

“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 the Community Forest Pilot Program Home Page at:
<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/pab/jobs/community/>

Village of McBride Community Forest Pilot Agreement Proposal

Executive Summary

The Corporation of the Village of McBride (attachment C.) has long sought an opportunity to provide the village and surrounding community with a greater socio-economic diversity within the scope of a healthy environment. The economic trials of the Robson Valley are well known and do not need to be reiterated here. Suffice it to say that economic diversity and some self determination by the community are long held dreams, and in fact, are viewed as necessary for our long term survival. It was with great interest and excitement that the community received the information that a community forest pilot program might be attainable. Such an undertaking requires the full support of all facets of the community and indeed this is clearly expressed in the request for proposal. The achievement of this was considered by us, to be the most important aspect of the proposal. Therefore, before we were able to complete the proposal, a full range of support was solicited throughout the community (attachment E). It is on this foundation, that we proceeded.

The McBride and District Community Forest Corporation is designed to serve the social, environmental and economic needs of the community. In general terms, we will be managing the forest for all of its product potential rather than just timber. Our objectives will include generating the following products from the forest:

1. Timber
2. Water
3. Recreation/Tourism
4. Education/Research
5. Healthy Living Environment
6. Botanical/Wildlife/Mineral/Spiritual

The scope of products generated by the forest is both remarkable, and currently under utilised. Furthermore, this wide range of products has the capacity to generate a significant number of opportunities and associated jobs. The management strategies used to generate these products will emphasise this broad scope as well as the long term sustainability of the forest and the community attached to it. We have developed this concept (flow chart attachment B.) within the structure recommended in the request for proposal.

The landbase (and timber volume) for the proposal has been delineated on a 1:50,000 scale map

(attachment A). The important criteria for selection of the area included proximity to the community, potential for innovative forest management practices, potential for timber product diversity, potential to protect or enhance community water quality, potential for recreation and tourism and finally, the ability to use the area with a minimum of conflict with historical or other current uses. The area was also selected to generate a potential AAC of 50,000 cubic metres per year (Contributing land base and AAC attachment D.) although we are proposing to begin with about 31,000 cubic metres per year for the purpose of manageability both from a financial and logistical perspective.

The stewardship and management section includes a preliminary management plan which describes the means by which we will achieve the objectives as mentioned above. All activities will be carried out in compliance with the *Forest Act*, *Forest Practices Code of BC Act*, *Heritage Conservation Act*, *Fisheries Act*, *Water Act*, *Wildlife Act*, and the attendant regulations. Our approach will emphasise innovative forest management practices in order to be able to achieve all of our objectives concurrently.

The community forest will be community driven via democratic election of a board of directors by the community. This board will direct the activities of the community forest through an executive director (or community forest manager) and staff/contractors. The Corporation of the Village of McBride will be the only defacto member of the board as it is already a community elected body and is the proponent of this community forest. It must be clear that the Village of McBride will only be a director and will have the same input as any other elected board member (i.e. one vote). The community support of the concept may be found in attachment E.

The administrative authority and structure is described in a business plan in section 5 of the proposal. In general terms, it will probably be a not for profit corporation with democratically elected board members from all facets of the community. The board will direct the scope, pace and scale of activities in the community forest while an executive director (or community forest manager) will manage the operational aspects with staff and contractors. The benefits will then accrue to the community at large.

The detailed proposal now follows. It is recommended that the large scale flow chart (attachment B.) would be a useful visual aid that may be opened up beside the proposal as it is read.