

Community Forest History

- 1998 – A new form of forest tenure was designed to allow more communities and First Nations to participate in the management of forests in their local areas.
- 2001- Village Council took into consideration the changes that were taking place in the Forest Industry at the time and determined it would be prudent to investigate the possibility of establishing a Community Forest in the Pemberton area.
- 2005 – Invitation was made to the Village of Pemberton to apply for a five-year probationary community forest license that will provide up to 10,000 m³ of timber annually.
- 2006- A meeting took place between Ministry of Forestry officials VOP Staff & Council regarding the Community Forest Program in the Village of Pemberton.
- 2007 - A timber supply analysis was conducted for a number of Woodlot Licenses and Community Forest Agreement areas.
- 2014 - A presentation by MFLNRO was made to the VOP Mayor and Council regarding a community forest
- 2014, 2015 – Presentations were made to the VOP Mayor and Council by BCTS regarding a potential partnership opportunities

Council then determined that it would be appropriate to undertake a feasibility study, which would help establish a vision and strategy, hold a preliminary community meeting to determine interest, review the existing tenure areas and timber supply, investigate financial impacts, and identify possible business models/partnerships and options for organizational structures.

Community Forest Vision

The Pemberton Community Forest would provide an opportunity for greater control of timber harvesting management in an area that is sensitive to community values.

With greater flexibility to manage the forests there would be opportunities to enhance economic vitality and grow timber responsibly.

The focus would be on forest harvesting for sustainability in perpetuity through not only efficient management practices, but through education about forestry and its long term value to the community.

The Community Forest would have to develop a strategy that balances the values of the community with the need to generate profit.

Community Forest Values

Connection to wildlife preservation and enhancement, watershed protection and native cultural site sensitivities.

Economic viability supporting the growth and vitality of the forest and giving back to the community through forestry job security, training initiatives and cottage industries.

Ensuring visual impact reduction strategies for tourism and recreation purposes.

Protection and sustainable development of potential future trail networks for mountain biking, horseback riding and alpine hiking.

Business Operational Structure

The undertaking of a Community Forest (CF) requires a great deal of expertise in a variety of areas in order to strategically plan and manage short and long-term operational objectives.

There are several options that may be considered:

- Go-it-alone; the size and scope of the CF is similar to a woodlot wherein a consultant, manager or managing company could facilitate the planning and management.
- Partnership with BC Timber Sales; capacity is in the management, sale and profit sharing of timber within a community forest tenure. This can be mutually beneficial with a cooperative agreement where both parties agree to work together to ensure coordinated forestry planning while harvesting timber volumes.
- Partnership with Lil'wat Nation; consideration for cultural appropriateness, territorial rights, mutual values and current strong economic and operational forestry division effectiveness.
- Partnership with forest company; few local forest companies remain in full operation. The current staying power of those that are speaks for itself in light of the volatility and challenges that the forest industry has faced.

Each option has advantages and disadvantages in both the short and long-term perspective.

Recreation Trails

A Community Forest Agreement does not secure legal authority regarding the management of old and/or the creation of new recreation trails within the proposed community forest area.

“Although the majority of existing trails are located on Crown land (82%), many of these trails are in part on lands that are part of the agreement with the Lil’wat Nation and may be subject to future development.”

– Pemberton Trails Master Plan



Economics

The economic evaluation consists of forecasting the costs of timber harvesting and making an estimate of what the selling price for the timber will be.

Typical costs for timber harvesting include, forest planning, road building, falling, yarding, loading, scaling, sorting and booming. In addition there is the cost of the stumpage or taxes plus reforestation costs.

For the selling price estimates, a timber cruise or forest inventory is used to estimate the volume by tree species and grades. Two five year planning horizons will be used with the first five being the most important to ensure a modest profit to pay back start up costs.

Costs Implications

CP Application Anticipated Costs

To be awarded a community forest, a formal Application is required. It includes at minimum the development of the following:

Management Objectives	\$5,000
Land Base Designation/AAC Analysis	\$5,000 - \$15,000
Preliminary Forest Management Plan	\$5,000 - \$8,000
Preliminary Forest Development Plan	\$10,000 - \$15,000
Business Plan	\$8,000 - \$15,000
Community Awareness and Support	\$5,000 - \$10,000
Partnership Agreements	\$10,000 - \$20,000

NOTE: All costs noted in these slides are based on the estimated initial set up costs to prepare and operation a Community Forest as set out in *The Community Forestry Guidebook* published in 2004 by the British Columbia Community Forest Association.

Costs Implications

CP Preparation Costs

Once an application has been accepted and approved further costs may include:

Licence Negotiations	\$2,000 - \$5,000
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CF Initial Development Costs:

Once negotiations have concluded there will be costs incurred for Initial Development and may include:

Office Administration	\$5,000 - \$20,000
Field Equipment (if required)	\$15,000 - \$30,000
Initial Forest Development (as required)	\$40,000 - \$60,000

NOTE: These costs will vary depending on the business model chosen and could be greatly reduced should a partnership opportunity be supported.

Costs Implications

Opportunities for Cost Recovery:

- Grants
- Volunteers support (ie: Registered Professional Forester guidance)
- In-kind donations
- Revenue generated from community forest

If the community forest Application is successful, the intention is that operating revenues overtime would be used to recoup these expenditures.