

"This executive summary has been reproduced in its exact format from the original proposal received from the proponent."
For contact information regarding this proposal and other community forest pilot proposals, please visit to the Community Forest Pilot Program Home Page at:
<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/pub/jobs/community/>

North Island Woodlot Corporation Community Forest Pilot Agreement Proposal

Executive Summary

Our vision is a small-scale community forest made up of the last 3 Crown forest land units in the Comox Valley, managed directly by the 3 affected neighbourhoods for not only their benefit but the Comox Valley as a whole.

The 3 Crown land units are on the suburban-industrial forest interface and comprise 715 ha. They have a conservatively estimated botanical production value of \$-\$/year, are heavily used for outdoor recreation, and possess important watershed and wildlife values. While not insignificant in the local context, timber production potential of 2,090 M3 /year is secondary or tertiary to other values.

The "Applicant" is the North Island Woodlot Corporation (NIWC), the business arm of the North Island Woodlot Association whose mission is to promote and demonstrate small-scale sustainable forestry. The NIWA's membership brings into play broad technical expertise and experience as well as a proven record of achievement in all aspects of small-scale forestry.

A Management Board (with representatives appointed by the 3 involved neighbourhoods and the NIWC) would be delegated responsibility for operating the Community Forest. A Community Advisory Committee and Technical Committee would support the Community Forest Management Board.

Our application drew input from throughout the Comox Valley and was prepared by a task force of representatives from the 3 involved neighbourhoods and the NIWA. We did not pay anyone to prepare it.

Our numerous letters of support demonstrate awareness from, direct linkages to, and broad support from not only the various stakeholders but also the Comox Valley community as a whole.

Our concept for a Community Forest is directly in line with the Comox Valley Forest Enterprises Strategy, the Official Community Plan, the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan, the Comox Valley Greenways Plan.

Our financial approach is conservative and responsible - we neither need nor want government grants.

Because of its size and situation, our proposal is readily available in terms of the Strathcona TSA's timber allocation, without being competitive to other Community Forest Pilot Agreement applications, existing forest licences, or the SBFEP.

We have adopted a democratic, workable, sustainable, and replicable approach, with little risk to Government, to the community, to the environment or financially. Our approach is also flexible in that Crown or other forest land units can be added (or even subtracted) as circumstances dictate, especially during the 5-year Pilot Agreement term.

Looking beyond the 5-year term of the Pilot Agreement, we see the operation of the Crown community forest land base as a stepping-stone to increasing forest management in the Comox Valley through the participation small-scale, nonindustrial forest land holders. To this end, we solicited participation agreements in principle from 22 municipal and private landholders who collectively hold title to over 3,300 ha of land.

Our primary goals are:

- Sustainable development of the Comox Valley's forests, realized through the balanced integration of social, economic, and environmental values;
- Community control and the creation of a local forum where citizens discuss and resolve forest management issues, through the sharing of visions, values, local knowledge and experience in forest land stewardship;
- Identification of the full range of forest values and provision for the simultaneous use of forest land for silviculture, recreation and conservation, with minimal conflicts,
- Provision of a model for small scale community forestry and effective management of the interface between the working forest and urban, suburban, and rural human settlements;
- A labour-intensive timber harvesting and silviculture industry dedicated to enhancing the economy and the ecology;
- Development of a solid economic base that will allow future generations to make a living off the forestry resource in the Comox Valley;
- Establishment of local small, labour-intensive speciality mills and value-added wood industries;
- Provide an opportunity for municipal and private, non-industrial forest land holders to realize the full economic and ecological potential of their lands for themselves and future generations.