

CCF Open House FAQ Follow Up

Question 1. Can you let us know roughly how many participants we have in the open house today?

There were approximately 17/18 participants, not including the panelists during the presentation. We will be posting the powerpoint and proposed harvesting plans at cheakamuscommunityforest.com

Q2. Are the maps you referenced available publicly? I would appreciate a second (and longer) look at this?

All maps are available at: <https://www.cheakamuscommunityforest.com/harvesting-plans/>

Q3. Sorry if I missed this point but what is meant by the term "young stand" in terms of harvesting focus for the coming 3-10 years? 70-90 Years of age? The blue areas on your map of harvest areas seems to indicate a younger age grouping for focus.

"Old Growth" means over 250 years on the coast.

"Mature" means 140-250 years on the coast

"Merchantable Second Growth" means stands <100 yrs old that are economical from a timber harvesting standpoint.

"Young Stand" (also referred to as juvenile stands) means stands that are not yet economical from a timber harvesting standpoint.

Q4. What is the carbon sequestration impact from the planned harvesting? And/ or If you harvest the 18% of the CCF that is allowable (excluding old growth) what is the carbon emissions impact?

As currently presented, and if a permanent deferral on old growth logging was agreed to, 18% of the forested land base would be available for harvest. Assuming an approximately 100 year rotation, 0.18% of the land would be harvested. We have not calculated the exact carbon impact of this harvesting. In addition, the end use must be considered if wood is displacing materials with higher carbon outputs such as steel and concrete.

Q5. The UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) made a declaration supported by over 100 world leaders to end deforestation by 2030. Has this global initiative been considered and reflected in the CCF Plan? If not, will this global initiative be given due consideration in the CCF as we battle global warming and climate change?

Deforestation refers to the permanent removal of forested land base. The CCF has a legal obligation to reforest all areas harvested. The UN Convention on Biodiversity proposes protection of 30% of the planet by 2030. The CCF currently has protections in place for over 70% of the land base.

Q6. What is the retention level proposed for the wedge blocks? I would suggest for owl and recreation values it should be high.

The retention levels for potential Spotted Owl Habitat according to the Spotted Owl Management Plan – 2 (SOMP2) is 40 of the largest 80 stems per hectare.

Q7. Has the method of harvesting for brew creek been determined? heli logging?

There is no heli-logging currently planned in the CCF in 2022.

Q8. What is the financial model? Is it for profit or break even?

The CCF work is based first and foremost on Ecosystem Based Management principles. If these EBM principles are met, and we can log profitably we well. The CCF Board does not see value in break even harvesting. CCF Profits will be re-invested into the forest or communities.

Q9. Were and in what state are they today the old growth forests that will be 250 years old, 250 years from now.

If we interpret this question correctly, the forest will be 500 years old assuming no natural disturbance takes place.

Q10. It sounds like provincial targets are going to be increasingly challenging to meet as there is a shortfall of viable timber. Does the province have the power to penalize partners for not meeting targets?

The CCF provides a Management Plan that includes an Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) to the Province every 5 years. The AAC is reviewed and tree growth are estimated out 250 years to understand the long-run sustainable yield. The updated AAC's reflect the situation on the ground such as whether the AAC has been harvested in prior years, disturbances such as fires or bugs, new protected areas, or new legislation that limits the amount that can be harvested. It also looks at work that has been completed such as enhanced silviculture/fertilization to increase tree growth.

The Province maintains the right to re-issue unused volume, although there is a power that is rarely utilized. In addition, the Province has to consult with impacted First Nations, two of whom are also shareholders in the forest. Some forests have chosen not to harvest at all and have not been penalized to date.

Q11. Who manages the forests in the CRA and other areas in the valley outside the CCF area. Is there fire suppression efforts in these areas? Is there logging activities in these areas?

The Whistler Blackcomb CRA falls under the provincial Mountain Resorts Branch (MRB). MRB has been planning and implementing wildfire fuel reduction projects on the mountains since 2020 and has a multi-year plan to continue thinning high priority locations.

The CCF is 33,000 hectares and is the sole forestry harvesting tenure holder for all of the crown land within it (not private or the Whistler Olympic Park). No other companies can harvest wood within the CCF tenure. Commercial recreation operators within the CCF can develop their tenure areas according to their approved master plans and it may involve some land clearing at times.

Q12. Do you have a map that shows both the fuel management treatment areas and the proposed harvesting blocks for the WedgeWoods/Wedge area? They look to be close to each other. How do the two sets of prescriptions and harvesting mesh? Do they complement each other (i.e., does the fuel management prescription impact the objectives for species at risk positively or negatively)?

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Q13. The "voluntary" identified "protected area" for EBM looks to be quite a low proportion of the total percentage "protected". Could you show the slide with these again please?

The voluntary EBM reserves are designed to represent roughly 40% of the land base. Approximately 31% of the 40% has been identified on the ground and the Board retains the remaining 9% as a reserve and/or for aspatial protections.

Q14. Does ecosystem based management protect fungal and plant species that survive on or below the forest floor? These species are essential for water retention in the forest and the renewal of the forest after harvesting.

Yes, forest reserves (EBM, OGMA, Wildlands, Parks and others) protect all forest elements below and above ground.

Q15. Was it challenging for the partners to come to a decision to defer the harvesting of Old Growth?

No.

Q17. Does CCF publish their financials?

The CCF has not published their financials. They are currently in the process of re-stating several year's worth of financials to a common standard for year over year comparisons. When this is complete, the Cheakamus Community Forest Limited Partnership will be published on their website.

Q18. Follow on to Dan's heli logging question - in addition to financial accounting will you be doing calculations on related ghg emissions.

There are no plans to calculate ghg emissions of logging operations at this time.

Q19. You mentioned First Nations financial opportunities: are there economic alternatives for Lil'wat so they have the option to protect areas of the forest without economic pressure? Is this something being considered if it is not currently in place? (I'm thinking similar to the Great Bear Rainforest or similar models)

The Lil'wat and Squamish Nations entered into a Partnership Agreement with the Resort Municipality of Whistler. This provided the partners with an opportunity to manage a large land base and reduce the harvest from the "Business as Usual" case from 40,000m³ to 20,000m³. In addition, the CCF has focused most of its work in the past few years on non-commercial harvesting, subsidized by government grants to focus on wildfire risk reduction projects.

Both Nations are continually reviewing operations. The Nations were instrumental in the creation of new conservancies (Upper Soo and Callaghan) within the Whistler area, as well as the reduction in the AAC through the establishment of the CCF. The Lil'wat Nation was also involved in the creation of conservancies throughout its territory including:

1. Mkwál'ts (<https://www.bcparks.ca/explore/cnsrvncy/mkwalts/mkwalt's-mp-mar-2012.pdf>)
2. K'zuzált (<https://bcparks.ca/explore/cnsrvncy/kzuzalt/>)
3. Nlháxten (<https://bcparks.ca/planning/mgmtplns/nlhaxten-cerise-crk/nlhaxten-cerise-crk-mp-final-signed-2019.pdf>)

Approximately 70% of the forested land in Lil'wat Territory is currently fully protected. The community continually provides feedback on operations and identifies of strategic importance where harvesting is, or is not allowed.

The Great Bear Rainforest currently has protections over 85% of the land base. With old growth deferrals currently in place, the land base in the Whistler Landscape Unit has protections of about 82%. We would consider ourselves in the same category in terms of innovation, protection of the landscape, ecosystem based management and carbon management as any other area in the Province.

It is very important that people understand the history of the land before rushing to judgement about economic alternatives.

Q20. FWAC's October 2021 minutes indicated that they did not support further harvesting without more community input. Would the CCF consider going outside their traditional engagement program to satisfy this resolution?

FWAC has been given a mandate to provide input to the RMOW Council on forestry related matters, including the CCF. The CCF board takes into account many viewpoints before making decisions. The CCF will continue to review FWAC input and commentary.

Q21. Is there any work being done on understanding how our older forests will survive in a warming climate? I heard that mountain hemlock will not be suitable for this climate going forward, but that is most of the old growth. So how does that work?

The CCF is not independently engaged in studying the impacts of climate change on old forests. There are a number of forest scientists and academics studying this topic as it relates to BC forests in general and it is this work that the CCF relies upon to make management decisions.

Mountain hemlock grows at higher elevations in the CCF as do other tree species adapted to heavy snowpack such as yellow cedar, alpine fir and whitebark pine. Climate change suggests that there will be a gradual change of species composition in relation to elevation and snowpack. Lower elevation species will be able to grow at higher elevations as climate warms.

Q22. Does the CCF have plans to reduce the impacts from extensive human activities in the CCF that impact biodiversity? (e.g. trails, camping, driving). The Ancient Cedars are beautiful but the ground vegetation is totally gone. Similarly, constant trail riding disturbs wildlife.

The CCF has a tenure for forest harvesting and has no authority over other forest activities like recreation, so it does not have specific plans to reduce the impact from extensive human activities. However, the CCF is willing to fund some of this work if plans are presented on how to do so. Sensitive, rare ecosystems that are identified as threatened will be the focus of future protection through efforts by the CCF, government and other governing bodies.

Q23. How many workers or man days are supported by harvesting? Wildfire management?

In 2021 the CCF employed 21 workers for 165 days for a total of 3280 hours of employment.

Q24. Do you think it is a possible reality that the allowable cut expectations are unsustainable. This at least in our valley seems to be apparent from what I hear tonight. How likely is it that the province will come to understand this and set realistic harvest levels that protect environmental and financial diversity?

Anything is possible. The CCF reviews its AAC on a 10 year cycle and increases, or decreases based on on-going data collection and best available information. The CCF does not agree that current AAC's are unsustainable. The information showing the current cut is sustainable is prepared independently by a third party contractor and reviewed by the government.

Q25. The financial model, as mentioned, is to generate a small amount of profit. If that profit amount was directed to the CCF participants from another outside source would the CCF continue to undertake timber harvesting?

If agreed to by all three parties.

Q26. Follow on from Dan's heli logging question - in addition to financial accounting will the CCF be doing calculations ghg emissions related to heli-logging and embedding true cost of offsets.

It is not something the CCF currently does but will give it consideration.

Q27. It is encouraging that 250 plus years timelines are in discussion however we are told that climate changes that may occur unless significant reduction of fossil energy world wide is accomplished within the next 10 perhaps 20 years. Does CCF assume the climate of the valley will remain as it is, glaciers for example will not recede, weather patterns and rainfall will remain at historical norms.

The CCF understands changes are occurring because of climate change and relies on the best science available to plan for the future of the forests. The CCF recognises that climate is changing faster than it has historically to shape the forests we now have. The CCF also recognizes that forests are dynamic and will adapt to changes in climate.

Q28. Has any revenue actually ever been "returned to the community"?

The CCF has not had any revenue to return directly to the community. 2021 was the first year with an on-going operating surplus and enough money left to satisfy requirements in our partnership agreement to save money in the event of a downturn in the forest industry. Over the years, the CCF has assisted with parking and small road improvements at recreation locations such as at the Ancient Cedars.

Q29. Comment regarding documenting GHG emissions associated with operations (helicopter and other): It is good (if not standard) corporate practice to track and report on emissions associated with operations (on and off road fuel, aviation and other fuel

use, as well as office and other sources). I would recommend to the Board that this reporting be instituted by the CCF.

Yes it is and the CCF will consider how it may do so.

Q30. Question and comment re financial accounting and reporting: Isn't this a fundamental accountability and legal responsibility? Not just a "difficult administrative cost"?

Yes. The CCF is investing substantially to improve its financial reporting. Financial reporting has been completed on an annual basis by a CPA to an acceptable standard (annually) but is difficult to compare year over year.

Q31. Most recent CCF report where direct employment is detailed on the CCF website is the 2018 annual report and shows 5.2 FTE's (full time equivalents). Other provinces are getting 5 times more jobs per m3, mostly from secondary manufacturing. My understanding is there have been discussions on opportunities for secondary manufacturing and wondering if there has been any progress in this area? especially with a focus on second growth as the source wood?

The CCF is one of multiple tenures held by both the Squamish and Lil'wat Nations. Lil'wat Forestry Ventures LP manages an AAC of approximately 150,000m³ annually and Sqomish Forestry manages a large volume as well. We are continually reviewing opportunities for value added businesses.

All wood produced in British Columbia must be made available first to BC mills. Before any export occurs, wood is advertised and must meet the "Surplus Needs" test to ensure that local mills have the opportunity to purchase the wood.