



Woodlot Licence Program Report

2020

woodlot.bc.ca

A tradition of forestry excellence in local communities.





The Roots of the Woodlot Program

THE SEEDLING OF BC'S CROWN WOODLOT LICENCE PROGRAM TOOK ROOT IN 1948 WHEN THE FOREST ACT WAS AMENDED TO ALLOW FARMERS TO OBTAIN SMALL AREAS OF NEAR-BY CROWN FOREST TO MANAGE AS "FARM WOODLOTS".

This unique forest tenure – having local residents manage Crown forest land, often combined with their own private forest land was structured for small scale enterprise and a stewardship approach to managing forests. **It provides opportunities for private citizens to participate** directly in forestry.

Currently there are **850 woodlot licences** held throughout BC, accounting for nearly 600,000 hectares of managed forestland, **contributing only 1.4% of all timber harvested annually in BC.**

While that might seem like a small percentage, woodlot licences are a big deal on BC's managed forest landscape because they are about much more than timber.

Region	# of WLS	AREA (ha)			AAC (m ³)		
		Private Land	Crown Land	Total	Private Land	Crown Land	Total
Coast	122	4,657	63,577	68,234	24,901	337,741	362,642
N. Interior	327	19,371	212,683	232,054	24,482	477,031	501,513
S. Interior	401	33,830	249,718	283,549	35,342	523,579	559,921
Total	850	57,858	525,978	583,836	84,725	1,338,351	1,423,076

Source: FLNRORD List of Woodlot Licences as of May 21, 2020

Family & Community

WOODLOT LICENCES ARE HELD BY A DIVERSE GROUP – MULTI-GENERATIONAL FAMILIES, FORESTERS, RANCHERS, LOGGERS, COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS, EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, MUNICIPALITIES AND FIRST NATIONS – WHO HAVE STRONG TIES TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.

THEY ADOPT A PERSONAL, SMALL-SCALE APPROACH TO RESOURCE LAND MANAGEMENT.

BREAKDOWN OF WHO HOLDS WOODLOT LICENCES IN BC

Woodlot Licensees	% of WLs
Individuals, families or partnerships	46.5%
BC companies (family owned)	43%
First Nations, Band or Band Council	8.5%
WL Education Societies, School Districts, Colleges & non First Nation Communities	2%

Source: FLNRORD WL listing – May 21, 2020



Three generations of the Lewis and Garthwaite Family on W1601, Tunkwa Lake out of Kamloops.

By virtue of being a small, area-based tenure managed by an individual who lives nearby, licence holders are closely connected to local interests and values. They live and work in the community and their kids attend the neighborhood schools.

LICENSEES ARE PROUD OF THE WORK THEY DO MAINTAINING CROWN FORESTS FOR THEIR NEIGHBOURS.

Woodlot holders often host walking tours to showcase their resource management practices – for students, locals, researchers and other forest managers.

Forests in Good Hands.

Social Licence

THE WOODLOT LICENCE PROGRAM WAS FOUNDED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF SOCIAL LICENCE AND STEWARDSHIP OF A CROWN RESOURCE.

Most woodlot licences are located in high-visibility and easily accessible areas – around communities and on well-travelled highways. The woodlot program has a legacy of safely and successfully operating in these areas because of their small size, personal hands-on approach and respecting local values.

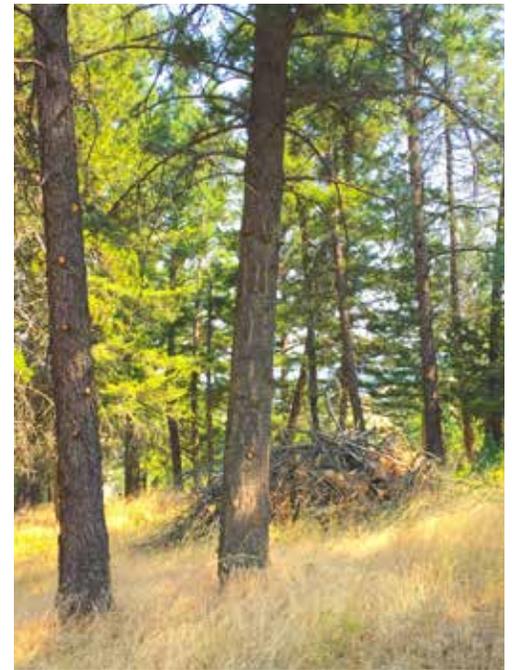
Given its past successes and considering societies' ever increasing demands on the forest, woodlot licensees are well positioned to be a forest tenure of choice when considering social licence.

The current Woodlot Planning and Practices Regulations requires a Woodlot Licence Plan to describe how a licensee will manage an area to achieve objectives while taking into account the local region. It is an effective means for engaging the community as it involves a call for all those interested to bring forward their values to be considered and incorporated into the plan both at the strategic and operational levels.

Parking lots, brochures, preserving trails for hikers, horseback riders and mountain bikers along with firewood are a few examples of collaboration between woodlot holders and other stakeholders.

FUEL MITIGATION & WILDFIRES

In 2020, \$232,931 of fuel mitigation work was completed to prevent or reduce wildfires on woodlot licences located within the wildland/urban interface funded by the Forest Enhancement Society of BC.



**BC'S WOODLOT LICENCES
ARE IN GOOD HANDS.**



An open house on Quadra Island, W1897, welcoming people to come visit and learn about a managed forest.

Some of BC's woodlot licences' have a unique social licence as they are managed not only for timber but for educational, recreational or research purposes. Additionally, funds to support the organization's purposes partly come from harvesting proceeds.

- [BCIT Forest Society](#)
- [Vancouver Island University](#)
- [UBC - Portion of Malcolm Knapp Research Forest](#)
- [Selkirk College](#)
- [Willow River Demonstration Forest](#)
- [Kootenay Agroforestry Society](#)
- SD 91 Nechako Valley Secondary School
- SD 57 Mackenzie Forestry Education
- SD 27 PS Ogden Woodlot
- SD 22 Charles Bloom Secondary School
- Nechako Woodlot Society
- Kamloops Woodlot Education Society - [Silver Lake Camp](#)
- Cariboo WL Education Society - [Gavin Lake Camp](#)
- Kootenay Woodlot Education Society - [Blue Lake Camp](#)
- [Golden District Rod & Gun](#)
- [Blue Mountain Woodlot](#)
- [Omineca Ski Club](#)

High schools like Charles Bloom in Lumby have their own woodlot. It is used as an outdoor classroom for their [forestry program](#) to provide students with broad-based skills and theoretical training sought by many employers in forestry and industry at large.



Woodlot Licence W0494 operated by the [Kootenay Agroforestry Society](#) is managed with a focus to integrate forestry with ecological restoration of fire suppressed landscapes while protecting domestic and Mirror Lake community watersheds.



Innovation & Excellence

STARTING IN 2010, THE MINISTER OF FORESTS, LANDS & NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS HAS RECOGNIZED WOODLOT LICENSEES FOR INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN WOODLOT MANAGEMENT.

Since then woodlot licensees across the province have been honoured for their contributions to the practices that exemplify the woodlot program – social license, stewardship, sustainability and innovative practises. They are nominated by their peers, vetted by the Ministry and their management is held up as leading examples of the best practices in BC’s Crown forests.

The most recent recipients of the Minister’s Awards (2019):

- [Mark & Pauline Adamson and Family](#) - Northern area and province
- [Ross Freer and Family](#) - Southern area
- [Howie, Shari and Kevin Griessel and Family](#) - Coast area

“From implementing innovative approaches that protect neighbouring stands of harvest areas from windthrow, to leadership with area woodlots on timber pricing, marketing and forest health management, the Griessels have clearly shown their excellence in woodlot management,” said Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development.”

Shilo Freer runs the custom mill, kiln, planer, moulder and a timber framing company for the [Son Ranch Timber Company](#).



“Congratulations to Ross and Janice Freer and their family on receiving this award for innovation and excellence in woodlot management” said Doug Donaldson. “Their commitment to forest health, reforestation, public education and promotion of manufactured British Columbia wood products supports the woodlot licence program’s core principles.”



Howie and Kevin Griessel receiving their award from FLNRORD Minister Donaldson.

Minister Donaldson recognized Mark and Pauline Adamson and family, Smithers, for being the northern and provincial recipients for Innovation and Excellence in WL Management.



“Congratulations to the Adamsons on receiving this award,” said Doug Donaldson. “Over the years, they have shown significant commitment to reforestation and forest health, leadership in protecting caribou habitat, dedication to the local community and have educated local youth on the importance of personal responsibility in taking care of our forests.”

A plantation on Woodlot Licence W0344, Kelowna, is a good example of diversity. Plantation harvested 2016, planted 2017, photo taken 2020.



Sustainable Forest Management

BC'S WOODLOT LICENCE PROGRAM HAS BEEN MANAGING THE PROVINCE'S FOREST RESOURCES, OFTEN IN SOME OF THE MOST CHALLENGING AREAS TO MANAGE - SENSITIVE ECOSYSTEMS, VIEWSCAPES AND THE WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE WITH HIGH RECREATIONAL VALUES.



Doug Fuller, checking a cedar seedling under its protective cone from deer browsing on his Woodlot Licence, Powell River.

Licensees strive to balance sustainable forest management with environmental, social and economic values.

They must adapt to shifting ecological conditions for an economically viable, healthy and resilient forest all while managing for other forest values - water, soil, biodiversity, cultural heritage, visual quality, wildlife and species at risk.

Forest for Tomorrow - Land Based Investment Program

Six Woodlot Associations (Boundary, Bulkley, Cariboo, Kamloops, North Island and Peace River) participated in the 2019/20 Forests For Tomorrow program for a total investment of \$232,602 towards intensive silviculture - surveys, site prep and planting.

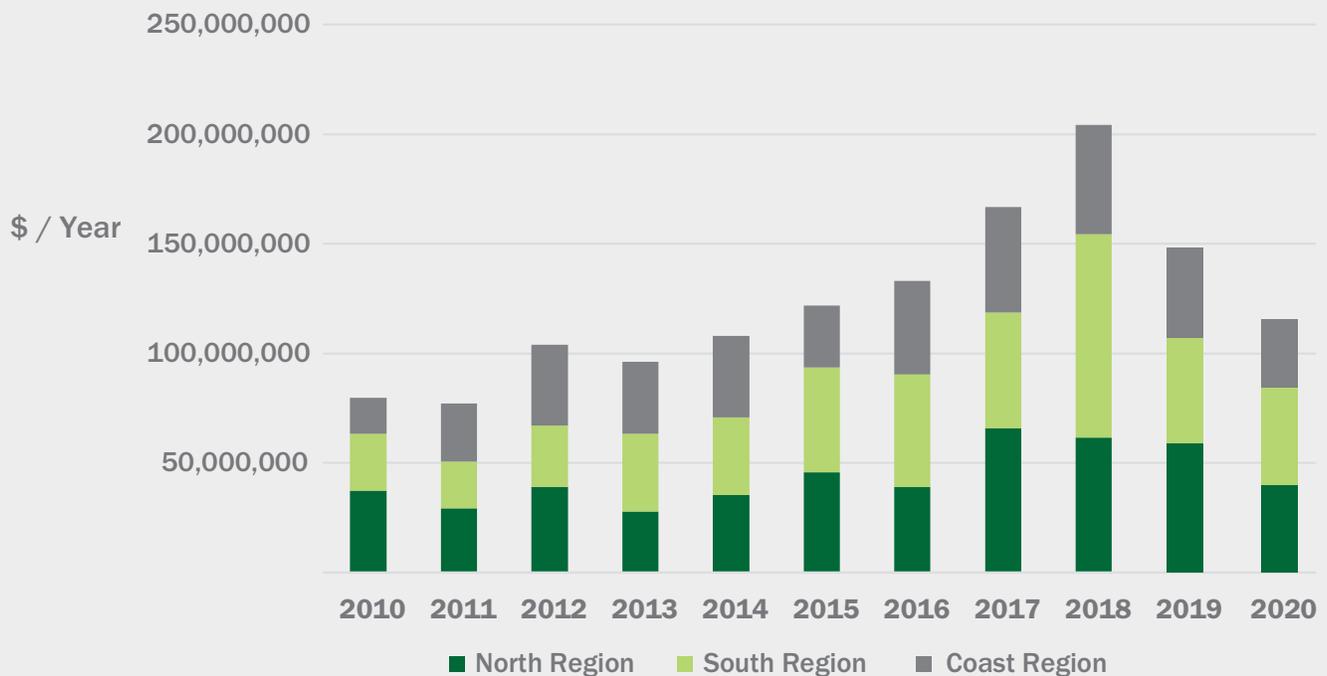
Because of woodlots small-scale they are ideal for trying methods industrial operations may not be able to consider given their large-scale.

Economic Contributions

850 SMALL, COMMUNITY-BASED BUSINESSES CREATE SUSTAINABLE, LOCAL ECONOMIC GROWTH AND JOBS WHICH MORE THAN 1,000 FAMILIES RELY ON FOR ALL OR PART OF THEIR LIVELIHOOD.

Woodlot licence holders buy goods and services from local suppliers and invest back into the communities in which they live, **making a contribution of over \$116M to their local economy (2020).**

BC WOODLOT ANNUAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IN \$ / YEAR



Annual WL Harvest Volume (Harvest Billing System) multiplied by year end log market price for each year (log market reports). All products. Scaled volume. No waste. February 2021.



Jay Baker, Registered Forest Technician of Silvicon Services, Smithers conducting a silviculture survey. He not only has his own woodlot but as a partner in Silvicon, Jay contracts his services to several Woodlot Licensees to ensure all aspects of their forest management commitments are met to a high standard.

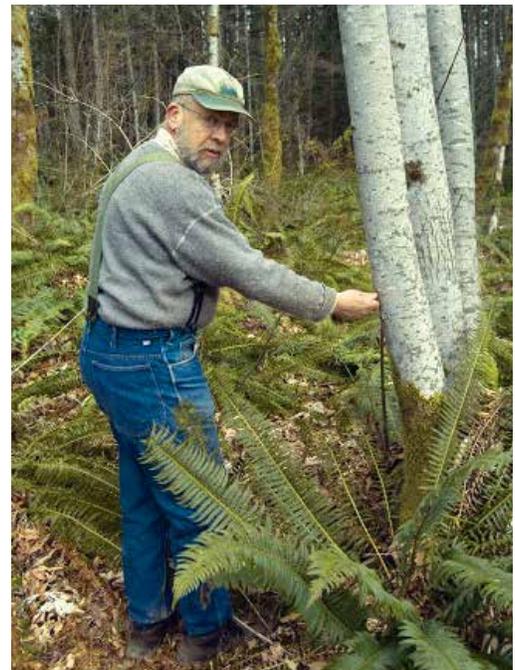


Cattle drive on W1499, Kelowna. Many ranchers acquired woodlot licences, originating from the roots of the woodlot program when farmers and ranchers were able to obtain a woodlot licence on neighbouring Crown forest which was also used for summer grazing.

Small Local Businesses

Woodlots are a form of small business. They supply logs to mills and local value-added manufacturers.

While most woodlot licensees are independent log sellers, many are involved in other businesses such as ranching, operating small custom mills, forestry consulting, tapping maple syrup, recreation, and farming Christmas trees. Success stories like these abound in the woodlot program and their efforts contribute to and diversify rural economies.



Harold Macy tapping broad-leaf maple syrup on W1677, Courtenay.

Education

WITH FORESTS COVERING 64% OF THE PROVINCE AND FORESTRY BEING A CORNERSTONE OF BC'S ECONOMY, THE WOODLOT LICENCE PROGRAM RECOGNIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF UNDERSTANDING HOW OUR FORESTS ARE MANAGED AND SUPPORTS EDUCATION THROUGH SEVERAL INITIATIVES.

Many woodlotters have dedicated time and resources for all ages, ranging from Kindergarten to Grad school to learn about the forest ecosystem and how our forests are managed.

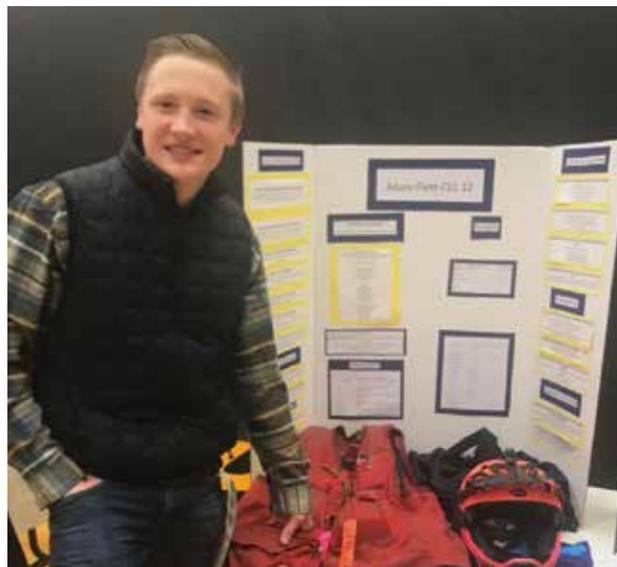


Jon Seinen attended his children's elementary school in Houston. The kindergarten class learned about the letter L - L is for Lumberjack.



The FBCWA has developed educational materials for forest educators and is a proud supporter of National Forest Week in BC giving out over 1,500 Ollie's Woodlot Adventures activity books to elementary school aged children in 2020.

THE WOODLOT LICENCE PROGRAM IS A PROUD SUPPORTER OF YOUTH EDUCATION AWARDED A SCHOLARSHIP EACH YEAR TO STUDENTS PURSUING POST SECONDARY EDUCATION OR TRAINING, PREFERABLY IN FORESTRY.



Adam Flett, recipient of the FBCWA 2020 Scholarship and son of Aaron Flett, W1480, Peace region. Adam is currently enrolled in the Natural Resources and Forest Technology program at the College of New Caledonia in Prince George. Photo of Adam and his Grade 12 career prep presentation.

WHY WOODLOT LICENCES ARE UNIQUE AND HOW THEY BENEFIT A COMMUNITY?

 [WATCH VIDEO](#)

First Nations

APPROXIMATELY 9% OF BC'S WOODLOTS ARE MANAGED BY FIRST NATIONS WHICH ARE MAKING A BIG IMPACT IN THEIR COMMUNITY. AS WELL AS THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS WOODLOT LICENCES CONTRIBUTE, THEY ALSO PROVIDE EDUCATION AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR BAND MEMBERS.

First Nations woodlot licences have been recognized for their forest management and contributions to the community over the years.

- [2018 Saulteau First Nation](#) - northern area Minister's Award for Innovation & Excellence
- [2016 Hupačasath First Nation](#) - coast area Minister's Award for Innovation & Excellence
- [▶ 2013 We Wai Kai First Nation](#) - Woodlot Product Development Council Stewardship Recognition
- [▶ 2011 Ch-hl-kway-uhk First Nation](#) - Woodlot Product Development Council Stewardship Recognition

In 2020, the Saulteau First Nations received the B.C. Achievement Indigenous Business Award. In presenting the award, the B.C. Achievement Foundation chair, Anne Giardini stated **"I am particularly inspired by this year's awardees. All of them exemplify resilience and innovation during this time of challenge. This year's awardees (the Saulteau band) demonstrate that integrating the practices of the past with the economies of the future benefits us all."**

The Saulteau First Nations, which manages W0231 in Moberly Lake, covers a territory shared by The Saulteaux (Anishinabe), Nehiyaw (Cree) and Mountain Dunne-Za (Beaver) tribes – a 'community' arrangement that was formalized by Treaty 8 in 1914. Management of the woodlot takes into account the needs of all three tribes – culturally and economically.



Alkali Resource Management wildfire risk crew for Saulteau FN that completed work at Woodlot Licences 587, 1694 and 1897 in the Cariboo Regional District.

Woodlot Licences...Rooted in Communities



Quesnel Woodlot Association
South Island Woodlot Association
Nadina Woodlot Association
Columbia Woodlot Association
Peace River Woodlot Association
Kispiox Woodlot Association
Shuswap Okanagan Woodlot Association
North Island Woodlot Association
Kamloops & District Woodlot Association
Sea to Sky Woodlot Association
Boundary Woodlot Association
Bulkley Woodlot Association
Sour Fraser Valley Woodlot Association
West Kootenay Woodlot Association
Robson Canoe Woodlot Association
Cariboo Woodlot Association
Prince George Woodlot Association
West Kootenay Woodlot Association



FEDERATION OF BC WOODLOT ASSOCIATIONS

The Federation of BC Woodlot Associations (FBCWA) represents the interests of woodlot licensees and woodlot owners throughout BC. The FBCWA is the umbrella organization for BC's 18 Woodlot Associations whose members are united in an effort to achieve exemplary forest and natural resource management.