

# Preliminary Management Strategy

## 1.0 Guiding Principles For SIFCo's Forest Management Planning

SIFCo's management objectives are formulated to balance numerous ecological and social realities in addition to generating a positive return to the community. The partial cutting regime that SIFCo proposes is the only means of gaining wide community approval and thus resolving the long standing controversy, and the only way to manage for all the forest uses and values that characterize the Slocan Valley social context.

### 1.1 Overall Planning Methodology:

- 1.1.1** All planning and activities will reference the landscape level (the landscape level will be considered to be the entire PCFA area). SIFCo will also take into consideration the features of surrounding areas including provincial parks when planning for wildlife movement corridors and other landscape level considerations. A main focus of the Landscape Level Plan will be to make sure that the forest ecosystem remains fully functional through time. SIFCo will first determine what must be left in the forest before looking at what to remove from it.
- 1.1.2** The forest will be managed in a variety of ways with the purpose of maintaining a fully functioning forest, both at the landscape level and at the stand level.
- 1.1.3** The ecosystem will be managed for a variety of timber products, while protecting other values that provide community benefits, such as non-timber products, viewsapes, domestic water, tourism and outdoor recreation.
- 1.1.4** All planning will protect the integrity of riparian ecosystems, which are the wet forests adjacent to, and immediately upslope from creeks, rivers, wetlands, ponds, springs and lakes.
- 1.1.5** All planning will aim to achieve a successional pattern or multi-layered canopy comprised of early, young, mature and late or old growth forest at the stand level. Harvesting will at times target a certain serial stage so as to maintain a full range of age type.
- 1.1.6** All planning will maintain and/or restore connectivity within the ecosystem by placing an emphasis on movement corridors for mammals at a stand level and cross-valley corridors at a landscape level.

## **2.0 Specific Planning Methodology:**

### **2.1 Fire**

- 2.1.1** SIFCo will develop a planning process where wildfire occurrences can be managed in a way that will benefit the ecosystem at large.
- 2.1.2** A broad overview of the fuel situation and fire hazard of each sub-zone will form an integral part of the landscape level plan. A fuel management plan will be developed where required, for specific areas of sub-zones.
- 2.1.3** Planning will consider potential fire hazard in both interface and wild-land areas, and harvesting will be guided so as to minimize the potential hazard of wildfire for the surrounding communities.

### **2.2 Timber**

- 2.2.1** The forest will be managed for resource extraction while maintaining a fully functioning and vibrant ecosystem.
- 2.2.2** The forest will be managed for a diverse range of products including: saw-logs, building logs, poles, fence posts, pulp wood, specialty wood for value-added products and eco-products
- 2.2.3** Planning will ensure a growing inventory of large, high-quality, high-value timber over the long term.
- 2.2.4** Planning will assure a long-term sustainable level of harvest, and we will actively seek value-added opportunities, including a log-sort yard to increase the economic diversity and sustainability of the community.
- 2.2.5** SIFCo will aim to meet the timber management standards of the Forest Stewardship Council.



### **2.3 Water**

- 2.3.1** Planning will ensure that water quality, quantity and timing of flow are not impacted in both the short and long term.
- 2.3.2** Roads will be minimized both in number and size.
- 2.3.3** Stream crossing will be limited to a strict minimum.

- 2.3.4 Early planning over an entire development area will be adopted for the best overall realization of all objectives identified by broader planning.
- 2.3.5 Riparian protection strategies will be implemented including the implementation of riparian reserve zones.
- 2.3.6 Harvest systems, equipment and season of harvest will be appropriately chosen to minimize soil disturbance (possible sediment source).
- 2.3.7 Culverts will be installed at locations that will maintain natural water courses.
- 2.3.8 Right-of-ways, cut slopes, road surfaces, and landings will be re-vegetated with native grasses and shrubs or trees as appropriate.
- 2.3.9 Partial cut will be used over the entire watershed area to protect timing of flow. For the purpose of this document, partial cut is defined as a silvicultural prescription, which is made of single-tree selection and small openings.

## **2.4 Soil**

- 2.4.1 SIFCo will select a logging/harvest system and equipment that is appropriate to the terrain including cable-yarding.
- 2.4.2 SIFCo will consider use of forwarding trails versus new haul roads where appropriate.
- 2.4.3 Planning will be timed so as to utilize snow trails when appropriate.
- 2.4.4 SIFCo will locate skid trail placement prior to harvesting.
- 2.4.5 The use of small, low ground pressure skidding equipment to reduce trail size and areas of compacted soils will be implemented throughout the Community Forest Land Base.
- 2.4.6 Planning will be made so as to maximize the use of 'pulling-line' to reduce trail density.
- 2.4.7 Bucking and limbing will take place in the stands in order to recycle organic matter, minimize slash burn and maintain soil fertility. We will do this according to the Ministry Of Forest guidelines.

## **2.5 Biological Diversity and Wildlife**

- 2.5.1 Planning will ensure old-growth distribution throughout the Community Forest Land Base now and in the long term. This will include the identification of potential Old-Growth recruitment areas and strategies for recruitment.
- 2.5.2 The identification and protection of rare and endangered stand types will be an integral part of our planning, as well as the incorporation into management areas of permanent reserve trees, wildlife trees and tree patches.
- 2.5.3 Harvesting will take into consideration natural disturbance processes for the various ecosystem types, appropriate-size patches will be chosen to account for these.

**2.5.4** Pre-existing and new wildlife field studies, including range of species, ungulate summer and winter range areas, wildlife habitats and movement corridors will be an integral part of the planning so as to minimize habitat loss and fragmentation from road building and harvesting operations. The Community Forest Land Base will be divided into a number of large management units, that will be managed so as to avoid wildlife impacts.

## **2.6 Visual**

**2.6.1** All planning will be done so as to minimize the visual impacts of harvesting and road building in order to maintain our growing tourism industry and to satisfy the local residents preference to maintain viewscales.

**2.6.2** SIFCo's planning methodology will aim to minimize the number and size of roads and place them so as to follow the natural contours of land. The use of partial cutting silvicultural systems will be applied.

## **2.7 First Nations**

SIFCo will protect all identified cultural heritage features, and an archeological impact assessment will be completed, for a specific area, if requested by First Nations.

## **2.8 Forest Health**

**2.8.1** SIFCo's planning methodology will include awareness of: endemic root diseases, Douglas fir bark beetle, mountain pine beetle, spruce budworm, larch dwarf mistletoe, and white pine blister rust in the planning and managing phases. We will also approach our planning recognizing the natural role of these "forest health agents".

**2.8.2** Each occurrence of such "forest health agents" will be seen as a hazard as opposed to an outbreak.

**2.8.3** Forest health hazards will be assessed on an ongoing basis using field data and provincially recognized hazard-rating systems.

**2.8.4** All Forest health hazards will be field reviewed to determine risk and treatment regime if required.

**2.8.5** Any treatment will remain within the socially acceptable range of disturbance and will not compromise other values such as water quality, quantity and timing of flow.

## **3.0 Management Of Profits**

The intent in creating guidelines for the management of profits from the Community Forest operations at the onset, is to give both SIFCo's Board of Directors and SIFCo's management, a clear mandate to do forestry for the sake of the forest and the long-term sustainability of the workforce in the forest sector of the Slokan Valley.

## **3.1 Overarching Guidelines**

The profits will be divided into two categories:

### **3.1.1 Guidelines for Category #1**

50% of the profits will go toward ecosystem restoration (inherited disturbances), ecosystem studies, water distribution works and fire prevention works. The profits from this category will be administered by SIFCo's board of directors and will be divided into two sub-categories:

**3.1.1.1** Ecosystem Restoration and Ecosystem Studies (70% of the money) These will be prioritized by degree of urgency, which will be decided by SIFCo's board with input from the community. Ecosystem restoration includes fishery projects, obsolete road deactivation, restoring natural watercourses etc. Ecosystem study includes water monitoring, ungulate population studies, soil stability, etc.

**3.1.1.2** Water Distribution and Fire Prevention Works (30% of the money) These will also be addressed in order of urgency, which will be decided by SIFCo's board. The community will be able to apply for these funds through an application process. These works include holding tanks, secondary water systems, emergency funding for fire victims, fuel management, etc...

### **3.1.2 Guidelines for Category #2**

50% of the profits will go toward community infrastructure, community projects and economic diversification.

The profits from this category will be administered by a third party that is a recognized non-profit society in British-Columbia and will be divided into two sub-categories:

**3.1.2.1** Economic diversification (25% of the money)

- a. Grants will be made available to individuals starting a small business. Each small business proposal will have to have a business plan in place prior to illegibility.
- b. Projects aiming to expand the community's market share of the value-added wood sector will be given priority.
- c. Projects aiming at creating long-term youth employment will be given priority.
- d. Funding for retraining programs will be made available to help displaced individuals and/or individuals seeking a new career. Priority will be given to individuals unable to access existing government programs

- 3.1.2.2** Community infrastructure, projects and programs (75% of the money).
- a. Priorities will be given to infrastructure and projects that will generally be of benefit to the entire community (e.g. An arena, Rails to Trails, Senior's needs, meeting hall upgrades...)
  - b. The third party non-profit society will be mandated to distribute the funds equitably throughout the community.
  - c. The distribution of funds will ensure that projects and infrastructure will benefit a wide range of age groups.
- 3.1.2.4** A maximum of one Board member of SIFCo will be able to sit on the board of the third party non-profit society administrating the funds.
- 3.1.2.5** The profits will be administered under strict guidelines laid out by SIFCo.
- 3.1.2.6** At least 80% of the profits will benefit the community of the Slocan Valley directly.
- 3.1.2.7** Up to 20% of the profits may be directed to ventures outside the Slocan Valley that are consistent with the aims and purposes of SIFCo.
- 3.1.2.8** General solicitation of funds will not be considered.

