

There are always some questions about any new endeavour. This holds true for the community forest. Hopefully we can answer some of the common questions being asked.

What land is being discussed for the community forest?

A community forest license would only apply to Provincial Crown land. For private, municipal or federal lands to be involved within a community forest an agreement would have to exist between the community forest and the owner of the private or agency administering the municipal or federal land.

What happens to the tenures and permits on the Crown Land within a community forest?

All government permits and tenures remain in place. So woodlots, trap lines, water licenses, etc. remain as is. What the community forest agreement allows is the management of timber and non-timber resources over a dedicated area.

How will the balance of values versus profits be maintained, past the initial community consultation phase?

Consultation with the public and First Nations should result in a hierarchy of values and objectives that need to be managed. These will be used to determine forest management strategies that will become part of the Forest Management Plan. The Management Plan is a legal commitment to forest management strategies that recognize and balance values important to the community. When it comes to spending the profits this depends upon the governance model (corporation, society, cooperative) and input from the community.

When will there be an opportunity to provide input?

You can start right now by writing down your thoughts, concerns and suggestions and mailing or dropping off at one of the municipal offices or RDEK office in Windermere. There is also in the planning open house sessions around the community. These are forthcoming and will give you an opportunity to review material, obtain more insight and offer input. You can also send comments through our website at info@chwcf.com.

Are there other places I can find out information about Community Forests?

The BC Community Forest Association (www.bccfa.ca) lists all the community forests in BC and how to contact them and the BC Ministry of Forest & Range website at (www.for.gov.bc.ca) has information on community forests. The Centre for non-Timber Resources at www.cntr.royalroads.ca/home has a lot of information on the subject of non-timber forest products.

Next article is our survey. Check us out at www.chwcf.com.

