

Introduction

The Cheakamus Community Forest encompasses more than 33,000 hectares of land surrounding Whistler. It was established in April 2009 when the Lil'wat Nation, Squamish Nation, and the Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW) jointly signed a 25-year tenure with the B. C. Ministry of Forests and Range. These three equal partners oversee the management and operations of the forest under the auspices of the Cheakamus Community Forest Society, an independent not-for-profit organization.

Indicators must be:

- *Measurable*
- *Credible*
- *Engaging*

Community forests are different from other tenures because they are managed by the community, for the benefit of the community. The Cheakamus Community Forest (CCF) actively works with its community members and local stakeholders to develop forest harvesting and management plans that benefit the larger community, such as protecting recreation features, viewsapes, cultural assets, and important habitats.

Indicators Framework and Methodology

The BC Community Forest Association (BCCFA) collaborated with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations to develop an indicator system to measure and track the benefits of community forests. The CCF uses the BCCFA indicator framework plus additional indicators specific to the CCF to collect data that track both the community benefits and contributions of this venture.

What's New in 2024

The CCF harvested its first blocks since 2021 in the Callaghan Valley. Three different blocks produced approximately 13,000m³ of timber with the work completed by SkyTech Yarding and Lil'wat Forestry Ventures. The blocks were all in second growth forest and took steps to begin increasing forest species and age diversity through forest management, as well as meet the terms of our tenure agreement with the Province to harvest timber.

On the carbon front, the Brinkman Group completed the project audit which was verified successfully by KPMG. The work focuses on the 2019 - 2023 period and confirms that the CCF installed and maintained management systems that meet Provincial protocols to confirm the offsets generated during that timeframe.

The CCF launched an exciting development in its management approach at the December 3, 2024 information session held at the Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre. It is developing a climate resiliency plan that builds on the Ecosystem-based Management plan and incorporates the CCF's main risks: climate change, wildfire and pests. A risk assessment of the forest will identify the most vulnerable areas and in turn drive the forest management, silviculture and harvesting plans.

Objectives

Eighteen indicators are used to measure progress towards the following **four key objectives**:

- A. Community forests provide economic benefits to their communities and to British Columbia.***
- B. Community forests provide social benefits to their communities and to the province; they promote community involvement and participation, and forest worker safety.***
- C. Community forests promote communication and strengthen relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities and persons.***
- D. Community forest management is consistent with sound principles of environmental stewardship that reflect a broad spectrum of values.***

Community Forest Objectives and Indicators

Objective A: Community forests provide economic benefits to their communities and to the province of British Columbia.

This is measured by:

1. The number of jobs the community forest creates
2. The total economic activity generated by the community forest
3. The cash and in-kind contributions made by the community forest
4. The additional funds leveraged by those contributions
5. The active role the community forests play in the forest sector through harvesting
6. Support for the full spectrum of milling and manufacturing facilities
7. Investments in the future economic return of the forest through intensive silviculture
8. Efforts to diversify the economic activities of the community forest

Objective B: Community forests provide social benefits to their communities and to the province; they promote community involvement and participation, and forest worker safety.

This is measured by:

9. The accountability of the community forest agreement holder to the local community
10. The range and depth of engagement with different sectors of the community
11. Investments in education
12. Investments in forest-based tourism and recreation
13. Proactive efforts to reduce the wildfire hazard to communities
14. Forest worker safety

Objective C: Community forestry promotes communication and strengthens relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities and persons.

This is measured by:

15. The breadth and depth of First Nation involvement in community forests.

Objective D: Community forestry is consistent with sound principles of environmental stewardship that reflect a broad spectrum of values.

This is measured by:

16. The management of sensitive areas
17. Investments in forest stewardship incremental to legal requirements
18. Compliance with environmental standards

Indicator #1: Number of Jobs

Addresses the Economic Objective

Rationale

This indicator will measure both the number of jobs per year and the number of jobs per cubic metre. Employment during shoulder season and diversifying the tourist economy is one of the primary benefits of the CCF. This indicator measures the total direct employment and contract labour generated by the community forest. Further, the number of jobs/m³ shows the value, in terms of employment, of the harvest volume allocated to community forests.

Ref#	Indicator	2024		Notes for 2024	2023	2022
1 (a)	Direct Employment	~16,400	(hrs/yr)	CCF Executive Director (504) Chartwell Resource Group staff (733) SkyTech Yarding (3790 hours) Lil'wat Forestry Ventures (9357 hours) Archaeological surveys Frontera Forest Solutions (climate risk assessment) Brinkman (carbon project & audit) KPMG (carbon verification - 200 hours) Ashlaur Trading (log broker) BDO Accountants Tree Planting (2 supervisors, 10 crew)	3478	1532
1 (b)	Number of people involved	~33	#	See above1	36	4
1 (ci)	Volume M ³ Harvested	13,966	M ³	P03, P04 & P05 in Callaghan Valley	500	120
1(cii)	Area of Retention Logging	29.3	Ha	All retention harvesting	500	120
1(ciii)	Area of Fuel Thinning	20.7	Ha	Wedgewoods	20.7	0
1(civ)	Total Area of Old Forest Logged	0	Ha	CCF Board declared moratorium on old growth harvesting in 2021 and continued through 2024	0	0
1 (d)	Production / AAC	66.5	%	2024-2028 Cut Control Period; 21,000m ³ /year = Annual Allowable Cut	19.6	19.5

Indicator #2: Total Economic Activity

Addresses the Economic Objective

Rationale

As long-term area-based tenures, community forests support long-term community economic development resulting in more self-reliant rural communities. The total annual cost of sales and expenditures is an indicator of the total economic activity generated by the community forest.

Ref#	Indicator	2024	Notes for 2024	2023	2022
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2 (a)	Total Volume Sold	12,872	M ³	All billed timber harvested in 2024 was sold in 2024	471	37.5
2 (b)	Total Value of Sales	1,526,295	\$	Gross value of 2024 logs sold	18,029	8170
2 (c)	Total Value of all Expenditures	1,399,921	\$	Cost of good sold & operating expenses	117,751	
2 (d)	Rate of return per cubic metre (net)	9.82	\$	Average net profit/m3 from Log Sales	(212)	
2(e)	Long term debt	0	\$		0	0

Indicator #3: Community Contributions

Addresses the Economic, Social and Environmental Objectives

Rationale

The cash and in-kind contributions made by the community forest are an important indicator of the distribution of economic benefits locally. In many cases, these contributions serve social objectives, in addition to economic ones.

Ref#	Indicator	2024		Notes for 2024	2023	2022
3 (a)	Total \$ contributed by CCF through improvements to the forest	0	\$		0	1214
3 (b)	Total \$ contributed in kind		\$		0	0

Indicator #4: Funds Leveraged by the Community Forest

Addresses the Economic, Social and Environmental Objectives

Rationale

In many cases, the profits generated and contributions made by community forests are used as seed money to grow larger projects and generate even more local benefits. This indicator will show how CCF funds are used to leverage additional funds for community priorities. As with Indicator #3, often these projects serve social objectives, in addition to economic ones.

Ref#	Indicator	2024 Amount		Notes for 2024	2023	2022
4 (a)	Total \$ from outside sources for local projects, leveraged by CCF.	\$20,700	\$	Final work on Wedgewoods wildfire mitigation site. Forest Enhancement BC funding.	439,700	0

Indicator #5: Cut Control

Addresses the Economic Objective

Rationale

Community forests play an active role in the forest sector through harvesting. This indicator measures its success at meeting cut control requirements, keeping the supply of logs flowing. The CCF tenure agreement states that the CCF is responsible to cut 21,000 m³ per year. The province measures this in 5-year increments called the cut control period.

Ref#	Indicator	2024 Amount		Notes for 2024	2023	2022
5 (a)	Aggregate volume cut in current cut control period	13,966	M3	Harvested timber billed - 12,872m ³ Timber wasted or damaged - 1,094m ³	20,495	20,024
5 (b)	AAC current position	66.5	%		19.5	23.8
5 (c)	Year within cut control cycle	1	Year	Cut control period is 2024-2028	5	4

Indicator #6: Distribution of Logs and Forest Products

Addresses the Economic Objective

Rationale

Community forests supply wood on the open market to major industry, and also to small and medium sized mills and value-added manufacturers. In doing so, they strive to support the full spectrum of milling and manufacturing facilities. This indicator will provide updated information on the distribution of log sales that can be tracked over time.

Ref#	Indicator	2024 Amount		Notes for 2024	2023	2022
NOTE: All CCF logs are sold through a log broker						
6 (a)	Volume to Composter	0	tonnes		0	0
6 (b)	Volume to small mill	650	M³	Mill consumption <95k m3	0	0
	Volume to med mill	1300	M³	Mill consumption >95k m3 but <295K m3 Cedar gang/cns	0	0
	Volume to large mill	9,650	M³	Mill consumption >295,000k m3 (Coastland near Nanaimo and a veneer mill)	471	37
6 (c)	Volume to Poles or Log Homes	0	M3	Log Homes	0	0
6 (d)	Volume to Custom Cut	0	M³	Lower Mainland	0	0
6 (e)	Volume to Pulp	1300	M³	Logs only – Howe Sound Pulp	0	0
6 (f)	Volume of export	0	M³	Unmanufactured logs	0	0
6 (g)	Other (i.e. firewood or cultural logs)	0	M³	Does not include public gathering from roadside materials	0	0

Indicator #7: Investments in Silviculture

Addresses the Economic Objective

Rationale

As long-term, area-based tenures, community forest agreements create strong incentives for investment in the future. Basic Silviculture is the legal obligation to reforest all harvested areas with ecologically suitable native tree species, including the monitoring of plantation performance and maintenance to ensure crop trees are not hindered by brush communities. Another indicator measures the additional investments in the future economic return of the forest. By measuring the investments in intensive Silviculture stand treatments beyond the basic obligations of reforestation and early plantation maintenance, it will demonstrate efforts to increase future yields in the community forest.

Ref#	Indicator	2024 Amount		Notes for 2024	2023	2022
7 (a)	Incremental Silviculture Projects funded by CCF	0	\$	CCF is only doing basic silviculture requirements currently, not incremental	0	0
7 (b)	Incremental Silviculture Projects funded by Gov	0	\$		0	0
7 (c)	Total Ha Treated Incremental to Basic Ref	0	Ha		0	0
7 (d)	Total cumulative Ha of Incremental Treatment	0	Ha		0	0
7.(e)	Total number of planted trees	21,600	#		0	0
7.(f)	Total Ha Planted /Reforested	31	Ha		0	
7.(g)	Cumulative Ha Reforested	256	Ha		225	

Indicator #8: Economic Diversification

Addresses the Economic Objective

Rationale

One of the provincial objectives for the community forest program is to diversify the use of and benefits derived from the community forest agreement area. The Community Forest Agreement (CFA) tenure is one of only two forest tenures in BC that has the right to develop and manage Non-Timber Forest Resources (NTFRs). Section 43.3 of the Community Forest Legislation through the Forest Act gives rights to harvest and collect fees for NTFRs.

The indicator will show the degree to which community forests are generating revenue from sources other than timber. These include botanical forest products and other prescribed products such as carbon credits as listed in Schedule C of the Community Forest Agreement Licence.

Ref#	Indicator	2024 Amount		Notes for 2024	2023	2022
8 (a)	Value of Non-Timber Forest Products Sold	0	\$	No current regulated NTFP or Firewood in CCF tenure	0	0
8 (b)	Value of Annual Carbon Sales	246,530	\$	Sold to Renfrew Properties, Festival Transamerique, ZGF Architects, RMOW, WLNG for construction phase	562,725	63,346

Indicator #9: Community Accountability

Addresses the Social Objective

Rationale

One of the elements of community forests that set them apart from other forest tenures is their accountability to their local communities. This accountability is the cornerstone of local decision-making. In community forestry, management decisions are made by those who have to live with them. Furthermore, when local people have a hand in management of the forests adjacent to their rural communities, they are more likely to be innovative in the integration of multiple values in their decision-making. This indicator measures whether the community forest reports out annually to its community on its progress towards objectives as identified in the Community Forest Agreement Management Plan.

Ref#	Indicator	2024 Amount		Notes for 2024	2023	2022
9 (a)	# of open houses in year	1	#	December 2024 Information Session @ SLCC	2	2
9 (b)	Annual Indicators report to BCCFA	1	#	Combined BCCFA – CCF Annual Report posted on website	1	1
9 (c)	Annual Silviculture Report	0	#		0	1

Indicator #10: Public Engagement

Addresses the Social Objective

Rationale

While Indicator #9 focuses on reporting out to the community, this indicator measures the efforts of the community forest to engage with the diversity of community members. Outreach to the full array of forest users and community members leads to an improved awareness of forest management among members of the public, and increases potential to resolve conflicts over timber harvesting in watersheds and other sensitive areas.

Ref#	Indicator	2024 Amount		Notes for 2024	2023	2022
10 (a)	# CCF meetings or field trips	9	#	2 UBC forestry program field trips 1 BCIT forestry class trip to Wedgewoods 1 public walk in WIF (really hot & only 6 people showed up) 1 FESBC and PWC Fuel Reduction site visit 4 CCF Board Meetings	3	4
10 (b)	# of stakeholder meetings	12	#	Correspondence & site visits with TAG, Blackcomb Snowmobile, Wedgewoods, Canadian Wilderness Adventures. Met with WORCA reps 4x	6	10
10(c)	# of public comments received from Annual Info Session	35	#	December 2024 info session was attended by ~35 people. Very positive response.	~530	24

Indicator #11: Investments in Community Education

Addresses the Social Objective

Rationale

Community forests provide an opportunity to link community members to the forest, and to increase their understanding of forest ecosystems and management. As long-term, area-based tenures, community forests provide enhanced opportunities for education and research. Community forests can be laboratories for testing innovative forest practices. This indicator measures the investments the community forest is making in education and capacity building.

Ref#	Indicator	2024 Amount		Notes for 2024	2023	2022
11 (a)	Hours of educational or extension activities	8	Hrs	Includes open houses and tours to International or Scholastic Groups (excluding board members)	6	25
11 (b)	Value invested in educational tours in the forest	500	\$	Whistler Interpretive Forest tour; UBC tours	450	0
11 (c)	Capacity Building for First Nation Forest Workers	0	\$	Training supported by CCF (first aid, faller certification, on-site training, etc.)	0	1
11 (d)	Public speakers/workshops	1	Event	1 public presentation - Andy MacKinnon on the Value of Old Growth Forests @ SLCC		

Indicator #12: Investments in Forest-based Tourism and Recreation

Addresses the Social Objective

Rationale

The Sea to Sky corridor's economy is dominated by the tourism industry, and forest-based commercial recreation is a large component along with significant public recreation use. One of the most important benefits for many communities that have community forests are the investments the organization makes in creating, improving and maintaining recreational infrastructure and opportunities. This indicator will measure the value of the cash and in-kind investments in recreation that the CCF has made in the reporting year and over time.

Ref#	Indicator	2024 Amount		Notes for 2024	2023	2022
12 (a)	CCF investments in forest-based tourism & recreation planning in K3V	2154	\$	CCF and WORCA signed a collaborative planning policy and meet 3-4 times per year. Sponsored a WORCA trail building night & hired WORCA to repair High Hopes after the Wedgewoods wildfire mitigation project.	~\$5000	2,145
12 (b)	In-kind investment in forest-based tourism & recreation in K3V	3000	\$	Trail work to date shown in 2022 & 2023. 2024 shows this year's investment. Executive Director and Chartwell Resource Group staff time spent on recreation issues in 2024 (estimate). Meetings, planning	41,700	41,700

12 (c)	New or modified recreation trails within the CCF	1	Km	High Hopes was repaired plus trail through wildfire area	0	0
12 (d)	Total Km of trails in CCF and urban areas of RMOW	645	km	Double Track Trail: 146 km Hiking: 146 km Mountain Biking: 297 km Valley Trail Paved: 40 km (Source RBAMP, 2016)	645	645
12 (d)	Other recreation planning or projects implemented in CCF	1	#	Teamed up with Indigenous Life Sport Academy & WORCA to bring group of Lil'wat youth to build trail in CCF	1	1
12 (f)	# of partnerships in forest recreation projects	1	#	WORCA	2	2

Indicator #13: Proactive Management of Wildfire Hazard

Addresses the Economic, Social and Environmental Objectives

Rationale

The combined effects of climate change, the mountain pine beetle, past management increasing forest fuels and the province's limited fire suppression capacity are leading to an increase in wildfire incidence and severity. Community forests are situated in the interface between communities and wild forest lands, and are uniquely positioned to serve as a leader in the coordination and management of these areas to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire. Efforts to manage the wildfire hazard to communities are primarily driven by social objectives, however depending on the ecosystem type, history and outcome of the treatments; they may also bring economic and environmental benefits. The CCF and RMOW partner to deliver the RMOW's Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan.

Ref#	Indicator	2024 Amount		Notes for 2024	2023	2022
13 (a)	Area of Fuel Reduction Treatments within K3V	20.7	Ha	Wedgewoods completed in 2024	20.7	0
13. (b)	Value of Fuel Reduction Treatments	462,700	\$		442,000	0
13 (c)	Total cumulative area treated for Wildfire reduction in K3V	355.6	Ha	Wedgewoods	334.9	314.2
13. (d)	Total cumulative value of Fuel Reduction Treatments in CCF.	2,285,132	\$	Combined value of C02, C03 and C04; Callaghan FSR; Wedge site operations (FESBC and RMOW funding)	2,265,132	1,823,132

Indicator #14: Forest Worker Safety

Addresses the Social Objective

Rationale

One of the provincial government's objectives for the community forest program is to advocate forest worker safety.

Ref#	Indicator	2024 Amount	Notes for 2024	2023	2022
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14 (a)	# of Safe Certified Projects	2	#	Skytech Logging Ltd / Lilwat Forestry Ventures (P03, P04, P05, Wedgewoods)	1	2
14 (b)	# of recordable loss time incidents	0	#		0	0
14 (c)	Avg duration of time loss incidents	0	#		0	0

Indicator #15: First Nations Involvement

Addresses the Social Objective

Rationale

The CCF is managed by three equal partners including the Squamish and Lil'wat Nations. This indicator will measure the breadth and depth of First Nations involvement in the community forest. It will serve to demonstrate how effective the CCF is at working with the First Nations within whose territory the community forest is located.

Ref#	Indicator	2024 Amount		Notes for 2024	2023	2022
15 (a)	% of First Nation partners on Board	66	%	Squamish Nation and Lil'wat Nation partner with RMOW	66	66
15 (b)	# of First Nation partners	2	#	Squamish Nation and Lil'wat Nation	2	2
15 (c)	# of work days on Cultural Field Assessments	3	#	Archaeological assessment involving 4 staff from Squamish & Lil'wat Nations	3	21
15 (d)	% of First Nation owned contractors involved in log production	50	%	SkyTech Yarding (non First Nation) is lead contractor with additional labour and skills provided by Lil'wat Forestry Ventures.	50	100%

Indicator #16: Management of Sensitive Areas

Addresses the Environmental Objective

Rationale

Community forests, by their design, must integrate the values of the communities that manage them. The CCF operates under a voluntary Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) system which integrates environmental, social and economic values. It must also comply with the tenure regulations and Acts of British Columbia. EBM seeks to balance choices in maintaining and/or enhancing ecological integrity while at the same time maintaining and/or enhancing human well-being. EBM uses science-based decision making, traditional and local knowledge, engagement of community members, ongoing monitoring, and adaptive planning and management, which allows for changing EBM practice and management in response to an evolving knowledge base.

Ref#	Indicator	2024 Amount		Notes for 2024	2023	2022
16 (a)i	Total Ha in CCF	33,018	Ha		33,018	33,018
16 (a)ii	Total Forested Area	29,729	Ha		29,729	29,729
16. b	Total Ha protected by government enactments	33	%	OGMA = 3,165 Ha Wildlands= 6145 Ha Wildlife Habitat Areas = 555 Ha	33	33

				Total Legal Protection = 9865 Ha		
16. b	Total Ha voluntarily protected under EBM	12.5	%	EBM Reserves = 3,713 ha	12.5	12.5
16. c	Ha of special forest areas identified in year	0	Ha		0	0
16. d	Cumulative area harvested in CCF under retention regime	240	Ha	Total area since 2009 as per Annual Plan Map	225	225
16.e	Percentage of CCF that is available for harvesting	54	%	Forest & Range Practices Act Timber Harvesting Land Base (THLB) = 11,024 Ha EBM THLB = 8,056 Ha (does not include Old Growth deferral areas)	54	54
16.f	Area of CCF that is identified as sensitive to First Nation Culture or Commercial Recreation Operations under special resource management	4	%	Special Management Zones were established under the 2015 Integrated Resource Management Plan and total 649 Ha for Commercial Recreation and 392 HA for FN Cultural. Total of 1,041 hectares	4	4

Indicator #17: Investments in Forest Stewardship

Addresses the Social and Environmental Objectives

Rationale

This indicator will demonstrate the investments the community forest is making in enhanced forest stewardship, incremental to legal requirements.

Ref#	Indicator	2024 Amount		Notes for 2024	2023	2022
17 (a)	Ha of roads or disturbed areas fully rehabilitated and returned to the forested land base in year	0	Ha		0	0.08
17 (b)	Ha of riparian enhancement or restoration in year	0	Ha		0	0
17 (c)	Annual area harvested using EBM retention principles	29.3	Ha	Callaghan P03, P04 & P05 blocks	0	1
17 (d)	Annual average opening size	9.7	Ha	Retention Logging Areas only (not Wedgewoods wildfire treatment area)	4-5	4-5
17 (e)	Investment made by the CCF in enhanced management for ecological and social reasons.	35,422	\$	Estimated 30% increase in harvesting costs due to small opening retention systems (planning & conventional logging costs from cost survey); Climate Risk Assessment by Frontera Forest Solutions started in 2024	N/A	N/A

				(\$25,000 contract - 50% included in 2024)		
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#18: Compliance with Environmental Standards

Addresses the Environmental Objective

Rationale

This indicator shows that the management of the community forest is in compliance with statutory requirements for resource management.

Ref#	Indicator	2024 Amount		Notes for 2024	2023	2022
18. a	Confirmed Compliance inspections (FLNRO)	0	#		0	0
18. b	Non-compliance items	0	#		0	0
18. c	3 rd party audits or inspections	No	Yes/No		Yes	Yes