



Views of the Georgia Strait from a Woodlot Licence on Quadra Island.

# Woodlot Licences, while small, are a Big Deal on BC's Forest Landscape

*While everyone knows BC's forests provide many benefits, do you know about BC's Woodlot Licences and their unique contributions to communities?*

## Woodlot Licences

### Striving to be BC's Best Managed Forests

There are woodlots and woodlot licences in British Columbia. A woodlot is a privately-owned plot of forest.

A woodlot licence is an area-based, long-term forest tenure issued by the Province of BC. It's a social contract to manage a parcel

of Crown land, usually in combination with a private woodlot. The licence comes with strict rules, but also grants the right for the licensee to harvest timber on the land.

Today, there are about 850 woodlot licences held throughout BC, accounting for nearly 600,000 hectares of managed forestland and contributing 2% of all the 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.

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By LISA MARAK

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Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development, Doug Donaldson recognizing Mark and Pauline Adamson for winning the 2019 Provincial Award for Innovation and Excellence in Woodlot Management.

### Sustainable Forest Management A Tradition Of Forestry Excellence Since 1948

Most Woodlot Licences are located in high-visibility areas – around communities, on well-travelled corridors for tourists and in sensitive ecosystems.

The Woodlot Program has a legacy of successfully operating in these areas, respecting local values and taking a hands-on approach.

There are multiple demands on the land today. Licensees strive to balance sustainable forest management with environmental, social and economic values.

Some Woodlot Licences are also managed for High School forestry programs, youth

camp, cross country ski clubs and research forests, to name a few.

### Communities & Families Rooted in their Communities

Woodlot licences are a form of small business that contribute to the BC economy. Approximately 1,000 families rely on them for all or part of their livelihood.

Woodlot licence holders provide jobs, buy goods and services from local suppliers and invest back into the communities in which they live, making a contribution of over \$50M/year to their local economy.

Some woodlot holders operate small sawmills, providing lumber to value-added producers and local manufacturers.

Non-timber forest products such as maple and birch syrups, mushrooms and specialty plant and wood products are harvested on woodlots.

The Woodlot Program is a proud supporter of youth education, awarding scholarships each year to students pursuing a post-secondary education, often in forestry-related programs.

### Stewards Of Local Forests Forests in good hands

The Woodlot Program was founded on the principles of social licence and stewardship. Woodlot Licences are held by a diverse group -



Wolfram Wollenheit welcoming visitors to his woodlot on Vancouver Island and showcasing his forest management.

multi-generational families, foresters, ranchers, loggers, community-based organizations and First Nations – who have strong ties to the local community.

They adopt a personal, small-scale approach to resource land management.

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

They take great pride in their work.



Charles Bloom Secondary School's Woodlot Licence in Lumby, BC is used as an outdoor classroom for their Forestry Program for more than 45 years



### Deep Roots. Strong Communities.

A study commissioned by the Council of Forest Industries for 2019 shows the social and economic benefits from forestry flow to all communities in BC, both urban and rural, big and small.

[cofi.org/insights-and-resources/](http://cofi.org/insights-and-resources/)



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