

Spel'kúmtn Community Forest

What is a Community Forest?

A Community Forest can be described as any forestry operation managed by a local government, community group, First Nation or community-held corporation for the benefit of the entire community. Community forestry involves the three pillars of sustainable development: social, ecological, and economic sustainability. At its core, community forestry is about local control over and enjoyment of the benefits offered by local forest resources.

Through community engagement, management decisions are formulated. Harvesting quantities, locations and timelines are set out in an 'Annual Harvesting Plan'. The plan is developed to meet the statutory harvesting requirements set out by the Province under the terms of the tenures. Each year, the community will have an opportunity to review the proposed annual cuts and provide comment.

Without a Community Forest Agreement in place, the surrounding forest areas would be managed by others and not to the community's benefit.

Spel'kúmtn Community Forest: How Did We Get Here?

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 - An Official 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 Village 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.

2009 to 2013 – review of the Community Forest Agreement offer and consideration of options for the Village to participate in the program continued.

What is a Community Forest Agreement?

A Community Forest Agreement is a process by which the province transfers decision-making to communities that have a desire to have a greater influence and participate in the stewardship of their local landbase. Community Forest tenures are area-based thereby giving the holders of that tenure exclusive stewardship of a geographic area of forest land over an agreed upon term.

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2014 - A presentation by MFLNRO was made to the Village Mayor and Council regarding a community forest. The Village issued a Request For Proposal to undertake a Community Forest Feasibility Study and awarded the contract.

2014 & 2015 – Presentations were made to the Village Mayor and Council by British Columbia Timber Sales (BCTS) regarding potential partnership opportunities.

2015 – A Community Forest Feasibility Study was undertaken to explore possible organizational models including possible partnerships with BC Timbers Sales and/or Lil'wat Nation. The Study also assessed future timber supply, costs and timber values, with a final determination that the pursuit of a community forest, in a partnership, would be the most economically viable.

2016 - Village Council reviewed the potential partnerships for the establishment of a Community Forest, and resolved to work with Lil'wat Nation on the preparation of a partnership agreement for the purposes of co-managing a community forest.

2018 - Lil'wat Nation and Village of Pemberton together incorporated, through a limited partnership; the Spel'kúmtn Community Forest Corporation. The Corporation also submitted an application to the Province for the establishment of a community forest agreement. As part of the the application, the Corporation is required to develop a Forest Stewardship Plan and a Management Plan.

How Does the Community Forest Align with the Village's Priorities?

Since 2011, the exploration and establishment of a Community Forest has been identified as a Village Priority by Council. This initiative aligns with the Village's Strategic Priority of Economic Vitality and Good Governance.

What is a Forest Stewardship Plan?

The purpose of the FSP is to outline objectives set forth by the Government of British Columbia related to forest management activities proposed on crown lands. The achievement of the objectives, established within the FSP, is measured through results, strategies and/or measures. The intention of the objectives is to identify the strategic issues by describing a desired future condition for a particular resource or resource use, while results, strategies and/or measures describe how the desired outcome will be achieved.

What is a Management Plan?

A requirement of the Community Forest application, the Management Plan links the partner communities and their values to the management of the Community Forest and to establish an annual allowable cut (AAC) for the Community Forest Agreement (CFA). The management plan outlines guiding principles, values, social, economic and resource management goals and objectives for the Community Forest. It describes inventories and broad resource management direction for timber and non-timber values, and measures to consult and communicate with other forest users.

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Landbase Information

The Spelkumtn Community Forest (SCF) land base includes six forested biogeoclimatic (BEC) zones - the Mountain Hemlock (MH), Coastal Western Hemlock (CWH), Engelmann Spruce-Subalpine Fir (ESSF), Interior Douglas Fir (IDF) and two alpine zones with no productive timber – the Interior Mountain-heather Alpine (IMA) and Coastal Mountain-heather Alpine (CMA).

The forested area of the SCF is primarily covered with Douglas-fir and Amabilis Fir leading stands. Additionally, there are Western Hemlock, Western Redcedar, Lodgepole Pine and Yellow Pine leading stands.

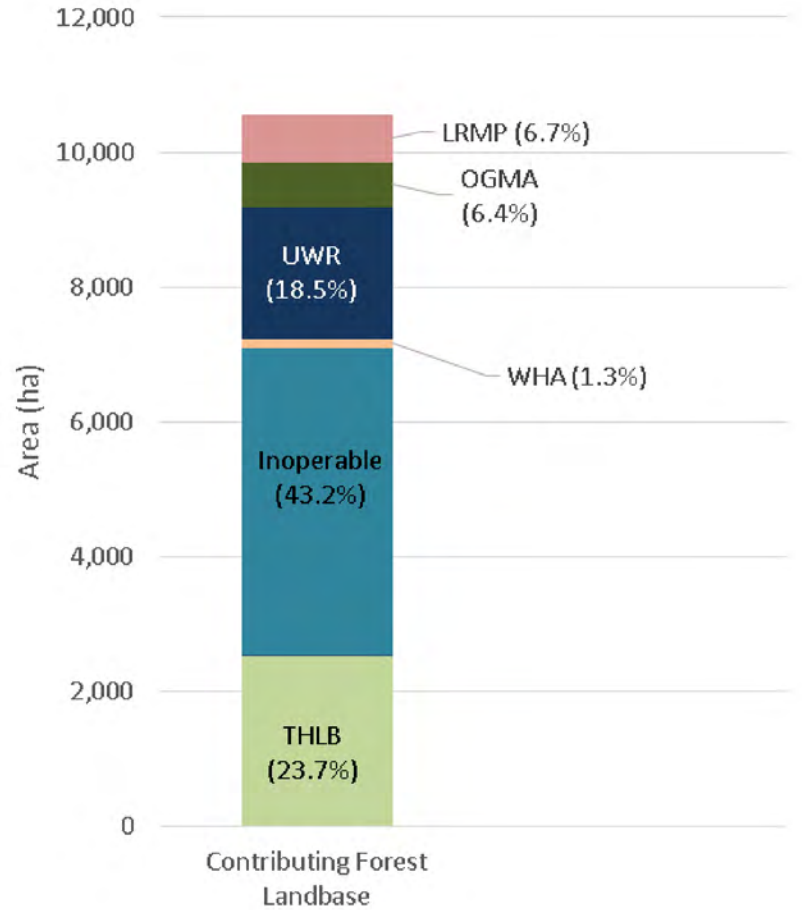
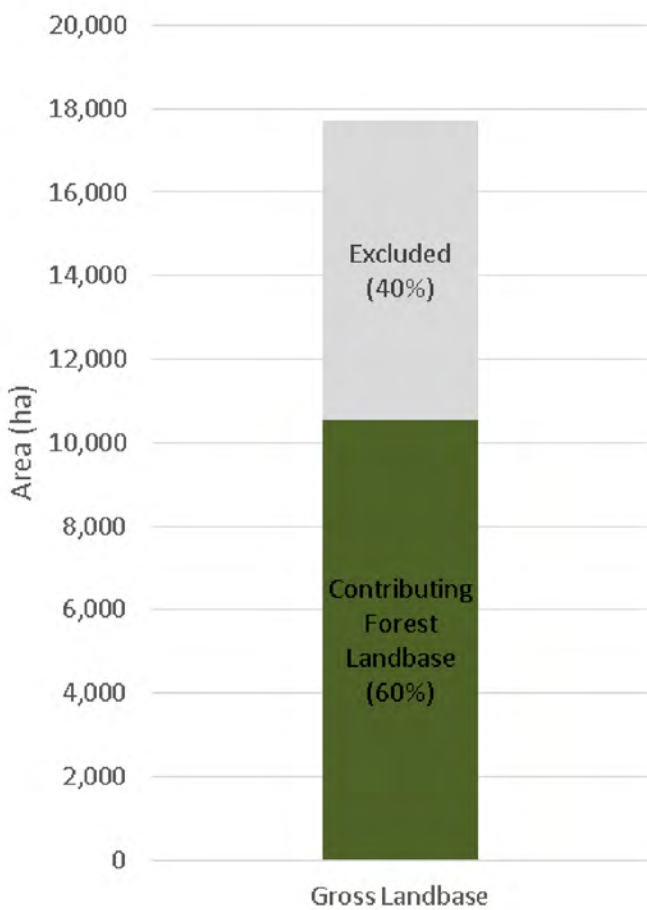
Deciduous (broad-leaf) trees are found at low levels across the SCF, generally as dispersed individual stems or small clumps within forested stands dominated by conifers. Deciduous trees are often found at higher density within riparian areas or on disturbed sites (old roads and landings) within previously harvested areas.

The current age class distribution on the Timber Harvesting Land Base (THLB) indicates a very young land base. The THLB refers to land that is available and suitable for timber harvesting and contributes to the Annual Allowable Cut (AAC). Approximately 1300 hectares (ha) are less than 50 years old. However, much of the non-harvesting landbase (NHLB) is older than 160 years. As the land base converts to managed stands, the remaining old stands in the THLB is forecast to transition to younger stands, and the distribution of THLB spans mostly from 0 to 100 years.

The non-harvesting landbase is the area within the contributing forest land base (CFLB) that is not harvestable. CFLB is the broader productive forest that can contribute to meeting non-timber objectives (e.g. biodiversity). For the first 50 years, approximately 50% of the harvest comes from stands greater than 200 years, and for the first 20 years 85% comes from stands older than 120 years (Forsite 2018).

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Graphical Representation of Landbase Breakdown



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Benefits of a Community Forest

The Community Forest Licence will be managed in accordance with the following principles:

- **Local Decision Making:** Community Forests managed by local governments and communities are reflective of community values and priorities.
- **Accountability:** Local-level decision making that leads to locally appropriate decisions and improves the incentives to consider the long-term benefits of sustainable management.
- **Profits Remain Local:** Earnings from the Community Forest are divided between Lil'wat Nation and the Village of Pemberton. Each community can determine how those profits are used based on their own priorities.
- **Wildfire Management:** Several cutblocks overlap with identified 'high-priority' areas (areas that are at higher risk of forest fire) in the Village's Community Wildfire Protection Plan. In some cases, the wood within these high-priority areas can be harvested resulting in income and increased community safety.
- **Creation of Local Employment:** Community forests create local jobs. On average, Community Forests created 0.3 full time jobs/1000 m³, which is 50% higher than the industry average.
- **Preservation:** Community Forests ensure culturally sensitive sites and legitimized recreation trails are preserved.

Values

Management of the Spelkumtn Community Forest recognizes and respects a set of shared community values. These values were identified through the Community Forest Feasibility Study and community engagement.

Values for the Community Forest include:

Environmental stewardship

Community relationships

Culture

Economic viability

Giving back to the community

Outdoor lifestyle

Wildlife conservation and habitat enhancement

Watershed protection

Recreation

Protection of viewscapes

Social responsibility

Connection between land and people, connection to nature

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Community Forest Governance & Decision Making

Governance of Spel'kúmtn Community Forest Corporation is the job the Spel'kúmtn Community Forest Board of Directors. The Board holds the ultimate legal and ethical responsibility for everything that goes on within the Corporation and has a leadership role to govern in the Corporation's best interests.

The Board of Directors will include three representatives from each community; two community members at large and one Elected Official. The Elected Officials of each community are responsible for selecting and appointing the Board Members. An interim Board, made up of Elected Officials and a Staff member from each community, has been appointed for a 12-month period for the purposes of providing direction for the Community Forest application.

The primary responsibility of the Board will be to foster the long-term success of the Spel'kúmtn Community Forest (SCF). The Board will operate by delegating to the Operations Manager some of its authority, including spending authorizations, and by reserving certain powers to itself.

Once the Community Forest application has been approved by the Province, a third party will be engaged at the discretion of the Board of the Corporation to manage the day-to-day affairs of the operation.

Guiding Principals

The Community Forest Licence will be managed in accordance with the following principles:

- a) Forestry operations will be operated to show a profit, and demonstrate the value and viability of forestry to the Village and Lil'wat Nation;
- b) Subject to provincial requirements in the Community Forest Licence, forest planning and operations will be conducted to maximize long-term security of employment and contracting opportunities in preference for local residents, including Lil'wat Nation members;
- c) Forest planning and operations will follow the best model sustainable forestry practices;
- d) Forest planning and operations will respect the land use plans and the cultural, recreational, educational and aesthetic values/objectives of both the LN and the VOP, including without limitation management of viewscapes, recreational trails and riparian values; and
- e) Decisions will be made by consensus where possible, recognizing both cultural and sustainability interests of the Partners.

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2019 Harvest Plans

A Timber Supply Analysis (TSA) was completed by Forsite Consultants (Appendix 1). The analysis took into account timber harvest reductions necessary to facilitate the management and conservation of non-timber resource values in the CFA area including soils, environmentally sensitive areas, biodiversity (via OGMAs and WTRAs) wildlife (via WHAs and UWRs), riparian area buffers, floodplain management areas, community watersheds, cultural heritage values, visual quality and other areas reserved from harvest such as Category A Lil'wat Spirited Grounds and Wildlands Zones designated through the Sea-to-Sky LRMP. Additional areas were removed from the THLB due to operability restrictions or low timber growing potential. The analysis included further reductions to account for future roads, trails and landings and potential unsalvaged or non-recoverable losses due to natural disturbance such as fires and insects. The specific non-timber management reductions, harvesting, growth and yield, natural disturbance and modelling assumptions are detailed in the TSA report.

In keeping with the Forsite TSA base case harvest forecast, the proposed AAC for the Spelkumtn Community Forest is 13,000m³/yr.

Areas planned for harvest in 2019 & 2020 include:

Location	Block	Timber Type	Age Class	Harvest Area	Harvest Volume	Harvest Type	Planned harvest year
Green River	GR902	<u>Fd(Cw)</u>	7-9	6.2ha	4250m ³	Helicopter harvest	2019
Owl Ridge	BH902	<u>Fd(Cw)</u>	7-9	4.7ha	1950m ³	Ground based harvest	2019
Suicide Hill	BCH 3,4,5	<u>Fd(Cw)</u>	6-9	BCH 3 = 1.9ha BCH 4 = 0.8ha BCH 5 = 3.3ha	BCH 3 = 500m ³ BCH 4 = 400m ³ BCH 5 = 1050m ³	Ground based harvest	2019
Miller Proper		<u>HwBFd(Cw)</u>	7-9	15ha	6750m ³	Ground and Cable harvest	2020
Various locations	Fuel thinning in Pemberton CWPP	<u>FdHBCw</u>	6-9	10ha	4000m ³	Ground based harvest	2019, 2020

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Related Documents & Plans

Forest Stewardship Plan

The Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) is a requirement of the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA). The FSP has been drafted to be consistent and in accordance with the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA), the associated regulatory framework, provincial legislation, federal legislation as well as higher level plans and policy as described by the British Columbia Provincial Government.

The purpose of the FSP is to outline objectives set forth by the Government of British Columbia related to forest management activities proposed on crown lands for a variety of identified resource values. The resource values with identified objectives addressed by the FSP include:

- Soils
- Timber
- Visual Quality
- Wildlife / Wildlife Habitat
- Water Quality / Protection
- Biodiversity
- Cultural Heritage
- Recreation

The intention of the objectives is to identify the strategic issues by describing a desired future condition for a particular resource or resource use. The achievement of the objectives, is measured through operational consistency with the results, strategies and/or measures, detailed within the FSP.

Results, Strategies and/or Measures describe the desired outcome and the conditions under which the desired outcome will be considered achieved.

A Result is defined in the Forest Planning and Practices Regulation (FPPR) as a *“description of measurable or verifiable outcomes in respect of a particular established objective, and the situations or circumstances that determine where in a Forest Development Unit the outcomes will be applied.”*

A Strategy is defined in the FPPR as a *“description of measurable or verifiable steps or practices that will be carried out in respect of a particular established objective, and the situations or circumstances that determine where in a Forest Development Unit the steps or practices will be applied.”* This FSP, where applicable, outlines measurable and verifiable results, strategies and/or measures that are compatible with government established forest management and resource objectives.

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Related Documents & Plans

Management Plan

The purpose of the Management Plan is to link the communities and their values to the management of the Community Forest and to establish an Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) for the Community Forest. The Management Plan provides the broad direction and general management approach that will be utilized. The Management Plan outlines the guiding principles, values, social, economic and resource management goals and objectives for the Community Forest. It describes inventories and broad resource management direction for timber and non-timber values, as well as measures to consult and communicate with other forest users.

The management directions provided by the Management Plan are consistent with the FSP legal requirements as well as with Provincial, Lil'wat Nation and Village of Pemberton higher level plans and policies for management of the identified values.

Higher Level Plans and Policies

- Sea to Sky Land and Resources Management Plan (LRMP)
- Lil'wat Nation Botanical Resource Strategy
- Lil'wat Heritage Policy
- Landscape Unit Plan
(Billygoat, Birkenhead, Railroad, Ryan and Soo Landscape Units)
- Lil'wat Land Use Plan Phase 1 (2006)
- Lil'wat Nation Small Scale Forestry Document
- Village of Pemberton Strategic Priorities 2015
- Village of Pemberton Official Community Plan

Spelkumtn Community Forest Goals and Objectives Addressed by the Management Plan

Social, Economic and Broad Resource Management Goals

As expressed by the Partners, the social, economic and broad resource management goals for the Spelkumtn Community Forest are as follows:

- Strengthen connections and collaboration between the Pemberton and Lil'wat communities.
- Management reflects sustainable forestry principles and practices.
- Provide economic and social benefits to the Lil'wat and Pemberton communities.
- Support the creation and maintenance of local jobs and businesses.
- Operate in an economically viable manner.
- Support the development of secondary/value added industries.
- Collaborate with diverse partners to support education, training & research about forest ecosystems & forestry.
- Protect and enhance recreational values for community use and tourism.
- Prioritize & practice safety throughout all operations for forest workers, community members and the public.
- Reflect the values of both Lil'wat and Pemberton communities in forest management.

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Related Documents & Plans Con't

Specific Resources Management Objectives

Further to the goals, management of the SCF is guided by a series of specific resource management objectives regarding both timber and non-timber resource values:

- Manage for an ecologically sustainable perpetual timber harvest rate.
- Protect and maintain water quality, including drinking water.
- Protect and enhance riparian areas and aquatic habitat.
- Maintain and enhance biodiversity at the stand and landscape level.
- Protect, restore and enhance wildlife and fish habitat.
- Protect species at risk.
- Protect the function and productivity of forest soils.
- Maintain the visual quality of viewsapes.
- Protect and respect Lil'wat cultural and traditional use sites and values across the landscape.
- Maintain forest health.
- Protect and enhance recreation values and uses.
- Protect culturally valued botanical resources.
- Integrate wildfire considerations throughout management.
- Reforest harvested areas with a diverse mix of ecologically suited species.

Relationship of FSP and Management Plan

The purpose of the management plan is to link the partner communities and their values to the management of the Community Forest and to establish an annual allowable cut (AAC) for the Community Forest Agreement (CFA).

While the management plan articulates the values and broad resources management direction desired by the community, the FSP specifies the legal requirements as set by government. These two documents are applied in tandem. Any management activities or prescriptions developed from management plan direction must be consistent with all relevant forestry legislation and applicable Higher Level plans under the FRPA, as defined in the FSP.

Professional Reliance

With the introduction of the FRPA, the government of British Columbia mandated a move away from a regulatory and prescriptive environment to one that supports a results-based regime. This results-based regime involves a greater role for professionals from a variety of disciplines with regards to professional reliance and accountability. The FSP holder - Spelkumtn Community Forest Limited Partnership (SCF LP), recognizes the importance of professional reliance and accountability, and will utilize qualified professionals, in their respective fields of practice, where applicable and warranted. Qualified professionals are designated by their respective association in the field of their practice such as the Association of British Columbia Forest Professionals (ABC FP), the Association of Professional Biology (APB) and the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of British Columbia (APEGBC).

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Community Forest Acronyms

AAC:	Annual Allowable Cut
ABCFP:	Association of British Columbia Forest Professionals
APB:	Association of Professional Biology
APEGBC:	Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of British Columbia
BCTS:	British Columbia Timber Sales
CF:	Community Forest
CFA:	Community Forest Agreement
CFLB:	Contributing Forest Land Base
FRPA:	Forest and Range Practices Act
FSP:	Forest Stewardship Plan
LRMP:	Land & Resource Management Plan
NHLB:	Non-Harvesting Land Base
OGMA:	Old Growth Management Areas
SCFLP:	Spel'kúmtn Community Forest Limited Partnership
THLB:	Timber Harvesting Land Base
TSA:	Timber Supply Analysis
WHA:	Wildlife Habitat Area
WTRA:	Wildlife Tree Retention Area
UWR:	Ungulate Winter Ranges