



# THE WOODLOT COMMUNICATOR



www.woodlot.bc.ca

Summer 2019



The Boundary Woodlot Association invited Regional District reps, the local MLA and Forest Minister to an organized field tour to showcase woodlot forest management

## Does BC Need More Woodlot Licences?

Woodlot Licences are part of a little industry that makes a big difference on BC's forest stewardship landscape.

Most people don't know what a Woodlot Licence is, let alone that there are more than 850 of them covering nearly 600,000 hectares of forests in British Columbia. In fact, there's probably a woodlot in your backyard.

They're managed, productive, working forests on publicly-owned (Crown) land. They share borders with urban centres, rural subdivisions, sensitive ecosystems and traffic corridors. They're highly visible, play host to a diverse range of species - both flora and fauna - and they're under the care of BC's woodlotters.

Many people think "forestry" is a commercial

venture for big companies like Western Forest Products and Canfor, and it is. The vast majority of BC's forests are managed by large licence holders that log timber for sawmills, value-added production and pellet plants, both locally and overseas.

Forestry also conjures up images of environmental activists working hard to preserve old growth forests, wildlife habitats and watersheds for future generations.

***"Consultation from the Community Forest is excellent. Consultation from a local tenure holder of two woodlots is also excellent..."***

Woodlot operators - 850 and counting - are small-scale forest managers who work hard to balance the commercial demands of forestry with environmental imperatives, keeping BC's public forests financially, socially and ecologically sustainable.

## Why is Small-Scale Such a Big Deal?

A Woodlot Licence is a social contract between you - the public - and these forest managers who take that contract very seriously.

***"The Community Forest and woodlot models are already hugely successful in BC and hence should be expanded."***

They live, work and play in the community alongside you - their woodlot is your backyard and theirs. And they take great pride in keeping our backyard healthy and thriving - not just for the timber, but for their neighbours who want to hunt, fish, go horseback riding, hiking, bird-watching...

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There are lots of great reasons why the province is moving towards more small-scale forest licences. They're continuing down a path that was forged in 1948 - the beginning of the BC Woodlot Licence Program.

The Woodlot Program was originally designed to:

- increase the amount of private forest land being managed on a sustained yield basis;
- increase the productivity of small parcels of forested land;
- promote local employment opportunities; and,
- promote excellence in forest management.

Support for the concept of small-scale, locally-based forestry rests on the advantages they have over large-scale operations.

We know that small-scale forestry results in:

- increased economic opportunities in British Columbia's forests;
- better hands-on management of the forest;
- a greater investment in silviculture;
- more attention paid to environmental and other non-timber values; and,
- more benefits flowing to the local community.

## Who operates a Woodlot Licence?

Woodlot licences are held by First Nations communities, multi-generational families, life-time loggers, silviculturalists, professional foresters... who want to manage their own piece of the forest.

Woodlot operators come from all walks of life. Their backgrounds are diverse, just like the forests they manage. But they share one important thing in common:

Their commitment to manage our forests



Warren Lauder, Councilor and Forest Resource Manager for Hupacasath WL #1902

responsibly and sustainably. They are some of BC's best managed forests.

Woodlot Licences: Your forests are in good hands.

By SARA MAH

**Community leaders with the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) weighed in on the benefits of small-scale forestry. When asked about social licence and public trust in managing BC's Crown forests, the consensus was not a surprise. Expanding this small-scale solution makes a big difference...**

UBCM Survey - Forest Policy Decision Making: The Case for Greater Consultation and Engagement 2016



October 5 - 7, 2019

**AGM for the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations & the Woodlot Product Development Council**

Hosted by: The Bulkley, Nadina and Kispiox Woodlot Associations



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