



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 Year 2013/2014

May 13th, 2014

Already my third report as president. Time seems to fly as we continue to grow into our role as a Community Forest. The ground work that has been laid over the years is serving us well as we engage with the community on multiple fronts; supporting communities through wildland/urban interface work, working with community members to plan acceptable logging strategies, and continuing to envision our future.

PROJECTS

SIFCo's board and staff continue to provide community leadership in the area of Wildland/Urban Interface work. Last year saw 1800 wildfires province wide that burned 17,000 hectares of forest; this included a serious fire on our own valley walls, this time on Perry's Ridge. With the added grievous assault on our river from the jet fuel spill in Lemon Creek, we stand strong in our commitment to reducing the risk of wildfires through fuel mitigation projects.

Silverton North WUI Prescription

After finishing the WUI area south of the Village of Silverton, which included the Red Mountain area, we were contracted by the Village to develop a WUI prescription for the area north of the Village. A completed prescription was delivered in 2013 and Stephan has just assisted the village in submitting an application to UBCM for funding to carry out that prescription.

Slocan WUI Project

In 2012 we were contracted by the Village of Slocan to develop a WUI prescription which, when finished, covered an area of 34.5 hectares. In October of 2013, our WUI crew began work on this project. They should finish by the end of this year. We have developed a very committed and loyal crew, a crew that we are proud of. We have been happy this year to provide them with a more functional canopy for the crew cab and better quality chain saws. We continue to train our crew in the use of strategies to minimize their environmental impact and provide them with environmentally conscious saw products.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

We have now finished the first management area in each of our four geographic zones. All four management areas were covered in detail in the 2012 President's Report.

Red Mountain

The management area on Hewitt Mine Rd. was logged in 2010. In 2013, Tom hired an independent contractor to assess the state of the trees that were planted in 2011. The contractor's report indicates that the trees are doing well and that the area is regenerating nicely.

Although there have been discussions with RMRA's Forestry Committee about an area near Alwyn Creek, we have yet to begin work on this area.

EACT

The management area up Trozzo Creek was completed in 2012. Due to the nature of the logging, no planting was required. The board undertook a walking tour of the area in July of 2013.

Winlaw/Pedro

A management area up Winlaw Creek FSR was logged early in 2013 after being cancelled in 2012 due to early snow fall. It was our first experience with Hlookoff Logging whom Stephan and Tom were very happy with.

Tom is currently working on plans and consulting with residents, with regards to two new areas in Winlaw/Pedro. Tom and Stephan have met with numerous residents and have a field trip planned to discuss the areas in question in early June.

Slocan/Lemon

Jesse and Tyler Mengler of Iron Peak Logging were hired in December 2012 to carry out the prescription on this area. Most of the work occurred in 2013. Upon completion of the logging, the newly constructed road was deactivated. Another good working relationship was developed. This area will be planted this spring.

MILESTONES AND INTERNAL PROGRESS

Forest Stewardship Plan Renewal

Our Forest Stewardship Plan needs renewal every five years. We used our first renewal as an opportunity to ratify our legal boundaries with the Ministry of FLNRO. Over the years inconsistencies have become apparent and having our boundaries clear will allow us to operate more efficiently and within our legal rights. As a result of our boundary negotiations, we will continue to manage an area of approximately 20 hectares in the Lemon Creek flood plain. The area will not contribute to our harvestable land base but will benefit from our oversight. It will be designated a conservation zone and may be included as part of our OGMA (old growth management area).

Landscape Level Wildfire Management Zones

Bob Gray is a wildfire management consultant. After hearing him speak at conference last year, Stephan came back to us inspired with a great idea. He broached the plan of a tenure wide application of wildfire management strategies that could be integrated with salvage opportunities, firewood generation, logging, and possibly fuel for energy generation. The board immediately saw the potential in this idea and agreed to hire Bob as a consultant to assist in developing this approach. Tom gathered relevant information on our landbase and fed it to Bob, who then created a computer model of our landbase that will allow us to light virtual fires and follow their anticipated paths across our slopes. We can use this modeling to apply various strategies to break the continuity of those likely wildfire paths, thereby working towards making our valley corridor safer and more secure.

Safety

We continue to make a priority of keeping our workers safe. We passed our fifth annual safety audit; this one being a field audit where Terry Chow from the BC Forest Safety Council witnessed our operations first hand. We also underwent an unexpected WorkSafe BC onsite review of our operation and received no demerits.

IN CONCLUSION:

I continue to be impressed by, and grateful for the commitment of SIFCo board members, SIFCo staff, and members of the community who engage with us over difficult decisions with regards to the management of our mountain resources. We are learning to work together; with integrity and transparency, motivated by a vision of the kind of community we want to live in and the kind of community we want to create for the next generation.

I humbly submit this report,



Lisa Farr
President