



Wells Gray Community Forest Corporation

Appendix I

Summary of Public Input in Preparation of a Strategic Plan

August 29, 2014

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BACKGROUND

In the spring of 2014 the board of directors for the Wells Gray Community Forest Corporation (WGCFC) determined that it would develop a strategic plan. One of the initial steps in developing the strategic plan was to gather input from the local community. Mr. Grant A. Thompson RPF was hired by WGCFC to facilitate the development of the strategic plan including the collection of community input.

This report is a summary of that input.

Solicitation of public input began in March and April of 2014 when three notices were posted in the Clearwater Times inviting the Wells Gray Country community to provide their input. To stimulate input the notices included three questions regarding values of importance and disbursements of revenue in Wells Gray Country. Those three questions are reprinted in Part I of this report.

Following is a brief summary of the details of the public input phase:

- 3 advertisements placed in the Clearwater Times
- 29 notices distributed to stakeholders
- 2 open houses hosted on March 27, 2014
- 27 community members attended the open house
- 24 questionnaires were completed and submitted
- 5 additional written submissions were received
- 3 direct conversations with community members were documented
- Over 140 unique comments were received with 2 individuals providing more than one set of comments
- Comments have been sorted into 22 themes

Part I of this report is a compilation of the comments and submissions received by the consultant and are organized by submission type. There has been no attempt to interpret the comments on the part of the author.

In Part II the same comments that appear in Part I have been collated on the basis of the value of concern. All comments were allocated to one of 22 themes.

PART I - QUESTIONNAIRES FROM MARCH 27, 2014

During the open houses of March 27 the attendees were provided with questionnaires with the three questions that had appeared in the Clearwater Times and had been previously distributed to stakeholders. These questions were:

1. *What specific priorities, values or interests do you have on the land base that the board should be aware of? e.g.: water, wildlife, timber, visuals, recreation, First nations, wildfire prevention, other.*
2. *The Society has distributed over \$400,000 to non profit community organizations and local government.*
 - a. *Are you familiar with how the money was distributed*
 - b. *Are there ways to improve the distribution process?*
3. *How would you like the Community Forest to benefit Wells Gray Country? For example: Support for Non-profit organizations, Infrastructure projects such as the Dutch Lake Community Centre, Employment, Other.*

Following are the comments received from the 24 completed questionnaires.

Question 1: Values and Interests

- Protection of community from wildfire should be a top priority. Should include not just fuel management but also provision of high capacity pumps, sprinkler systems, backup diesel generators and so on.
- Road access critical. Keeping public safe access to main roads and interest areas. Upgrade old roads to current access standards.
- Timber values: good mix of productive land base to manage range of forest values.
- Recreation/wildlife/water - work consultatively with local groups and DOC.
- Opportunities to address wildfire prevention issues via logging / breakup of continuous forest cover.
- Focus on boundary expansion to give us more area and volume in the CF.
- My concern is for the wise management and use of the forests and the Crown land in the Clearwater area. I think it is very important that the logging done by the WGCF set an example of excellence for the rest of the logging community.
- Visual aspects from community.

Summary of Public Input in Preparation of a Strategic Plan

- Watershed for community.
- Recreation opportunities year round.
- In-kind work on wildfire prevention.
- Maintain the habitat for high quality fishing and hunting.
- Be aware of opportunities in the TSR that is starting related to deciduous and C/H partitions.
- Maximize economic benefit to the local area and protect environment.
- Excellent job on our watershed - presented to public.
- We are surrounded by forest so fire prevention is of paramount importance.
- South slopes should be mitigated to reduce possible loss of winter range for ungulates.
- Wildlife - too much logging in deer and moose winter range.
- Water, wildlife, timber, visuals, recreation, wildfire.
- Watershed - municipal water source, Russell Creek.
- Education of our locals.
- Encouragement or a partnership with local high school.
- Bioenergy.
- Clean areas around Clearwater for fire protection. EG: dry pine, snags on roads.
- More play areas for sledding / hunting.
- Wildlife, timber, recreation - logging helps.
- Leave trees have no timber value and end up taking valuable growing area for future growth.
- Clear cut in spruce - balsam stands. Select in spruce - balsam is poor forest practice.
- Don't worry about visuals.
- Wildlife, timber, recreation.
- Build some more snowmobile trails which could be used for biking and hiking in summer.
- Wildlife.
- Clearcut it all.
- When we manage for visuals we give up land that is very productive for growing a new forest.
- Improve roads and access.
- I live in the community and use the community forest.
- Timber: your jobs, close to town, close to safety response.
- Road improvement.

- Wood to small mills.
- Fire protection values.

Question 2a: Are you familiar with how the money is distributed?

- Not familiar. Should be posted on the WGCFC website.
- All is good.
- More school distribution.
- Need more awareness in the newspapers or bulletin boards. Funded by community forest dollars etc.

Question 2b: Are there ways to improve the distribution process?

- Clarity of who qualifies and who doesn't?
- I think the board distributes the money fairly.
- No suggestions other than current process
- Some discussions with other recognized bodies about future goals may provide direction.
- Distribution process works well and has really benefited our valley population. The process is ever evolving and work is always done to distribute funds openly and in an effective manner.
- I see the community forest as a catalyst for bio energy systems and partnerships with the municipal government in delivery.

Question 3: How would you like the CF to benefit Wells Gray Country?

- WGCFC should think in terms of sponsoring a few long term projects, not just short term proposals.
- Opportunities to assess other business opportunities on land base. EG: possible hydro project on Russell Lake creek system.
- Possible storage of water at Russell Lake for better flows through the summer / fall.
- My concern is not how the money is spent but how the land and environment is treated.
- Rather than hiring outside contractors hire locals - keep the money within the community.
- Partner with local businesses and tourism organizations to benefit the local economy.
- Have a member of District Council as Board member.
- WGCFC is publicly funded organization, should be more open. EG: post board minutes and info on website. Participate in open community forums.
- Its existence benefits Wells Gray Country with local planning and control of immediately adjacent forest area, preserving a healthy forest around us and the watershed.
- Funding for non profits but also recreational / social infrastructure in and around the community.
- Local employment is a very positive byproduct as local contractors compete effectively for the work available, but is not the primary objective.
- Long term legacy project.
- Look at taking on larger partnerships with legacy projects. This could happen by committing 50-75% distribution to larger project or phases of a project.
- Local employment opportunities should be a priority. I understand it also needs to be a good value but it would be nice to see preference given to local employers where possible. Maximize economic benefit within the area.
- Support service organizations even if they aren't labelled non profit because of the benefit they provide to the community.
- Support for our schools is important.
- Looking ahead - funding long term infrastructure will be a lasting legacy
- Employment is always important in rural areas

Summary of Public Input in Preparation of a Strategic Plan

- District of Clearwater infrastructure has other funding options. The community forest funds for the most part need to be distributed to non profits and others that have a limited resource for fund raising.
- Non profit organizations, employment, community projects, schools.
- Attract diversified forest economy.
- Utilize non timber forest product opportunities.
- What is different in the structure?
- School projects.
- Skiing / other things.
- Keeping up camp sites.
- Wells Gray Park.
- Build something else in this town other than hockey!!!
- Pool, bowling alley, indoor racket sports
- Community events supporting outdoors and community health.
- Rec centres.
- Support non profit.
- Help develop for future community growth in tourism and industry.
- Build Clearwater an outdoor rink facility.
- Community forest should manage the forests from Clearwater to Wells Gray Park.
- Dam Russel Creek on the lake and improve our water system. Hydro potential.
- Give money back to the community.
- Hydro project.
- Road access for lowbed, fire access and public.

PART I - COMMENTS ON THEMED FLIP CHART PAGES

In addition to the questionnaires, participants at the open houses had the opportunity to add their comments to flip chart pages distributed around the meeting room. Each flip chart page was “themed’ with a set of values, these being:

- Communications
- Visuals
- Water
- Wildlife
- Disbursements
- Timber
- Recreation
- Access
- Other

Following are the comments added to the themed flip chart pages. Not all of the themed flip chart pages had comments added to them.

Communication

- Between July 11 and July 31 final recommend a final open house to present draft strategic plan to the public.
- Better communication between logging and clubs.
- Bernard trail needs more work - improve access.
- In the interest of transparency why can't the board of directors put their minutes of board meetings on website? Also archive all previous meetings.
- Please put the original application for community forest on website so we can compare what was original objective. EG: employment and value added enterprises.

Disbursements

- Is the Society given a set amount of funds to dispense or only the amount that is approved from the applications?

Timber

Climate change:

- Reforestation issues.
- BGCZ modelling of climate change.
- Impacts on AAC.
- Impacts on timber profile.
- Projection of species - dropping out /mortality.

Other

- Wildfire control - stands near communities be thinned and not logged completely
- recreation - bike trails, hiking trails etc be considered when logging takes place near communities.
- Local training for forestry workers through community forests. EG: taking high school students out.
- Keeping work local even if it costs a little more. EG: tree planting.
- I would like the Board of directors to identify key issue to maintain success of the CF. EG: larger land base to ensure financial stability of enterprise.
- We need to explore what role the community forest can play in building and enhancing tourism.
- Silviculture - stand tending, pruning, spacing.
- Ecosystem management - the community forest needs to show that the level of ecosystem management exceeds the legislative requirements (basic silviculture) and goes to a higher level than the large major licences. This is the strategy for requesting a larger land base.

PART I - WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

In addition to completion of the questionnaires and comments added to the flip chart pages five written submissions were received. All were detailed and well considered perspectives on the WGCF. Although it is not practical to provide those written submissions in their entirety in this summary report, the author has attempted to capture the main points of each submission in this section.

Submission #1

QUESTION 1: VALUES AND INTERESTS:

- Fish and all water related life need the rivers and streams to be healthy.
- Run off in spring leading to water retention all year round.
- Tourism is an industry that is gaining strength.
- NO GE trees please.

QUESTION 2B: ARE THERE WAYS TO IMPROVE THE DISTRIBUTION PROCESS?

- I would like to see at least a percentage of the profits diverted to the NT Communities Foundation. as a founding person being involved in the development of the concept of a community forest that was where all the funds were to have gone – thus the ‘interest only’ would be distribute.
- Yes, I am the 2014 Chair for the Foundation. As you know Foundations invest the principal and ‘grant’ the ‘interest only’ – had that happened all along, this money could have ‘kept on giving’ forever and be having an amazing impact for generations to come. Somehow that part got ‘forgotten’.
- However, I am hoping that the Board will re-consider this decision and channel some funds into the Foundation for any variety of worthy causes in WG Country.
- Some examples might be scholarships or bursaries for people going into any number of aspects of forestry work, Grants could be made available for the development of trails, signage, involvement of the ‘next generation’ in learning about the forest, you name it.
- The forest is depleting rapidly and trees grow like trees grow..., therefore there will come a time when less and less funds are available. This seems like a feasible initiative.

QUESTION 3: HOW WOULD YOU LIKE THE CF TO BENEFIT WELLS GRAY COUNTRY?

- I think I will stick with the one thought of the Foundation for the moment. I will hope to attend the open house and continue the conversation then, or perhaps make other suggestions.

Submission #2

MAXIMIZE VALUE OF STANDS:

- Create knot free logs that will demand a higher price on the open market. Little pruning is being done today in BC. This could result in an expected premium log price.

EMPLOY LOCAL SILVICULTURE WORKERS

- Wages will be spent locally.
- WGCFC is owned by the community and is designed to benefit the community. Consider the "social forestry" aspect.
- Another avenue of spreading the profits through the community.
- Two stands provided as examples in the submission.

Submission #3

- Recruitment of new directors has been a struggle.
- This has required that some directors have had to extend their terms.
- It may be that the profile and awareness of the community forest is not as strong as it could be.
- It is critical to have a regular succession of Directors, bringing new idea, new energy and new vitality to the organization.
- Directors should place emphasis on promoting value added and wood manufacturing with the object of creating employment.
- It seems that the sole focus on logging and making a profit.

- The original community forest application did commit to job creation, employment and value added manufacturing objectives. From the the original business plan:
 - stimulate local forest decor through the use of a log sort and marketing program to attract manufacturing businesses.
 - the Corporation will focus on maximizing log grades for use in higher valued products
 - develop an educational program in partnership with Community Resource Centre for North Thompson that could lead to employment opportunities for students
- Minutes of the board of directors shoo should be placed on the website. Several community forests provide meeting minutes on their websites.
- While the CF is a Corporation, the board is responsible for public funds and should follow the model of local government reporting and accountability.
- The application for the community forest established long term goals for education. That commitment should be updated and carried over to the new strategic plan.

Submission #4

- Encourage the "smaller asks" to apply for funding through existing channels such as the North Thompson Communities Foundation. The WGCFC has accepted the responsibility of stewarding the watershed of this community, the NTCF is charged with working with people/communities.
- Foundations grow with endowments
- The original money is not spent, only the interest
- Logging affects climate, water supply, hiking trails, wildlife
- When the corporation gives directly to the project through a no-for-profit the money is gone forever
- Suggest that the WGCFC start a Wells Gray Country Endowment under the Smart and Caring Community Fund - thus ensuring that the money's gained from the depletion of the forest would be a living legacy
- Similar to regenerating the forest where the new forest continues to provide benefits over the long term
- Non timber forest products - this is part of the stewardship around our settlements. I understand there are plans to create areas to develop say: huckleberry bushes.

- Development of plans for NTFPs that would result in:
 - harvests
 - making of products for sale
 - distribution of products
 - development of industry and jobs in the valley
 - leads to people staying or re-locating and doing business within WG Country
 - leads to more businesses contributing to taxation
- Water is paramount. Move (log) more slowly, think about the water supply.
- Ensure that slopes are stabilized.
- Ensure that year round water remains in the streams.
- First Nations - these folks have been managing the forests and waterways for centuries. Have regular input from the Elders.
- Employ locals wherever possible.
- When supporting a non profit why not offer to put on Board Development workshops.
- or target funds for "core funding" of non profits to allow them to hire paid staff for 2-3 days per week.
- If fund granting continues consider "target" giving:
 - spring - community groups
 - fall - youth
 - spring - seniors
 - fall - school groups
- how can we develop our local economy
- We need to use trees and/or non timber forest products locally
- develop local industry
- Help mentor businesses, work with FN, Municipal and Regional Governments to develop and implement was to develop local industry
- apply for a Community to Community grant
- How can our "raw" resource become a finished product
- Tourism - some travellers want to know what they are looking at
 - Identify an area close to town that could be developed into a tourist area.
 - Label trees along trails.
 - Make some trails wheelchair accessible.
 - Put up donation box.

- Tours - school kids to forest
 - logging introduction, biology
 - Tours for the public
 - have "old fashioned timber days" to how it used to be done in the valley.
 - Hold tracking courses to show how to track animals
 - Work with TRU and schools - do research and collect data - chart growth of trees, or chart wildlife species
- Utilize your communities youth
 - find creative ways to develop community assists. Instead of just paying young people have requests for funds in exchange for work done.
 - Get (guarantee) your voice on the public advisory committee

Submission #5

- Community forest needs to be much more than a mechanism to harvest trees to make money to give to the Society to distribute.
- More on the emphasis of local jobs and the creation of local businesses.
- The community forest has the opportunity to focus on hiring local people to do all the various work needed to run a community forest (logging, silviculture, road building, planning, mapping, data entry).
- The community forest does not need to go with the lowest bid. It can look at each contract from a local job creation aspect.
- Even if the local contractor is not necessarily the lowest bid they can still choose them to do the work as they will spend their dollars locally and therefore the money stays within the community.
- Also the community forest can put more emphasis on encouraging local businesses who do forestry work to hire and train local people.
- I would also like the community forest to get more involved in the education aspect of forestry. We need young people wanting to get into forestry and stay within the community.
- There is more to forestry than running a chainsaw and cutting down trees.

PART I - PERSONAL CONVERSATIONS

The author also had detailed conversations both in person and by phone with three members of the community. The key points of these conversations are provided following.

Conversation #1:

- WGCF needs to create a "legacy" from revenues. Smaller groups that have been supported in the past may not be around in the future

Conversation #2:

- Recommend that \$10,000 per year be supplied to a legacy fund. Allow the legacy fund to build to \$100,00 before payouts commence.
- Put money towards trail networks throughout town. Trails would connect seniors centres, kids facilities, etc.
- For funding purposes partner up with other organizations.
- Consider "phased projects".
- Make Clearwater a better place to live.
- TSR is underway. WGCF should review results of TSR. Is there a partition cut or other opportunity available?

Conversation #3:

- Challenge attracting new board members. partly due to limited communications regarding WGCF.
- Original CFA Application: before application was submitted there were at least 2 public meetings with in put form ~50 people. Need to review application to see what the community values were at that time. Have those values been addressed? Do those values still apply?
- Hoping that strategic plan will highlight need and steps towards expansion.

PART II - PUBLIC INPUT SORTED BY THEMES

The quantity and depth of comments received from the public is difficult to digest as presented in Part I of this report. To assist in the analysis of the comments, each comment received has been allocated to a single theme. What may appear to be repeated comments are in fact unique comments from different submissions.

Where ever possible, public input has been integrated into the goals and objectives of the strategic plan. This integration is noted in the far right column of this section. Bold characters such as **2D** indicate which of the goals and objectives captured a particular public comment. Not all comments were captured within the strategic plan.

Board of Directors

- Recruitment of new directors has been a struggle.
- This has required that some directors have had to extend their terms.
- It may be that the profile and awareness of the community forest is not as strong as it could be.
- It is critical to have a regular succession of Directors, bringing new idea, new energy and new vitality to the organization.
- Directors should place emphasis on promoting value added and wood manufacturing with the object of creating employment.
- Have a member of District Council as Board member.
- Original CFA Application: before application was submitted there were at least 2 public meetings with in put form ~50 people. Need to review application to see what the community values were at that time. Have those values been addressed? Do those values still apply?

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|-----------|
| NA |
| NA |
| 2D |
| 2D |
| 1G |
| NO |
| NA |

Business Opportunities

- Bioenergy.
- I see the community forest as a catalyst for bio energy systems and partnerships with the municipal government in delivery.
- Opportunities to assess other business opportunities on land base. EG: possible hydro project on Russell Lake creek system.
- Partner with local businesses and tourism organizations to benefit the local economy.
- Hydro project.

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| 1J |

Communications

- Recreation/wildlife/water - work consultatively with local groups and DOC.
- Excellent job on our watershed - presented to public.
- Need more awareness in the newspapers or bulletin boards. Funded by community forest dollars etc.
- WGCFC is publicly funded organization, should be more open. EG: post board minutes and info on website. Participate in open community forums.
- Between July 11 and July 31 final recommend a final open house to present draft strategic plan to the public.
- Better communication between logging and clubs.
- In the interest of transparency why can't the board of directors put their minutes of board meetings on website? Also archive all previous meetings.
- Please put the original application for community forest on website so we can compare what was original objective. EG: employment and value added enterprises

| |
|----------------|
| 2A |
| |
| 2D |
| Post no |
| 2D |
| 2A |
| NO |
| NO |

Disbursements - General Comments

- Not familiar. Should be posted on the WGCFC website.
- All is good.
- More school distribution.
- Clarity of who qualifies and who doesn't?
- I think the board distributes the money fairly.
- No suggestions other than current process
- Some discussions with other recognized bodies about future goals may provide direction.
- Distribution process works well and has really benefited our valley population. The process is ever evolving and work is always done to distribute funds openly and in an effective manner.
- WGCFC should think in terms of sponsoring a few long term projects, not just short term proposals.
- Funding for non profits but also recreational / social infrastructure in and around the community.
- District of Clearwater infrastructure has other funding options. The community forest funds for the most part need to be distributed to non profits and others that have a limited resource for fund raising.
- Non profit organizations, employment, community projects, schools.
- Support non profit.
- Give money back to the community.
- Is the Society given a set amount of funds to dispense or only the amount that is approved from the applications?
- When the corporation gives directly to the project through a no-for-profit the money is gone forever
- When supporting a non profit why not offer to put on Board Development workshops.
- Target funds for "core funding" of non profits to allow them to hire paid staff for 2-3 days per week.
- If fund granting continues consider "target" giving:
 - spring - community groups
 - fall - youth
 - spring - seniors
 - fall - school groups
- Apply for a Community to Community grant

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| 2C |
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| 3B |
| 2C |
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| 3B |
| 2C |
| 3A |
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| NA |
| 3B |
| 3B |

Disbursements - Legacy Projects

- Long term legacy project.
- Looking ahead - funding long term infrastructure will be a lasting legacy
- Look at taking on larger partnerships with legacy projects. This could happen by committing 50-75% distribution to larger project or phases of a project.
- WGCF needs to create a "legacy" from revenues. Smaller groups that have been supported in the past may not be around in the future
- Recommend that \$10,000 per year be supplied to a legacy fund. Allow the legacy fund to build to \$100,00 before payouts commence.

| |
|-----------|
| 3B |

Disbursements - Projects Oriented

- School projects.
- Skiing / other things.
- Keeping up camp sites.
- Wells Gray Park.
- Build something else in this town other than hockey!!!
- Pool, bowling alley, indoor racket sports
- Community events supporting outdoors and community health.
- Support for our schools is important.
- Support service organizations even if they aren't labeled non profit because of the benefit they provide to the community.
- Rec centres.
- Build Clearwater an outdoor rink facility.
- Put money towards trail networks throughout town. Trails would connect seniors centres, kids facilities, etc.

| |
|-----------|
| 3B |

Education and Training

- Education of our locals.
- Local training for forestry workers through community forests. EG: taking high school students out.
- Encouragement or a partnership with local high school.
- Utilize your youth. realizing that even the young need to be paid. Don't do it, instead buy the skis in exchange for work done.
- I would also like the community forest to get more involved in the education aspect of forestry. We need young people wanting to get into forestry and stay within the community.
- Utilize your communities youth
 - find creative ways to develop community assists. Instead of just paying young people have requests for funds in exchange for work done.
 - Get (guarantee) youth voice on the public advisory committee
- Develop an educational program in partnership with Community Resource Centre for North Thompson that could lead to employment opportunities for students

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|---------------------------------|
| 4A |
| 4A |
| 4A |
| 4A 4B see bullet 6 |
| 4A |
| 4A |
| 4B |
| 4A |

Environment

- My concern is not how the money is spent but how the land and environment is treated..
- Logging affects climate, water supply, hiking trails, wildlife
- Water is paramount. Move (log) more slowly, think about the water supply.
- Ensure that slopes are stabilized.
- Ensure that year round water remains in the streams.
- How can our "raw" resource become a finished product

| |
|-----------|
| 1F |
| 1G |

Expansion

- Focus on boundary expansion to give us more area and volume in the CF.
- I would like the Board of directors to identify key issue to maintain success of the CF. EG: larger land base to ensure financial stability of enterprise.
- Hoping that strategic plan will highlight need and steps towards expansion.

| |
|-----------|
| 1A |
| 1A |
| 1A |

Forest Management

- Timber values: good mix of productive land base to manage range of forest values.
- My concern is for the wise management and use of the forests and the Crown land in the Clearwater area. I think it is very important that the logging done by the WGCFC set an example of excellence for the rest of the logging community.
- Be aware of opportunities in the TSR that is starting related to deciduous and C/H partitions.
- Clearcut it all.
- Timber: your jobs, close to town, close to safety response.
- Its existence benefits Wells Gray Country with local planning and control of immediately adjacent forest area, preserving a healthy forest around us and the watershed.
- What is different in the structure?
- Community forest should manage the forests from Clearwater to Wells Gray Park.
- Silviculture - stand tending, pruning, spacing.
- Ecosystem management - the community forest needs to show that the level of ecosystem management exceeds the legislative requirements (basic silviculture) and goes to a higher level than the large major licences. This is the strategy for requesting a larger land base.
- Climate change:
 - Reforestation issues.
 - BGCZ modeling of climate change.
 - Impacts on AAC.
 - Impacts on timber profile.
 - Projection of species - dropping out /mortality.

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| 1F |
| 1F |
| 1A |
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| 1L |
| 1F |
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| 1E |
| 1F |
| 1F |

- NO GE trees please.
- Create knot free logs that will demand a higher price on the open market. Little pruning is done in BC today. This could result in an expected premium log price.
- TSR is underway. WGCFC should review results of TSR. Is there a partition cut or other opportunity available?

| |
|-----------|
| 1B |
| 1E |
| 1A |

Jobs and Economic Diversification

- Maximize economic benefit to the local area and protect environment.
- Wood to small mills.
- Rather than hiring outside contractors hire locals - keep the money within the community.
- Local employment is a very positive byproduct as local contractors compete effectively for the work available, but is not the primary objective.
- Local employment opportunities should be a priority. I understand it also needs to be a good value but it would be nice to see preference given to local employers where possible. Maximize economic benefit within the area.
- Employment is always important in rural areas
- Attract diversified forest economy.
- Help develop for future community growth in tourism and industry
- Keeping work local even if it costs a little more. EG: tree planting.
- Employ "locals" wherever possible.
- Wages will be spent locally.
- WGCFC is owned by the community and is designed to benefit the community. Consider the "social forestry" aspect.
- Another avenue of spreading the profits through the community.
- Two stands provided as examples in the submission.
- How can we develop our local economy
- We need to use trees and/or non timber forest products locally
- develop local industry
- Help mentor businesses, work with FN, Municipal and Regional Governments to develop and implement was to develop local industry

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|---------------|
| 1G |
| 1G |
| 1I |
| 1I |
| 1I |
| 1I |
| 1G |
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| 1I |
| 1I |
| 1I |
| 1I |
| Policy |
| 1E |
| 1F/3B |
| 1G/1K |
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| 1H |

Non Timber Forest Products

- Non timber forest products - this is part of the stewardship around our
- settlements. I understand there are plans to create areas to develop say: huckleberry bushes.
- Develop of plans for NTFPs that would result in:
 - harvests
 - making of products for sale
 - distribution of products
 - development of industry and jobs in the valley
 - leads to people staying or re-locating and doing business within WG Country
 - leads to more businesses contributing to taxation
- Build a "Community Commercial Kitchen" i.e.: that non timber forest products can be processed, packaged and sold.
- Utilize non timber forest product opportunities.

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| 1K |

Recreation

- Recreation opportunities year round.
- Maintain the habitat for high quality fishing and hunting.
- Build some more snowmobile trails which could be used for biking and hiking in summer.
- I live in the community and use the community forest.
- Bernard trail needs more work - improve access.
- Recreation - bike trails, hiking trails etc be considered when logging takes place near communities.

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| 1F |
| 3B |
| 2A/3B |
| 2A |

Roads

- Road access critical. Keeping public safe access to main roads and interest areas. Upgrade old roads to current access standards.
- Improve roads and access.
- Road improvement.
- Road access for lowbed, fire access and public.

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Tourism

- Tourism is an industry that is gaining strength.
- We need to explore what role the community forest can play in building and enhancing tourism.
- Tourism - some travellers want to know what they are looking at
 - Identify an area close to town that could be developed into a tourist area.
 - Label trees along trails.
 - Make some trails wheelchair accessible.
 - Put up donation box.
- Tours - school kids to forest
 - logging introduction, biology
 - Tours for the public
 - have "old fashioned timber days" to how it used to be done in the valley.
 - Hold tracking courses to show how to track animals
 - Work with TRU and schools - do research and collect data - chart growth of trees, or chart wildlife species

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| 2E |
| 1J/2B |
| 4A |

Value Added

- The original community forest application did commit to job creation, employment and value added manufacturing objectives. From the original business plan:
 - stimulate local forest sector through the use of a log sort and marketing program to attract manufacturing businesses.
 - the Corporation will focus on maximizing log grades for use in higher valued product.

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| 1G |
| 1G |

Visuals

- Visual aspects from community.
- When we manage for visuals we give up land that is very productive for growing a new forest.

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| 1C/1F |
| 1C/1F |

Water

- Watershed for community.
- Watershed - municipal water source, Russell Creek.
- Possible storage of water at Russell Lake for better flows through the summer / fall.
- Dam Russel Creek on the lake and improve our water system. Hydro potential.
- Water is paramount. Move (log) more slowly, think about the water supply.
- Year round water in streams - need to keep these eco systems functioning.
- Run off in spring leading to water retention all year round.

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| 1F |

Wildfire

- Protection of community from wildfire should be a top priority. Should include not just fuel management but also provision of high capacity pumps, sprinkler systems, backup diesel generators and so on.
- Opportunities to address wildfire prevention issues via logging / breakup of continuous forest cover.
- In-kind work on wildfire prevention.
- We are surrounded by forest so fire prevention is of paramount importance.
- Clean areas around Clearwater for fire protection. EG: dry pine, snags on roads.
- Fire protection values.
- Wildfire control - stands near communities be thinned and not logged completely.

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| 1C/1F |

Wildlife

- South slopes should be mitigated to reduce possible loss of winter range for ungulates.
- Wildlife - too much logging in deer and moose winter range.
- Wildlife.

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| 1F |
| 1F |
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Other Values

- Water, wildlife, timber, visuals, recreation, wildfire.
- First Nations - these folks have been managing the forests and waterways for centuries. Have regular community input from the Elders. You will be amazed at what there is to learn.

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| 1F |
| 2F |