



Woodlot Licence Program Report

2021



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 NEARBY CROWN FOREST TO MANAGE AS "FARM WOODLOTS".

Woodlot Licences are a unique forest tenure – having local residents manage Crown forests, often combined with their own private forest land. They were 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 **845 Woodlot Licences** in BC, encompassing 579,628 hectares of managed forestland. **They contribute ~2% of all timber harvested annually in BC.***

*Total Woodlot License (WL) AAC (m3) for 2021 was 1,449,881 m3.
Total Provincial AAC (m3) for 2021 was 66,249,332 m3.

While Woodlot Licences make up a very small percentage of BC's annual harvest, they are a big deal on BC's managed forest landscape because they are about much more than timber.



The annual allowable cut (AAC) is the annual amount of timber that can be harvested on a sustainable basis within a defined forest area.

Region	# of WLS	AREA (ha)			AAC (m ³)		
		Private Land	Crown Land	Total	Private Land	Crown Land	Total
Coast	122	4,626	63,616	68,242	24,735	344,184	368,919
N. Interior	400	30,973	249,258	280,231	31,083	559,666	590,749
S. Interior	323	17,158	213,998	231,155	22,286	467,927	490,213
Total	845	52,757	526,872	579,628	78,104	1,371,777	1,449,881

Source: FLNRORD List of Woodlot Licensees as of March 7, 2022

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)	42.5%
First Nations, Band or Band Council	9%
WL Education Societies, School Districts, Colleges & non First Nation Communities	2%

Source: FLNRORD WL List – March 7, 2022



Four generations of the Sahlstrom Family gathered around a bonfire on Woodlot Licence W0403 in Castlegar when **Greg and Bob Sahlstrom received the Minister's Award for Excellence and Innovation in Woodlot Management.** The Sahlstrom family has deep roots in the Castlegar area. **Their father was a homesteader in the 1920s, and the family has upheld the traditions of stewardship and sustainability ever since.**

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

WOODLOT LICENSEES TAKE PRIDE IN THE WORK THEY DO MAINTAINING CROWN FORESTS FOR THEIR NEIGHBORS.

They 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.

Many Woodlot Licences are located in high-visibility areas and near easily accessible recreation areas around communities. 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.

Woodlot Licences are well-positioned to be a forest tenure of choice when considering social licence. They have a solid track record of success when it comes to balancing economic imperatives with ecological and societal demands.

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, signage, and trails are a few examples of woodlot licensees collaborating with other stakeholders to support safe and high quality recreation within a Woodlot Licence.

W0012 near Nanaimo restored a world class biking trail.



WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION

In 2021, wildfire risk reduction activities were completed on Woodlot Licences located around Williams Lake with \$170,000 funded by the [Forest Enhancement Society of BC](#).



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

Social Licence [continued]

Some of BC's Woodlot Licences have a unique social licence. They are managed not only for timber but for educational, recreational or research purposes. In addition, 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](#)

The [BCIT Forest Society](#) holds Woodlot Licence W0007 in Maple Ridge, which it operates as a non-profit society. The proceeds from all their commercial endeavours go towards bursaries and scholarships to educate forestry students, including the Katzie and Kwantlen First Nations. Instructor and President of the BCIT Forest Society, Jonathan Smyth, dedicates his time and energy to educating the next generation of forest professionals.

HE HAS GAINED THE RESPECT OF HIS FELLOW WOODLOT LICENSEES AND THE PRAISE OF THE MINISTRY BY FORGING THE WAY FOR FUTURE SUSTAINABLE APPROACHES TO FORESTRY THAT INVOLVE THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY.

Smyth has created synergies with local mills, operators, adjacent tenure holders and non-forest interest groups to create a community-based integrated plan for Blue Mountain. He's nurtured opportunities for students and First Nations peoples to work on the Woodlot Licence in a wide range of capacities.

BCIT Forest Society and Jonathan Smyth, President and BCIT Instructor - recipients of the Minister's Award of Innovation & Excellence in Woodlot Management, Coast area.



Jerry Mooney and Graeme MacIntosh with the Cariboo Woodlot Education Society generously donated to the Junior Program at the Williams Lake Curling Club.



Innovation & Excellence

BEGINNING 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 practices. 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:

- [Bob and Greg Sahlstrom](#)
South Area and Provincial Award
- [Benjamin Wilson](#) North Area
- [BCIT Forestry Society \(Jonathan Smyth\)](#)
Coast area

“I am pleased to announce Ben Wilson is a woodlot award recipient for his commitment to his community and First Nations capacity building,” said Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development. “Ben is a great example of what the woodlot program can be for small innovative rural operators who use every ounce of fibre harvested to maximize the efficiency of the woodlot.”

Ben Wilson holds Woodlot Licences W0117 and W0950 in British Columbia’s Northern Interior. Wilson was selected as a recipient because he has an innovative approach to optimizing timber use and silviculture reforestation. He has successfully partnered with a local nursery to improve transport and planting efficiencies, as well as rehabilitate severely fire-damaged stands. Wilson markets his harvested timber to all the local mills, which enables him to maximize utilization for a broad spectrum of timber products, while also minimizing site debris to reduce fire risks.

Wilson is committed to building and maintaining local First Nations capacity and relationship building by directly employing several local workers, two of whom work full time, and supporting their career development.



Ben Wilson with skidder-seeder direct seeding blocks.

Minister Conroy presents the 2020 Provincial & Southern Interior Woodlot Award to the Sahlstrom brothers, Greg and Bob, Castlegar. L-R Greg Sahlstrom, Bob Sahlstrom, Minister Conroy, Tom Bradley (West Kootenay WL Ass President), Stu Deverney (Selkirk College Instructor, RPF for W0403).



“I am pleased to announce Bob and Greg Sahlstrom as the top overall provincial woodlot licence award recipients for 2020, which is well deserved after the Sahlstrom family’s 70 years of managing their woodlot licence area,” said Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests. “They are dedicated to maintaining a productive and diverse woodlot operation and generously share access to the property for their local community to enjoy.”

This woodlot is also used for field labs by the Selkirk College school of environment and geomatics (forestry) because it is in a wildfire interface area and the woodlot has a diverse wildlife ecosystem.

Sustainable Forest Management

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



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, species at risk and recreation.

The amount of old growth and old forests on Woodlot Licences today is a testament to the high standard of sustainable forest management that has been afforded over the past many decades. **Growing mature timber is what makes Woodlot Licenses sustainable in the long term.**



Alistair Schroff, Woodlot Licence holder, standing in an 8-year-old hybrid spruce plantation.

Because of Woodlots Licences small-scale they are ideal for trying silviculture practices industrial operations may not be able to consider given their large-scale.

Forest for Tomorrow - Land Based Investment Program

\$1,188,619 from Forests for Tomorrow funding, a program working to restore healthy forests, was invested in intensive silviculture projects and reforestation (PwC, March 31, 2022).

Six Woodlot Associations (Boundary, Bulkley, Cariboo, Kamloops, North Island and Peace River) participated in the 2020/21 Forests For Tomorrow program. Projects included - surveys, site prep, planting, brushing, fertilization and spacing.

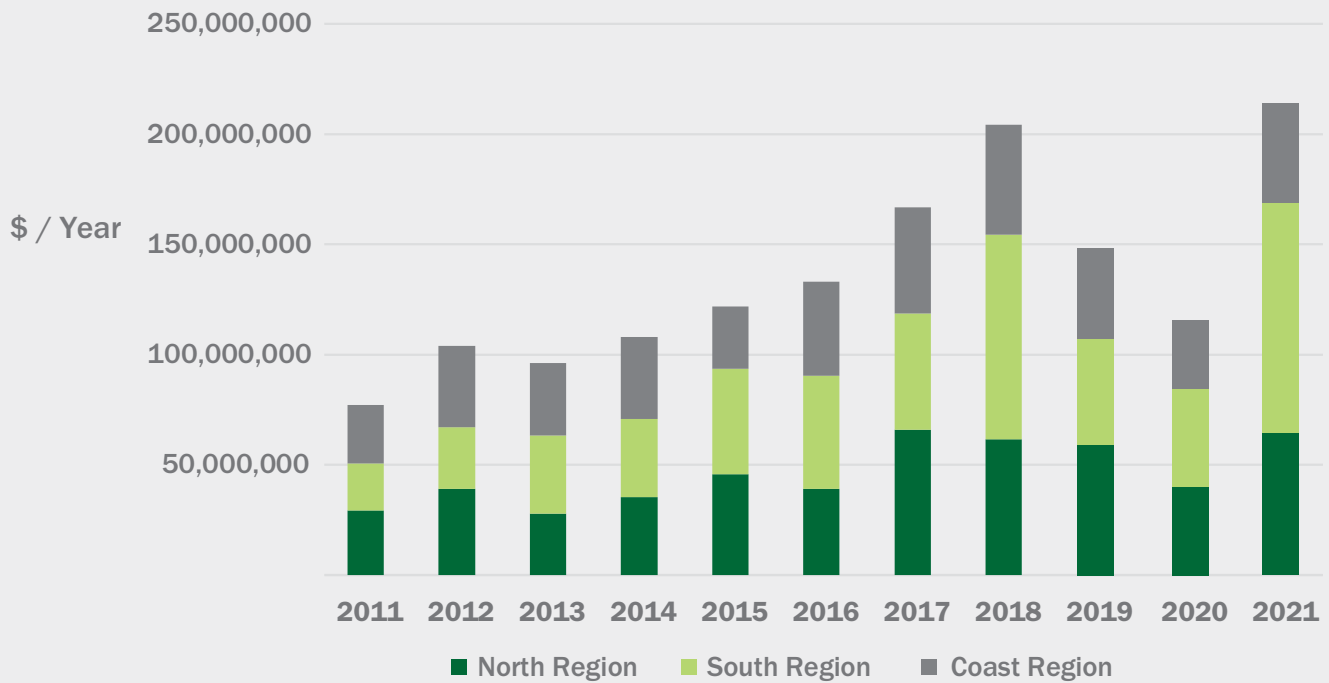
Economic Contributions

845 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. **In 2021, BC's Woodlot Licences generated over \$200MM in economic activity.**



BC WOODLOT LICENCE 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. March 2022.





A small custom mill is part of a West Kootenay Woodlot Licence operation.

Small Local Businesses

Woodlot Licences supply logs to mills and are also an important source of timber and wood for value-added and secondary 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 and recreation. Success stories like these abound in the woodlot program and their efforts contribute to, and diversify, rural economies.



Woodlot Licence W0501, acquired by the Esk'etemc people in 1986, is located 37 km south of Williams Lake near the community of Alkali Lake. Managing this small forest tenure marked the beginning of a forest management enterprise that has expanded to include a [Community Forest](#) and a [First Nation Woodland Tenure](#), as well.

During the past 35 years, the woodlot has been impacted by Mountain Pine Beetle, Douglas Fir Bark Beetle, Spruce Budworm and several wildfires...but it's still thriving today. It's one of the reasons [Alkali Resource Management](#) (ARM) is a leader in managing the Dry Belt Douglas Fir Ecosystem.

ARM isn't just overseeing the forest for ecological and economic benefit. Many community members started their forestry career in these forests. Today Esk'etemc is proud to say that nine individuals have completed their education in either a degree or diploma in Resource Management and become Registered Professional Foresters and Registered Technicians.



The Esk'etemc are also leaders in the bioeconomy. In 2014 they began construction of a District Energy system that, today, heats 12 buildings on the Reserve – including the school, a 14-unit Elder's apartment complex, health centre, daycare and Band Office.

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 Woodlot Licensees have dedicated time and resources to educating young people of all ages, ranging from Kindergarten to Grad school, about the forest ecosystem and how our forests are managed.

The FBCWA has developed educational materials for forest educators and is a supporter of National Forest Week in BC by providing **Ollie's Woodlot Adventures** activity books.



While the annual “Walk in the Woods” at the [CIF Willow River Demonstration Forest, W0272](#) near Prince George has been stifled by the pandemic, organizers continued to educate the public about BC's forests through a [series of short videos](#). They're optimistic that school children and members of the general public will be joining them in 2022 on the 1.9 kilometre trail, which features 22 informational signs, a mature forest, some harvested areas and a wet ecosystem.



Jared Frasca
\$2,000 Scholarship Recipient



A past “Walk in the Woods”, W0272, Willow River Demonstration Forest

The Woodlot Licence program is a proud supporter of youth education, awarding two scholarships each year to students pursuing post secondary education or training, preferably in forestry.

Jared Frasca is the 2021 recipient of the \$2000 Scholarship and son of Paul Frasca, W1563, Columbia Woodlot Association. Jared completed his Bachelor of Natural Resource Science this past summer at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops and plans to continue his studies to become a Registered Professional Forester. He has gained considerable summer experience working in firefighting, forest inventories, forest health assessments and silviculture field work.

Olivia Gash is the recipient of the \$1000 scholarship and daughter of Mike Gash, W1808, Cariboo Woodlot Association. She is beginning her academic journey at McGill University in Montreal with hopes of working in education. Olivia has helped with silviculture surveys, beetle probing, GPSing and tree planting on the family woodlot.

First Nations

APPROXIMATELY 9% OF BC'S WOODLOT LICENCES ARE MANAGED BY FIRST NATIONS WHICH ARE MAKING A BIG IMPACT IN THEIR COMMUNITY. FIRST NATIONS ARE MANAGING CROWN FORESTS TO AID IN FUEL MITIGATION, FIRE SUPPRESSION AND REHABILITATION OF WILDLIFE HABITAT.

As well as the economic benefits Woodlot Licences contribute, they also provide education and training opportunities to band members.

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

- 2020 Alkali Resource Management Limited, owned by the community of Esk'etemc - [BC Indigenous Achievement Business Award](#)
- 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](#)

The Osoyoos Indian Band (OIB) Woodlot Licence W1500, is managed in partnership with Vaagen Fibre Canada along with OIB's other forest tenures. According to Vern Louis, Nk'Mip Forestry for OIB, *"We work side-by-side with the team at Vaagen Fibre Canada to co-manage our forests through the lens of our culture and best forestry practices. Together, we're ensuring the continued prosperity of our people and our land."*

In the summer of 2021, the Nk'Mip Creek wildfire burned over 1534 hectares of the Woodlot Licence. The wildfire

recovery and restoration has focused on recovering burned wood, increasing utilization of wood fibre, restoring traditional hunting grounds, replanting native shrubs and trees for biodiversity, preventing erosion, and the general clean-up of dead wood to prevent fir beetle infestations. Members from the OIB community are involved in every aspect of the work including layout, harvest monitoring, road maintenance, silviculture decisions, and manual fuel mitigation and treatments. (Vaagen Fibre Canada).



Osoyoos Indian Band and Vaagen Fibre Canada forestry workers conduct road maintenance inspections on the Osoyoos Indian Band Woodlot Licence and First Nations Woodland Licence near Oliver.

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
Stuart McPherson Woodlot Association
Boundary Woodlot Association
Bulkley Woodlot Association
Squamish Valley Woodlot Association
Prince George Woodlot Association
West Kootenay Woodlot Association
Robson Canoe 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 17 Woodlot Associations whose members are united in an effort to achieve exemplary forest and natural resource management.