



Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative

President's Report for the 2018/2019 Year

May 7, 2019

Welcome everyone, to SIFCo's 13th Annual General Meeting.

It has been a year of maturation and expansion, of building capacity. We have expanded our office space to accommodate more staff, and our site now sports a new garage to house our growing collection of much needed machinery. Our projects multiply in number and scope, each building on the efforts and insights of the last, creating a stream of interconnected forestry management that has meaning and depth.

Our reach into a broader community is expanding, evidenced by a sold-out Wildfire & Climate Change conference which brought together a diverse cross-section of practitioners and researchers, sharing ideas and experiences across multiple forestry disciplines. We are also poised to reach an ever widening audience as Rachael, our communications wizard, closes in on final edits of her documentaries.

Stephan Martineau, our Manager, and Tom Bradley, our Forestry Manager, are consumed by the work they so meticulously map out, fully supported by our board of directors. As in other years, they are a force to be reckoned with, turning inspired vision into purposeful work on the ground. And as always, community is at the core of their efforts.

It has been a decade since we embarked on our first Wildland/Urban Interface project; when we made a choice to focus on wildfire mitigation/prevention, and forestry practices that include climate change considerations as a significant driver in all of our decisions. In that decade we have completed wildland/urban interface projects on over 588 hectares. We have spent over \$3,683,000 on these projects with monies sourced from government grants, community and SIFCo contributions.

Now we will look at the projects planned and undertaken in the past year.

Projects During 2018

In 2018, we spent approximately \$723,000 on projects driven by our Strategic Landscape Level Plan.

Type 1: Wildland Urban Interface Management, thin from below

• Village of Silverton Phase 3	18 hectares	complete
• Bannock	15 hectares	complete
• Oma	15 hectares	complete
• Village of Slocan Phase 2	10 hectares	in progress
• Kokanee	7 hectares	in progress
• Anderson	11 hectares	operational funding approved
• Anderson	25 hectares	operational funding approved

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

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|------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| • Hewitt | 57 hectares | complete |
| • Silverton, Hewitt Mine FSR | 18 hectare | phase 2 complete |
| • Kokanee | 35 hectares | operational funding approved |
| • Bannock | 39 hectares | operational funding approved |

Type 4: Fuel Management for habitat restoration and ecosystem resiliency

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|------------------------|--------------|------------------------------|
| • Ponderosa | 21 hectares | in progress |
| • Winlaw/ Trozzo Creek | 800 hectares | operational funding approved |

Type 5: Wildland Urban Interface Retreatment

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|--------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| • Dead Horse | 47 hectares | complete |
| • Trozzo | 10 hectares | operational funding approved |

Other Projects:

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| • Community Wildfire Protection Plan North | | in progress – wrapping up soon |
| • Community Wildfire Protection Plan South | | in progress – wrapping up soon |
| • CRIP Valley Wide Fire Safe Project | | operational funding approved |
| • Wildfire & Climate Change Conference | | complete |
| • Documentaries | | in progress |

The funding landscape is changing, as government programs are wont to do. The Community Resiliency Investment Program (CRIP) is taking the place of the SWPI program, through which we have accomplished much of our interface work around our three villages. We can thank Stephan and Tom for their vigour in accessing the SWPI program over the years and maximizing the benefits to our community before this program disappears. The CRIP program is focusing more on the Fire Smart program (protecting infrastructure from wildfire) and the maximum size of a project is much smaller. Our CRIP project will see our three villages working together on a fire smart program that will extend from New Denver to Slocan. SIFCo will administer the project through a full-time position, yet to be filled.

If we manage to complete all projects in progress, and the new projects with operational funding approved, we will spend \$1,146,000 in the upcoming year on wildfire protection for our community.

Leadership and Community Involvement in 2018

Our Wildfire & Climate Change Conference was a great success. We achieved our goal of sharing our cutting edge wildfire protection approach with a host of attendees, including; Parks Canada, Ministry of Environment, Provincial Emergency Management, multiple cities, Regional Districts, universities, researchers, community groups and residents. The 34 international presenters pushed old boundaries and challenged the over 210 delegates to view the forest through new lenses. Media coverage of the event included a CBC interview, the Vancouver Sun, the Trail Times, and the Valley Voice. On the third day of the conference, everyone was still entirely engaged and two tours took place. Stephan feels that this event strengthened our relationship with local FLNRORD management personnel. The budget was approximately \$100,000.

Stephan attended the BC Community Forest Association AGM & conference in 2018 as a key-note speaker. He presented on the topic of SIFCo's work in the area of wildfire mitigation.

Community Forests from all over the province were represented so his presentation had a province wide impact and received lots of interest.

Stephan also attended a meeting of Kootenay/Boundary community forest managers in Creston. SIFCo was one of 5 CF's present. This group intends to continue to meet, as sharing what's working and what's not working was valuable for all attendees.

Tom did a presentation for residents at Kokanee Creek Park on climate change. He also did a tour of treatment sites with 6 BCTS managers.

Stephan travelled to Argenta to meet with local folks concerned about logging plans for Argenta Face, as well as facilitating a tour of Ponderosa area for a group of 45 environmentalists through the Columbia Mountain Institute. Stephan also did a few presentations to classrooms at WE Graham in Slocan.

As well as these more formal tours/presentations, Stephan has been fielding calls from residents who want to know more about WUI work on private land. Our CRIP project will certainly move us clearly onto the path of empowering local residents to take action.

Our two CWPP projects are almost complete, whew. The projects were as exacting as Tom expected, with many layers of technical expectations. Tom has been assisted by several very skilled consultants and one employee. The process brought Tom and Stephan into contact with community members, volunteer fire departments and local governments. After all of the effort that has gone into our CWPP's, we will have comprehensive foundational documents that can be used valley-wide when assessing needs and developing action plans.

Rachael continues her excellent work documenting SIFCo's approach to landscape level planning. She has taken 6 stand alone documentaries almost to completion, and is working on melding them into one cohesive piece. The 6 separate documentaries represent 1 for each of our 5 types of management approaches, and one more which is an overview of how SIFCo developed our Strategic Landscape Level Plan. We are so excited about the impact of our documentary work that we have Rachael working community documentaries on the works of other local environmentally minded community groups. Please visit our website to view these.

In Closing

Again, I take my hat off to our amazing board of directors who show up month after month with a vast knowledge of their communities, their landbases, and even the use of the spoken English language. Who knows, after another year or two, I may master the grammatical lessons offered.

Thank-you also, to all of our valued members who took the time to come out tonight, and who quietly support our work. I hope that I have been able to shed some light on the comings and goings of the past year.

Now it's lights out, and Rachael is going to take us out of the office, onto our landbase.

I humbly submit this report,

Lisa Farr, President