



## Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative

### President's Report for the 2022/2023 Year

**July 5, 2023**

Welcome everyone, to SIFCo's 17<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting.

*"Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears"*, at least for the next several minutes.

I would love to be able to write the whole President's Report in iambic pentameter, but that is for another day, another president. For now, let me share my pleasure at having attended a wonderful evening of Shakespearean folly and drama presented by a very talented local cast. The stage was graced, (not a conventional stage at all, rather the stunning back-drop of the Kohan Reflection Garden), by actors ranging in age from teens to seniors, and ranging in domicile from Winlaw to New Denver. It was obvious, as the evening unfolded, that the players were having as much fun as the audience, and the rewards for both were great.

Now, maybe it's a bit of a stretch, even a fairly significant one, but I couldn't help thinking as we meandered, that SIFCo had some small part to play in the success of the evening. What are the parts that come together, that support a diverse and creative community? I sincerely hope that the work we do somehow translates into people's daily lives. A little less stress over the prospect of a wildfire, a little less stress at not having to fight with corporate logging concerns in our back-yards. Perhaps the connection I've made rivals the preposterous nature of some of Shakespeare's own scenarios – but as long as we all went home thinking *"I like this place, and could willingly waste my time in it"*, I'll leave you to decide for yourself.

#### ***SIFCo Projects During 2022***

Despite much preparation work, neither the Trozzo nor the Winlaw planned prescribed burns were accomplished in the spring of 2022, as there was never a suitable weather window between snowmelt and green-up. This was a significant disappointment. Both prescribed burns were deferred to the spring of 2023.

By the end of 2022, we had completed all feasible salvage logging in the areas affected by the 2021 Trozzo Wildfire. We completed the Elliot and Smallwood Creeks areas in 2021 and the Anderson Creek area in 2022. While the Elliot and Smallwood areas saw a net financial loss, we were able to turn that around at the Anderson end, and made up for that loss.

Stephan Martineau, our manager, secured our 5<sup>th</sup> round of funding through FESBC, worth \$500,000. Areas to be treated include Pedro Creek, Trozzo Creek and Paradise Valley. All are type 1 treatments, though no work on the ground had begun by the end of 2022.

By the end of 2022, over the course of our wildland/urban interface fuel management projects, we have treated almost 500 type 1 hectares, 205 type 2 hectares, and completed prescribed burns on approximately 575 hectares. We have secured in excess of \$5,000,000 from external sources to complete this work.

#### Type 1: Wildland Urban Interface Management, thin from below

- |                              |             |          |
|------------------------------|-------------|----------|
| • Paradise 74 (prescription) | 74 hectares | complete |
| • Anderson 28                | 28 hectares | complete |
| • Hills Community            | 3 hectares  | complete |
| • Slocan 20                  | 20 hectares | complete |
| • New Denver 11              | 11 hectares | complete |

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

- None undertaken this year

#### Type 4: Fuel Management for habitat restoration and ecosystem resiliency

- |                              |              |             |
|------------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| • Winlaw Creek               | 160 hectares | in progress |
| • Trozzo Creek               | 150 hectares | in progress |
| • Anderson 79 (prescription) | 79 hectares  | complete    |

#### Type 5: Wildland Urban Interface Retreatment

- None undertaken this year

#### Other Projects:

- |   |             |
|---|-------------|
| • Slocan Valley Wildfire Resiliency Program.2 | complete    |
| • Slocan Valley Wildfire Resiliency Program.3 | complete    |
| • Slocan Valley Wildfire Resiliency Program.4 | in progress |
| • Winlaw Creek Restoration                    | in progress |
| • Forest Garden                               | in progress |
| • Resiliency Centre (Appledale)               | in progress |
| • Documentaries                               |             |
| ○ Spring 2020 River Fly-Over                  | in progress |
| ○ Forest Garden – Bannock in Bloom            | in progress |
| ○ Silverton Fire Resilient Garden             | complete    |
| ○ Wildfire Resilient Hemp Crete Building      | complete    |
| ○ Wildfire Resilient Tiny Home                | complete    |
| ○ Firesmart Home-Owner Tips (3)               | complete    |
| ○ Tours of Village Mitigation Projects (3)    | complete    |
| ○ Bannock Point – The End of An Era           | complete    |
| ○ Trozzo Prescribed Burn                      | in progress |
| ○ Economy Doc                                 | in progress |
| ○ Five Ways to Prevent Human Caused Wildfire  | complete    |
| ○ Community Wildfire Preparedness Day         | in progress |

I would like to acknowledge our videographer/media person, Rachael Bone. The depth of her skills have resulted in a body of film work that is more than informative – her videos are technically and creatively superb, and deserve watching. And the Lift Off Global Network Festival agrees with me. They selected Rachael's "*Dance Umbrella*" movie, to be shown at Pinewood Studios in the UK (a studio where major motion pictures are made, such as *James Bond* and *Star Wars*). The "*Valhalla*

*Wilderness Program*” documentary is currently being considered to be shown in the *Sony Future Film Maker Awards*, and the *Waterwalker Film Festival*.

## **Leadership and Community Involvement in 2022**

A potential change in the management of Bannock Point was first reported in last year’s President’s Report. The intention of Recreation Sites & Trails BC, to take over the management of Bannock Point is now a fait accompli. SIFCo no longer has a role in the area’s management, though it remains as part of our forestry tenure. Rachael has completed a video commemorating our involvement in the development and maintenance, *“Bannock Point - The End of an Era”*. I truly hope that any changes in management will not compromise the community’s enjoyment of Bannock Point.

### **COMMUNITY RESILIENCE**

Our Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) projects, provide a multitude of opportunities for SIFCo to engage with, and provide leadership in our community, particularly in our 3 villages; Slokan, Silverton and New Denver. We have been able to create a robust wildfire resilience and preparedness program that includes a number of components, some of which are; community education, home assessments with recommended improvements, community debris chipping days, FireSmart training, 3 Village FireSmart remediation projects and a FireSmart approved garden.

As a result of this program, the The Orchard, a New Denver neighbourhood, received an official *FireSmart Neighbourhood Recognition Award*, for their wildfire mitigation efforts.

I would like to acknowledge Michelle Griffiths, our staff person responsible for delivering the CRI program. She continues to work within the CRI framework in a creative and energetic manner, delivering great value to the community.

While the CRI projects do a good job of supporting the 3 Villages, we have experienced a lack of resiliency infrastructure in the southern portion of our land-base. To remedy this situation, in July of 2022, SIFCo signed a 10-year agreement with the governing body of Appledale Hall, Appledale Progressive Association (APA). This agreement gives SIFCo access to the Appledale Hall, to use as a resiliency and community emergency response centre. The centre will be developed and run by SIFCo, while APA will retain their ability to use the hall for their traditional uses. This project is in its infancy at this time.

### **LEADING THE WAY - PROVINCIAL ALIGNMENT**

**FESBC** - On June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023, FESBC issued a Press Release; *“Going Above and Beyond in Wildfire Risk Reduction Work”*. It is a full 2-page report, detailing the history of SIFCo’s wildfire mitigation work from our inception forward. This article has undoubtedly been read by forest industry proponents all over the province, and likely further abroad. Not only does it share the methodology used in developing and executing our landscape level wildfire risk mitigation approach, it sends a very clear message; *“Their (SIFCo’s) efforts not only demonstrate a cost-effective strategy for community protection but also serve as an impressive demonstration of how a region can approach landscape-scale climate change adaptation and wildfire preparedness. The evolution of SIFCo’s exemplary work sets a valuable precedent for others implementing wildfire risk reduction programs throughout the province.”*

To read the full press release, go to: <https://www.fesbc.ca/going-above-and-beyond-in-wildfire-risk-reduction-work/>

**BC FOREST PRACTICES BOARD** - On June 29, 2023, the BC Forest Practices Board issued a News Release; *“Forest and Fire Management in BC: Toward Landscape Resilience”*, to announce their recently issued **Special Report**, of the same name.

From the introductory *“Call to Action”* to the *“Summary”*, the report reads like a verbatim of Stephan Martineau’s and Tom Bradley’s reports to SIFCo Board Meetings:

**Call to Action** - *“Bold and immediate action is required by the provincial government to align policies and programs across all levels of government with a vision of landscape resilience and human co-existence with fire. Before we can take advantage of the good work wildfire can accomplish in maintaining resilient ecosystems, we need to prepare the landscape to accept fire again.”*

**Summary** - *“... While fuels continue to build up and the climate changes, catastrophic wildfire seasons will continue to occur. These wildfires will release massive amounts of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere and cause widespread health and economic impacts. The consequences of catastrophic wildfires are huge. Taking a proactive approach to risk mitigation across the broader landscape will be expensive but will be offset by a reduction in the unacceptable consequences to human health, economic, climatic, and ecological costs. Scaling up various risk reduction, restoration, and adaptation treatments can tip landscape dynamics in favour of more benign wildfire behaviour and effects. If the people of BC want to co-exist with fire in a resilient landscape, there is an urgent need to act now to reduce the wildfire risk. It is not a matter of if our forests will burn; it’s a matter of when, where, how large, and how severe fires will be. These are the factors that can be affected through LFM (landscape fuel management).”*

I only hope that any changes to the political/funding environment overseeing wildfire mitigation work, increases the effectiveness of SIFCo’s work, and does not hamper us.

To read the full press release, go to: <https://www.bcfpb.ca/release-publications/releases/forest-and-fire-management-in-bc-toward-landscape-resilience/>

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### ***In Closing***

I would like to acknowledge, once again, Stephan Martineau our Manager, and Tom Bradley, our Woodlands Manager, for their foundational roles in SIFCo’s development. Any successes or accolades that SIFCo may accrue, are a direct reflection of their vision, skills and knowledge-base.

And lastly, I’ve done it. I am on my way to retirement, not as President (though it is entirely at the Board’s behest that I serve in that particular position), but as Administrator-Coordinator. In the not too distance future, you will have the pleasure of talking with Crystal Hetrick, should you reach out for administrative assistance. Crystal is actively engaged in training and she’s a great fit for SIFCo. I think you’ll really like her.

*“Our doubts are traitors, And make us lose the good we oft might win, By fearing to attempt.”*

Lisa Farr, President