THE HISTORY THAT LED TO SIFCo 1974 - 2002

Residents of the Slocan Valley had been dreaming and working towards community management of the forest that surrounds them since the mid-1970s



Plan is developed and released. This was a landmark community-driven initiative aimed at guiding land use and development in the Slocan Valley. It emphasized local control, environmental stewardship, and sustainable resource management.



The Slocan Valley Watershed Alliance (SVWA) is formed, becoming the first area in North America to have a resident-led, bioregional-wide Watershed Alliance. This Alliance consisted of multiple watershed user groups advocating for water protection and local decision making in regards to logging.

1980



The Hasty Creek Protest, just south of Silverton BC, was the largest resident arrest in Canadian history at the time, with 83 arrests. That year also saw the formation of The Silva Forest Foundation led by Herb Hammond.

1991-92



The Slocan Valley Ecosystem- Based Plan is released by the Slocan Valley Watershed Alliance and The Silva Forest Foundation, proposing a valley-wide community forest managed by and for the residents of the Slocan Valley. Although unsuccessfull, this created the foundation for the Community Forest program to begin across British Columbia.

1996



The Hills Protest - Slocan Valley residents gathered near Hills at the mouth of Bonanza Creek to protest planned logging in the surrounding watershed, calling for a moratorium to protect old-growth forests in BC. The first five pilot community forests are awarded in British Columbia.

1998



The Trozzo Creek Protest leads to more resident arrests. Slocan Forest Products goes ahead and begins logging in the Trozzo Watershed.

2000



1974-78

1979

forming water user associations (EACT

Association) in the Slocan Valley in order

to advocate for watershed protection,

laying the foundation for what would

Local water license holders begin

and the Perry Ridge Water Users

later become formal Water User

Committees.

1984-88

The 1984 and 1988 FLOW conferences in the Slocan Valley brought together environmental advocates and community

leaders to address the impacts of industrial development on watershed ecosystems. These conferences highlighted the need for legal protection of watersheds.

1993-94

The Slocan Valley is selected as a location for the Commission on Resources and the Environment (CORE), which was a significant land-use mediation initiative. This process was part of a broader effort to address environmental and land-use conflicts in the province, particularly involving forest management and indigenous rights. This two-year process failed to achieve consensus around forest management in the Slocan Valley

1997

The Perry's Ridge Protest on the west side of the Slocan Valley sees approximately 800 people protesting to prevent logging. Dozens of residents are arrested. A lengthy court case follows. Eventually Perry's Ridge is clearcut logged by Slocan Forest Products (SFP) and BCTS.

1999

The 1999 Flow Conference in the Slocan Valley brings hundreds of voices from across the province together to offer an inclusive vision of forest management that promotes watershed protection and job creation. 2002

The EACT water user group, in collaboration with Forest Ethics, are successful in creating a moratorium on logging in domestic watersheds in the Slocan Valley for two years. Slocan Forest Products is put up for sale and a few years later is bought by Canfor.

THE CREATION AND EVOLUTION OF SIFCo 2003 - 2025



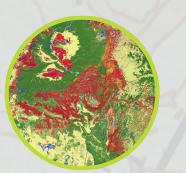
The Minister of Forests announces the availability of Community Forest Licenses as part of a broader tenure reallocation process in BC. Members of the Red Mountain Residents' Association, EACT & the Winlaw Watershed Committee begin a partnership to apply jointly for a Community Forest. These three groups formed the core of what became SIFCo.

Community meetings are held, the proposal receives over 70 letters of support from local governments, businesses, community organizations and individuals. This led to an official invitation by the provincial government to apply for a Community Forest in the Slocan Valley.



The Springer Creek Wildfire occurs (the largest wildfire event in the Slocan Valley in decades). SIFCo's CFA application is successful.

Twenty-five years of residents' efforts leads to a portion of the Slocan Valley being managed by local residents.



SIFCo imports Flammap from the U.S. Forest Service and develops a first-of-its-kind Landscape-Level Strategic Wildfire Protection Plan for the Slocan Valley. SIFCo spends the next decade implementing this plan.



Wildfire becomes a very common occurrence in The Slocan Valley

2020 Talbott Wildfire2021 Lemon/Trozzo/Winlaw Wildfire

• 2024 Slocan Lake Complex Wildfire



SIFCo enters into an agreement with the Appledale Progressive Association in order to create a Resiliency Centre for the Slocan Valle"y. The centre opens at the beginning of one of the worst fire seasons in recent history in the valley, the "Slocan Complex Wildfire of 2024".

2003-04

2005

2007

2014-16

2020-24

2022-24

2004

The Draft Vision for the proposed
Community Forest is written. It includes
ecosystem-based management,
Watershed Protection, Bioregional
Climate Change Adaptation, and Wildfire
preparedness in planning activities.

SIFCo is formed! In December 2006 we

finalized negotiations in regard to the landbase with BCTS and SFP/ Canfor/ Springer Creek Forest Products. All of the allocated land base is intentionally chosen by SIFCo to be within domestic use watersheds: some the most contentious areas in the Slocan Valley.

2006

2009

SIFCo Implements its first three Wildfire Mitigation Treatments within the Trozzo, Winlaw and Anderson Creek Watersheds. SIFCo writes new stocking standards in Wildland Urban Interface zones as part of their approved Forest Stewardship Plan.

2018

SIFCo, in partnership with BC Wildfire Services, plans and begins to carry out the first of five prescribed burns in the Slocan Valley. This is the first prescribed burn in the province to be conducted within close proximity to homes. 2018 also saw SIFCo host an international wildfire conference (attended by 225 delegates), bringing the issue of wildfire to the forefront of BC forest management.

2021-24

Seven of SIFCo's treatment areas interact directly with wildfires, showing that planning and implementation of these treatment types significantly help to protect communities when wildfires occur.

2025

SIFCo has successfully mitigated over 3000 acres of Slocan Valley Forest and is near completion of its 2015 vision of creating 12 landscape-level wildfire mitigated areas, resulting in defendable zones within the Slocan Valley when a wildfire occurs.

