



Lower North Thompson Community Forest Society

**2014 Strategic Plan
For
Community Forest Agreement K1Z
Barriere, BC**

April 2014

Introduction	3
Building the Plan	3
Definitions.....	4
Foundation Statements	4
Areas of Focus, Goals and Objectives.....	4
Foundation Statements.....	5
Mission	5
Purposes	5
Vision.....	5
Value Statements	5
Areas of Focus, Goals and Objectives	6

Strategic Plan – Overview

INTRODUCTION

The Lower North Thompson Community Forest Society (LNTCFS) formed in 2004 following the 2003 wildfires that devastated the communities of the Lower North Thompson Valley and resulted in the loss of the Tolko sawmill at Louis Creek. Since this time, the LNTCFS has grown and evolved into a financially stable organization with numerous community benefits including annual distributions of funding for community projects, student education funding, and job creation partnerships. As our organization matures, the LNTCFS identified the need to re-evaluate, develop, and confirm the values and strategic priorities of our organization, both in the short-term and long-term, through the development of a strategic plan.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS & PLAN DEVELOPMENT

In order to obtain input for the development of this strategic plan, a total of five facilitated community meetings were held at McLure, Squam Bay, Chu Chua, Little Fort, and Barriere. The LNTCFS Directors and staff utilized and compiled the feedback obtained through these meetings to develop this strategic plan. This strategic plan process will enhance self-determination for the people of the lower North Thompson and ensure the LNTCFS continues to represent the values and priorities of the communities we represent.

FOUNDATION STATEMENTS

Mission Statement: This statement describes the overall purpose of the organization. It sets the boundaries of the organization's activities, and is the starting point for developing a strategic vision.

Purposes: These provide more specific detail on the work of the association, and together comprise the Association's Constitution.

Vision: This statement describes an ideal future, and answers the question: What impact do we want to have on society?

Areas of Focus, Goals and Objectives

Focus Areas: These are the priority headings, or areas of emphasis, under which the strategic goals and objectives of the Society are organized.

Goals: Each focus area has a related goal. It is in essence the vision statement for the focus area.

Objectives: These are the desired result of each goal, and are stated as measurable outcomes.

Mission

Our mission is to endure and provide to the Lower North Thompson through sustainable forestry.

Purposes

The purposes of the society are:

- a) To create a long term sustainable plan for forest resources that benefits the people of the Lower North Thompson;
- b) Preserve ownership of local natural resources for the people of our area, promoting self-determination for the people of this valley;
- c) To create sustainable employment, new business opportunities and investment;
- d) To provide a new opportunity for community management of local crown land;
- e) To provide long term opportunities for achieving a range of community objectives including:
 - i. employment;
 - ii. skills training;
 - iii. forest related education;
 - iv. social, environment and economic benefits.
- f) To meet the objectives of the government in respect of environmental stewardship including the management of timber, cultural and heritage resources.

Vision

Our vision is to manage the forest for the benefit of all citizens of the Lower North Thompson.

The priorities for the LNTCFS are categorized into following four key Areas of Focus:

1. Education
2. Forests & Environment
3. Communities
4. Expansion & Investment

EDUCATION

Goal: To engage the residents, young and old of the Lower North Thompson Valley so that they are knowledgeable about LNTCFS, community forestry, and the benefits of forest and natural resource management.

Objective: Provide, enable and/or facilitate natural resource related training and education.

1. Provide educational funding to local students seeking post-secondary training.
 - a) Annually fund student bursary(s) and/or scholarship(s) through local high schools
2. Develop and/or facilitate natural resource training programs
 - a) Create and/or facilitate development of a forestry-related training program
 - b) Work with post-secondary institution(s) in the development and/or implementation of natural resource training programs
 - c) Develop and/or facilitate Job Creation Program(s) or similar project(s) aimed at providing employment opportunities and skills development in the natural resource related fields.
3. Facilitate and/or provide natural resource related education to schools within the Lower North Thompson Valley
 - a) Conduct annual presentations and/or field trips for natural resource education to elementary and high schools

Objective: Act as a public resource for community outreach and awareness

1. Raise awareness of the benefits and career opportunities from natural resources, community forests, and the local forest industry.
 - a) Create and distribute bi-annual newsletter to the communities of the Lower North Thompson
 - b) Continue annual publication of financial statement and/or other newspaper articles
 - c) Create and maintain a LNTCFS website
 - d) Participate in and/or host local community events (expos, parades, barbeques, etc.)
2. Facilitate and/or provide education to local landowners and stakeholders
 - a) Provide technical assistance to local landowners on issues regarding forest management, and if appropriate, advocate on their behalf.
 - b) Participate in stakeholder meetings

Goal: The Lower North Thompson Community Forest will offer opportunities for innovation and research.

Objective: Develop and/or facilitate forest research and innovation opportunities within the community forest

1. Partner with educational institution(s) for research project(s) within the CFA
2. Identify information gaps and develop research projects focused on long term continual improvements to the knowledge base and management of the community forest landbase
3. Continue to seek funding through FPInnovations and other similar organizations

COMMUNITIES

Goal: The Lower North Thompson Community Forest will provide a stable source of revenue and employment for the benefit of all citizens of the Lower North Thompson Valley

Objective: Manage the community forest to provide a long term, stable source of revenue and employment

1. Continue to provide annual disbursements to local non-profit organizations.
2. Continue to balance local employment and revenue generation to ensure long term stability in both is achieved.

FORESTS & ENVIRONMENT

Goal: The Lower North Thompson Community Forest will be sustainably managed for the benefit of all citizens of the Lower North Thompson Valley

Objective: Manage the community forest for long term improvements to this landbase

1. Manage the CFA according to the principles of sustainable resource management and meet or exceed all legal requirements.
2. Harvesting will reflect long term strategies for forest protection and improvement
 - a) Stand selection prioritized as follows (from highest to lowest):
 - Imminent or expanding losses (i.e. bark beetle outbreaks)
 - Salvage of dead timber (i.e. beetle/fire kill salvage)
 - Timber at high risk of infestation by insects (i.e. beetle control measures)
 - Rehabilitation of low volume/value stands
 - Timber affected by disease (i.e. heavy root disease areas)
 - Timber of declining value (i.e. Fir stands declining due to root disease, age classes 7+)
 - Healthy vigorous timber
 - b) Where suitable, commercial thin to provide fibre and improve quality.
3. Manage post FTG plantations to protect investments and maximize yield and long term values.
 - a) Survey plantations within CFA to identify candidates for potential stand treatments
 - b) Identify and seek government funding for stand treatments
 - c) Conduct stand treatments to maximize yield and values.
4. Invest in intensive silviculture (ex. A Class seed, site preparation, fertilization)
5. Invest in forest protection (fuel management, forest health, etc.)
6. Invest in infrastructure (long term roads, access management planning)
7. Invest in other opportunities to improve the environment and biodiversity

EXPANSION & INVESTMENT

Goal: The Lower North Thompson Community Forest Society will actively manage and/or own lands additional to the community forest landbase for the benefit of all citizens of the Lower North Thompson Valley.

Objective: Increase the landbase managed and/or annual volume harvested by the LNTCFS.

1. Purchase and/or develop long term agreements for the management of private forest land within the Lower North Thompson Valley.
2. Purchase a woodlot to increase annual volume and/or expand the landbase managed by the LNTCFS.
3. Identify area and advocate for expansion of the existing community forest landbase
4. Identify areas and advocate for expansion of satellite community forest areas for interface areas within all five communities of the Lower North Thompson
 - a) Develop 100 acre Squam Bay community forest satellite area (Short Term, by 2019)
5. Explore other means of increasing annual harvest volume (small scale salvage, BC Timber Sales)
6. May explore other appropriate business opportunities or partnerships to achieve these objectives and/or provide benefit to the citizens of the Lower North Thompson

Objective: The LNTCFS will position itself financially so as to be prepared and capable of taking advantage of investment opportunities as they arise.

1. Annually, a portion of LNTCFS excess funds will be set aside for long term investment opportunities.