

Wells Barkerville Community Forest



What is a Community Forest?

A Provincially-issued forestry license over a specific geographic area managed by a local government, community group or First Nation for the benefit of the entire community.

Why Community Forests

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.

-from BCCFA website

Some Useful Terms

A cubic metre of 9th graders!



History of WBCF

- 2002 – proposal for a Community Forest initiated by the Wells Forest Community Society, open house and meetings
- 2004 – submitted an Expression of Interest (rejected)
- 2006 – public meetings and another application
- 2007 – invitation by Province of BC to apply to Community Forest Program
- 2007-2011 development and negotiations for application
- 2011 – District Open House
- 2011-2014 submission and edits to application
- 2014 Wells Barkerville Community Forest approved by Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Where is the Forest?



Who is in charge of the WBCF?

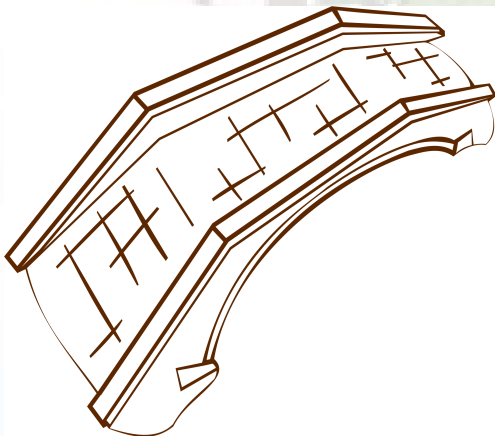
- The Wells Barkerville Community Forest Corporation
- Only 1 shareholder : District of Wells
- Board members are volunteer positions, designated as follows:
 - District of Wells CFO
 - Two (2) members of Wells Council
 - Two (2) members at large

Duties of the Board

- 1) Setting and monitoring the Corporation's overall business objectives, articles and policies.
- 2) Appointing, defining the duties and responsibilities of and assessing the performance of management.
- 3) Encouraging an appropriate strategic planning process.
- 4) Directing the democratic process within the Corporation.
- 5) Responding, as appropriate to inquiries from regulatory agencies, the shareholder or stakeholders.
- 6) Ensuring effective communication with the shareholder and other stakeholders.

Obligations in the Agreement


- Government Goals for Community Forests Agreements
- Legislated obligations for all license holders



WBCF Strategic Goals and Objectives

- To maintain the Community Forest land base in a healthy and productive condition producing timber at an annual growth rate equal to or higher than when the tenure was granted based on sound principles of environmental stewardship that reflect a broad spectrum of values.
- To meet or exceed all requirements of the MFLNRO license agreements at all times
- To manage the forest for the economic benefit of the Crown, Community, other licensed users and the long term viability of the Corporation.
- To build a strong Community relationship where the majority understands, supports and is involved in the WBCFC.
- To promote communication and strengthen relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities
- To foster economic development and innovation in Wells relating to resource extraction, forest management activities and secondary manufacturing.

Current Limitations

-  (We have less than 0)
- Need up-front capital to hire contractors and do work
- No \$\$\$ = no reserves (yet!) for future stream of costs
- Limited human resources

Opportunities

- More benefit from the local forest
- Integrate other interests
- Increased say in forest management
- Think about the long-term
- Cut-control periods or smaller for agreements, terms, contracts allow for changes and development

Forest for Generations – steps in a long term

- Cut-control periods
- Contract periods
- Short-term agreements
- Long-term development and planning
- Need to plan for future obligations (silviculture, infrastructure, etc)

Getting Started

Many steps in the process of getting going

Learning from others (not “re-inventing the wheel”)

Developing policies

Knowing our options

AND....

How to do it all on less than a shoestring

Next Step(s)

- Forest Stewardship Plan
- Many options for going forward...



Community Input

- Testing new online tool: PlaceSpeak (handout)
- Compiling community views in writing (form)
- On an ongoing basis, we are committed to, at minimum:
 - An annual open house meeting
 - Other public meetings
 - An annual report
 - A community bulletin board
 - Press releases and announcements in the Wellspring (or other local newspaper that may develop), and
 - An “open door” policy for public consultation
- Information Sharing with First Nations – Lhtako-Dene and Xatsull First Nations

What will “profit” and “bottom line” look like

- “Triple bottom line” – calculates not just money, but also sustainability and social values
- Balancing act: produce local benefits while not losing money
- What do benefits look like? ex. One more local job? Community foundation seed money? Local independent industry? Project funds?