



## **Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative**

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### **President's Report – AGM, 2011-2012**

**April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

I have enjoyed serving the SIFCo community for the past year in my first term as President. I have had the pleasure of working with a productive board, which included four new directors who have risen to the position. It has been my experience that our member organizations and the community at large are well served by the commitment of these representatives.

Our earliest years saw most of our resources dedicated to the development of fundamental building blocks designed to create a strong and cohesive beginning for us; our basic organizational structures, our Forest Stewardship Plan, our Landscape Level Plan to name a few, structures and tools that reflect our basic values and point the way to our future. We are building on that foundation. Each year we accomplish new milestones and develop a deeper and clearer understanding of how to move forward. Here is a brief overview of what we have achieved in our most recent year of operation.

#### **MILESTONES AND INTERNAL PROGRESS**

##### ***Timber Supply Review***

It was always our goal to evaluate our landbase in a manner consistent with our own values and vision for sustainable planning. Tom Bradley, our Woodlands Manager, completed a Timber Supply Review for SIFCo this year, and presented the results in a series of four community meetings, one in each of our geographic areas. Each geographic area has the same planning principals applied, with a resulting plan that is unique to that area.

##### ***Long term license***

On December 11th 2011 Stephan Martineau, our Manager, signed our long term license. SIFCo now has a renewable tenure until December of 2036. We have at least 25 more years to ensure careful, community driven planning in our watersheds.

##### ***Tenure wide salvage license***

In December 2011, the board of directors asked Tom Bradley to pursue a tenure wide salvage license for SIFCo. This will provide relief from the unpredictable financial expense of responding to salvage applications on our landbase submitted by a third party, and will ensure that all logging on our landbase will be developed according to SIFCo values and oversight.

*New RPF* – Erik Leslie was hired as our new Registered Professional Forester in June of 2011. Erik has worked extensively with Jim Smith of Creston, our previous RPF who has recently retired. Erik is also the RPF for Harrop Procter Community Forest, so has experience working with a community owned forestry company.

## **LOGGING**

Markets through the spring and summer of 2011 continued to be depressed, though they rebounded somewhat in the fall. After a discussion about the necessity of logging in a financial climate that is mediocre at best, a decision was made by the board to proceed with two logging blocks.

Earlier in the year, the board of directors approved a process for adjudicating possible logging blocks. The first block to go through this process was the first block in the EACT area, a block in the Trozzo Creek drainage.

### ***First EACT area to be managed, Trozzo Creek***

This area consists of an approximately 110 year old forest of larch/douglas fir overstory over a 60 to 80 year old cedar understory. The goal is to leave an overstory of larch/fir over an all aged cedar stand. This will be accomplished by a first pass partial cut. We anticipate a cut of approximately 3500 cubic meters. A field trip with local residents was undertaken. Residents were satisfied with the plan and appreciated being part of the planning process. In September a logging contract was signed with Bernie Clover. Work started in November and continued until the early snowfall made the road unsafe. Logging will resume in the spring of 2012 as soon as the road is useable.

### ***First Winlaw area to be managed, Winlaw Creek***

The second area to go through our new approval process was an area in the Winlaw Watershed. This area is quite unique in that it is low altitude, south facing and very dry. Mirkwood Ecological Consultants were hired to assess the area to determine if it should be managed or left alone. Their report recommended managing with priority on ungulate winter range values, biodiversity, and balancing the forest to hotter, dryer conditions. Again, residents participated in a field trip and approved our plans. We were all ready to commence work, but with a lighter than average snow load at lower altitudes, we were unable to undertake this work under the recommended snow cover conditions. This is ready to go as soon as snow conditions allow.

### ***First Slocan/Lemon area up Ponderosa Forestry Road***

We are currently working on a first proposal for work in this area; a meeting with residents is planned for May of this year to gather feedback on our proposal.

## **PROJECTS**

SIFCo continues to pursue opportunities in the Wildland/Urban Interface arena. This work provides a valuable reduction of wildfire risk for local residents, one of SIFCo's core objectives. These projects also allow us to diversify our income stream, as well as provide local employment and the infusion of dollars into the local economy.

### ***Silverton/Red Mountain WUI Prescription***

Through a lengthy process that involved meeting with RDCK staff and local elected officials, Stephan was able to successfully negotiate a contract to develop a prescription for WUI work in the Silverton/Red Mountain area. While the contract in itself was not particularly large (\$10,000.00) it set the stage for SIFCo to support the Village of Silverton in securing a UBCM grant to deliver a WUI project in the prescribed area.

### ***Silverton/Red Mountain WUI Project***

In March 2012, a contract with the Village of Silverton was signed, for SIFCo to deliver WUI work on 47.5 hectares in the Silverton/Red Mountain area. This is perhaps the largest single WUI area allocated for treatment, to date in the West Kootenays. This is important to note as it reflects our philosophy that treatment areas should be large enough to truly offer some degree of protection to a community, contrary to the prevalent current approach which is to treat very small parcels that are scattered. This project will bring approximately \$400,000 into our community in the way of wages and materials purchased (we buy locally whenever we can), and will contribute financially to SIFCo.

### ***Intern Projects***

In October of 2011, we were approached by Elissa Berrill, a University student working on a science masters degree in environmental planning, in Sweden. She grew up in Slocan Park, and was interested in doing an internship with us. I am so glad we said yes. In all of the projects she took on for us, Elissa impressed us all with her work ethic, her independence and her never say stop attitude.

#### **1. Value Added**

Elissa surveyed at least 16 local value added businesses gathering information about potential niche markets that may be of interest to SIFCo, how and where they get their raw materials, and how much wood they use annually. She incorporated many of these businesses into the local value added section of our website, with great photos and succinct business bios.

#### **2. Education**

Elissa developed a presentation on the Inland Temperate Rainforest for elementary students and delivered the program to five local schools. I did three of the presentations with her and got to see her in action. Her presentation included an introductory power point presentation, interactive stations that were very imaginative and engaging, and a wrap up discussion where students were able to share what they had learned. This was a great out-reach opportunity for SIFCo; we reached between 50 and 60 students from Crescent Valley to New Denver. All of the teachers were very happy with our presentation and I'm sure they would welcome us back again.

#### **3. Celebration**

Elissa was also instrumental in planning and executing our celebration in February 2012 at the Valley View Golf Course. She provided great encouragement as kids and adults participated in the timed cross-country ski laps, and I don't think any of the kids who participated in the marathon scavenger hunt, will ever forget it.

And the icing on the cake (we did have a beautiful cake at our celebration, appropriately decked out with SIFCo's logo) is that she left us comprehensive reports on all of the projects that she undertook that will allow us to build further on any of them if we choose.

### ***SIFCo's Long Term License Celebration***

Residents of the Slocan Valley have been working towards managing our domestic use watersheds for ourselves, for a long time. Folks have stood together, sang together, cried together, we've shaken our fists together and we've shaken our heads. Here we are now, with a vehicle for making our own decisions on how this land will be developed. For many of us, and in many ways, the reality of a community forest is not a perfect solution. But we got here together, and together we have an opportunity to manage the forests above and around our homes for at least another twenty-five years. I think that is worth celebrating.

So we ordered some snow, and with the gracious assistance of the Valley View Golf Club and the Slocan Valley Rails to Trails, we had a party. We cross country skied, we tobogganed, we watched the next generation have a great time traipsing around the golf course exhausting themselves on snow-shoes while searching for ribbons, all in the name of doing it together and finishing what they started. We stood around the fire and chatted with friends. We took pictures of ourselves looking older or younger than we thought we looked. Thanks to a generous donation from one of our directors, Brett Pope, we auctioned off a beautiful concrete/wooden bench. We drank buckets of hot chocolate and we ate a big green cake. By the time cake was served, about 150 people were present. There was standing room only in the Golf Club as we congratulated ourselves and each other, and looked forward to the rewards of our hard work.

### **IN CONCLUSION:**

2012 will be our busiest year in the bush to date; by the time our 2013 AGM comes around we plan to have worked in as many as three or four new areas; we have a WUI crew working for 8 months this year in the Silverton/Red Mountain area, and we are currently working with the Village of Slocan to mimic our successful WUI project with the Village of Silverton. We are also participating in a Biomass Recovery Study that could lead to further diversification of our economic stream and provide another environmentally responsible forestry project for our community.

We remain committed to evolving as a company and to sustainable practices in the forest that surrounds us, with each other, and beyond.

This report is respectfully submitted,



Lisa Farr  
President