



Forest Enhancement  
Society of British Columbia



## Working Together: Theme for the 2019 SISCO Fall Field Tour in the Okanagan

For Immediate Release

**SUMMERLAND, B.C.:** The Southern Interior Silviculture Committee (SISCO) is set to host their 2019 Fall Field Tour in the Okanagan Oct 1 – 3, 2019. The theme is **Working Together: Integration and Collaboration - the Necessary Ingredients to Achieve Results in Natural Resources Management**. The tour will visit sites where collaboration has been a key element in achieving desired results in forest management.

Natural resource activities have changed on the land base of British Columbia as a result of both physical (climate) and social pressures. The increase in forest fires has resulted in a renewed awareness of the importance of protecting communities and the values society deems important. The other change agents are the recognition of the need to incorporate integration and collaboration into the activities that occur on these same lands as well as the interest the general public has in ensuring the values they deem important are managed and protected.

“SISCO has organized a winter workshop and summer field tour every year for more than 30 years,” said April Anderson RPF, Administrator and Scholarship Liaison for SISCO. “These workshops and field tours provide silviculture foresters the opportunity to exchange ideas and information about current silviculture practices, issues, and research activities.”

The annual field tour is designed by a local committee to showcase their silviculture practices in different locations throughout the southern interior. “This year’s field tour, designed by Gorman Bros. Lumber Ltd., the Okanagan Shuswap Forest District, and Tolko Industries provides an opportunity for forest and range resource managers to see firsthand a number of excellent projects in the Okanagan emphasizing the importance of integration and collaboration in forest management.” said Anderson.

Rob Dinwoodie, Range Officer in the Okanagan Shuswap Forest District and SISCO Executive member, led the design of this year’s field tour.

“We will see how planning by the Forest Enhancement Society of B.C. (FESBC) for harvesting for wildfire mitigation has provided steps in the journey of integration of First Nation values,” said Dinwoodie. “We will also see how changes in harvesting and reforestation practices can achieve multiple objectives and how interface wildfire has led to a change in social license to allow timber harvesting to occur where it was previously viewed as a negative practice.”

Of special interest will be stops at locations that show the integration of recreation values with forest practices in the Okanagan where over 4 million tourists visit annually. In addition, attendees will visit a site where targeted grazing, the first project of its kind in the province, will occur to reduce the risk of wildfire in an area of Kelowna located near a golf course and subdivision.

Steve Kozuki, RPF, Executive Director of FESBC, is excited to take in the tours with the others to learn about the exceptional forest management that resulted from collaboration between the Okanagan Nations Alliance, Gorman Bros. Lumber Ltd., the forestry ministry, and others.



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“Our Society funds projects throughout the province and our goals are in part achieved when we see project partners collaborating and working together,” said Kozuki. “We are delighted that SISCO will be visiting two of our FESBC funded projects, one in Peachland and one in south east Kelowna, to see how the strength of working collaboratively has enabled these partners in the Okanagan to accomplish so much, together. These projects are a triple win because they deliver broader social, environmental, and economic benefits for all British Columbians for generations to come.”

The tour is only open to those who have pre-registered, but Anderson said that media can come to specific stops to learn more about the work happening in our local forests and take part in the learning. Media are asked contact Rob Dinwoodie to determine the details to join the tour on October 2 or 3.

**Media interested in attending a stop on the field tour are asked to contact:**

Rob Dinwoodie, RPF, Range Officer, Range Officer, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations  
Okanagan Shuswap District and SISCO Executive member | 250.558.1768 or 250.306.5570

**For More Information on SISCO**

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