



Forest Enhancement
Society of British Columbia



Terrace Community Forest Seeks to Enhance Timber Supply and Wildlife Habitat

Aug 27, 2019

TERRACE, B.C.: A Forest Enhancement Society of B.C. (FESBC) funded project to commercially thin trees within the Terrace Community Forest (TCF) tenure is currently in the planning and development phase and is targeting to be operational in the near future. The project is rehabilitating low value forests, enhancing wildlife habitat, and increasing the opportunity to recover wood fibre for other uses, such as making wood pellets. The information learned from this project is being shared to benefit other forested areas of the Coast Mountains Resource District.

“We’ve employed purpose-driven silviculture, harvesting, and spacing plans to affect change on the forest landscape within the TCF,” said Kim Haworth, General Manager of TCF. “Our Community Forest has, within its operating areas, a large contingent of unmanaged, high density second growth forest. As a result of this overcrowding, growth rates of all trees are negatively impacted and understory development of small shrubs and vegetation is non-existent, leading to poor biodiversity values necessary for wildlife sustainability. The work we’re doing, thanks to FESBC-funding, is changing that.”

The TCF covers 25,165 hectares located within the Coast Mountains Resource District. The community holds a long-term Community Forest Agreement with exclusive rights to harvest crown timber within the area. The second growth forests Haworth refers to make up about 10% of the TCF’s Timber Harvesting Land Base. Without some form of economical harvest treatment, the area would be left with its current composition thus delaying the availability of trees for harvest and increasing the amount of fibre not being fully utilized in future harvesting. A lack of treatment would lead to a reduction of the Community Forest’s allowable annual cut, lessening the opportunity for the TCF to generate financial benefits for the community.

“We knew we needed to be proactive so we applied to FESBC for funding to offset some of the harvest costs which would allow us to provide more volume to the local sawmill,” said Haworth. “This work enables us to support approximately 10 additional local forestry related jobs while improving habitat across the landscape for wildlife like moose and grizzly bear. Additionally, the lower grade fibre harvested will be utilized to produce wood pellets at the local sawmill, again supporting more local jobs and utilizing fibre which historically had been treated as wood waste. It’s a big win for our community and industry.”

Gord Pratt, Operations Manager of FESBC was interested in the work that could be done in the TCF and recognized the opportunity to expand what was learned by TCF to other areas.

“We are always interested in funding projects that are proactive, innovative, and align with our purposes, which this project does,” said Pratt. “Although the project was specific to TCF’s operating areas, these types of forest with the same challenges of high density second growth are found throughout the Kalum Timber Supply Area and other nearby area-based forest tenures. The learnings of this project can now be applied across the District, providing a broader impact to overall timber and wildlife values.”



Forest Enhancement
Society of British Columbia



Moving forward, a final report will be produced for feedback from the public, First Nations, and the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development.

“We are thankful to FESBC for providing the economic stimulus necessary to help us in developing these timber types,” said Haworth. “The expected social, economic, and biological benefits to our local community will be experienced for years to come.”

For an Interview:

Kim Haworth, Terrace Community Forest | 250.635.5509 | haworth@citywest.ca

For More Information or an Interview on FESBC Projects:

Aleece Laird, Communications Liaison | 250.574.0221 | communications@fesbc.ca