



**CRESTON
COMMUNITY FOREST**
Creston Valley Forest Corporation

Vision

Healthy forests abundant with social, ecological and economic benefits.

Mission

To be outstanding stewards, managing forest resources for environmental sustainability and economic stability while providing education and recreational opportunities in the Creston Valley.

The Guiding Principles of the Creston Community Forest are to:

- *Provide a safe, healthy and rewarding work environment for its employees and contractors.*
- *Adhere to the terms of our Community Forest Licence through required harvesting and silviculture.*
- *Balance financial and economical sustainability.*
- *Provide Creston's local mills with a wood supply source and support small businesses with value-added enterprises.*
- *Provide local employment in forestry and silviculture.*
- *Pursue effective and innovative biologically oriented solutions in forest health, including fuel management.*
- *Foster community education and training in forestry, water management, biodiversity and forest recreation.*
- *To provide recreational opportunities.*

Goals	Management Objectives	Strategies to Achieve Objectives
<p>1. Utilize and manage forest resources for long-term community benefits.</p>	<p>Sustain or enhance the forest resources available on the Community Forest for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water • Timber • Fish and wildlife habitat • Recreation • Education • Soil • Air Quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult with water users, trappers, public educators and recreationalists. • Complete an inventory of all the domestic and community watersheds located in the Community Forest. • Apply for Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) funding. • Utilize LiDAR to provide an inventory of the Community Forest’s timber supply. • Deactivate old, unused road systems to reduce road maintenance costs. • Continue designating specific areas for hiking trails and forest education. • Consult with off-road vehicle clubs to maintain and enhance their trail infrastructure. • Limit the spread of invasive species. • Consult with the Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society. • Provide an education program to reduce the refuse being left along forestry roads.
	<p>Provide and conserve the values in place on the Community Forest including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual Quality Objectives (VQO) • Ecosystem-based plan for forest harvesting and stewardship • Biological diversity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet or exceed the strategies specified in the Kootenay Boundary Land Use Plan (KBLUP) and the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA). • Meet or exceed the VQO’s established by the Government Actions Regulation for Kootenay Lake. • Abide by the Community Forest’s Forest Stewardship Plan and September 2015 Management Plan. • Develop strategies to reduce fuels through forest harvesting.

Goals	Management Objectives	Strategies to Achieve Objectives
<p><i>Continued</i></p> <p>1. Utilize and manage forest resources for long-term community benefits.</p>	<p>Protect the Community Forest landbase and adjacent areas from catastrophic losses due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest fires • Insect and disease infestations <p>Establish management zones for certain areas that will support ecological restoration for the enhancement of ungulate habitat.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure funding through the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) to undertake interface fuel reduction. • Continue promoting the FireSmart program to private landowners and working with the Town of Creston. • Develop strategies to reduce fuels through forest harvest operations. • Monitor insect and disease activity and carry out appropriate control activities (i.e trap trees, baits). • Look at CBT funding for ungulate habitat enhancement.
<p>2. Operate the Community Forest as a viable forestry enterprise.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harvest timber to provide revenue to finance the management of the Community Forest. • Retain earnings to cover future expenses associated with logging. • Continue to explore various funding opportunities for fuel mitigation and incremental forestry projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harvest the Allowable Annual Cut of 25,000 m³/ year and calculate selling price over logging and hauling costs. • Sell logs within the Creston Valley to minimize trucking costs and support local mills. • Maintain an opportunity to sell outside of the Creston Valley to ensure competitive pricing. • Set up a reserve fund for future silviculture, road building and other costs. • Collaborate with the Town of Creston and the BC Community Forest Association to receive funding from the UBCM, Land Based Investment Strategy and the Forest Enhancement Society.

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<p>3. Educate the public on the Community Forest and the management of Creston's forest resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop education programs for elementary and high school students in the Creston Valley. • Provide information to the general public. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to provide field trips during National Forestry Week. • Submit articles to the 'I Love Creston' magazine. • Monthly updates to our website. • Update company brochures • Organize field trips for local public.
<p>4. Enhance partnerships with local First Nations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to establish a working relationship with Lower Kootenay Band and Ktunaxa. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involve First Nations for fuel mitigation and spacing projects.
<p>5. Develop a timber harvesting schedule for the next 5-10 years</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review timber types and age classes and the constraints over the Community Forest area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize plan currently being done. • Consider using LiDAR.