



British Columbia
**Community
Forest
Association**

local people, local forests, local decisions

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

COMMUNITY FOREST INDICATORS 2018 MEASURING THE BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY FORESTRY





BELLA COOLA COMMUNITY FOREST, PHOTO HANS GRANANDER

COMMUNITY FOREST INDICATORS 2018: MEASURING THE BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY FORESTRY is the report of the British Columbia Community Forest Association's fourth annual survey. Twenty years since the introduction of the community forest agreement tenure, there are now 58 community forests in BC. These provincial forest tenures give communities, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, the opportunity to manage local forests for local benefit, challenging them to incorporate economic, social, cultural and environmental values.

Twenty years since the introduction of the community forest agreement tenure, there are now 58 community forests in BC.

The benefits that accrue to local communities, and to the province as a whole, from this innovative form of forest management can be seen as the return on investment. To better understand this return, the British Columbia Community Forest Association (BCCFA) has developed a system to measure and track the benefits of community forests in BC.

Eighteen indicators provide tangible, quantitative information on the economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits that community forests generate.

Based on work with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, independent advisors and community forest practitioners, we identified the most common and easy to measure indicators that can be applied regardless of the organizational structure of a community forest or the location and ecosystem characteristics of the land base.

Forty community forests participated in the 2017/2018 survey, providing data from their last reporting year, specific to their operations. This sample represents 93% of the operating community forests in the BCCFA. Most are small rural communities, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, with an average population of 3,360. Sixty-six per cent of respondents represent communities of under 3,000 people and 39% per cent represent communities under 1,000.

COVER PHOTOS: Powell River CF tree planter, Anji Smith; SIFCO wildfire mitigation, Rachael Bone; Slokan Valley sign, Susan Mulkey; Wells Grey CF bike trail, George Brcko; LNTCFS dew drop on lupine, Mike Francis.

The community forest organizations operate relatively small forest tenures, with an average Allowable Annual Cut (AAC) of 39,000 m³. While they may be small, the interplay of the results reported on the 18 indicators tells the story of how important community forests are to their communities and the province.

Every community forest is unique and each one strives to generate benefits as defined by the local community. This report shows what can be achieved when communities are empowered to manage the forests that surround them.

This year's results show that community forests are creating 63% more jobs/ m³ than the industry average in their forestry operations. They operate in sensitive areas and are meeting their cut control while reliably supplying logs to both major processing facilities and small manufacturers. They generate \$1.3 million/year in economic activity, on average, and contributed an average of \$359,000 cash and in-kind to local projects. The total funds donated to community projects by the participating community forests in the reporting year alone exceeded \$12 million.

Eighteen indicators measure progress towards the following four key objectives:

1. Community forests provide economic benefits to their communities and to British Columbia.
2. Community forests provide social benefits to their communities and to the province; they promote community involvement and participation, and forest worker safety.
3. Community forests promote communication and strengthen relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities and persons.
4. Community forest management is consistent with sound principles of environmental stewardship that reflect a broad spectrum of values.

The Community Forest Indicators Report was written for everyone that wants to learn more about community forestry in BC. It will be of interest to leaders, organizers and decision-makers at the local, provincial, and First Nations level. Resource management professionals and forest workers can learn what is happening across the province, and community members where community forests exist, as well as people in places motivated to manage local forests, will gain insight and inspiration. Readers will learn how community forests become integrated into local communities, building trust and cultivating social licence. Themes of ingenuity and creativity emerge, like how to combine ecosystem restoration, wildfire management, recreation, education and job creation into one project!

The full report is available online at bccfa.ca/category/indicators/. We hope you will enjoy reading it as much as we enjoy sharing the stories.



LOWER NORTH THOMPSON
COMMUNITY FOREST SOCIETY

Leveraging CFA Profits

"In 2017, we partnered with Simcpw First Nation to conduct fuel reduction treatments in and around the reserve area, and to develop and expand the mountain bike trail network as part of the Simcpw First Nation McBride to Barriere Mountain Bike Recreation & Tourism Initiative. In our community grants, \$5,000 went to the Simcpw Youth Program, \$10,000 to the Chu Chua Volunteer Fire Department, and \$4,500 to Simcpw for Water Engineering Technology Certified Technician training. We are also using the CFA profits and tenure to leverage and create economic development in the valley through our recent land purchase and establishment of a small milling and value-added operation."

PHOTO LOWER NORTH THOMPSON
COMMUNITY FOREST SOCIETY



Survey Highlights

CHAINSAW COURSE SUPPORTED BY THE CORTES COMMUNITY FOREST, A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE KLAHOOSE FIRST NATION AND THE CORTES ISLAND COMMUNITY, PHOTO MARK LOMBARD

Economic Benefits

- Community forests create local jobs. The reporting community forests created on average 0.39 full time jobs/1,000 m³ in forestry, logging and support services, which is 63% more than the industry average of 0.24 jobs/1,000 m³. When activities such as trail building, firefighting and scientific study are included, the coefficient goes up to 0.42 jobs/1,000m³.
- Community forests boost local economic activity. Through their operations, they contributed an average of \$1.3 million to their local economies, most of which have populations of 3,000 people or less.
- Community forests support local priorities by sharing their profits. They donated an average of \$359,000 cash and in-kind to local projects. They used their profits to leverage, on average, another \$169,800 for community projects.
- Community forests are investing in the future economic return of the forest through intensive silviculture. The combined investment in the reporting year was \$2.1 million, 53% of which came from their own funds. Collectively they treated a total of 2,600 hectares.

Social Benefits

- Community forests are working to protect residents from the threat of wildfire. Half of the respondents made investments to reduce the threat in the reporting year. They treated an average of 71 hectares and spent \$17,000 of their own funds to reduce wildfire risk. To date, the reporting community forests have collectively treated 3,522 hectares and invested over \$1.8 million for wildfire mitigation. They managed an additional \$6.5 million from outside sources.
- 70% of respondents have collaborated with their local government on Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative projects.
- Recreation is a key benefit. Community forests invested an average of \$26,600 in the reporting year. They built or maintained, on average, 18 km of trail. In total, respondents built or maintained 282 km of trail in the reporting period.
- Community forests support education. Sixty-six per cent of respondents invested funds and/or time in education, collectively spending \$176,000 and 1,770 hours.



SIMPCW BIKE TRAIL, PHOTO ROBIN MUNSHAW, MOUNTAIN BIKE BC

Cultural Benefits

- Fifty-three per cent of survey respondents are community forest that are held by First Nations or in partnership with one or more First Nations. Forty per cent have First Nations representation on their board of directors.
- Forty-three per cent have employment contracts with First Nations, and 38% of community forests engage in cooperative planning with local First Nations.

Environmental Benefits

- Community forests operate in challenging areas around communities. Twenty-nine per cent of the land base of the reporting community forests is deemed sensitive.
- Thirty six per cent of community forests made investments in forest stewardship, incremental to legal requirements, averaging a \$124,000 investment and treating 625 ha each.

The quantitative information summarized in the report is augmented with stories and examples from the participating community forests. The first-hand examples, in addition to the data collected, fully illustrate the benefits and the significant impacts community forests have in their communities.

Background information on the Community Forest Indicators survey questions and methodology as well as an electronic copy of the full report can be found on our website at bccfa.ca/category/indicators/. Visit our website at www.bccfa.ca to learn more about the BCCFA and community forestry in BC.



PONSSE HARVESTER, PHOTO JENNIFER GUNTER

The Burns Lake Community Forest (BLCF) is working hard to recover mountain pine beetle killed timber and reduce the risk of wildfire.

The block pictured above is unique because it is part of the mountain bike park/Kager Lake/Boer Mountain recreation area where they are managing for community, recreational & visual quality values all in one complex bundle. The operator used a Ponsse harvester that allows for a light touch on the ground and cuts the trees to length in the forest.

With an investment of approximately \$1 million, the BLCF has developed an innovative Mountain Pine Beetle Mitigation Plan to transition to a post-mountain pine beetle reality that includes Forest Stewardship Council Certification, partnerships with the local Indigenous People and comprehensive community engagement. BLCF is working to maintain a steady fibre flow to support sustainable local milling jobs.

The measures BLCF has taken to position them for the future, demonstrate a rare commitment to the long term economic, social and environmental health of the land and of the community.

Community Forests in BC

■ = Contributed to the *Community Forest Indicators 2018* report

100 Mile House Community Forest

Alberni Valley Community Forest

Babine Lake Community Forest

Bamfield-Huu-ay-aht Community Forest

Barkley Community Forest

Bella Coola Community Forest

Burns Lake Community Forest

Cascade Lower Canyon Community Forest

Cheakamus Community Forest

Cherryville Community Forest

Cheslatta Carrier Community Forest

Chinook Community Forest

Clinton and District Community Forest

Cortes Community Forest

Creston Valley Community Forest

Dungate Community Forest

Dunster Community Forest

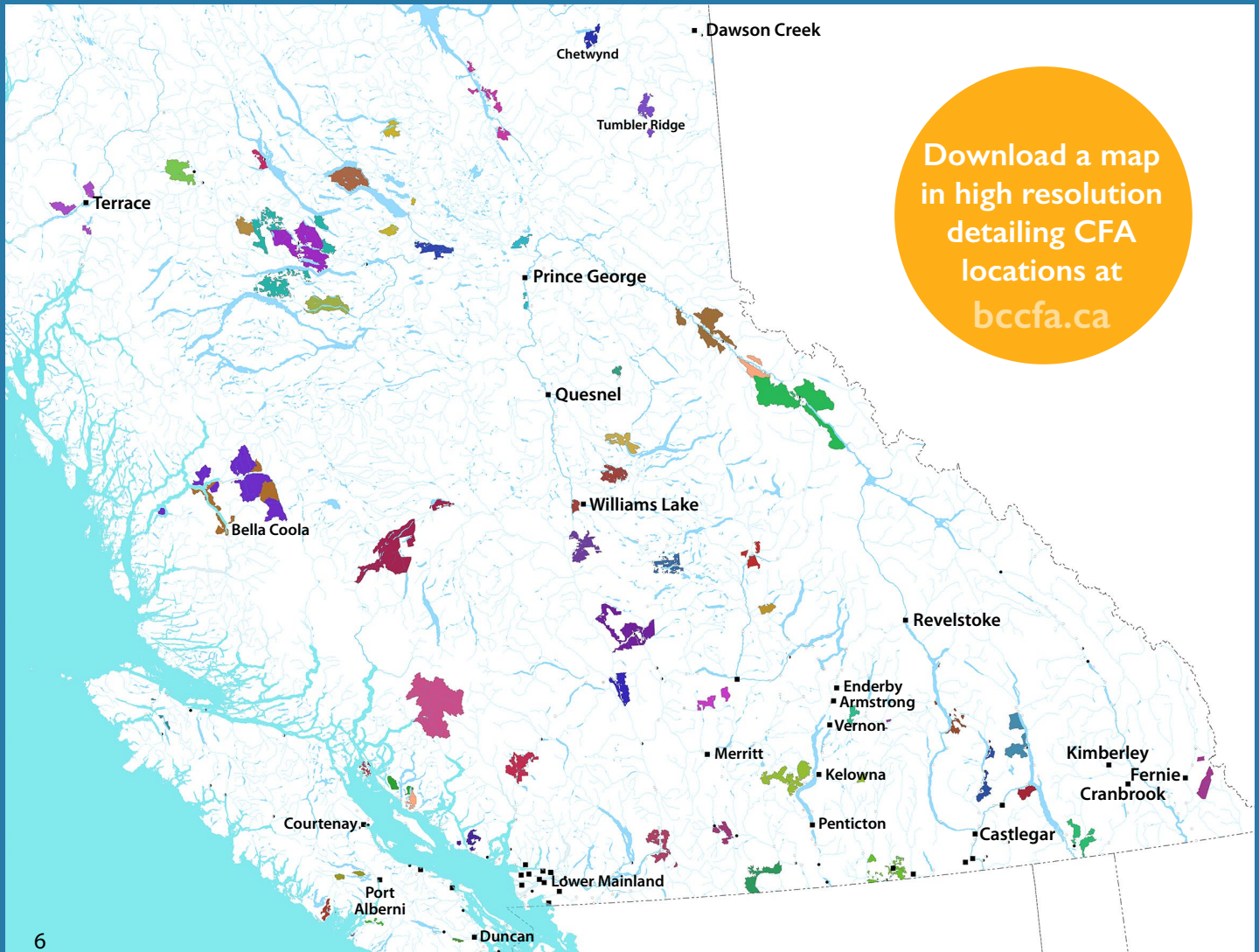
Eniyud Community Forest

Esk'etemc Community Forest

Fort St. James Community Forest

Fraser Lake Community Forest

Harrop-Procter Community Forest



Huu-ay-aht Community Forest

Kaslo and District Community Forest

Khowutzun Community Forest

Klahoose Community Forest

Ktunaxa Nation Community Forest

Likely-Xats'ull Community Forest

Little Prairie Community Forest

Logan Lake Community Forest

Lower North Thompson Community Forest

Lower Similkameen Community Forest

McBride Community Forest

McLeod Lake-Mackenzie Community Forest

Monashee Community Forest

Nakusp and Area Community Forest

North Island Community Forest

Nuxalk Community Forest

Powell River Community Forest

Qala:yit Community Forest

Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative

Sunshine Coast Community Forest

Tanizul Community Forest

Tano T'enneh Community Forest

Terrace Community Forest

Tla'amin Community Forest

Tumbler Ridge Community Forest

Valemount Community Forest

Vanderhoof Community Forest

Vermillion Forks Community Forest

Wells Gray Community Forest

Wells-Barkerville Community Forest

West Boundary Community Forest

Westbank Community Forest

Wetzin'kwa Community Forest

Williams Lake Community Forest

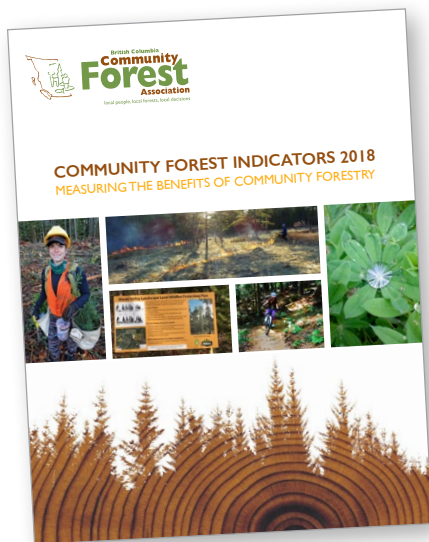
Xaxli'p Community Forest

BCCFA 2018 Conference & AGM field tour in the Burns Lake Community Forest, photo Susan Mulkey



FORTY COMMUNITY FORESTS participated in the 2017/2018 survey, providing data from their last reporting year, specific to their operations. The following 18 indicators provide tangible, quantitative information on the economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits that community forests generate:

- Number of Jobs
- Total Economic Activity
- Community Contributions
- Funds Leveraged
- Cut Control
- Distribution of Log Sales
- Investments in Intensive Silviculture
- Economic Diversification
- Community Accountability
- Public Engagement
- Investments in Community Education
- Investments in Recreation
- Proactive Management of Wildfire Hazard
- Forest Worker Safety
- First Nations Involvement
- Management of Sensitive Areas
- Investments in Forest Stewardship
- Compliance with Environmental Standards



Download the full report at bccfa.ca/category/indicators/



British Columbia Community Forest Association

Mailing address: 130 Government Street, Victoria, BC, Canada V8V 2K7

e: info@bccfa.ca / t: 250.384.4110 / bccfa.ca