



# Woodlot Licence Program Report

2022



[woodlot.bc.ca](http://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 **841 woodlot licences**, encompassing 576,627 hectares of managed forestland. **They contributed 3.8%\* of all B.C.'s Crown timber harvested in 2022.**

\* Total Woodlot Licence (WL) volume harvested for 2022 was 1,590,203 cubic metres.

Total All Other Crown volume harvested for 2022 was 39,870,398 cubic metres.

**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 <sup>3</sup> )		
		Private Land	Crown Land	Total	Private Land	Crown Land	Total
Coast	122	4,268	63,616	67,884	22,441	342,077	364,518
N. Interior	399	30,617	248,658	279,275	30,638	544,178	574,816
S. Interior	320	16,373	213,095	229,468	20,969	489,297	510,266
<b>Total</b>	<b>841</b>	<b>51,258</b>	<b>525,370</b>	<b>576,627</b>	<b>74,048</b>	<b>1,375,552</b>	<b>1,449,600</b>

Source: FLNRORD List of Woodlot Licensees as of March 21, 2023

# 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: MoF WL List - March 21, 2023



**Jonathan Smyth** with a group of students on Woodlot Licence 0007 in Maple Ridge, held by the BCIT Forest Society. This woodlot embodies the principles of the woodlot program, **meeting and exceeding expectations** for the management of Crown forests and connected with the community - it is a **productive working forest**, a **vibrant classroom** for students, a playground for **outdoor enthusiasts** and the ancestral home of the **Coast Salish peoples**.

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 neighbourhood schools.

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

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

**Forests in Good Hands.**

# Social License

**THE WOODLOT LICENCE PROGRAM WAS FOUNDED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF SOCIAL LICENSE 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 license. 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.

Cliff Manning, 2022 Minister's Award recipient for the North Area, has completed a number of innovative silviculture techniques in the last 20 years. He was integral in including a diversity of species into the stocking standards of many woodlots in the Lakes TSA as he was the leading force with his woodlot. He was planting larch before it became acceptable in the Chief Foresters Seed Transfer Guidelines. He has experimented by planting Siberian larch, cedar, hemlock and Douglas fir.



Cliff Manning, W1689, has a long history with the woodlot program in BC.

## WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION

Every year from April until the end of October is fire season in British Columbia. In BC, 20% of woodlots area (114,472 hectares) is within a high or extreme risk area for wildfire risk. However, there is work going on in BC where wildfire risk can be reduced. Some woodlot associations like the Columbia Woodlot Association and the Williams Lake Woodlot Association have organized funding and demonstrated treatments within woodlots there to reduce the wildfire risk.



Wildfire risk reduction treatment done in Fall 2022 on W0456 in the Columbia Woodlot Association area.



Woodlotter George Delisle speaking with the Boundary Central Secondary School's Environmental Science class about "wildlife trees", vital to excavator birds like the Williamson's Sapsucker, which is on the Endangered Species list.

Some of BC's Woodlot Licences have a unique social license. 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
- 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 [Omineca Ski Club](#), W0111 near Burns Lake, is a significant example of recreation, woodlot management and the community working side by side.

With an extensive network of ski trails (25kms), the Omineca Ski Club woodlot welcomes visitors to not only experience cross-country skiing but also to see forestry in action. The club is located 6 km south of Burns Lake on Highway 35. Highlights include a lit track (with new LED lights installed in 2022!), a dog trail, biathlon range, heated waxing cabin, excellent grooming and the well-equipped Jean Paulson Lodge.

The majority of trails exist within the ski club's woodlot but several continue out into portions of the neighbouring [Burns Lake Community Forest](#), one of the largest in BC at 92,000 ha.

Roads in the woodlot are built so they can be used as ski trails in the winter. This means slightly longer roads with more corners and hills than normal logging roads. However, it also means a better ski experience for club members. Roads are linked to create loops wherever possible and new harvesting is planned to reduce hazards from falling dead pine and to create new trails.

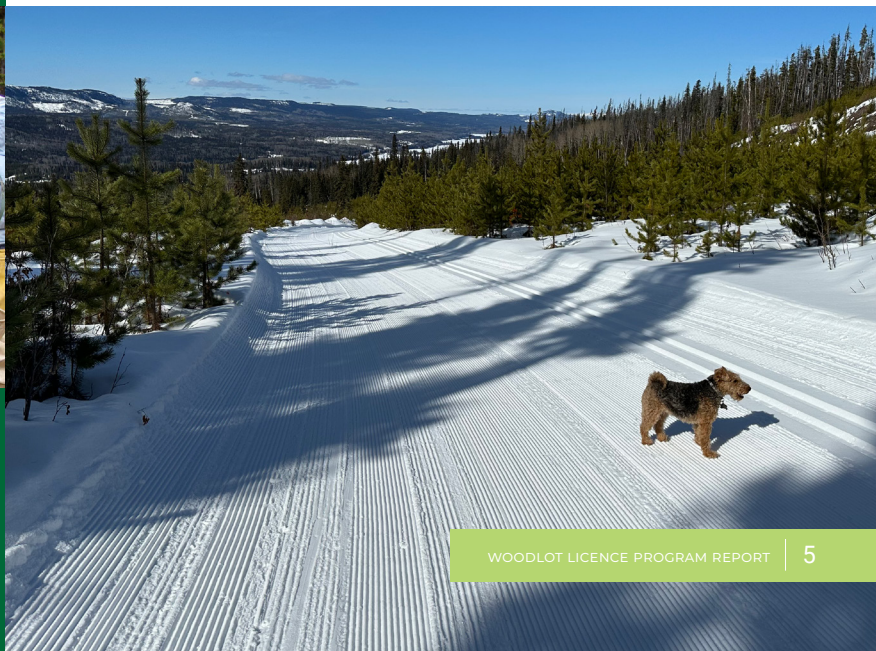
Sean Broadworth, RPF with Free Growing Forest Ltd. in Burns Lake currently oversees the woodlot management.

**“EVERY ACTIVITY I DO ON THE WOODLOT IS GEARED TOWARDS THE SKI EXPERIENCE”** he says, **“I ASK, HOW CAN THIS IMPROVE THE TRAIL NETWORK?”**

W0111 enables the Omineca Ski Club to manage both forest products (trees) and non-forest products (such as recreation and wildlife) on approximately 600 hectares.



Mark and Pauline Adamson invited school children to their W1506 in Smithers for a tree-planting day. Throughout the day, participants were taught about the forest and forest resources, how to plant trees, how to start and properly extinguish a fire and the importance of personal responsibility for the land.



# Innovation & Excellence

**STARTING IN 2010, THE MINISTER OF FORESTS 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 (2022):

**Carter Family** C&H Forest Products – Provincial Award and Coast Area

**Del Williams and Mike Cummings** McPherson Woodlot Co. – South Area

**Cliff Manning** Guyishton Woodlot Ltd – North Area

Operations on Woodlot License 1843 stand out, both in the forest industry and in the community. Del Williams is known for his savvy harvesting practices, his attention to forest health, and his willingness to work closely with community stakeholders who share boundaries with, and draw recreational enjoyment from, his woodlots.

McPherson Woodlot Co. focuses on getting the right log to the right mill. They take selective logging to the extreme; as a result, community members who use W1843 for biking and hiking can rarely tell an area has been logged.

Del has worked closely with outdoor recreational groups in the community who use the woodlot. By remaining in constant communication with Recreation Sites and Trails BC and community stakeholders like the Revelstoke Cycling Association, responding to specific concerns and keeping all parties apprised of future plans, Del has successfully maintained a harmonious relationship with outdoor enthusiasts.



Winter logging on W1834 along Flowdown Trail, a part of Revelstoke Cycling Association’s Mount Macpherson trail network.



Recipients of the Minister’s Award for Innovation and Excellence in WL Management, L to R: Samantha, Cal & Herb Carter (Coast Region & Province), Del Williams (South Region), Cliff Manning (North Region)

“Woodlot licensees make an important contribution to advancing forest management practices around our province,” said Katrine Conroy, former Minister of Forests.

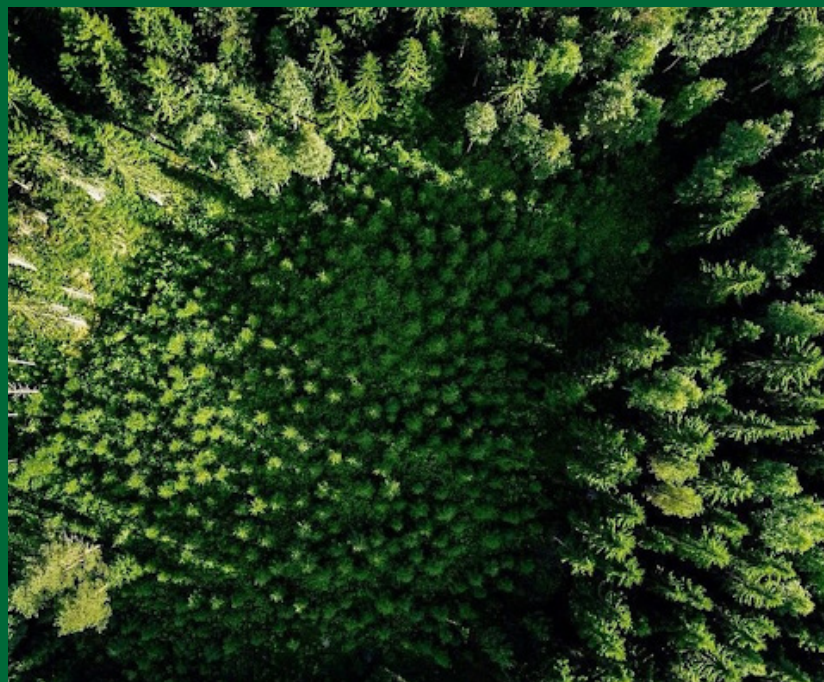
“Congratulations to C&H Forest Products for its achievement as we celebrate the importance of innovation in promoting the full value of our forests.”

“Since they started in 1987, the Carter family has proven to be good stewards of Crown lands. They have shared their knowledge with the public and other forest professionals by conducting tours, going above the call of duty,” said Mark Clark, president, Federation of BC Woodlot Associations.

The Carters have exceptional reforestation practices and plant within one year of harvest. They have worked hard to protect the Echo Lake habitat, which is a sensitive area for nesting eagles.

# 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 Licences sustainable in the long term.**



Gord Chipman, FBCWA General Manager, stands near a 7 year old Douglas fir tree on W2031 on the north end of Quadra Island.

Because of the small scale of Woodlot Licences, 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**

\$1,187,771 from Forests for Tomorrow funding, a program working to restore healthy forests, was invested in intensive silviculture projects and reforestation (PwC, March 31, 2023).

Six Woodlot Associations (Boundary, Bulkley, Cariboo, Kamloops, North Island and Peace River) participated in the 2021/22 Forests For Tomorrow program. Projects included danger tree assessment and falling, surveys, site prep, planting and fertilization.

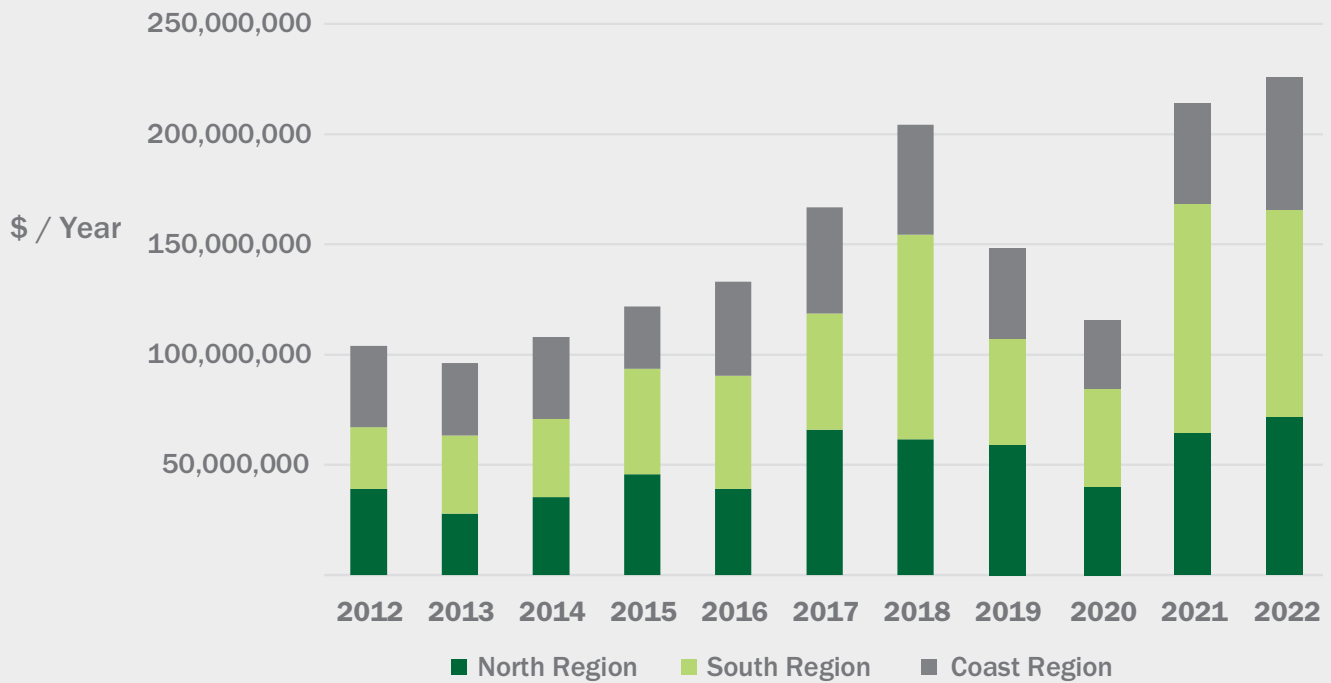
# Economic Contributions

841 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 2022, BC's Woodlot Licences generated over \$227MM 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 2023.







Mike Larock and Ed Hughes, partners of W1466 in Courtenay, BC are also foresters and partners in Huock Resource Consultants Ltd., a forestry consulting business focusing on small-scale forest management and sustainable forest practices for future generations – a perfect fit for woodlots.

# 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.



Cattle grazing on Doris and Darrell Squair's ranch and woodlot in Squaw Valley near Lumby.

Jon Seinen, W0126 near Houston, BC, has delivered many sawlogs from the woodlot to local mills as a logging contractor. But economic activity generated from his woodlot doesn't stop there.

From firewood loads to picnic tables to 6x6 beams to residuals brought to the nearby pellet plant, Jon is active in many opportunities in the value added and secondary wood product markets.

Managing for the long haul with family succession in mind, Jon is involved in most aspects of the woodlot. In any given year, he is surveying, harvesting, delivering logs to the mill, tree planting, road building, and operating his own sawmill. He contracts out RESULTS submissions to forestry consultants. In addition, he's the president of the Nadina Woodlot Association.

Jon took over the woodlot licence (and cattle ranch) from his father and hopes one day to pass them on to his children. He sees economic and social opportunities for woodlots growing in the future.



Jon Seinen, W0126, wraps up a picnic table order utilizing low grade fibre from his woodlot.



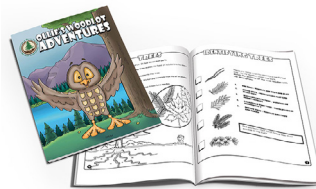
Taking a break from harvesting to teach local school children how to count tree rings.

# 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.



The 2022 annual “Walk in the Woods” at the [CIF Willow River Demonstration Forest, W0272](#) near Prince George was a huge success! Organizers welcomed 354 elementary students, 27 public tour participants and 30 forest professionals who volunteered as guides on the 1.9 kilometre trail, which features 22 interpretive signs, a mature forest, some harvested areas and a wetland ecosystem.



Claire Livingston  
\$2,000 Scholarship Recipient



Brendan Flett  
\$1,000 Scholarship Recipient



2022 “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.**

Claire Livingston is the recipient of the \$2000 scholarship. She is the daughter of Dion Livingston, W1502 and W0233, Peace River Woodlot Association. Claire started her BSc in Natural Resource Conservation in Fall 2022 at UBC Vancouver. She hopes to pursue a career in forest management or environmental research. While gaining practical forestry experience on her family’s woodlots, Claire says she developed her interest in learning more about the many species that make up the forest and work together to create one cohesive ecosystem.

Brendan Flett is the recipient of the \$1000 scholarship. He is the son of Aaron Flett, W1480, Peace River Woodlot Association. Brendan attended UNBC in Prince George in Fall 2022 in the Civil Engineering program. He hopes to work with bridges in the forests of northern BC. On the family woodlot, he helped his father with planting, pile burning and forest health walk-throughs.

# 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-hi-kway-uhk First Nation - [Woodlot Product Development Council Stewardship Recognition](#)

High school students from School District 91 (Nechako-Lakes) took part in the annual Project Forest Management on W0111 at the Omineca Ski Club near Burns Lake.

24 students from Lakes District Secondary School, Fraser Lake Elementary Secondary, Fort St. James Secondary and Nechako Valley Secondary experienced hands-on instruction in GPS, timber cruising, brush saws, ATVs, forest ecology, tree planting and wildland fire protection.

*"They love being out of the classroom,"* said project coordinator Patti Dube. *"They love the hands-on learning, and love that it's people in the industry who are coming out to engage with them."*



Students in Project Forest Management learn many skills during their forest field days, including how to wrap fire hose.

# 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.