



Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative

Box 189, Winlaw, B.C., V0G 2J0
ph 250-226-7012 fax 250-226-7014
office@SIFCo.ca www.SIFCo.ca

President's Report for the 2017/2018 Year

May 30, 2018

Welcome everyone, to SIFCo's 12th Annual General Meeting.

I began last year's report by discussing what a busy year 2016 had been; a result of starting to implement our Slocan Valley Landscape Level Fuel Management Plan (the Plan). We are now fully engaged in that implementation, and along with that engagement, comes an ever increasing level of commitment and focus on the part of our staff. 2016 was about gearing up... 2017 has been about finding a new gear entirely.

The expanded recognition as leaders in the provincial Wildland Urban Interface community that I referenced in last year's report has also started to take on a life of its own. Stephan Martineau, our Manager, and Tom Bradley, our Forestry Supervisor, are diligently developing relationships and bringing our vision to a wider audience.

I'll dive right into the heart of what we've been up to for the past year.

Projects During 2017

In 2017, we spent approximately \$685,000 on projects driven by our Plan. When complete, the two Community Wildfire Protection Plans, north and south, will contribute another \$60,000 of value to work done in our community.

Type 1: Wildland Urban Interface Management, thin from below

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| • Village of New Denver Phase 2 | 43.6 hectares | in progress |
| • Lemon Creek | 9 hectares | complete |
| • Trozzo Creek Phase 2 | 33.5 hectares | operational funding approved |
| • Silverton, Hewitt Mine FSR | 7 hectares | complete |
| • Village of Silverton Phase 3 | 18 hectares | operational funding approved |
| • Village of Slocan Phase 2 | 10 hectares | operational funding approved |

Type 2: Partial cut harvesting with post harvest clean-up

- | | | |
|------------------------------|------------|---------------------|
| • Ponderosa FSR | 31 hectare | complete |
| • Silverton, Hewitt Mine FSR | 22 hectare | phase 1 complete |
| • Silverton, Hewitt Mine FSR | 58 hectare | phase 2 in progress |

Type 4: Fuel Management for habitat restoration and ecosystem resiliency

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| • Winlaw Creek | 61 hectares | prescribed burn complete |
|----------------|-------------|--------------------------|

Type 5: Wildland Urban Interface Retreatment

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------|----------|
| • Anderson Creek | 35 hectares | complete |
|------------------|-------------|----------|

Other:

- Community Wildfire Protection Plan North in progress
- Community Wildfire Protection Plan South in progress

Stephan continues to build relationships with key FESBC representatives. In April 2017 he met with Gord Pratt, FESBC's operations manager, and facilitated a tour of our first, completed type 2 management area (partial logging with mechanical and hand clean-up) on Ponderosa FSR. FESBC published their first Annual Report, which included SIFCo as one of the six featured recipient groups. Taking time with funders and paying painstaking attention to application details has paid off. Based on a December 2017 application for funding, Stephan and Tom were successful in securing \$1 million from FESBC, for two years of fuel mitigation projects. When combined with the value of the three recently approved UBCM WUI projects mentioned in our projects list, we will be spending at least \$1.5 million over the next two years on mitigating wildfire risk.

Leadership and Community Involvement in 2017

2017 saw us intersecting much more with the larger community in the valley, and with communities further afield as well.

- Our work on the two Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP's) included meetings with volunteer fire groups and fire chiefs throughout the valley, Village Councils, and our RDCK director. We also hosted open community meetings in Silverton, Winlaw, and Slocan Park, to share SIFCo's perspective on wildfire protection work and to offer residents an opportunity to have their priorities and concerns included in the CWPP's. These CWPP's will form the basis upon which future WUI funding can be applied for, so having them accurately reflect the community's broad list of needs and perspectives is crucial.
- We met face to face with Winlaw residents as we approached our prescribed burn project in Winlaw (the first prescribed burn in the valley). This project also necessitated developing a more involved relationship with our local Wildfire Management Department and their team.
- The Trozzo Creek WUI project mentioned in our list of projects, represents our first co-venture with the RDCK.
- Stephan has done a number of private property wildfire risk assessments, meeting one on one with local residents.
- In April 2017, Stephan attended a full day meeting sponsored by the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society to discuss the results of their study. Stephan thought it was a great cross pollination of ideas from diverse attendees.
- In October 2017 Stephan met with Ken Day, manager of Alex Fraser Research at UBC and Susan Mulkey, outreach coordinator for the BCCFA (BC Community Forest Association) and did a field tour with them of our type 2 management area on Ponderosa FSR. This meeting resulted in an invitation for Stephan to be keynote speaker at BCCFA's AGM and conference in May 2018. Stephan has just returned from this event which included representatives from Community Forests from all over the province. Stephan feels that his presentation on our landscape level wildfire approach was very well received and garnered lots of interest and requests for further information and sharing.

- Earlier in the year, Stephan attended a meeting of the Cortes Island Community Forest where a discussion of SIFCo's approach to Community Forest priorities, was met with much enthusiasm.
- This winter, Tom represented SIFCo at SISCO's (Southern Interior Silviculture Committee) annual conference. He did a presentation on our landscape level fuel mitigation approach which was well received and very relevant to participants' concerns.
- For several years the board has been discussing the need for a regionally based conference on the impact of climate change on West Kootenay forests, and the increased risk of wildfires. When the local Ministry of FLNRO office approached us about co-sponsoring such an event, we accepted their proposal.

The focus of the conference: "We will share the latest scientific research and initiatives from the Kootenays and the international arena regarding climate change, wildfire behaviour and why taking action at a landscape scale will result in a more resilient ecosystem. Given the scope of the challenges, other topics include community emergency preparedness and steps that residents can take to deal with wildfire risks."

World class professionals are booked to speak on a variety of topics. So, tell your friends... June 26, 27 and 28 at the Prestige Inn in Nelson. More information and registrations are available online at www.KootenayWildfire.ca

- Last fall we hired a media relations aid, Rachael Bone. We've realized that in order to engage with a wider audience, we must create a more robust media presence. Rachael has already completely redone our website (www.sifco.ca) which is now beautiful, articulate and well designed. It is tablet/device friendly which allows a wider cross section of people to access the site. She is currently working with Stephan on a series of 5 minute documentaries. The topics might look like this:
 - What is a Community Forest?
 - How Did SIFCo Come to Be?
 - What is SIFCo's Integral Vision?
 - Climate Change – Forests and Fires
 - SIFCo's Approach to CWPP's
 - Wildfire Modeling
 - Treatment Types 1 and 5
 - Treatment Type 2
 - Treatment Type 3
 - Treatment Type 4
 - The Future of Forestry

Rachael's work speaks for itself and Tom is doing an outstanding job of narrating these short pieces of visual poetry and vital information (I didn't know we had such talent on tap). You'll be able to judge for yourselves, as I believe we'll be previewing one of Rachael's pieces tonight.

Once again, I give a big thank-you to our board of directors, each and every one. You make meetings enjoyable and always show up with relevant, insightful involvement.

Thanks also to all members who took the time to show up tonight.

In closing, I think it's time to finish up and watch a movie.

I humbly submit this report,

Lisa Farr, President