



A COMMUNITY FOREST FOR TERRACE



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SUMMARY

The City of Terrace is exploring the feasibility of a community forest for the Terrace area. This paper is intended to start discussions with all members of the community, thereby providing valuable input for the City on this subject.

This paper will provide you with:

- Information on community forests;
- The Provincial standpoint on community forests;
- Examples of other community forests; and
- Draft goals and objectives for Terrace's community forest.

For additional information on community forests and/or to provide feedback, please contact the City of Terrace at (250) 635-6311 or by e-mailing cityhall@city.terrace.bc.ca or by sending your comments to "Community Forest", c/o City of Terrace 3215 Eby Street, Terrace, B.C. V8G 2X8.

FORWARD

The City of Terrace has an opportunity to participate in the re-growth of the local economy by working with TEDA, the Chamber of Commerce and others to help existing businesses to grow, expand and develop, and by attracting new businesses, entrepreneurs and investment to the area. A community forest may provide benefits consistent with these objectives. Several other communities in B.C. have obtained community forest licenses and are successfully operating them.

Therefore, we would like to extend an invitation to the public and other community members to explore with us the opportunity of a community forest. We hope to have meaningful consultations with First Nations, community groups, forest workers, outdoor enthusiasts and all other interested parties. This document is intended to serve as a snapshot of what we have been looking at and thinking about in terms of a community forest for Terrace.



THE BASIC PREMISE

The City of Terrace submitted an expression of interest for a community forest license in 2003. We proposed that an arm's-length municipal corporation would manage the forest. This corporation would consist of a board of community representatives that would establish operational policy and guidance for the community forest operations. This policy would be formed based upon the input received from public consultation. Income from the community forest would go first toward the basic community forest operations, and if any additional surplus were available, the funds would go towards community projects that benefit a wide range of interests.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON COMMUNITY FORESTS IN B.C.

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY FOREST?

The B.C. Ministry of Forests describes B.C. community forests as “any forestry operation managed by a local government, community group, First Nation or community-held corporation for the benefit of the entire community.” They also give examples of how community forests can fulfill community goals by:

- Supporting the local economy by hiring and buying supplies locally and selling timber to local timber processing facilities;
- Diversifying the local economy by making small volumes of wood fibre available to new and existing niche markets, such as small-scale, value-added manufacturers and artisans;
- Maintaining and enhancing local recreational opportunities;
- Protecting drinking water, viewsapes, wildlife and other environmental attributes; and
- Providing a source of income to support local community initiatives.¹

The Ministry of Forests March 2002 Fact Sheet describes the responsibilities associated with a community forest as:

CFPA [Community Forest Pilot Agreement] holders must comply with legislative requirements of the Forest Practices Code, *Forest Act*, and all other applicable acts and their regulations. This includes preparing management and operational plans, cutting permits and road permits. [CFPA] holders are also responsible for the costs of road building, harvesting, reforestation and payment of stumpage.²

The initial (probationary) community forest agreement is for a term of five years. Before the end of the five years, the community forest agreement is evaluated and the community could be offered a replaceable long-term agreement of 25 – 99 years.

WHAT IS THE BC GOVERNMENT’S STAND ON COMMUNITY FORESTS NOW?

In a June 2003 paper, the B.C. Ministry of Forests anticipated that community forest proposals will begin to be accepted in late 2004. Legislation will be enacted that will give government the ability to take part of the allowable annual cut (AAC) from firms that have over 200,000 cubic metres of AAC in replaceable, long-term licenses. A portion of that fibre will then be open for woodlots, community forests and First Nations, and the other half will be utilized for B.C. Timber Sales to establish a new market-based stumpage system.

COMMUNITY FORESTRY WITHIN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Other communities throughout the Province have been successful in creating community forests. On the following page is a comparison chart of four community forests in British Columbia: Revelstoke Community Forest Corporation, North Cowichan Municipal Forest, Harrop-Procter Watershed Protection Society, and the Burns Lake Community Forest. (More examples can be found at <http://www.denmanis.bc.ca/directory>)

¹ http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hth/community/documents/COMFOR_Facts.pdf published in June 2003.

² <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hth/community/documents/Commfor200203.pdf>

Management & Operation Techniques	Revelstoke	North Cowichan	Harrop & Procter	Burns Lake
Local control	X	X	X	X
Community input	X	X	X	X
Timber Removal rights for Industrial Partners	X			
City 100% Shareholder	X			X
Local processing	X	X	X	X
Local employment	X	X	X	X
Forestry training and education	X	X	X	X
Outdoor recreational activities	X	X	X	X
Tree Farm License	X			
Log Sort Yard	X			
Land Base of less than 25,000 hectares (ha)		X	X	X
Land Base of more than 25,000 hectares (ha)	X			
Community Forest Board	X		X	X
City developed Forestry Department		X		
Forestry Advisory Committee		X	X	
Ecological reserves & viewpoints		X	X	X
Visual landscape management	X	X	X	X
Maintaining Biodiversity	X	X	X	X
Wildlife Management	X	X	X	X
Community Forest Pilot License			X	X
Land acquisition through non-payment of taxes		X		
Co-operative and Society			X	
Eco-tourism			X	
Sustainable Forest Management Plan	X	X	X	X
Revenue sustains operations of Community Forest	X	X	X	X
Profit returned to community projects	X	X	n/a	X
Botanical and Mushroom Harvesting		X	X	X
Horselogging		X		X

POTENTIAL GOALS FOR TERRACE'S COMMUNITY FOREST

Based on other community forests, we have learned of a number of ways that a community forest could be used for the benefit of both the community and the forest. The following are various ideas that may work with objectives that the community will provide input upon at a future date.

JOB CREATION

- Given to qualified Terrace residents first, before being offered outside of the community;
- Various forestry positions including harvesting, reforestation, education and trail development;
- Supplying materials locally;
- Value-added products, including log homes, furniture and tourist souvenirs;
- Marketing position(s) that would work to market all products that use a part of the community forest in their creation to buyers outside of the community;
- Retail store selling value-added products that originated from the community forest;
- Take steps to ensure all wood harvested becomes a value-added product before leaving the community. For example, give locals a percentage discount when buying raw logs and fibre;
- Sell craft-tree licenses (where people can walk in the forest and choose the exact tree(s) they want for the job they are doing).

TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES

- Fees for guided tours of the forest and/or the forest operations;
- Trail development to historical and cultural landmarks (fees for guided tours);
- Also see recreational opportunities below.

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Trails for hiking and/or cross-country skiing;
- Snowmobile, dirt bike, bicycle and/or horse accessible trails;
- Campground(s);
- Day and overnight summer camps for children and young adults;
- Fishing and boating (if a lake or riverfront is part of the forest).

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Elementary through post-secondary courses, including Grade 11 and 12 Biology, Wood and Forestry courses;
- Teach the ecology of the forest within the forest;
- Take samples to study in the classroom;
- Classes could manage a section of the forest themselves;
- Be able to spend a day in the job of different people who work both within the community forest and with the products that are obtained from it. For example, from the ecology to the harvesting, through the final end product – then back to the forest for how it will grow to be harvested in the future;
- Woodworking students could use wood that comes from the community forest in their projects;
- Research opportunities for students and staff at the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC), Northwest Community College (NWCC), and other institutions.

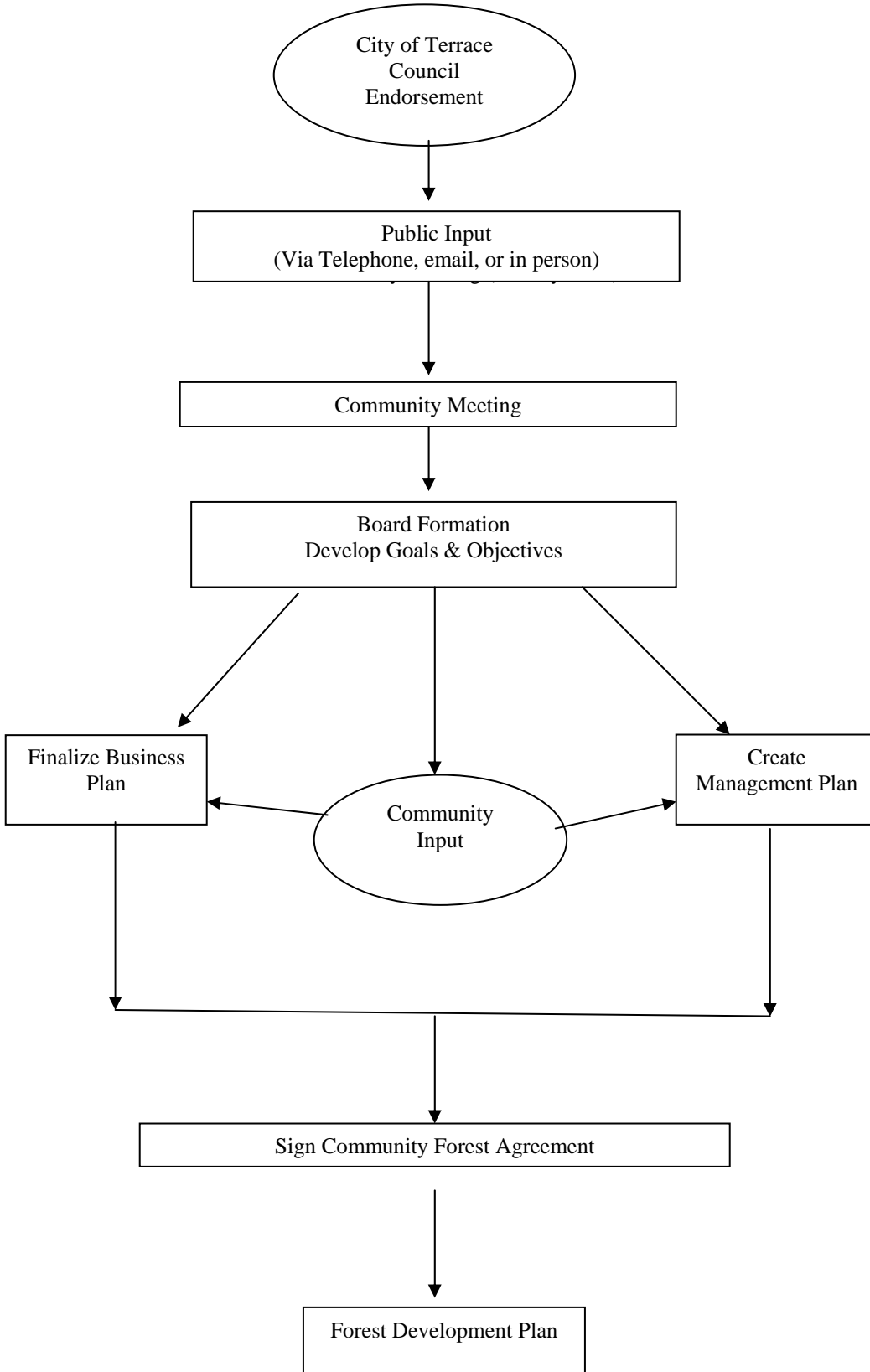


LAND MANAGEMENT

- Use sustainable forest management techniques;
- More labour intensive methods to give more jobs and mimic natural disturbances;
- Ensure that future generations will have a productive community forest to manage and reap the rewards;
- Manage separate areas in different fashions so that various community interests will be accomplished;
- Look into eco-certification (a selling feature to a growing number of buyers).



NEXT STEPS TOWARDS FORMING A COMMUNITY FOREST



CONCLUSION

The business goals of the corporation will be the attainment of community goals identified through public input from local residents. This will mostly likely translate into generation of revenue to facilitate development and maintenance of ancillary projects that will have a direct and/or indirect impact on the economic development of the Skeena Region.

The community's goals as identified by the City of Terrace through public input include increasing jobs, maintaining local quality of life, diversifying the economy, and maintaining the environment. The best opportunities for economic development identified by ranking regional strengths and market attractiveness include secondary manufacturing, wilderness adventure tours, RV campground development, aboriginal tourism development, and winter tourism. Local residents feel that local tourism and manufacturing have the best potential for development. The community forest opportunity puts us that much closer to attaining some of those goals.

We encourage representatives from harvesters, silviculture workers, value-added producers, First Nations, small mills, large mills, environmental groups, educational institutes, and the general public to share their ideas and enthusiasm about the community forest opportunity. Any and all ideas are welcomed, including both the pros and cons of having a community forest here in Terrace.

We hope that we have shared with you a sense of our ideas, and where the Province is at in terms of community forests. If you have any questions, feedback, and/or would like more information on community forests please contact the City of Terrace office at (250) 635-6311, e-mail – cityhall@city.terrace.bc.ca, or mailing address - 3215 Eby Street, Terrace B.C. V8G 2X8.



DEFINITIONS

An alternate definition of “Community Forestry”, and definitions for “Forest License”, “Allowable Annual Cut (AAC)”, and “Tree Farm License (TFL)”³

Community Forest/Community Forestry – In broad terms is local people making local decisions over local lands for the long-term local benefit of local people. A community forest managed locally within the broader context of Provincial rules. Three essential features define a community forest: the community makes the management decisions; the community benefits; and the forest is managed for multiple values. The distinction between a “community forest” and “community forestry” is more than anything an ideological one. A “community forest” refers to a forest that is in some way managed by a community – although not necessarily for timber purposes. “Community forestry” has a more timber-production oriented connotation, referring more to an “on-the-ground” logging operation conducted by the community body. Some community forests may not plan to log, or may not focus on logging as a main activity. In such cases, it may not be appropriate to call this community forestry.

Forest License – A Forest License allows logging over a portion of an administrative unit called a timber supply area. The license holder is responsible for the timely reforestation of harvested areas according to a strategic resource management plan prepared by the Forest Service for each timber supply area. The license has a term of fifteen to twenty years, generally replaceable every five years (some are non-replaceable), and operating areas that shift over time. Once an area is harvested and reforested the licensee moves to another part of the timber supply area. A Forest License specifies an allowable annual cut, requires a management and working plan, and specified management activities.

Allowable Annual Cut (AAC) – the volume of timber approved by the Chief Forester to be logged annually. AACs are set every five years for each administrative unit (timber supply area, tree farms, and woodlots, etc.). The Chief Forester is responsible for determining AACs according to criteria set out in the *Forest Act*.

Tree Farm License (TFL) – A TFL is a 25-year license (replaceable every five years) that grants the right to carry out forest management on a specific area of Crown land (an “area-based tenure”). TFLs are contractual agreements that give an almost exclusive right to harvest a specified volume of wood annually within the license area. Under a TFL, a licensee is responsible for resource inventories, strategic and operational planning, road building, and reforestation. TFLs can include public land and private land owned by the licensee; all land within the TFL is managed according to regulations applying to public forest. Approximately 24% of logging in British Columbia occurs under TFLs.

³ Definitions are taken from: Noba Gmeiner Anderson and Will Horter “Connecting Lands and People: Community Forests in British Columbia”, October 2002 available:
http://www.dogwoodinitiative.org/reports/Connecting_screen_compress.pdf

WEBSITE DIRECTORY

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION:

Ministry of Forests Community Forest Pilot Project Home Page

<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hth/community/>

B.C. Ministry of Forests Community Forest Agreement Regulation

<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/tasb/legregs/fpc/fpcaregs/COMFOR/COMFOR.HTM>

Ministry of Forests Forest Revitalization Plan

<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/mof/plan/>

Ministry of Forests Forest Certification Home Page

<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/het/certification/>

GENERAL COMMUNITY FOREST INFORMATION:

Forest Community Research

<http://www.fcresearch.org/index.html>

International Network of Forests and Communities

<http://www.forestandcommunities.org>

COMMUNITY FORESTS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA:

Directory of Community Forest Organizations in British Columbia

<http://www.denmanis.bc.ca/directory>

Dogwood Initiative (Paper available: "Connecting Lands and People: Community Forests in B.C.")

<http://www.dogwoodinitiative.org/features/>

Burns Lake Community Forest Ltd. (BLComFor)

<http://www.burnslake.org/commforest.html>

Harrop-Procter Community Forest

<http://www.hpcommunityforest.org>

North Cowichan's Community Forest

<http://www.northcowichan.bc.ca/forestry.htm>

Revelstoke Community Forest Corporation

<http://www.rcfc.bc.ca>

CITY OF TERRACE

<http://www.city.terrace.bc.ca>