis is placed on engaging children and youth, fostering a connection to the land that can inspire future forest stewards. Through experiential learning — such as planting trees, identifying native species, or observing wildlife — young people gain a deeper understanding of the complexity and importance of forest ecosystems.

Over **2,800 hours** were allocated to planning and delivering educational activities during the reporting period. About **60%** of respondents conduct education activities with K-12 students, nearly double what was reported in the previous fiscal period, and **28%** of these conduct activities specific to National Forest Week.



Community forest investments in education: **\$295,743**
Hours invested: **2,825**

LEARNING IN THE HEART OF THE WOODS

The West Boundary Community Forest (WBCF) is committed to outdoor education, offering hands-on learning that fosters environmental stewardship. In 2019, WBCF purchased a 60-acre site for its Outdoor Education Centre, and in 2024 opened a new covered outdoor classroom. Ongoing investments in trails, signage, and amenities support its mission to make the forest a year-round, living classroom for all ages.



ORANGE SHIRT DAY ACTIVITIES AT WEST BOUNDARY CF, PHOTO ELLY MACMASTER

Investments in Recreation

OUTDOOR RECREATION STRENGTHENS community resilience by boosting well-being, fostering inclusion, connecting people to nature, and supporting tourism. Community forests contribute by offering diverse recreational opportunities and investing in trails, facilities, and amenities — often beyond their tenure boundaries. Popular features include multi-use trails, warming huts, cabins, and educational kiosks. Though small in size, community forests deliver high-quality recreation that reflects a commitment to the community and a broader vision of forest management beyond timber.

- **53%** of respondents invested their own funds into local recreation initiatives during the reporting period, totalling \$603,336 – an increase in funds from the previous reporting period.
- Over **3,200** volunteer and staff hours were dedicated to recreation and trail building during the past fiscal year, which is higher than the previous reporting period.



Investment in recreation:

Total: **\$603,336**

Average: **\$35,490**



Kilometres of trail
built and maintained:

Total: **1,207 km**

Average: **86 km**



Volunteer hours
on trails: **3,238**

Average: **180**

RECREATION ON THE KASLO & DISTRICT CF

Kaslo's recreation community, with strong volunteer support and major grants, has built an extensive trail network within the Community Forest tenure. Since 2012, the Mt. Buchanan Recreation Tenure — maintained by the local trails group with Recreation Sites and Trails BC and KDCFS — has grown to include ski trails, warming huts, and expanding bike routes. In 2024, KDCFS partnered with the trails group to share brushing costs, keeping roads open for maintenance, grooming, and firefighting access.

STEVE DOUCET PHOTO



WEST KOOTENAY



INDICATOR

13

Proactive Management of Wildfire

COMMUNITY FORESTS ARE COMMITTED to ongoing efforts to reduce wildfire risk in rural and forest-dependent communities. Nearly all community forests in BC have some portion of their tenure located within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) — the transitional zone between undeveloped wildlands and populated areas, making them uniquely situated to take proactive action on wildfire mitigation.

Over the years, community forests have consistently demonstrated leadership, initiative, and dedication to making their communities safer from wildfire threats. Their work includes creating defensible space, reducing fuel loads, and advancing long-term forest resilience. Many work with Indigenous partners on cultural burning, supporting reconciliation and blending traditional knowledge with western science.

As BC strengthens wildfire strategies, particularly in the WUI and through prescribed burns, community forests remain key players. Their local knowledge, trusted relationships, and operational capacity make them vital to the province's preparedness, response, and recovery efforts.

Community forests use their own funds to build wildfire resiliency in their communities. Over **1,000** hours of volunteer time were allocated to wildfire-related work. **97%** of respondents have a wildfire plan in place for their CFA and/or are part of a local wildfire planning table.

The BCCFA has an ongoing long-term partnership with BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) to support community forests in their efforts to enhance wildfire resiliency in rural communities throughout BC. Visit bccfa.ca to learn more.

SUSAN MULKEY PHOTO



Investment to reduce wildfire hazard:

\$2,590,427

Average: **\$123,354**



Wildfire-related volunteer hours: **1,030**

Average: **147**



Hectares treated for wildfire risk: **1,353**



Collaborated with local or Indigenous government on planning: **72%**

WEST KOOTENAY



**In 2024, the
Komonko Creek
Wildfire burned
more than
4,000 hectares
and impacted
about 60% of
SIFCo's tenure.**



The *Living With Fire* video highlights Ntityix Resources LP's wildfire risk reduction work in the Westbank Community Forest. Supported by the FESBC and Ministry of Forests, the video showcases how Indigenous leadership and cultural practices play a vital role in effective, community-focused forest management. Watch at youtube.com/watch?v=pc38rsUOqFU

FUEL TREATMENTS MEET WILDFIRE IN THE SLOCAN VALLEY

For over 15 years, the Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative (SIFCo) has implemented wildfire mitigation strategies across its community forest tenure in the Slocan Valley, including prescribed burning and mechanical fuel treatments. In 2024, the Komonko Creek Wildfire burned more than 4,000 hectares and impacted approximately 60% of SIFCo's tenure, including several areas previously treated for wildfire risk.

To review the interaction between the wildfire and past fuel mitigation work, SIFCo hosted a field tour with representatives from UBC, the Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC), BCWS, and the BCCFA. While additional analysis is still underway, preliminary post-wildfire drone footage from the Ponderosa/Lemon Creek area shows reduced wildfire intensity in zones treated with prescribed fire in 2021 by SIFCo and BCWS. Similarly, areas where SIFCo crews had manually removed surface and ladder fuels experienced lower fire intensity and burn severity.

Fuel treatment zones near the Village of Slocan and the Bannock Point Recreation Site were used by BCWS to support suppression operations, including strategic backburns from previously established control lines.



OKANAGAN



PHOTO WESTBANK CF

INDICATOR

14

Forest Worker Safety

COMMUNITY FOREST ORGANIZATIONS place a strong emphasis on safety, not only for their employees and contractors, but also for the volunteers, recreation users, and community members who access and engage with their tenures. Ensuring a safe working and recreational environment is a core value that reflects the local accountability and care central to community forestry.

Promoting forest worker safety is also a key objective of the provincial Community Forest Program. Consistent with this goal, most community forests require their staff and contractors to hold safety certification through the BC Forest Safety Council or an equivalent recognized program. Even among those that do not mandate certification, there is a clear preference for hiring certified professionals, underscoring a sector-wide commitment to high safety standards.

Of the total recorded incidents during the reporting period, **95%** were minor. One of the serious incidents that occurred was related to a truck driver hauling accident. No fatalities were recorded in this reporting period.



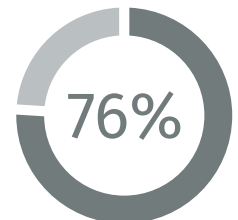
Number and severity of recordable incidents in the reporting period:

Minor: **42**

Serious (requiring attention): **2**

Fatality: **0**

Total: **44**



76% of reporting community forests require safety certification

Practice makes perfect: NACFOR's comprehensive Environmental Safety Management System serves as a provincial model for community forests, highlighted by its annual training day for contractors.

NACFOR PHOTO

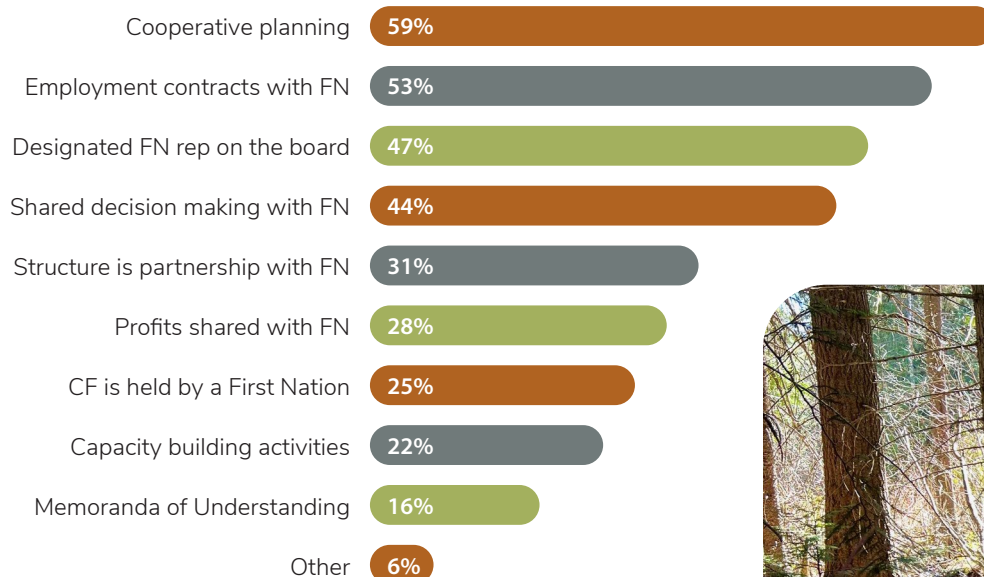


First Nations Collaboration

COMMUNITY FORESTRY IS A STRONG PATHWAY to supporting reconciliation, with over half of BC's community forests held by First Nations or operated in partnership. Nearly **60%** have cooperative planning with local First Nations, integrating cultural values and traditional knowledge into management.

As reconciliation becomes an increasingly central consideration in land management across the province, community forests offer tangible examples of how respectful partnerships can grow. In the reporting year, **78%** of survey respondents acted on the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act through co-ownership, co-management, or shared decision-making — showing how community forests advance reconciliation through meaningful, evolving partnerships.

FIRST NATIONS INVOLVEMENT



In addition to the collaboration that is part of day-to-day operations, a total of **1,314** volunteer hours were contributed to working on collaboration with First Nations during the reporting period, an increase from the previous period.



THOMPSON-NICOLA

ADVANCING RECONCILIATION THROUGH SHARED STEWARDSHIP

In 2023, Simpcw First Nation finalized its Stewardship Plan, grounded in Simpcw laws. Wells Gray Community Forest adopted these principles, aligning forest practices with Indigenous governance. It created a Best Management Practices guide to protect water and fish habitat, applied improved methods to reduce blowdown and creek bed damage, and accepted a timber supply reduction of under 3% to prioritize ecosystem health — demonstrating respect for Simpcw values and long-term relationship-building. PHOTO WELLS GRAY CF



SEA TO SKY

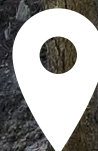


IN FOCUS

Spel'kúmt'n CF actively connects youth and adults with the land through educational and hands-on experiences. Over the past year, this included school visits, land mapping exercises, harvest block tours, post-harvest surveys, and tree planting. PHOTO SPEL'KÚMTN CF

The Creston Community Forest received \$11,086 from the Canada Jobs Program and \$12,150 from Columbia Basin Trust to support summer student wages and hiking trail maintenance. An additional \$5,000 in cash contributions was used to leverage this funding. This footbridge was constructed by the students as part of their summer program. PHOTO CRESTON CF

KOOTENAY



2025 Robin Hood Memorial Award

Robin Hood, a long-time manager of the Likely-Xat'sül Community Forest and President of the BCCFA, was a passionate advocate for community forestry in British Columbia. His legacy is honoured annually at the BCCFA conference through the Robin Hood Memorial Award for Excellence in Community Forestry, which includes a \$10,000 grant to a deserving community forest. This year, the award was presented by Deputy Minister Makenzie Leine to Sunshine Coast Community Forest in recognition of their exemplary work in advancing community forestry.

"When you hear about local leaders and the incredible benefits they bring to their community through forestry, you can just tell this is what the future of forestry looks like," said Ravi Parmar, Minister of Forests. "The Sunshine Coast Community Forest is this future and is leading with a community-first approach that weaves together local economic resiliency with healthy forests to support those who call the Sunshine Coast home."

Despite being one of the smallest community forests in the province, the Sunshine Coast Community Forest has made a significant impact, investing nearly \$25 million since 2007 in local infrastructure, recreation, economic

development, and community programs. Its popular firewood program exemplifies this commitment by providing sustainably sourced firewood at no cost to families facing financial hardship — supporting seniors, people with disabilities, and those recovering from injury — while also employing individuals facing barriers to employment. Guided by an ecosystem-based management approach, the community forest prioritizes forest health, biodiversity, and long-term sustainability through retention harvesting, habitat conservation, watershed protection, and wildfire risk reduction.

"It means a lot to us to be recognized among the many exceptional community forests in BC," said Sunshine Coast CF executive director Sara Zieleman. "We're grateful, first and foremost, to our community with whom we share this success — the many people who generously contribute their time, and the organizations that collaborate with us. This recognition reflects the strength of our partnerships, the dedication of our volunteers and a shared commitment to stewarding the land responsibly. We're proud to be part of a network of community forests working to create social, ecological and economic benefits across the province."



From left: Jen Gunter, Sara Zieleman, Doug Marteinson, Kathleen Suddes, Bob Michor, Makenzie Leine, Alton Toth, Warren Hansen, Suzanne Senger PHOTO SANDY MCKELLAR

BCCFA 2025 Conference & AGM

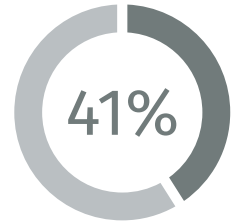


Management of Sensitive Areas

WATERSHEDS, CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES, and old growth forests are just a few of the many sensitive and ecologically significant areas that require careful and deliberate management. These areas often hold deep cultural, environmental, and social importance, particularly for rural and forest-dependent communities that rely on healthy ecosystems for clean water, traditional practices, recreation, and overall well-being.

Community forests play a vital role in the stewardship of these special places. Guided by a mandate to reflect and uphold local values, community forests incorporate a broad spectrum of community priorities into their planning and operations. This includes protecting critical wildlife habitat, preserving biodiversity, and maintaining the ecological functions that support long-term forest health. Sensitive areas may include any of:

- Domestic and community watersheds
- Areas with archaeological or cultural heritage values
- Critical wildlife habitat and fisheries sensitive watersheds
- Areas identified as sensitive by the community.



Percentage of total area that is sensitive: **41%**

That is sensitive & operable: **15%**

That is set aside in reserves: **19%**

That is part of a community watershed: **23%**



VANCOUVER ISLAND

Community forests manage for old growth sensitive areas and strive to meet the requirements of the provincial old growth deferrals.

- 45% report that deferrals have been officially implemented in their area by the Ministry of Forests, and that support by First Nations for the deferral process is mixed.
- 62% have an old growth plan developed or in progress with local First Nations.
- 93% of the old growth deferral areas are already set aside in Old Growth Management Areas, permanent or long-term reserves, or designated no-go areas.

BARCLAY COMMUNITY FOREST PHOTO

INDICATOR

17

Investments in Forest Stewardship

COMMUNITY FORESTS, as long-term, area-based tenures, are committed to sustaining the ecological integrity of local forests. With deep roots in the communities they serve, these forests are managed with a long-range perspective that prioritizes environmental health alongside economic and social values. One of the foundational goals of the Community Forest Program is to ensure forestry practices reflect strong stewardship principles that honour a broad spectrum of community and ecological priorities.

This indicator evaluates the voluntary investments community forests make in forest management practices that go above and beyond legal requirements, with a focus on ensuring the long-term sustainability of the land. Healthy forests are the foundation of strong, resilient communities and thriving local economies, and community forests recognize their unique responsibility in stewarding these landscapes for future generations.

During the current reporting period, community forests invested over **\$2 million** of their own revenue into stewardship activities. These investments reflect the dedication of community forests to not only meet but exceed expectations in managing forests sustainably and responsibly.

Community forests are also investing in tools to develop reliable, long-term forest inventory information: **85%** of respondents have invested in LiDAR, and **50%** of respondents have monitoring programs in place.



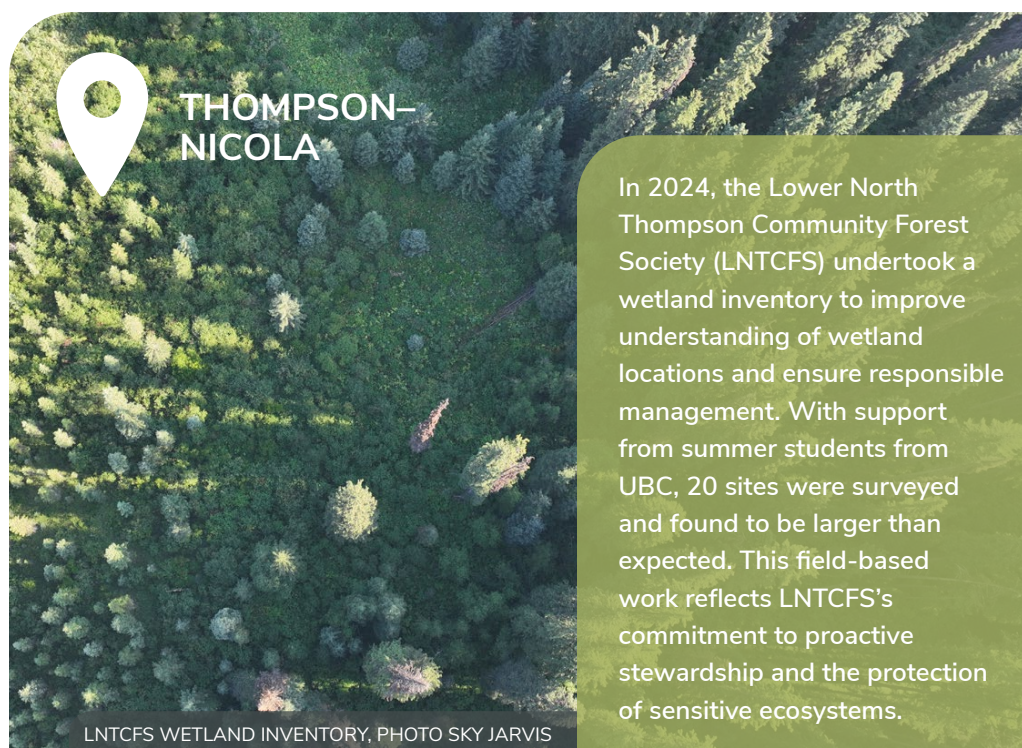
Investment in enhanced or modified management:

Total: **\$2,089,54**
Average: **\$139,303**



Value of investments from outside sources

Total: **\$31,050**
Average: **\$7,763**



In 2024, the Lower North Thompson Community Forest Society (LNTCFS) undertook a wetland inventory to improve understanding of wetland locations and ensure responsible management. With support from summer students from UBC, 20 sites were surveyed and found to be larger than expected. This field-based work reflects LNTCFS's commitment to proactive stewardship and the protection of sensitive ecosystems.



Area treated
Total ha: **905**
Average ha: **82**



Volunteer hours on stewardship activities
Total: **1,031**
Average: **103**

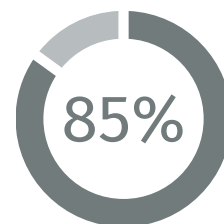
Compliance with Environmental Standards

COMMUNITY FORESTS CONSISTENTLY MEET and often surpass environmental compliance standards, demonstrating a strong commitment to responsible and accountable forest management. In most cases, their practices not only align with regulatory requirements but go well beyond them, reflecting a culture of continuous improvement and environmental stewardship.

During this reporting period, two determinations were issued involving a single community forest, both related to the timing of slash pile burning. These incidents were self-reported to Compliance and Enforcement, demonstrating the transparency and accountability that community forests uphold.

Community forests remain committed to excellence, showing a proactive approach to compliance and a deep commitment to maintaining the highest environmental standards and a willingness to learn from missteps. Examples of how community forests exceeded standards during the reporting period include:

- Demonstrated flexibility in harvesting practices by adapting tree retention levels to site-specific ecological conditions, often resulting in retention exceeding minimum requirements where ecologically beneficial
- Maintained larger than legislated riparian buffers and protection
- Commissioned ecological and hydrological assessments to inform management strategies
- Special management on fish-bearing streams to meet the values of First Nations.



Met or exceeded requirements: **85%**

Of those, **61%** exceeded requirements and **15%** significantly exceeded



Total inspections: **9**

Determinations issued again the CF: **2**



Join us.



2025 BCCFA CONFERENCE, PHOTO BEN HAZEL

To learn more about joining the BCCFA membership,
visit bccfa.ca or scan the QR code below.





BC **COMMUNITY**
FOREST
ASSOCIATION

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The BC Community Forest Association is a network of rural community-based organizations engaged in community forest management, and those seeking to establish new community forests. We represent over 90 rural and Indigenous communities across our province. We share a vision of a network of diverse community forest initiatives, where local people practice ecologically responsible forest management in perpetuity, fostering and supporting healthy and vibrant rural communities and economies.