

# LITTLE PRAIRIE COMMUNITY FOREST



BCCFA AGM – Tumbler Ridge

June 16, 2017

Presented by Jeff Beale, RPF

# Little Prairie Community Forest

## • Our 'Culture and Management'

- THREE COMMUNITIES are PARTNERS
  - West Moberly First Nations
  - District of Chetwynd
  - Saulteau First Nations
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS of Little Prairie Community Forest Inc. *"to run the business for the Partners"*
  - 2 directors appointed per Partner
- MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT
  - LPCFI : 5 yr management agreement (West Fraser) to manage operational planning, harvesting, reforestation, roads, fire, reporting
  - BoD: very engaged in strategic communications, community discussion's, and review & feedback of activities done in the CF
  - Community objectives, concerns and opportunities
    - Water quality & Wildlife management
    - Visual quality (VQO's)
    - Cultural (archaeology), trapping, cabins, trails
    - Recreation trails (hike, ski, bike) and Public Safety
    - Firewood & Road Access
    - Logging & Reforestation – Economic opportunities
- COST EFFECTIVE Business model



# Little Prairie Community Forest

- **2016 Map**

- ~ 13,500 ha total gross area
- ~ 3,500 ha in Old Growth Mgmt Area
- ~ 7,000 ha visually sensitive areas
- ~ 9,000 ha harvestable timber landbase

- **Timber Management**

- 2011 >> 20,000 cubic meters /yr harvest
- 2013 >> 500,000 m3 uplift to salvage Mtn Pine Beetle killed pine stands
- Harvested ~458,000 cubic meters in total 2012-2016/17 (~1,400 hectares)



# Little Prairie Community Forest

## • Our 'Culture & Management'

### • COMMUNITY PARTNERS' OBJECTIVES

- Social license forest management (Indigenous knowledge, listen, professional insight & professional reliance, adapt, innovate, research, and monitor)
- Support local Community & Partner businesses
- Economic viability and economic diversification
- Sustainable financial dividends; sponsorships
- Cultural, social, environmental & recreational benefits
- Communication to & with the communities
- Build local capacity (human resources, businesses)



### • BOARD OF DIRECTORS (LPCFI)

- Annual General Meeting ~June 25<sup>th</sup> each year
- Review performance as per set of Performance Indicators
- Forest Practices Board Audits or FLNRO Investigations
- Review strategic goals in light of Partner and stakeholder feedback

### • Board MANAGEMENT Going Forward

- Review Management Agreement
- Expand the Community Forest boundary to match the additional AAC (Allowable Annual Cut) to LPCF -- 2015 Timber Supply Review
- Economic development initiatives: Recreation Trail Developments, and Native Plants Initiative for 'country food-traditional use plant crops'



# LPCF Annual Performance Indicators

## • Strategic Values:

- Wildlife and Habitat (OGMA, WHA, WTP)
- Cultural areas
- Visual quality
- Water (Streams, crossings)
- Invasive plants

## • Harvesting Values:

- Environmental management: spills
- Roads (sediment controls, erosion, deactivation)
- Harvest Volume
- Waste volume

## • Reforestation & Silviculture Values:

- Planting
- Free growing
- Stand tending
- Stand Monitoring

## • Community Values:

- Local employment opportunities
- Interpretive trails
- Educational opportunities
- Firewood
- Recreation trails (biking, skiing)
- Country foods (berries etc.)

# Cultural Area Indicators – assessed with First Nations

**Number of areas avoided with high archaeological potential:**

Areas may be machine-free zoned, or excluded from the cutblock

**2012-2017 analysis: 218 areas**

**Area surveyed for archaeological potential**

**2012-2017 analysis: 1,905 ha**

**Area dropped due to high cultural significance**

**2012-2017 analysis: 37 ha**



# Visual Quality Indicator

- **Visual Quality management strategy**
  - Understory retention where possible
  - Retain deciduous (aspen, cottonwood)
  - Design cut block boundaries with visual impact in mind
  - Use Wildlife Tree Patches to reduce visual impact
  - Landscape 3D modelling from visually sensitive viewpoints
  - Consultations with First Nations, Stakeholders, & residents
- **Area under a Visual Quality Objective (VQO)**  
*2012-2017 analysis:*  
*~ 1,038 ha or 25% of total cutblock area*
- **Number of Viewpoints modelled:** ~ 15
- **Area dropped due to visual quality concerns:**  
*~ 30 hectares (forfeit timber values)*



# Visual Quality Objectives

VQO polygons are (light grey)  
~ 24% of LPCF area

Harvest Blocks (brown)

Roads (pink)



# Harvesting Indicators

## Sediment control strategy

- Ditches are seeded as soon as practicable to prevent sedimentation
- Ditch water is diverted through cross-draining culverts to prevent sedimentation into streams.
- Hay bales are used to filter ditch water prior to stream entry where diversion is impracticable
- Sediment fencing is installed in critical areas
- Seeding occurs as soon as practicable after hauling is complete and roads are de-activated



# Harvesting Indicators

## Salvage Program Progress (to March 31, 2017):

- **Proportion of lodgepole pine harvested**  
2012-2017 analysis: ~ 75% Pine, 25% (Spruce, Balsam fir)
- **Total volume harvested to date**  
2012-2017 analysis: 579,797m<sup>3</sup>
- **Percent of salvage program harvested to date**  
2012-2017 analysis: **100%**



# Silviculture Indicators

## Stand tending strategy

- Plant large stock
- Sheep to graze competing vegetation
  - Will not eat woody vegetation
  - Access can be difficult, requires lots of planning
  - Use walk through surveys to monitor stands
- Outside the Moberly drainage,
  - herbicide selectively



# Silviculture Indicators

## Free Growing Indicator:

- **Stocking Standards & Free growing requirements**
  - In the Moberly drainage -- **NO Spraying**, willow and alder provide good ungulate habitat – and are considered acceptable when assessing free growing status, as long as the height to diameter ratio of crop trees does not exceed 60
  - Free growing conifer stands must meet these minimum requirements:
    - Composed of Lodgepole Pine and/or Hybrid Spruce
    - Target 1200 stems per hectare, with a minimum of 700 and an average of 2m spacing
    - Average minimum height of trees must be 1, 1.4 or 2 m depending on the ecological classification
    - Within/by 15 years after harvest



# Silviculture Indicators

## Stand Monitoring strategy

- Planting quality is verified during planting to ensure the highest seedling survival
- Once a block has been replanted, it is surveyed the first season following reforestation to monitor survival
- After this initial survey, blocks are surveyed every three years until free growing status is achieved. Walk through surveys are used intermittently between the three year survey period to monitor stand health and assess the need for stand tending.



# Community Indicators

## **Firewood Allocation**

- 2012-2017: Two log truck loads of firewood delivered to First Nations Partners

## **Berry Patch Management Strategy**

- Identified & avoided berry patches in the salvage area, and will continue to do so

## **Advancing the Native Plants Initiative**

- Twin Sisters Native Plant Nursery (West Moberly FN and Sauteau FN) is partnering with LPCFI to identify opportunities for expanding native plant crops from existing timber lands and newly reforested areas for commercial & community use

## **Advancing the Recreational & Interpretive Trail Network**

- Chetwynd Outdoor Recreation Society, Chetwynd Economic development are consulting with LPCFI to evaluate best trail routings for ongoing harvest plans

# Communications Strategy

- Annual tours of harvesting & reforestation operations
- LOGO contest through local schools
- Recreation trail sign co-development (SD59, First Nations & Chetwynd)
  - Dunne-za, Cree, and English --- plants, insects, birds, animals
- Event sponsorships in Partner communities
- Advertising & Forest stories in Coffee Talk
- Photo opportunities: Openings, Dividend disbursements
- Special meetings/consultations & AGM's in communities





A PARTNERSHIP of  
WEST MOBERLY FIRST NATIONS DISTRICT OF CHETWYND SAULTEAU FIRST NATION